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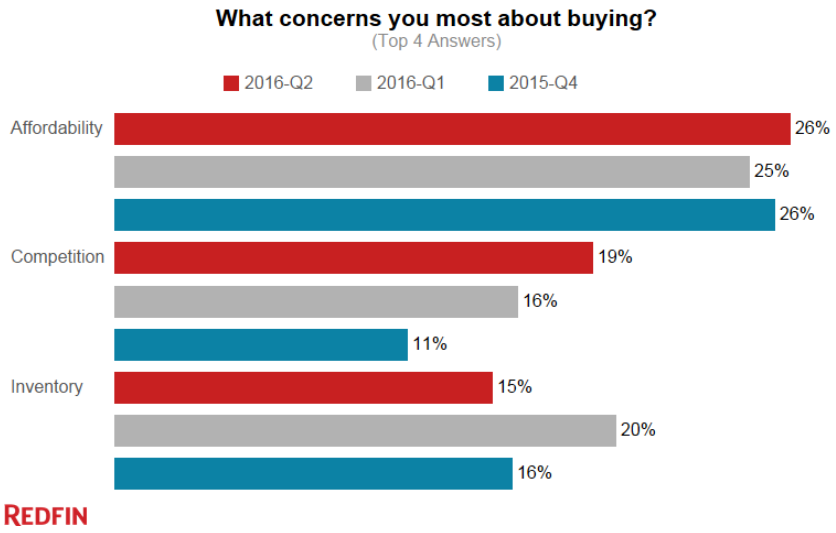
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Buyers Increasingly Worried by Competition

What do buyers worry about as they shop for a home? It turns out one growing concern is **other buyers** like them.

A Redfin survey of nearly 1,000 buyers found that, while 26 percent cited affordability as their major worry, virtually unchanged from the last two quarterly surveys, 19 percent said their **biggest fear was competition**. This was an 8 percentage point increase from the fourth quarter of 2015 and 3 points more than in the first survey this year.

The third major concern, **tight inventories** of available homes, declined slightly in the recent survey. But those inventories are the main driver of competition and when the two are combined, competition becomes a more important issue than affordability.



Redfin said the buyer concerns are **justified**. Sixty percent of buyers represented by the firm faced competition for their offers submitted in May and the firm notes that, with prices up nearly 5 percent, "the thought of a bidding war would be particularly worrying for a cost-conscious buyer."

National Average Mortgage Rates



Mortgage News Daily	Rate	Change	Points
30YR Fixed	7.34%	+0.01	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.89%	0.00	0.00
30YR FHA	6.96%	+0.01	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.45%	+0.01	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.83%	+0.02	0.00
30YR VA	6.97%	0.00	0.00

Rates as of: 11/23

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.57	+0.05
10 YR Treasury	4.9397	-0.0006
30 YR Treasury	5.3068	-0.0256

Pricing as of: 11/23 1:30PM EST

Recent Housing Data

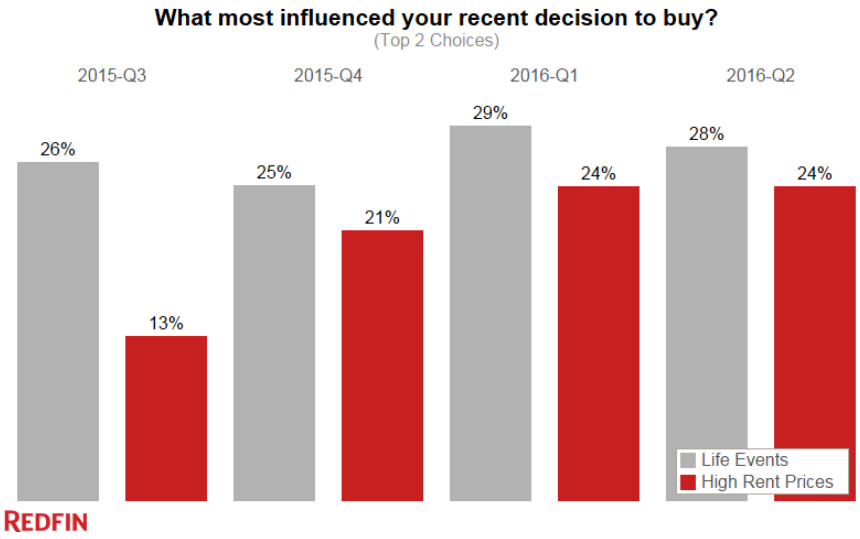
		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Nov 11	199.8	-2.35%
Building Permits	Oct	1.3M	-7.5%
Housing Starts	Oct	1.31M	+7.21%
New Home Sales	Sep	676K	-1.17%
Pending Home Sales	Oct	63	-4.69%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Nov	25	-13.79%

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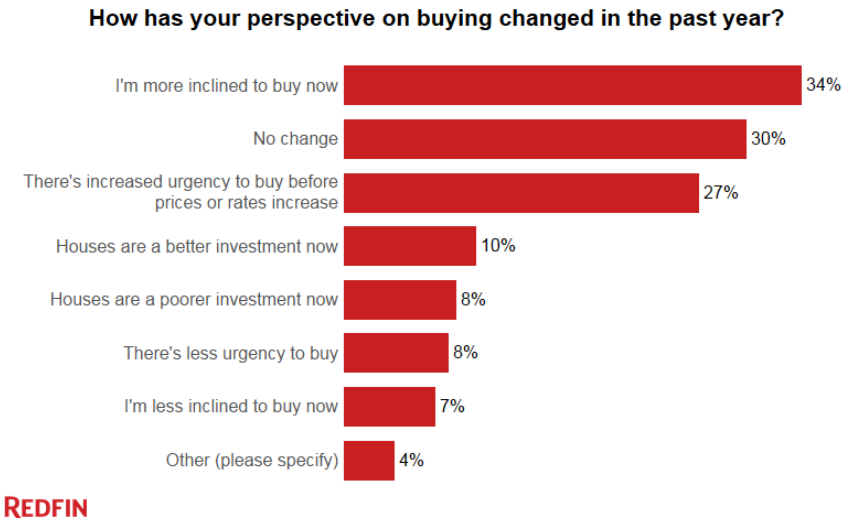
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High rents appear to be driving many buyers toward homeownership. About one in four of survey respondents said this was their primary reason for house hunting, up 11 points since last August. This sentiment is strongest among first-time buyers, over half of them said high rents were driving their decision, double the August numbers. Despite the increases in the high rent category, life events such as the birth of a child remained the number one impetus given and Redfin said no other choices exceeded a 10 percent response.



More than a third of respondents said they were **more inclined to buy** now than they were a year ago but only 27 percent said that inclination was driven by urgency about rising prices and interest rates.



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"Though enticed by high rents and low mortgage rates to begin a home search, first-time buyers face a number of obstacles in today's competitive market," said Redfin chief economist Nela Richardson. "In many cities, starter homes have seen the **largest price increases** because the supply of affordable homes on the market is so low and the demand for these homes is so high."

Redfin's survey was conducted between May 17 and May 23, and includes responses from 975 homebuyers in 36 states and Washington, D.C.

The Orlicki Group is one of the leading resources for your mortgage needs.

As a licensed mortgage originator I work hand-in-hand with homebuyers and homeowners to explore and secure or refinance loans that suit their needs. Guiding and advising my clients every step of the way, from application to closing, I can help them strategically plan a financially sound mortgage aligned to their long-term goals. Our website also contains some beneficial mortgage tools for you to use. As always this is free information and you should contact us for professional advice if you need it.

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