Housing News Update



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Refinancing Share Tumbles to 7-1/2 Year Low

Mortgage activity increased during the week ended February 3, with applications for both purchase and refinance mortgages pulling in **small gains**. The Mortgage Bankers Association's (MBA's) Market Composite Index, a measure of application volume rose 2.3 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis, compared to the week ended January 27 and was 6.0 percent higher before adjustment.

The **Refinance** Index gained 2 percent compared to the previous week and the share of mortgage activity decreased from 49.4 percent a week earlier to 47.9. It was the smallest share of refinancing since June 2009.

The seasonally adjusted **Purchase** Index added 2 percent from week-earlier levels and was up 9 percent unadjusted. The index was 4 percent higher than during the same week in 2016.

Refi Index vs 30yr Fixed

Purchase Index vs 30yr Fixed

The **FHA** share of total applications decreased to 11.9 percent from 12.1 percent the previous week and the VA share rose to 12.7 percent from 12.4 percent. The USDA share of total applications was unchanged at 0.9 percent.

In most cases interest **rates** were slightly lower than during the prior week. The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages (FRM) with conforming loan balances (\$424,000 or less) decreased to 4.35 percent from 4.39 percent. Points were unchanged at .34 and the effective rate was down.

The contract rate for 30-year FRM with **jumbo** loan balances (greater than \$424,000) decreased to 4.27 percent from 4.32 percent. Points averaged 0.31, down from 0.34.the previous week and the effective rate dropped as well.

Thirty-year FRM backed by the **FHA** had an average rate of 4.16 percent with 0.37 point. The prior week the rate was 4.16 percent with .35 point. The effective rate was unchanged.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News I	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 Banke	rs 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 Rates as of: 7/22	6.22%	-0.16	0.60

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%

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The interest rates provided in this newsletter are national averages from independent data sources. Rate/APR terms may differ from those listed above based on the creditworthiness of the borrower. All information provided "as is" for informational purposes only, not intended for trading purposes or financial advice.

Value

Change

There was a decline of 6 basis points in the contract interest rate of **15-year** FRM, to an average rate of 3.55 percent. Points +6.25% ticked up to 0.34 from 0.33 but the effective rate was lower than the prior week's average.

Applications for adjustable-rate mortgage (**ARM**) increased to their largest share since January 2016, 6.9 percent, from a 6.4 percent share the previous week. The average interest rate for 5/1 ARMs was also up, averaging 3.39 percent compared to 3.33 percent. Points eased to 0.18 from 0.22 and the effective rate was higher.

MBA's data is derived from its Weekly Mortgage Application Survey which covers over 75 percent of all U.S. retail residential mortgage applications, and has been conducted since 1990. Respondents include mortgage bankers, commercial banks and thrifts. Base period and value for all indexes is March 16, 1990=100 and interest rates are based on loans with an 80 percent loan-to-value ratio and points that include the origination fee.

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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