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# Big News For Refi Rates As Adverse Market Fee is Removed

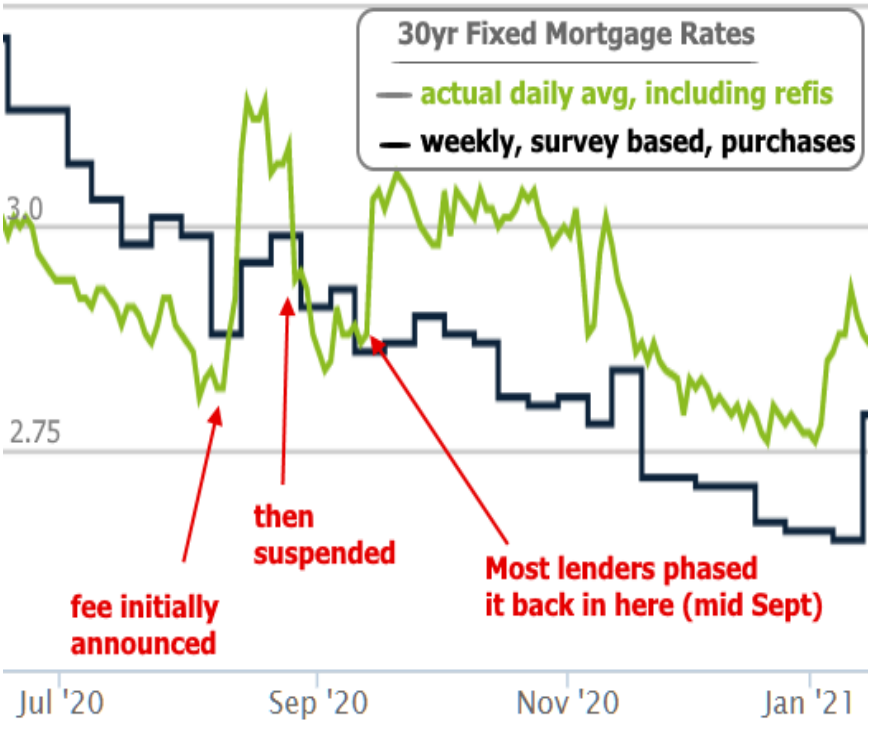
It was big, bad news when it came out last summer. Almost a year later, the 50 basis point "adverse market fee," which affected a majority of refinance mortgages has been eliminated!

**Backstory**

For those interested in a refresher, here is the original coverage. And here is the follow-up coverage (which includes more nuts, bolts, and plain English).

Long story short, in early August 2020, Fannie and Freddie (who collectively buy or guarantee a vast majority of all mortgages) announced that virtually all conventional refinance loans would be subject to a new fee of 0.50 points (e.g. an extra $1500 upfront on a $300k loan, or a 0.125-0.25% increase in rate).

After much protest, the implementation of the fee was delayed at the end of August. Lenders ultimately began adding it back into rate sheets en masse by mid September. All of the above can be seen in the following chart which shows the effects on average daily rates.




## National Average Mortgage Rates




### Mortgage News Daily

| | Rate | Change | Points |
|---|---|---|---|
| 30YR Fixed | 7.33% | -0.12 | 0.00 |
| 15YR Fixed | 6.89% | -0.10 | 0.00 |
| 30YR FHA | 6.95% | -0.10 | 0.00 |
| 30YR Jumbo | 7.44% | -0.06 | 0.00 |
| 7/6 SOFR | 6.81% | -0.19 | 0.00 |
| 30YR VA | 6.97% | -0.10 | 0.00 |

Rates as of: 11/20

## MBS and Treasury

| | Price / Yield | Change |
|---|---|---|
| MBS UMBS 6.0 | 99.51 | +0.41 |
| 10 YR Treasury | 4.9403 | -0.1033 |
| 30 YR Treasury | 5.3324 | -0.0738 |

Pricing as of: 11/20 5:59PM 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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Fast forward to the summer of 2021 and some recent developments raised questions about the longevity of the fee--specifically the firing of previous FHFA Director Calabria (here's the full backstory on that). And here's an excerpt:

> Why does this matter? Biden can now appoint an FHFA director who will work with Treasury Secretary Yellen to undo the recent PSPA changes that run counter to the current administration's housing policy goals. Some experts believe that means "all of them."

Of all of the changes precipitated by the amended PSPA (preferred stock purchase agreement that gave Treasury the power to set the terms under which it would act as the backstop for Fannie and Freddie) this adverse market fee was the last one that was expected to change any time soon. After all, the last adverse market fee lasted for many years after experts argued it was no longer needed.

But here we are. It has officially been removed!

**What Happened?**

A fee that increased added half a point in upfront cost to most conventional refinances has been removed by FHFA (Fannie and Freddie's regulator).

**What does "half a point upfront" mean?**

$1500 on a $300k loan, or 0.125-0.25% in rate.

**For what loans? When?**

Again, this only applies to most conventional refinance loans delivered to the agencies on or after August 1st. It would be very hard to close a new refi before then, let alone deliver it to the agencies, so most lenders have already implemented the change for all new loans.

**How about for loans already in process?**

This depends... If a loan was not already locked, there's a good chance the fee won't be there when it is ultimately locked. For loans that are already locked, lender strategies vary. Some lenders are removing the fee from any loan that hasn't yet closed. Others are not. If you're not sure how you're lender is dealing with it, the best bet is to ask your loan officer.

**How much will I save if it's removed?**

That depends on your loan amount and how the fee was accounted for in your quote. It also depends on your lender's rate sheet structure. In cases where the fee is accounted for on the "rate" side of the equation, the change should be good for at least an eighth of a percent in most cases (0.125%). In cases where it's accounted for on the "cost/points" side of the equation, you should save exactly half a point (i.e. $500 for every $100k financed).

**My lender said they can't credit the fee because they never charged it. Are they lying?**

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If you have a PURCHASE (not a refi), or a loan amount of $125k or less, or a HomePossible or HomeReady loan, or an FHA/VA/USDA loan, or any other loan not sold to or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, no. They're not lying. Moreover, some lenders opted to absorb this fee in their pricing structure and never treat it as its own line item. They technically never charged it, even if they were planning on paying it and now no longer have to.

Whatever the case may be, this is good news for the mortgage market and it provides proof of concept regarding other potentially beneficial changes. At the same time, the underlying bond market has generally been improving over the past 2 weeks, which only augments the savings for new refinance transactions.




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## Recent Economic Data

| Date | Event | Actual | Forecast | Prior |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Monday, Jul 12** | | | | |
| 11:30AM | 3-Yr Note Auction (bl) | 58 | | |
| 1:00PM | 10-yr Note Auction (bl) | 38 | | |
| **Tuesday, Jul 13** | | | | |
| 8:30AM | Jun Consumer Price Index (CPI) (%) | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| 8:30AM | Jun Core CPI (Annual) (%) | 4.5 | 4.0 | 3.8 |
| 1:00PM | 30-Yr Bond Auction (bl) | 24 | | |
| **Wednesday, Jul 14** | | | | |
| 7:00AM | w/e MBA Purchase Index | 273.3 | | 252.4 |
| 7:00AM | w/e MBA Refi Index | 3361.5 | | 2791.3 |
| 8:30AM | Jun Core Producer Prices YY (%) | 5.6 | 5.1 | 4.8 |

## Event Importance:

No Stars = Insignificant
☆ Low
★ Moderate
★★ Important
★★ Very Important

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| Date | Event | Actual | Forecast | Prior |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Thursday, Jul 15** | | | | |
| 8:30AM | Jun Import prices mm (%) | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| 8:30AM | Jul Philly Fed Business Index | 21.9 | 28.0 | 30.7 |
| 8:30AM | Jun Export prices mm (%) | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2.2 |
| 8:30AM | Jul NY Fed Manufacturing | 43.00 | 18.00 | 17.40 |
| 8:30AM | w/e Jobless Claims (k) | 360 | 350 | 373 |
| 8:30AM | w/e Continued Claims (ml) | 3.241 | 3.100 | 3.339 |
| 9:15AM | Jun Industrial Production (%) | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| **Friday, Jul 16** | | | | |
| 8:30AM | Jun Retail Sales (%) | 0.6 | -0.4 | -1.7 |
| 10:00AM | Jul Consumer Sentiment | 80.8 | 86.5 | 85.5 |
| 10:00AM | May Business Inventories (% ) | 0.5 | 0.5 | -0.2 |
| **Monday, Jul 19** | | | | |
| 10:00AM | Jul NAHB housing market indx | 80 | 82 | 81 |
| **Tuesday, Jul 20** | | | | |
| 8:30AM | Jun Build permits: change mm (%) | -5.1 | | -2.9 |
| 8:30AM | Jun Housing starts number mm (ml) | 1.643 | 1.590 | 1.572 |
| 8:30AM | Jun Building permits: number (ml) | 1.598 | 1.700 | 1.683 |
| 8:30AM | Jun House starts mm: change (%) | 6.3 | | 2.1 |
| **Wednesday, Jul 21** | | | | |
| 7:00AM | w/e MBA Purchase Index | 255.8 | | 273.3 |
| 7:00AM | w/e MBA Refi Index | 3267.6 | | 3361.5 |
| **Thursday, Jul 22** | | | | |
| 10:00AM | Jun Existing home sales (ml) | 5.86 | 5.90 | 5.78 |
| 10:00AM | Jun Exist. home sales % chg (%) | +1.4 | | -1.2 |
| 10:00AM | Jun Leading index chg mm (%) | +0.7 | 0.9 | 1.2 |
| **Friday, Jul 23** | | | | |
| 9:45AM | Jul Markit Composite PMI | 59.7 | | 63.7 |

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