

Transcript of Andrew Dowie's Markets Update – 19 August 2010

Note: this is a direct transcript of a recorded update and has not been reviewed for fluency in the written form.

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Andrew Dowie:

Good morning, this is Andrew Dowie from Advance Investigates with a rundown of the economic data releases for yesterday, Wednesday 18 August in the United States.

It was a very quiet night data-wise last night in the US. The only significant economic release was the Mortgage Bankers Association's mortgage applications for the week ending 13 August. The applications index rose by 13% last week after increasing just 0.6% in the previous week.

Of note here, refinancing jumped 17% to reach the highest level since May of last year, while purchases fell by some 3.4%. The share of applicants seeking to refinance their loan rose to 81.4%. That's the highest level since 2009, up from 78.1% in the prior week.

A further note, the average rate on a 30 year fixed mortgage rose to 4.6% after reaching 4.57% the prior week. That 4.57% indeed is the lowest rate in available data going back to 1990.

Tonight's three data releases should be more revealing. We have initial jobless claims for the week ending 14 August, we have August's Philadelphia Fed's manufacturing index and finally we have July's leading economic indicators.

Thank you.

END OF TRANSCRIPT