## HOUSING CONNECTION

Mortgage and Real Estate News That Matters



## We Make Home Happen.™

Our goal is simple:

To help every family we serve get to "Yes."

**Yes** to the loan that unlocks the joy of home ownership.

**Yes** to the lending solution that meets every client's unique needs and wants.

That's why we dedicate our every resource to serve as your personal guide through the lending process, solving problems, building confidence. Aslan has access to every lending option leading to the purchase or refinance of a residential home loan.

This is more than work for us. It is our unique joy in this life to share our collective skill, creativity, and care to bring you and your family right to where you belong.

Let's make home happen.

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## Builders Counting on Lower Rates to Break the Traffic Jam

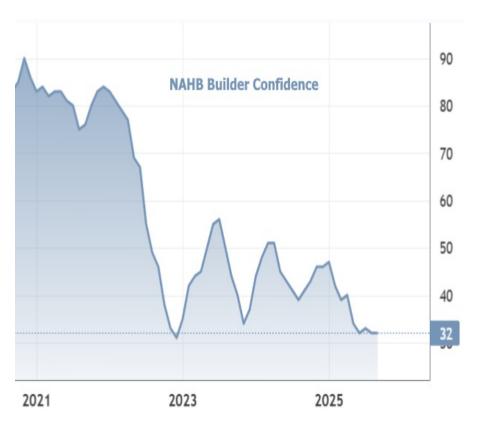
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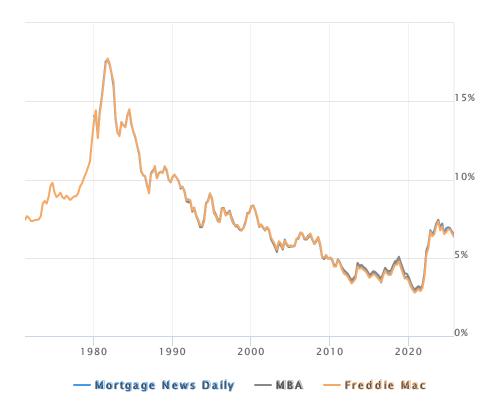


Builder confidence levels continued kicking a sad little can down the same long and lonesome road. The September National Association of Home Builders (NAHB)/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) held flat at 32, extending the streak to 17 consecutive months below the key 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction.



While the overall index isn't pretty, there was some positive movement in the component index that focuses on sales expectations over the next 6 months, which rose to its highest levels in 6 months. These expectations are responsible for keeping overall confidence from sinking to new long-term lows--largely weighed down by historically low buyer traffic.

With affordability being a key concern, the recent drop in mortgage rates could help break that traffic jam, assuming it sticks. The rate outlook got a bit fuzzier in the 2nd half of the week as the average 30yr fixed rate ticked up somewhat sharply from the lowest levels in a year to the highest levels in 2 weeks.



Pricing pressure remains widespread. NAHB reported that 36% of builders cut home prices in September, with an average reduction of 5%. Meanwhile, 64% of builders offered sales incentives—still an elevated share by historical standards.

Regionally, confidence was weakest in the West, where affordability challenges are most severe. The South tracked near the national average, while the Midwest and Northeast held relatively steadier, reflecting the persistent gap between high-cost and lower-cost housing markets.