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Rates Mixed but Mortgage Apps Fall Across The Board

The volume of mortgage applications declined during the week ended July 28. There were **fewer** applications for both purchase mortgages and refinancing than during the week ended July 21.

The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) said its Market Composite Index, a measure of that volume, **decreased 2.8 percent** on a seasonally adjusted basis and 3 percent unadjusted. The **Refinance Index** was down 4 percent and the share of total applications that were for refinancing pulled back from 46.0 percent to 45.5 percent.

The volume of **purchase** mortgages was down 2 percent both seasonally adjusted and unadjusted. This put the unadjusted Purchase Index at its lowest level since March, but it remained 9 percent higher than during the same week in 2016.

Refi Index vs 30yr Fixed

Purchase Index vs 30yr Fixed

The **share** of applications that were for **FHA** loans ticked up to 10.3 percent from 10.2 percent the previous week and the VA portion declined to 10.1 percent from 10.5 percent. USDA applications accounted for 0.8 percent of the total, unchanged from the previous week.

Interest **rates** were mixed. The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages (FRM) with conforming loan balances of \$424,100 or less was unchanged at 4.17 percent, with points decreasing to 0.36 from 0.40. The effective rate was lower than the previous week.

Thirty-year **jumbo** FRM, loans with balances above the conforming limit, had an average rate of 4.11 percent, 5 basis points higher than the previous week. Points increased to 0.25 from 0.24 and the effective rate increased.

The average contract rate for 30-year FRM backed by the **FHA** rose to 4.07 percent from 4.05 percent. Points decreased to 0.35 from 0.44, pulling the effective rate lower than the prior week.

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%

The average contract interest rate for **15-year FRM** was unchanged at 3.45 percent, with points decreasing to 0.44 from 0.45. The effective rate was also unchanged.

	Value	Change
Builder Confidence	51	+6.25%
Mar		

The average contract interest rate for **5/1 adjustable** rate mortgages (ARMs) rose 1 basis point to 3.30 percent and points increased to 0.29 from 0.26. The effective rate moved higher. The ARM share of applications decreased to 6.6 percent from 6.8 percent previous week.

MBA's Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey has been conducted since 1990 and covers over 75 percent of all U.S. retail residential mortgage applications. Respondents include mortgage bankers, commercial banks and thrifts. Base period and value for all indexes is March 16, 1990=100 and interest rate information is 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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