



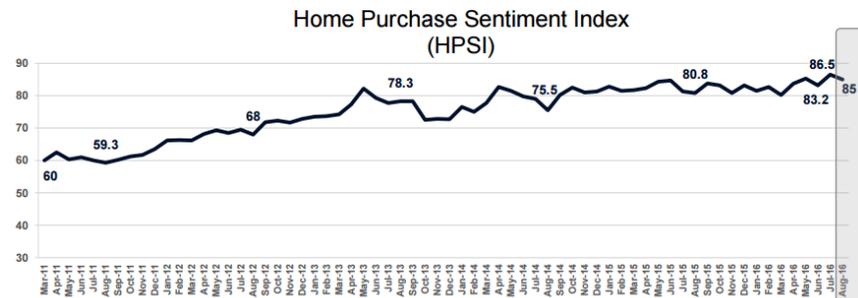
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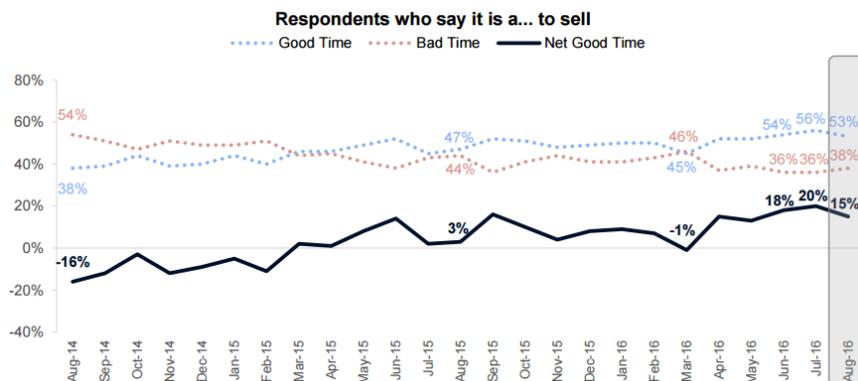
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Housing Sentiment Index Falls From All-Time High

Fannie Mae's Home Purchase Sentiment Index (HPSI) was **down slightly** in August, dipping 1.5 percentage points to 85.0. The index, based on the company's National Housing Survey (NHS) reached its all-time high in July. Two of the six index components suffered serious reversals in their numbers compared to July while two others had less dramatic dips. Despite the monthly decline the index is still 4.2 percentage points above where it was in August 2015.



The component reflecting net positive sentiments about whether it is a **good time to sell** a house dropped 5 points to 15 percent while the share of consumers who expect home prices to rise over the next year fell 6 points to 35 percent. There were smaller declines in the net of those expecting mortgage rates to decline and reporting improving household income.



National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.89%	0.00	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.33%	+0.01	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.33%	+0.01	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.05%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.58%	0.00	0.00

Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.77%	-0.09	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.05%	-0.11	0.00

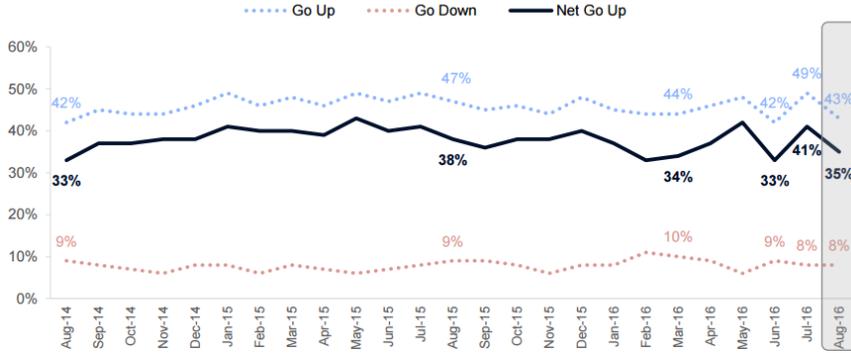
Mortgage Bankers Assoc.			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.00%	-0.03	0.60
15 Yr. Fixed	6.63%	+0.07	0.61
30 Yr. FHA	6.87%	-0.03	0.92
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.13%	+0.02	0.38
5/1 ARM	6.22%	-0.16	0.60

Rates as of: 7/22

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jul 10	206.1	-0.19%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%

Respondents who say home prices will... in the next 12 months



Offsetting the negative changes were an increase in the net number of those who are **not concerned about losing their job**, up 4 points to 73 percent, and a 1-point increase in those who think it is a good time to buy a home.

"Consumers have a fairly **optimistic 12-month outlook** on housing at the end of the summer home-buying season, supported by increased job confidence and more favorable expectations regarding their personal financial situations compared with this time last year," said Doug Duncan, senior vice president and chief economist at Fannie Mae. "The return to a slight upward trend in the HPSI during the spring and summer is, thus far, in line with our forecast, which calls for 4 percent growth in home sales in 2016 to the best level since 2006 and continued improvement for 2017."

Components of the HPSI

The fall in the HPSI in August can be attributed to decreases across four of the six HPSI components. The most significant decreases were in "Home Prices Will Go Up" (-6) and "Good Time To Sell" (-5).

	August 2016*	Change Since Last Month	Change Since Last Year
August 2016 HPSI	85	-1.5	+4.2
Good Time To Buy	34	+1	+1
Good Time To Sell	15	-5	+12
Home Prices Will Go Up (next 12 months)	35	-6	-3
Mortgage Rates Will Go Down (next 12 months)	-38	-2	+11
Confidence About Not Losing Job (next 12 months)	73	+4	+6
Household Income is Significantly Higher (past 12 months)	10	-1	-2

* Net percentages of the component questions used to calculate HPSI, e.g. (Percent Good Time to Buy – Percent Bad Time to Buy) = 34

The HPSI is derived from responses to six questions out of approximately 100 asked of respondents to the NHS. That survey is conducted monthly among a sample of 1,000 consumers, both homeowners and renters, and is intended to gather respondents' current views and forward-looking expectations of housing market conditions and address topics that are related to their home purchase decisions.

Update: Buyer Broker Agreement

After requests from real estate companies, a nonprofit consumer watchdog group the Consumer Federation of America has developed a list of factors to consider when creating a buyer contract in preparation for upcoming practice changes in the industry.

CFA released its “Proposed Criteria for Evaluating Home Buyer Contract Forms” on Tuesday. The 15 criteria focus on the contracts’ form – whether the documents are readable and understandable – and content – whether they are fair to homebuyers.

- the document’s expiration date (CFA recommends buyers asks for a three-month contract and never sign one longer than six months)
- the right to terminate the contract
- the disclosure that compensation is negotiable
- the broker’s compensation clearly stated and that the buyer broker can’t receive additional compensation for facilitating a sale
- that any additional fees, such as for showing a home, will be deducted from the broker’s commission if there is a successful sale
- that the commission is due only if there is a successful closing
- that buyers have an obligation – for no longer than 60 days, CFA recommends – to pay a broker who earlier showed them a home they purchased after the contract ended
- seller concessions paid directly to buyers
- dual agency not pre-approved by the contract
- an explanation of how a broker treats different buyer clients interested in the same property
- that buyers should not be required to first go through mediation or arbitration if they have a complaint

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