Real estate daily market update: January 3, 2018

We'll add more market news briefs throughout the day. Check back to read the latest.

Most recent market news

Wednesday, January 3

Mortgage Bankers Association's (MBA) Weekly Mortgage Applications Survey

- The Market Composite Index, a measure of mortgage loan application volume, decreased 2.8 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis from two weeks earlier. On an unadjusted basis, the Index decreased 42 percent compared with two weeks ago.
- The Refinance Index decreased 7 percent from two weeks ago.
- The seasonally adjusted Purchase Index increased 1 percent from two weeks earlier.
- The unadjusted Purchase Index decreased 40 percent compared with two weeks ago and was 3 percent higher than the same week one year ago.
- The refinance share of mortgage activity increased to 52.0 percent of total applications from 51.8 percent the previous week. The adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) share of activity decreased to 5.3 percent of total applications.
- The FHA share of total applications increased to 10.4 percent from 10.3 percent the week prior.
- The VA share of total applications increased to 11.2 percent from 10.6 percent the week prior.
- The USDA share of total applications increased to 0.8 percent from 0.7 percent the week prior.
- The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances ($424,100 or less) remained unchanged from the week prior at 4.25 percent, with points increasing to 0.36 from 0.35 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent loan-to-value ratio (LTV) loans. The effective rate increased from last week.
- The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with jumbo loan balances (greater than $424,100) decreased to 4.13 percent from 4.21 percent, with points increasing to 0.21 from 0.20 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent LTV loans. The effective rate decreased from last week.
- The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages backed by the FHA increased to 4.17 percent from 4.15 percent, with points increasing to 0.40 from 0.37 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent LTV loans. The effective rate increased from last week.
- The average contract interest rate for 15-year fixed-rate mortgages decreased to 3.65 percent from 3.66 percent, with points decreasing to 0.34 from 0.37 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent LTV loans. The effective rate decreased from last week.
- The average contract interest rate for 5/1 ARMs decreased to 3.40 percent from 3.56

percent, with points increasing to 0.73 from 0.46 (including the origination fee) for 80 percent LTV loans. The effective rate decreased from last week.

Tuesday, January 2

Mortgage rate forecasts for 2018

Here are several predictions from the largest housing and mortgage groups for the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage:

- The Mortgage Bankers Association predicts it will rise to 4.6 percent in 2018.
- The National Association of Realtors expects it be around 4.5 percent at the end of 2018.
- Realtor.com says the rate will average 4.6 percent and reach *5 percent by year-end.*

Though rates are likely to rise, there's still a window for homeowners to refinance if they haven't done so already. Lenders typically say it's worth it to refinance if you can lower your rate by half of one percent.

"The refinance market has more flexibility to time the market," says Danielle Hale, chief economist for realtor.com. "For most of them, if it still makes sense to refinance, they should go for it because the long-term forecast suggests rates will rise."

News from earlier this week

Tuesday, January 2

CoreLogic Home Price Index (HPI) and HPI Forecast for November 2017

- CoreLogic reports fourth consecutive month with more than 6 percent
- Home prices nationally increased year over year by 7 percent from November 2016 to November 2017, and on a month-over-month basis home prices increased by 1 percent in November 2017 compared with October 2017.
- Looking ahead, the CoreLogic HPI Forecast indicates that home prices will increase by 4.2 percent on a year-over-year basis from November 2017 to November 2018, and on a month-over-month basis home prices are expected to decrease by 0.4 percent from November 2017 to December 2017.
- Washington, Nevada, Utah and Idaho posted 12-month price gains of 10 percent or more in November.
- Lack of affordable housing stock keeps home price index high in many markets.
- According to CoreLogic Market Condition Indicators (MCI) data, an analysis of housing values in the country's 100 largest metropolitan areas based on housing stock, 37 percent of metropolitan areas have an overvalued housing stock as of November 2017.

“Rising home prices are good news for home sellers, but add to the challenges that home buyers face,” said Dr. Frank Nothaft, chief economist for CoreLogic.

“Growing numbers of first-time buyers find limited for-sale inventory for lower-priced homes, leading to both higher rates of price growth for ‘starter’ homes and further erosion of affordability.”

Select Metropolitan Areas	November 2017 12-Month HPI Change Year Over Year Single-Family	Market Condition as of November 2017
Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise NV	11.1%	Overvalued
San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco CA	8.9%	At value
Denver-Aurora-Lakewood CO	8.1%	Overvalued
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale CA	7.5%	Overvalued
Boston MA	6.7%	At value
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights IL	3.7%	At value
Miami-Miami Beach-Kendall FL	3.7%	Overvalued
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA-MD-WV	3.7%	Overvalued
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land TX	3.5%	Overvalued
New York-Jersey City-White Plains NY-NJ	3.3%	Overvalued

Home price change and market conditions for select metropolitan areas. Source: CoreLogic November 2017

“Without a significant surge in new building and affordable housing stock, the relatively high level of growth in home prices of recent years will continue in most markets,” said Frank Martell, president and CEO of CoreLogic.

“Although policymakers are increasingly looking for ways to address the lack of affordable housing, much more needs to be done soon to see a significant improvement over the medium term.”

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