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Refinance Applications Continue Outperforming Purchases

The volume of refinancing applications, shored up by interest rates that remained at seven- and eight- month lows, rose for the **fifth time in the last six weeks**. However, during the week ended August 18, the gain was a marginal one, not enough to keep the overall level of applications from declining. The Mortgage Bankers Association said its Market Composite Index, a measure of that volume, was down 0.5 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, and lost 2.0 percent before adjustment, when compared to the week ended August 11.

The **Refinancing** Index moved higher, but only by a scant 0.3 percent. The refinancing share of applications rose to 48.7 percent from 47.8 percent, the third straight week that share gained ground.

The **Purchase** Index declined by 2 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis and the unadjusted Index fell 3.0 percent compared to the previous week. The seasonally adjusted Purchase Index hit a seven-year high during the week ended June 2 (a holiday-adjusted week) and has declined in all but three of the 11 weeks since. The unadjusted index was 9.0 percent higher than during the same week in 2016.

Refi Index vs 30yr Fixed

Purchase Index vs 30yr Fixed

Applications for **FHA** mortgages decreased to 10.1 percent from 10.2 percent and the VA share decreased to 10.2 percent from 10.5 percent. USDA loan applications again received an 0.8 percent share.

Mortgage **rates** were essentially flat during the week; most changes in contract rates were to the low side. Effective rates were mixed.

The contract rate for **30-year fixed**-rate mortgages (FRM) with conforming loan balances of \$424,100 or less was unchanged at 4.12 percent. Points increased to 0.39 from 0.38, leaving the effective rate unchanged as well.

Thirty-year FRM with **jumbo** loan balances higher than the \$424,100 conforming limit had an average rate of 3.99 percent versus 4.04 percent the

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%

Housing News Update

week before. Points decreased to 0.26 from 0.27 and the effective rate was down.

		Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%

Rates for mortgages backed by the **FHA** were the only ones to move higher. The average rate for the 30-year FRM ticked up to 4.02 percent from 4.01 percent, with points decreasing to 0.37 from 0.40. The effective rate remained unchanged.

There was a 1 basis point decrease in the average interest rate for **15-year** FRM, to 3.40 percent. Points rose to 0.38 from 0.35, and the effective rate was unchanged.

The average contract interest rate for **5/1 adjustable** rate mortgages (ARMs) decreased to 3.27 percent with 0.31 point from 3.34 percent with 0.29 point. The effective rate declined. The ARM share of activity decreased to 6.4 percent of total applications from 6.6 percent the prior 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

Contact me for more information. 702-303-0243 or TPayne@loandepot.com

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