

The New York Times

After a rejection

Some borrowers think that because their mortgage application is turned down the first time, they won't ever be approved. In reality, some borrowers succeed on the second or third attempt, usually with a different mortgage professional, and often several months later, after they have saved more money for a larger down payment or improved their credit score.

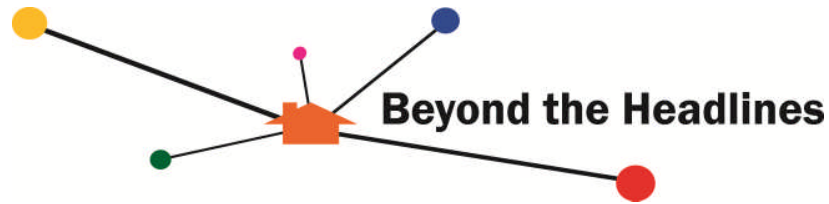
Making sense of the story

- Before reapplying for a mortgage, borrowers are advised to look at the reasons they were initially rejected.
- The Equal Credit Opportunities Act requires lenders to give loan applicants specific reasons in writing within 30 days of their decision. If it's based on a problem in the borrower's credit report, the lender must tell the borrower the name and address of the credit agency that provided the information.
- Talking to the loan officer who denied the application to see how close the borrower was to being approved also can be helpful. Sometimes the gap is small and could be bridged with a larger down payment or another home appraisal, for example.
- It also may be worthwhile to shop around for other lenders. Borrowers can work with a mortgage broker or an online network like LendingTree or Zillow's Mortgage Marketplace.
- A credit union also might be a better bet for some applicants. Credit union loan committees may permit better deals for longtime members; they might also modify loan terms for borrowers they already know.
- However, first-time buyers may need to scale back their aspirations. One reason people get turned down for a mortgage is because they try to buy more property than they can afford based on current incomes.
- Applicants also should look at ways to strengthen their financial picture. If a borrower's credit is poor, paying down credit-card balances can help to increase a FICO score.

Read the full story

<http://nyti.ms/pHaEae>

Oct. 20, 2011



The Wall Street Journal

Slim pickings are latest headache for home sales

The housing market, which has struggled with an oversupply of homes for years, is facing a new problem: A lack of attractive inventory.

Read the full story

<http://on.wsj.com/n7koF4>



The Washington Post

Fannie, Freddie to phase out attorney network in wake of foreclosure scandal

The Federal Housing Finance Agency has directed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to transition to a system that allows mortgage servicers to select their own law firms for processing defaults and foreclosures, rather than relying on a pool of attorneys designated by the companies.

Read the full story

<http://wapo.st/mQ6poo>



CNNMoney

The 4 percent mortgage – good luck getting one

A 4 percent mortgage sounds too good to be true – and for more than 90 percent of borrowers, it is.

Read the full story

<http://cnmmon.ie/nKUyGG>



Los Angeles Times

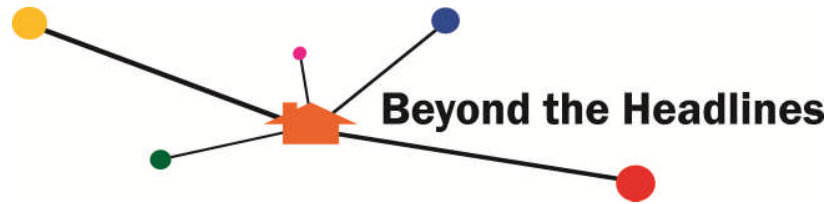
Bill would remove penalty for tapping 401(k) to avoid foreclosure

The proposed legislation would amend the tax code to allow homeowners who have 401(k) retirement plans to pull out money to save their houses from foreclosure without the usual tax penalties.

Read the full story

<http://lat.ms/o09f9e>

Oct. 20, 2011



The Wall Street Journal

Next generation of homeowners are freaked out

A new paper by Federal Reserve Bank of Boston economists used consumer sentiment data to try to find out how the housing market's state of affairs was affecting the willingness to buy a home. Age mattered, which suggests a new generation may be coming along that will cast a wary eye at homeownership for a long time to come.

Read the full story

<http://on.wsj.com/qHAqsg>



The Chicago Tribune

Coupons come to housing

Launched in 2010, HouseTipper works with homebuilders, real estate brokers, lenders, residential and commercial property managers, nurseries, and other housing-related businesses to negotiate deep discounts.

Read the full story

<http://trib.in/oHZn7u>



The Washington Post

Young professionals contemplate the rent vs. buy debate

For many young professionals, buying a first home is part of the American dream. But that dream now has to factor in a number of other moving parts about whether it will pay off as an investment.

Read the full story

<http://wapo.st/nxzxb>



The Wall Street Journal

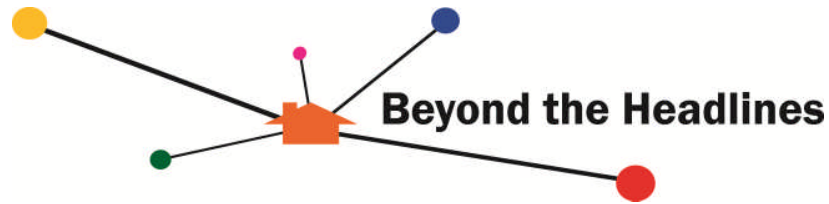
Supply vs Demand: Why is housing hurting?

One of the biggest problems facing the U.S. housing market right now is that there aren't enough buyers for homes. Mortgage rates are hovering near their lowest levels in most Americans' adult lifetimes, but demand is anemic.

Read the full story

<http://on.wsj.com/nrbxh>

Oct. 20, 2011



What you should know about the market

- Pending home sales in California fell in September, as is typical for this time of year, but were up from the previous year for the fifth consecutive month. Additionally, distressed home sales increased slightly in September from both the previous month and year, the CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (C.A.R.) reported today.
- California pending home sales fell 5.2 percent in September, but were up from a year ago, according to C.A.R.'s Pending Home Sales Index (PHSI)*. The index was 118.5 in September, based on contracts signed in that month, down from August's index of 125.0. The index was up 8.4 percent from September 2010.
- The total share of all distressed property types sold statewide rose to 44.4 percent in September, up from August's 43.7 percent and 43.6 percent in September 2010. Of the distressed properties sold statewide in September, 20.2 percent were short sales, up from the previous month's share of 18.9 percent and last September's share of 19.5 percent.

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