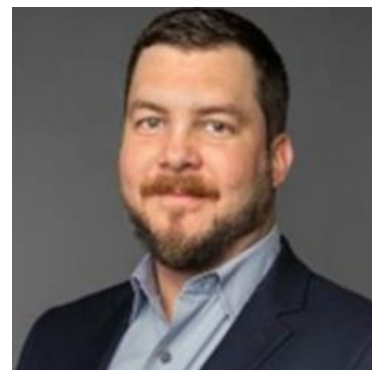


## Builder Confidence Near Post-Pandemic Lows, But Timing is Everything

The National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) and Wells Fargo released the monthly Housing Market Index (HMI) this week, showing builder confidence falling to the lowest levels since 2023. This is about as low as the index has been since the housing crisis more than a decade ago.



Glendon Grose

Loan Officer, Movement Mortgage

[lo.movement.com/.../home](https://lo.movement.com/.../home)

P: (571) 758-4499

M: (540) 424-9664

3701 Pender Dr  
Fairfax Virginia 22030  
1622561



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While persistently high interest rates remain a top concern for the housing market, a growing number of builders cited difficulty pricing new homes in light of the rapidly changing outlook for material costs due to tariffs.

With that in mind, it's important to note that 90% of this month's responses came in **before** the US/China trade announcement. Not only did that announcement drastically reduce tariffs for 90 days, it also offered a proof of concept that will likely see the outlook improve in the next survey due to lower material costs and a more upbeat consumer.

Additional details are available at <https://www.nahb.org/news-and-economics/housing-economics/indices/housing-market-index>.