



# News Brief

January 2012

## FANNIE NIXES 'ABILITY TO PAY' WALL TO HARP REFINANCING

"Lenders are no longer required to determine a borrower's ability to repay a loan when underwriting mortgages for inclusion in Fannie Mae's HARP 2.0 refinancing channel."

By Kerri Panchuk, December 21, 2011

To read the article in full, please visit:

<http://www.housingwire.com/2011/12/21/fannie-nixes-ability-to-pay-wall-to-harp-refinancing>

## IS HOUSING BOUNCING BACK?

"The deeply depressed housing sector finally seems to have found its bottom — and may even be starting to bounce back."

By Neil Irwin, December 20, 2011

To read the article in full, please visit: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/is-housing-bouncing-back/2011/12/20/gIQAwpYY7O\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/is-housing-bouncing-back/2011/12/20/gIQAwpYY7O_story.html)

## OCC: 88% OF FIRST-LIEN MORTGAGES AT LARGE BANKS ARE PERFORMING

"First-lien mortgage performance among large national banks' servicing portfolios is stabilizing, with 88 percent current after decreasing by 0.1 percent over the third quarter of this year, according to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)."

By Krista Franks of DSNews, December 21, 2011

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.dsnews.com/articles/occ-88-of-first-lien-mortgages-at-large-banks-are-performing-2011-12-21>

## SIGNS POINT TO ECONOMY'S RISE, BUT EXPERTS SEE A FALSE DAWN

"As the fourth quarter draws to a close, a spate of unexpectedly good economic data suggests that it will have some of the fastest and strongest economic growth since the recovery started in 2009, causing a surge in the stock market and cheering economists, investors and policy makers."

By Anne Lowery, December 21, 2011

To read the article in full, please visit: [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/22/business/signs-point-to-economys-rise-but-experts-see-a-false-dawn.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/22/business/signs-point-to-economys-rise-but-experts-see-a-false-dawn.html?_r=2&hp)

## REO PROPERTIES ARE MOVING FASTER: SURVEY

"Homebuyer demand appears to be intensifying, especially among lower-priced REO properties, according to the Campbell/Inside Mortgage Finance HousingPulse Tracking Survey released Tuesday."

By Carrie Bay of DSNews, December 20, 2011

To read the article in full, please visit:

<http://www.dsnews.com/articles/reo-properties-are-moving-faster-survey-2011-12-20>

## LOW MORTGAGE RATES LIKELY TO CONTINUE THROUGH 2012, EXPERTS SAY

"The mortgage market told a sad story throughout 2011: record low rates, but few people taking advantage of them to buy homes."

By E. Scott Reckard, January 3, 2012

To read the article in full, please visit:

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-mortgage-rates-20120103,0,2240865.story>

## NEW LAW REQUIRES GSEs INCREASE GUARANTEE FEES

"The two-month extension of the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut, signed by President Obama December 23, holds immediate implications for the GSEs."

By Krista Franks, DSNews, January 3, 2012

To read the article in full, please visit: <http://www.dsnews.com/articles/new-law-requires-gses-increase-guarantee-fees-2012-01-03>

