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MBA Delinquency Data Setting Post-Crisis Records

The quarterly report from the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) based on its **National Delinquency Survey** seems like old times. MBA reports that most, if not all, of its performance data is back to pre-crisis levels.

The mortgage delinquency rate, for example, was at its **lowest since the second quarter of 2000**, 4.24 percent. That reflected a 47-basis point (bp) reduction since the first quarter and was 42 bps lower than a year earlier.

Delinquencies retreated across **all loan types** during the quarter, and within those types were several even more impressive historic markers. VA delinquencies were at their lowest level since 1979 (3.90 percent) and the last time the FHA rate had been lower than 7.94 percent was in 1996. The Conventional rate posted its best number, 3.47 percent, since 2005.

The delinquency rate includes loans that are at least one payment past due but does not include loans in the process of foreclosure. The serious delinquency rate includes loans that are 90 days or more past due, including those in **foreclosure**. The rate was 2.49 percent in the second quarter, down 27 basis points from the previous quarter, 62 basis points lower than one year ago, and a ten-year low. Within that rate, loans in the process of foreclosure had a rate of 1.29 percent, a number that retreated by 10 bps from the previous quarter, was 35 bps lower than one year earlier, and also a ten-year low.

Foreclosure starts also declined. They were down 4 bps from the first quarter and 6 from the second quarter of 2016.

Marina Walsh, MBA's Vice President of Industry Analysis, offered the following commentary on the survey results: "The employment outlook continues to support loan performance. Monthly job growth topped 200,000 jobs in June for the fourth time in the first six months of the year. Job growth in the month of July also topped 200,000. Possible factors that could influence a directional change include rising loan-to-value and debt-to-income ratios for certain product types, as affordability is stretched by tight inventory and rising home prices, and normal loan aging."

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%

		Value	Change
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%

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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