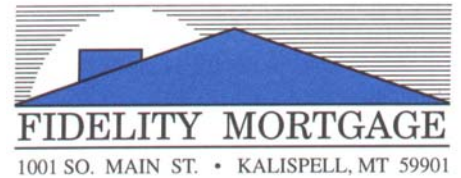




# Jim Hanson's Weekly Mortgage Newsletter

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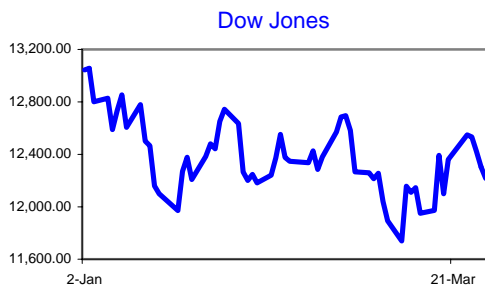
**Week of  
March 30,  
2008**

## Mortgage Market Commentary

After weeks of turmoil, mortgage rates were relatively stable last week with no real surprises in economic data or news. While many ideas, bills, regulations and rules were debated last week, we had a quiet week in terms of new government-related programs around housing or mortgages. GDP was left unrevised at 0.6% for the final quarter of 2007. While certainly weak, we did not slip into recession in 2007. Consumer Confidence numbers did drop, as did other measures of consumer attitudes. While the economy is weighing heavy, many experts are expecting attitude measures to continue to decline, especially if gas prices climb to levels predicted by some consumer groups.

The biggest news of this week is likely to be Friday's Employment Report. While there are expectations of another sizable drop in the number of jobs in the US, and another tick upward in the unemployment rate, the market has mostly priced in this bad news and mortgage rates are unlikely to be driven down by a weak report. However, an addition of jobs may drive rates upward quickly.

### Stock Market Trend



### Second Home Sales Slowing, But Not Gone

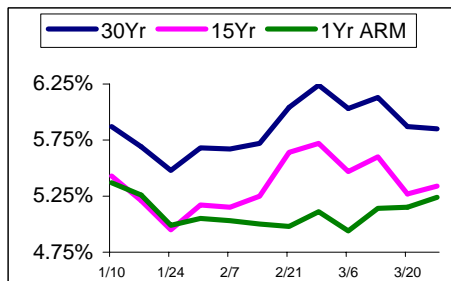
The National Association of Realtors reported that second home sales dropped in 2007. While most expected the drop in second home sales, vacation and investment-home sales still account for 1 out of every three home sales in the US. Second home sales peaked in 2006 with 36% of all home sales. The percentage dropped to 33% in 2007. If you or anyone you know is interested in purchasing a second home, please give me a call for the best financing available.

### Mortgage Rate Watcher

15 Day Rate Trend →

30 Day Rate Trend →

Market Volatility **High**



### Worth Remembering

When you reach for the stars, you may not quite get one, but you won't come up with a handful of mud either.

Leo Burnett

### Weekly Trivia Challenge



The game of basketball was invented in 1891, but the distinctive orange basketball was developed in the 1950's. What type of ball was originally used for basketball games?

If you know the answer to this week's Trivia Challenge, give me a call or drop me an email!

Jim Hanson is a Proud Member  
And Past President of



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