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Builder Confidence Declines on Labor/Lot Shortages

Builder confidence in the new home market appeared to take a tumble in June, per the latest survey conducted by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). The NAHB/Wells Fargo **Housing Market Index (HMI)** **dropped 2 points from the May level to 67**. In addition, May reading was revised down from 70 to 69.

Analysts surveyed by Econoday had not expected a change in the June HMI, forecasting another 70 reading.

NAHB Housing Market Index



The HMI is constructed from responses to a survey NAHB has conducted for more than 30 years among its new-home builder members. They are asked to provide their **perceptions of current single-family home sales and sales expectations for the next six months** as "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low." Scores for each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view conditions as good than poor.

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.37%	-0.04	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.82%	-0.02	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.82%	-0.06	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.55%	-0.05	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.42%	-0.08	0.00
Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.22%	-0.22	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.47%	-0.29	0.00
Mortgage Bankers Assoc.			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.24%	+0.11	0.66
15 Yr. Fixed	6.75%	+0.11	0.64
30 Yr. FHA	7.01%	+0.11	0.94
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.45%	+0.05	0.56
5/1 ARM	6.64%	+0.12	0.87

Rates as of: 5/2

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Apr 24	196.7	-2.67%
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
All three HMI components were down from the previous month . The component gauging current sales conditions was down 2 points to 73 while expectations for the next six months also lost 2 points, falling to 76. Perceptions of buyer traffic dropped below the benchmark, scoring 49, also a loss of 2 points.	Builder Confidence	Mar 51 +6.25%

NAHB Chairman Granger MacDonald said, "Builder confidence levels have remained consistently sound this year, reflecting the ongoing gradual recovery of the housing market." Chief Economist Robert Dietz added, "As the housing market strengthens and more buyers enter the market, builders continue to express their frustration over an ongoing **shortage of skilled labor and buildable lots** that is impeding stronger growth in the single-family sector."

Builder confidence lost ground in all four regions. The HMI in the Midwest and South edged one 1 lower to 67 and 70 respectively. The Northeast had a score of 46 and the West 76, each down 2 points from May.

All Your Mortgage Needs, Professionally Delivered with a Personal Touch

Whether you're a first-time homebuyer hoping to navigate the process of buying a home so that it is a fun and anxiety-free process or a homeowner looking for refinance options that deliver more freedom and flexibility, I can help you analyze your current situation and find money saving options. With expertise in all areas of mortgage and financing, my hope is that once I become your mortgage partner, I'll stay your mortgage partner. With clients from A to Z, files never leave my hands or my desk. From start to finish, every step of the way, my goal is to keep the lines of communication open, provide complete and attentive service, and ensure the most seamless and satisfactory process possible.

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