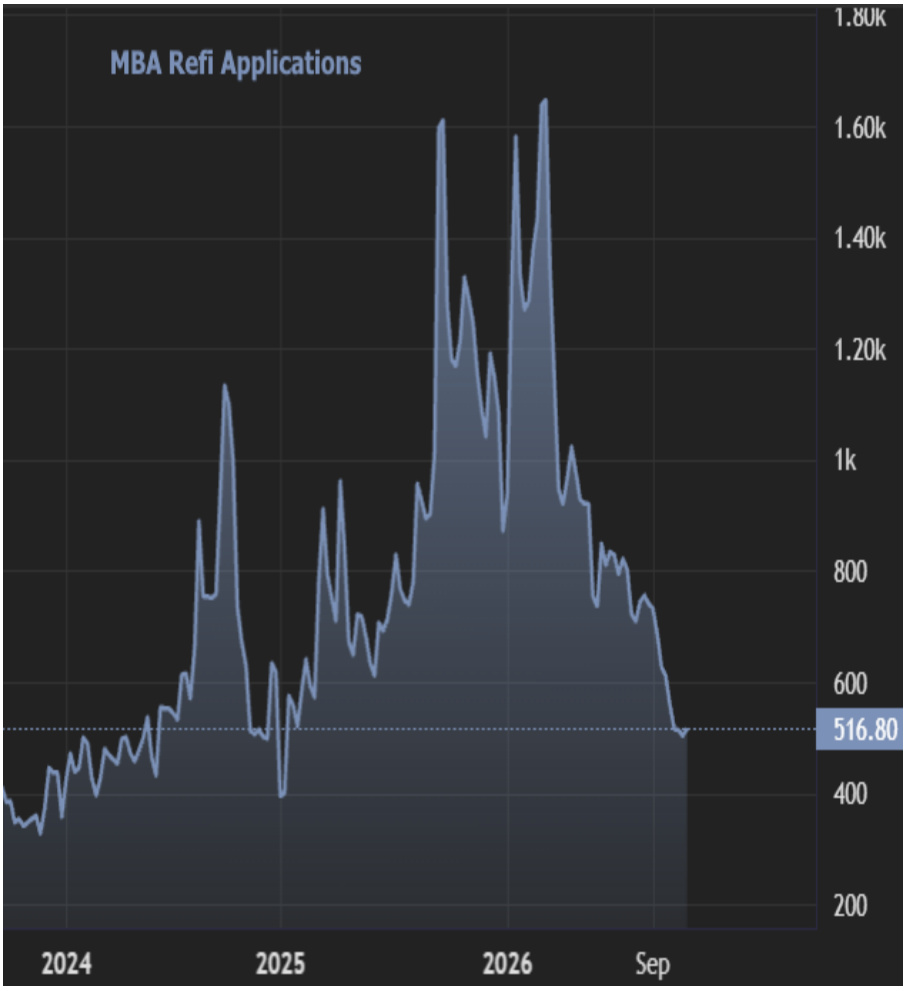
Mortgage Demand Bounces Back, Sort Of

Mortgage applications finally rebounded as mortgage rates fell for a second straight week. The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) reported a **3.4% increase** in total application volume for the week ending October 23.

The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate declined to **7.37%** from 7.41%, its lowest level in three weeks. Both purchase and refinance applications moved higher, but just barely, and well below levels from last year.

The seasonally adjusted Purchase Index rose **4%** for the week, and still **18% below year-ago levels**. Refinances increased 3%, offering only a modest rebound from a market still **61% below** its level a year earlier.



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“The decline in rates gave borrowers some relief, with applications rebounding slightly, particularly conventional applications,” said MBA's Joel Kan. He noted that mortgage rates remain more than a percentage point above year-ago levels, while most homeowners have little incentive to refinance. Adjustable-rate mortgages accounted for **11.3% of applications**, the highest share in more than a year, as borrowers sought lower monthly payments.

Mortgage Rate Summary:

- **30yr Fixed:** 7.37% (from 7.41%) | **Points:** 0.76 (from 0.75)
- **15yr Fixed:** 6.70% (from 6.73%) | **Points:** 0.85 (from 0.73)
- **Jumbo 30yr:** 7.28% (from 7.33%) | **Points:** 0.64 (from 0.60)
- **FHA:** 7.12% (from 7.13%) | **Points:** 1.07 (from 1.15)
- **5/1 ARM:** 6.41% (from 6.46%) | **Points:** 1.20 (from 1.11)

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