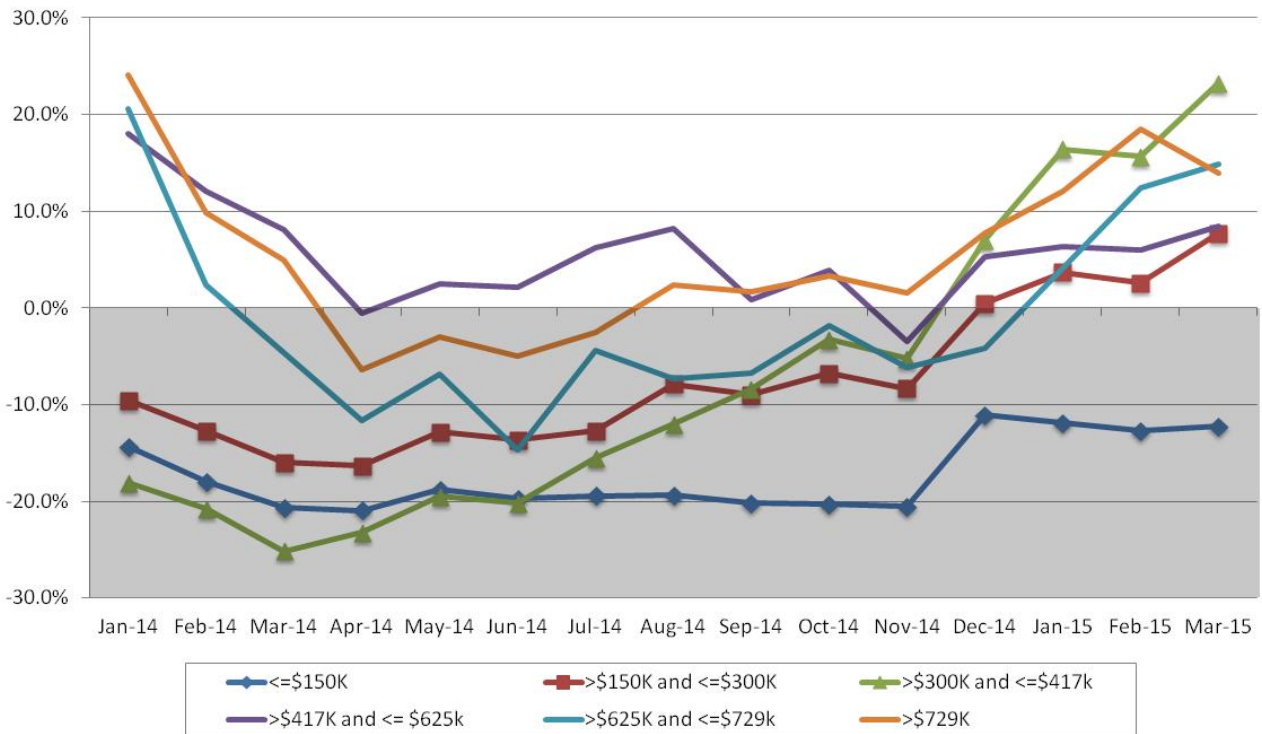


Chart of the Week - April 24, 2015
Purchase Application Trends, by Loan Size
 Year over year percent change in number of loans



Source: Mortgage Bankers Association

In 2014, purchase applications for mortgages of less than \$417,000 declined on a year over year basis. In the first quarter of 2015, purchase applications for amounts between \$150,000 to \$300,000 and \$300,000 to \$417,000 began to show growth over the previous year's levels, but the \$150,000 and under category continued to shrink by more than 10 percent.

Applications for some jumbo loan sizes increased in 2014, mainly in the \$417,000 to \$625,000 range and in the greater than \$729,000 range. This was consistent with credit availability trends captured in the MBA's Mortgage Credit Availability Index, which showed mostly expansion of jumbo product offerings.

Generally, the home purchase market is slowly beginning to regain some footing as households have become confident in their income expectations and job prospects. Entry level buyers continue to be impacted by factors such as tight credit, student loan debt, and regulatory challenges.

- Lynn Fisher lfisher@mba.org, Joel Kan jkan@mba.org