



Jeffrey Chalmers

Senior Loan Officer, Movement Mortgage
NMLS #76803 - #39179 Licensed: CA, CT, FL, MA, ME, NH,
99 Rosewood Dr, Suite 270 Danvers, MA 01923

Office: (774) 291-6527
Mobile: (774) 291-6527
Fax: (855) 951-5626
jeffrey.chalmers@movement.com
[View My Website](#)

A Message from Jeffrey Chalmers:

"Who said the housing market is slowing down? Hang On!"

New Home Sales - A Blowout!

Analysts had predicted new home sales number would retreat again in September, on the heels of a 9.4 percent loss in August. Whoops!

September's results from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development were far **beyond anyone's expectations**. Sales of newly constructed single-family homes were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 667,000 units, an 18.9 percent month-over-month increase and 17 percent above the September 2016 pace. The earlier estimate for August was revised upward, but only by 1,000 units to 561,000.

Analysts polled by Econoday had expected sales to be in the range of 540,000 to 590,000. The consensus was 555,000.

On a non-adjusted basis there were 52,000 **new homes sold** during the month compared to 45,000 in August. Despite two hurricanes hitting the region in late August and early September, more than half of the sales, 31,000, were in the South.

At the end of the reporting period, the number of homes that were available for sale was an estimated 279,000, unchanged from August. However, because of the **dramatic increase** in the rate of sales, the estimated inventory, which had finally climbed to a 6-month supply in August, dropped by a full month.

The average time a new home has been on the market since completion is 3.2 months. Of the homes sold in September, less than a third were ready for occupancy.

The median price of a home sold in September was \$319,700 and the average price was \$385,200. The comparable prices in September 2016 were \$314,800 and \$366,100 respectively.

Sales were up in all four regions with two showing some real strength. Sales in the **Northeast** increased by 33.3 percent month-over-month and were 54.8 percent higher than a year earlier. The **Midwest** posted a 10.6 percent gain from August, but sales were down 2.7 percent from a year earlier.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.09%	+0.07	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.56%	+0.03	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.62%	+0.07	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.35%	+0.04	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.30%	+0.06	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	7.02%	-0.42	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.28%	-0.48	0.00

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.

30 Yr. Fixed	7.08%	-0.10	0.63
15 Yr. Fixed	6.61%	+0.01	0.65
30 Yr. FHA	6.89%	-0.03	0.94
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.22%	-0.09	0.58
5/1 ARM	6.56%	-0.04	0.66

Rates as of: 5/17

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	May 15	198.1	+0.51%
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
Sales in the South surged by 25.8 percent and were 23.1 percent ahead of September 2016. The West saw sales increase by 2.9 percent and 4.4 percent from the two earlier periods.	Builder Confidence	Mar	51
			+6.25%

Because Integrity Matters™

Jeffrey has spent the last three decades perfecting an Honest, Open and Transparent (HOT™) loan and closing process that is laser-focused on enhancing the consumer mortgage experience. By combining old-school, trustworthy customer service with real-time, mobile-friendly technology, he has successfully built thousands of loyal, raving fans.

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