

Purchase Applications Rose for Third Week

Applications for mortgages to purchase homes rose 1.8 percent last week compared to the previous week on a seasonally adjusted basis. On an unadjusted basis, purchase applications rose 21.3 percent compared to the previous week, which included Thanksgiving. Applications were up 12 percent compared to the same week a year ago.

This is the third week that applications to purchase homes have increased, reaching the highest level since early May.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages increased to 4.66 percent from 4.56 percent, while 15-year fixed-rate mortgages increased to 3.98 percent from 3.91 percent.

Source: Mortgage Bankers Association (12/08/2010)