



This week economic data and policy shifts took center stage. Tuesday's Consumer Confidence reading fell, new auto tariffs were announced, and concerns of an economic slowdown and sticky inflation are showing no signs of abating. Despite these shifts, the mortgage market remained relatively mute as mortgage rates ticked down slightly, continuing to trade in a narrow band and purchase applications ticked up to the highest level in almost two months. Here are a few articles from the past week about the mortgage market, economy, and real estate market that you might find interesting.

Mortgage Rates

- **Slight decrease in Rates:** The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage ticked down by two basis points this week. Recent mortgage rate stability continues to benefit potential buyers this spring, as reflected in the uptick in purchase applications. [Mortgage Rates - Freddie Mac](#)

Housing and Economic News

- **Core inflation for February was higher than expected; spending increases:** The core personal consumption expenditures price index, a key Fed inflation measure showed a 0.4% increase in February, putting the 12-month inflation rate at 2.8%, both higher than expected. [CNBC](#)
- **Pending Home Sales Advance in February:** Pending home sales improved 2.0% in February according to the National Association of REALTORS® [National Association of Realtors](#)
- **New auto tariffs announced:** President Donald Trump on Wednesday announced 25% tariffs on all cars shipped to the United States, a significant escalation in a global trade war. [CNN Business](#)
- **Conforming Loan Limits will not be decreased:** The newly confirmed director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Bill Pulte, who oversees mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, said he will not lower the conforming loan limit. [CNBC](#)
- **Mortgage purchase applications are up:** In the most recent week, applications for mortgages to purchase a home, not refinance, were at the highest point in almost two months, according to the weekly tracker from the Mortgage Bankers Association. [USA Today](#)
- **Consumer Confidence drops:** The measure of the short-term outlook for income, business and labor market conditions published by The Conference Board, a business membership group, fell 9.6 points from February to 65.2. [NBC News](#)

A Few Fun Real Estate Facts

- **Haunted Homes:** Approximately 1 in 10 Americans have sold their homes due to suspected paranormal activity.
- **Wisconsin has one of the highest homeownership rates in the U.S.**
As of recent data, nearly **70% of Wisconsinites own their home** — well above the national average!
- **The average age of a first-time homebuyer in Wisconsin is around 34.**
Millennials are driving the market — especially in growing communities like Lake Mills, Oconomowoc, and Jefferson County.
- **Metaverse Real Estate:** The metaverse real estate market is projected to reach a value of \$5.95 billion by 2028.
- **Eiffel Tower's Secret Apartment:** Gustave Eiffel, the engineer behind the Eiffel Tower, built a secret apartment at its summit, which is now open to the public.

Staying informed on these trends will help us navigate the evolving market effectively. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these developments further, please feel free to reach out.

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