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Refinancing Share Tumbles to 7-1/2 Year Low

Mortgage activity increased during the week ended February 3, with applications for both purchase and refinance mortgages pulling in **small gains**. The Mortgage Bankers Association's (MBA's) Market Composite Index, a measure of application volume rose 2.3 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis, compared to the week ended January 27 and was 6.0 percent higher before adjustment.

The **Refinance** Index gained 2 percent compared to the previous week and the share of mortgage activity decreased from 49.4 percent a week earlier to 47.9. It was the smallest share of refinancing since June 2009.

The seasonally adjusted **Purchase** Index added 2 percent from week-earlier levels and was up 9 percent unadjusted. The index was 4 percent higher than during the same week in 2016.

Refi Index vs 30yr Fixed

Purchase Index vs 30yr Fixed

The **FHA share** of total applications decreased to 11.9 percent from 12.1 percent the previous week and the **VA share** rose to 12.7 percent from 12.4 percent. The **USDA share** of total applications was unchanged at 0.9 percent.

In most cases interest **rates** were slightly lower than during the prior week. The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages (FRM) with conforming loan balances (\$424,000 or less) decreased to 4.35 percent from 4.39 percent. Points were unchanged at .34 and the effective rate was down.

The contract rate for 30-year FRM with **jumbo** loan balances (greater than \$424,000) decreased to 4.27 percent from 4.32 percent. Points averaged 0.31, down from 0.34 the previous week and the effective rate dropped as well.

Thirty-year FRM backed by the **FHA** had an average rate of 4.16 percent with 0.37 point. The prior week the rate was 4.16 percent with .35 point. The effective rate was unchanged.

National Average Mortgage Rates



| | Rate | Change | Points |
|--|------|--------|--------|
|--|------|--------|--------|

Mortgage News Daily

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|------|
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.43% | +0.02 | 0.00 |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 5.95% | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30 Yr. FHA | 5.82% | +0.02 | 0.00 |
| 30 Yr. Jumbo | 6.62% | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5/1 ARM | 6.28% | -0.01 | 0.00 |

Freddie Mac

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|------|
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.35% | -0.51 | 0.00 |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 5.51% | -0.65 | 0.00 |

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------|------|
| 30 Yr. Fixed | 6.44% | -0.06 | 0.54 |
| 15 Yr. Fixed | 5.88% | -0.16 | 0.68 |
| 30 Yr. FHA | 6.36% | -0.06 | 0.85 |
| 30 Yr. Jumbo | 6.75% | +0.07 | 0.39 |
| 5/1 ARM | 5.98% | -0.27 | 0.65 |

Rates as of: 8/30

Recent Housing Data

| | | Value | Change |
|---------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Mortgage Apps | Aug 28 | 226.9 | +0.49% |
| 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 |
|--|-------|--------|
| There was a decline of 6 basis points in the contract interest rate of 15-year FRM , to an average rate of 3.55 percent. Points ticked up to 0.34 from 0.33 but the effective rate was lower than the prior week's average. | 31 | +6.25% |

Applications for adjustable-rate mortgage (**ARM**) increased to their largest share since January 2016, 6.9 percent, from a 6.4 percent share the previous week. The average interest rate for 5/1 ARMs was also up, averaging 3.39 percent compared to 3.33 percent. Points eased to 0.18 from 0.22 and the effective rate was higher.

MBA's data is derived from its Weekly Mortgage Application Survey which covers over 75 percent of all U.S. retail residential mortgage applications, and has been conducted since 1990. Respondents include mortgage bankers, commercial banks and thrifts. Base period and value for all indexes is March 16, 1990=100 and interest rates are based on loans with an 80 percent loan-to-value ratio and points that include the origination fee.

Service oriented, responsive, competitive rates and an in depth knowledge of today's mortgage market

After completing my degree in finance at the University of Connecticut, I started in the mortgage business right out of college in 2004. With 15+ years of experience and a primary objective of thoroughly explaining all available loan options to my clients with what is typically the largest investment in their lives, I strive to always make myself available. I constantly educate myself with respect to the mortgage industry and underwriting guidelines for FHA, VA, conventional and jumbo financing. I deliver on the expectations discussed up front and provide the service level my clients deserve from day one. I will remain in touch throughout the process and continue to follow up with you after closing. My goal is to wow you and turn you into clients for life. I want you to be so impressed that throughout and after the process you share my information with your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers who may value from my services.

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