Mortgage Rate Update



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Lowest Mortgage Rates in Weeks After Fed Hikes Rates. Here's How That Works...

The implication of "Fed rate hikes" is a constant source of confusion in the housing market. The general belief is that the Fed controls rates and if they're hiking, then rates are going higher. That's not exactly how it works.

Let's leave aside the question of the Fed's control for another day. It's a fairly circular and philosophical debate (chicken/egg kinda thing) with no real relevance to today's mortgage rate movement). Instead, let's focus on why today's Fed rate hike coexists with mortgage rates moving lower.

The Fed hike the Fed Funds Rate. That applies to loans between large institutions for period of less than a day. By influencing the cost of the shortest-term capital at the highest levels, the Fed is attempting to cool demand for goods and services, thereby reducing inflation.

Mortgage rates apply to loans that last more than 5 years on average (before the home is sold or the loan is refinanced). That means they serve a very different purpose for investors and can move quite differently versus shorter-term debt. But this isn't even the biggest reason for the disconnect.

The most obvious reason that a Fed rate hike can coexist with lower mortgage rates is that the bond market already knew the Fed was going to hike and had long since priced that in to the present level of rates. It would be different if the Fed could hike rates any time, any day, but there are only 8 meetings per year that result in rate changes. That means the market has a lot of time to adjust its expectations in between those meetings.

Because the market had already accounted for the hike, all that was left was to react to the changes in the Fed's verbiage and the comments from Fed Chair Powell in the post-announcement press conference. That verbiage generally conveyed the possibility that this was the last Fed rate hike for a long time. Even if that possibility is heavily dependent on economic data, the bond market liked the fact that the Fed wasn't set on continuing to hike.

The average mortgage lender is down to the lowest levels in roughly 3 weeks. Additional gains will depend on the economic data in the coming days-particularly Friday's jobs report and next week's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

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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 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	6.22%	-0.16	0.60
Rates as of: 7/22			

MBS and Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 5.5	99.38	-0.02
MBS GNMA 5.5	99.83	+0.05
10 YR Treasury	4.2535	+0.0156
30 YR Treasury	4.4739	+0.0271
Pricing as of: 7/22 4:49PM EST		

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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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