



# Federal Housing Finance Agency

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## Refinance Report September 2012

This report contains data on refinance program activity of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (the Enterprises) through September 2012.

## Report Highlights

- Refinance volume continued to be strong in September as 30-year mortgage rates reached new record lows.
- HARP volume continued to represent a material portion of total refinance volume in 2012 as HARP enhancements took effect in the first half of the year. HARP volume represented 24 percent of total refinance volume in the third quarter of 2012.
- Borrowers in September with loan-to-value ratios greater than 105 percent continued to account for half the volume of HARP, and 26 percent were for deeply underwater borrowers with loan-to-value ratios greater than 125 percent.

## Overview of the Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP)

### HARP Eligibility

HARP was established in 2009 to assist homeowners unable to access a refinance due to a decline in their home value. The program was originally designed to provide these borrowers with an opportunity to refinance by permitting the transfer of existing mortgage insurance to their newly refinanced loan, or by allowing those without mortgage insurance on their previous loan to refinance without obtaining new coverage.

Below are the basic HARP eligibility criteria:

- Loan must be owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

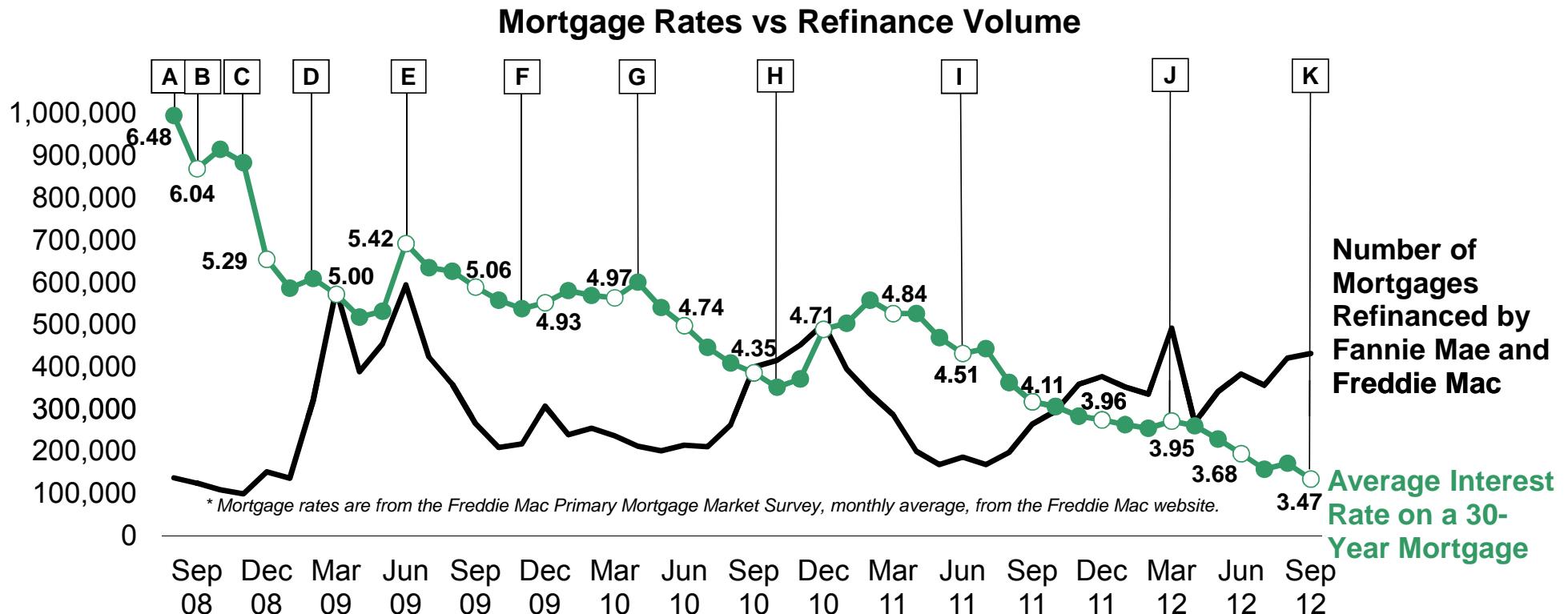
- Loan must have been delivered to the Enterprises on or before May 31, 2009.
- Current loan-to-value ratio -- LTV -- (outstanding mortgage balance/home value) must be greater than 80 percent.
- Borrower must be current on their mortgage payments at the time of the refinance.
- Payment history – borrower is allowed one late payment in the past 12 months, as long as it did not occur in the 6 months prior to the refinance.

### HARP Enhancements

In the Fall of 2011, FHFA worked collaboratively with the Enterprises and other industry participants in an effort to increase access to the program for responsible borrowers. The result of these efforts was a series of enhancements to the program listed below:

- Eliminating certain risk-based fees for borrowers who refinance into shorter-term mortgages and lowering fees for other borrowers;
- Removing the 125 percent LTV ceiling;
- Waiving certain representations and warranties that lenders commit to in making loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac;
- Eliminating the need for a new property appraisal where there is a reliable AVM (automated valuation model) estimate provided by the Enterprises; and
- Extending the end date for HARP until Dec. 31, 2013 for loans originally sold to the Enterprises on or before May 31, 2009.

Refinance volume rose in September as 30-year mortgage rates reached new record lows.



A - Highest rate in 2008 for a 30-year mortgage.

B - GSEs placed into conservatorship on 09/06/08.

C - Fed announces MBS purchase program on 11/25/08.

D - Obama Administration's Making Home Affordable announcement 02/20/09.

E - Treasury rates sharply rose and reached a 2009 high on a better than expected June unemployment report.

F - Treasury rates fell sharply after Dubai sought to delay sovereign debt payments.

G - Treasury Rates rose on optimism of a recovering U.S. economy and a temporary lull in news of a developing debt crisis in Europe.

H - 30-year mortgage rates reached 4.17 percent in early November, marking the lowest level observed since Freddie Mac began tracking rates in 1971.

I - Treasury rates fell amid ongoing concerns of a growing debt crisis in Europe.

J - Refinance volume surged in March and dipped in April, as seller-servicers completed refinancings ahead of a 10 basis point guarantee fee increase that took effect April 1, 2012, mandated by the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011.

K - 30-year mortgage rates reached new historic lows in September 2012.

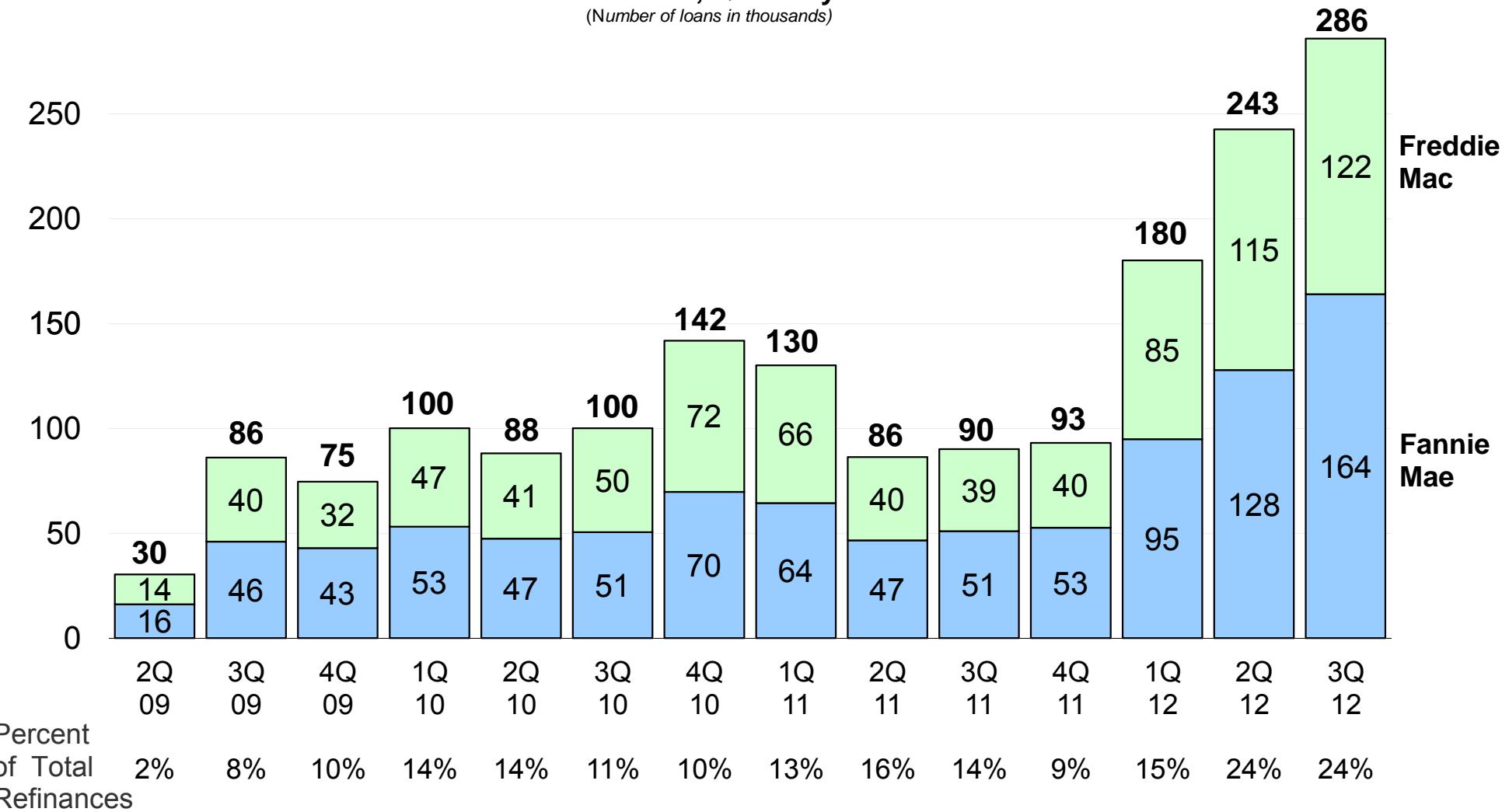
Year-to-date through September 2012, 709,006 refinances were completed through HARP, bringing the total refinances through HARP from the inception of the program to 1,730,857.

	Sep 2012	Year to Date 2012	2011	Inception to Date <sup>1</sup>
<b>Total Refinances</b>				
Fannie Mae	293,119	2,222,466	2,045,762	8,284,433
Freddie Mac	138,223	1,154,720	1,183,304	5,132,563
<b>Total</b>	<b>431,342</b>	<b>3,377,186</b>	<b>3,229,066</b>	<b>13,416,996</b>
<b>Total HARP</b>				
Fannie Mae	52,975	386,989	215,075	928,534
Freddie Mac	37,814	322,017	184,949	802,323
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,789</b>	<b>709,006</b>	<b>400,024</b>	<b>1,730,857</b>
<b>HARP LTV &gt;80% -105%</b>				
Fannie Mae	27,571	236,145	191,391	741,001
Freddie Mac	18,062	171,185	148,642	597,564
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,633</b>	<b>407,330</b>	<b>340,033</b>	<b>1,338,565</b>
<b>HARP LTV &gt;105% -125%</b>				
Fannie Mae	12,364	82,149	23,684	118,838
Freddie Mac	9,566	77,831	36,307	131,758
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,930</b>	<b>159,980</b>	<b>59,991</b>	<b>250,596</b>
<b>HARP LTV &gt;125%</b>				
Fannie Mae	13,040	68,695	0	68,695
Freddie Mac	10,186	73,001	0	73,001
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,226</b>	<b>141,696</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>141,696</b>
<b>All Other Streamlined Refis</b>				
Fannie Mae	51,728	411,421	517,402	1,594,014
Freddie Mac	19,487	173,552	267,636	848,103
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,215</b>	<b>584,973</b>	<b>785,038</b>	<b>2,442,117</b>

<sup>1</sup>Inception to Date - Since April 1, 2009

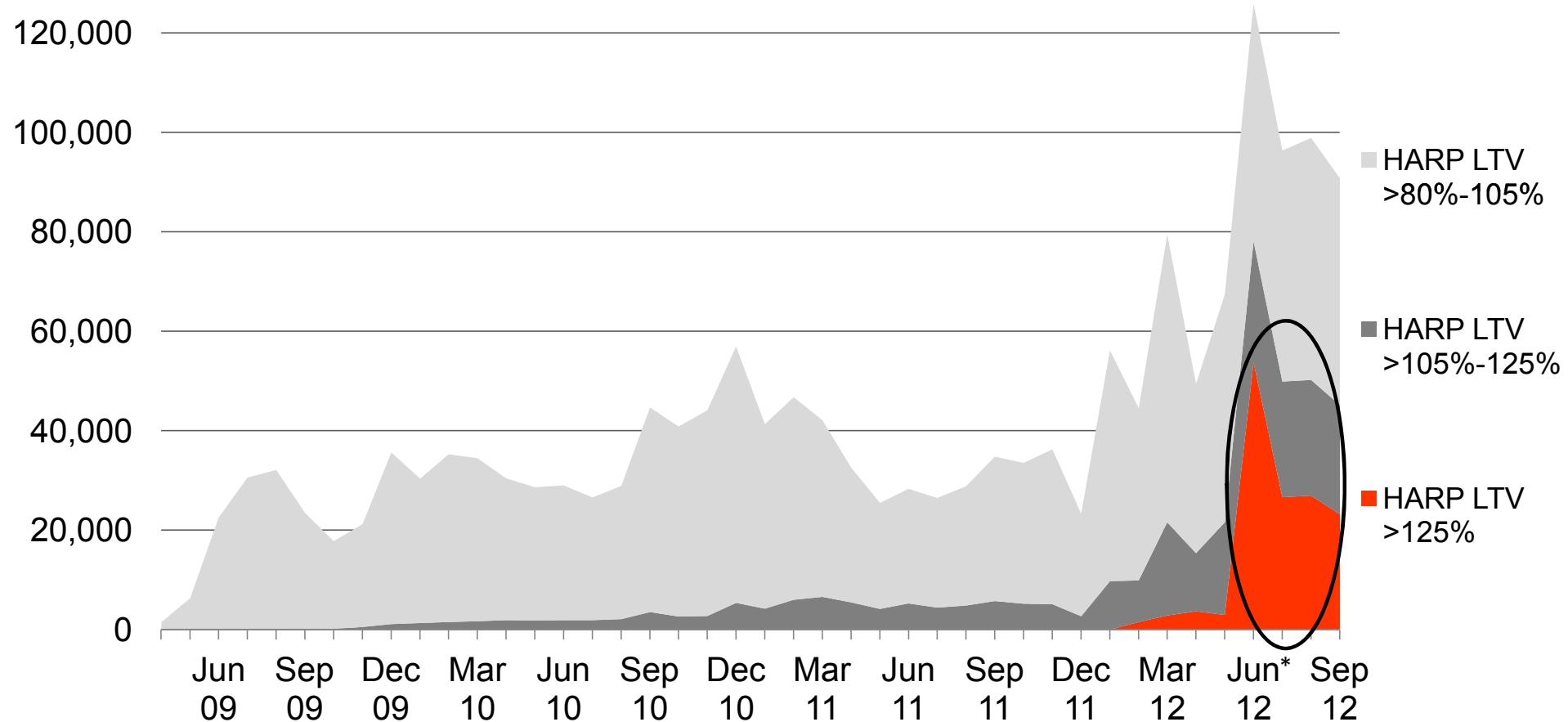
HARP volume continued to represent a material portion of total refinance volume in 2012 as HARP enhancements took effect in the first half of the year. HARP volume represented 24 percent of total refinance volume in the third quarter of 2012.

**HARP Refinance, Quarterly Volume**  
(Number of loans in thousands)



The number of completed HARP refinances reported for deeply underwater borrowers continued to represent a significant portion of total HARP volume. In September 2012, 26 percent of the loans refinanced through HARP were at a loan-to-value ratio greater than 125 percent.

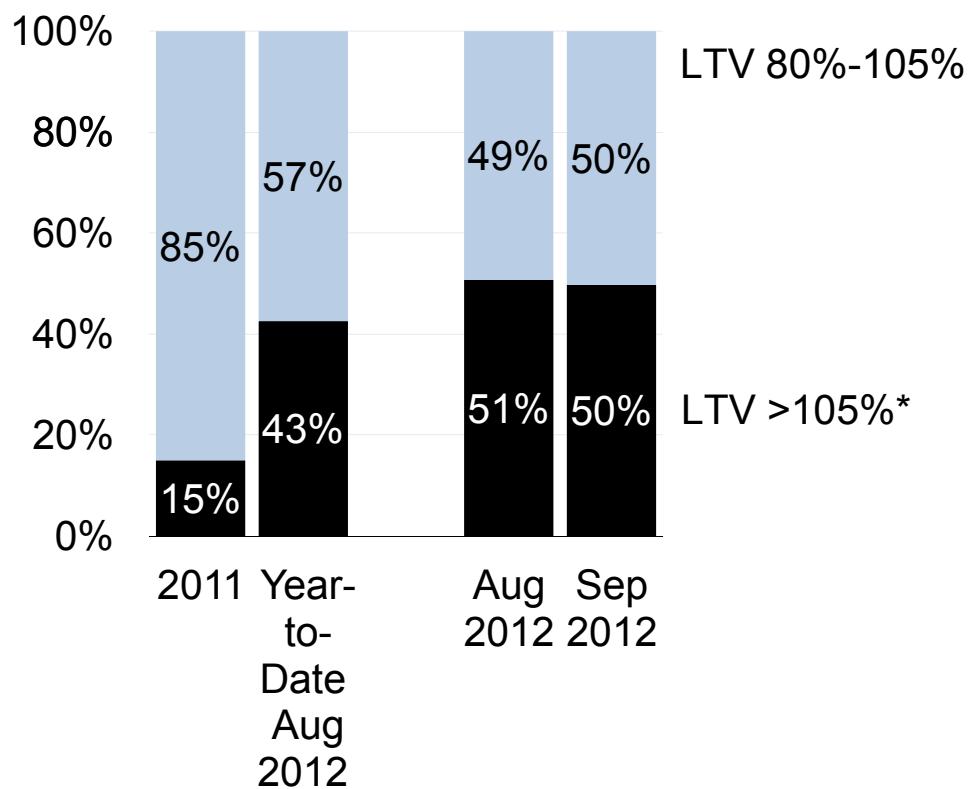
### Monthly HARP Volume by LTV



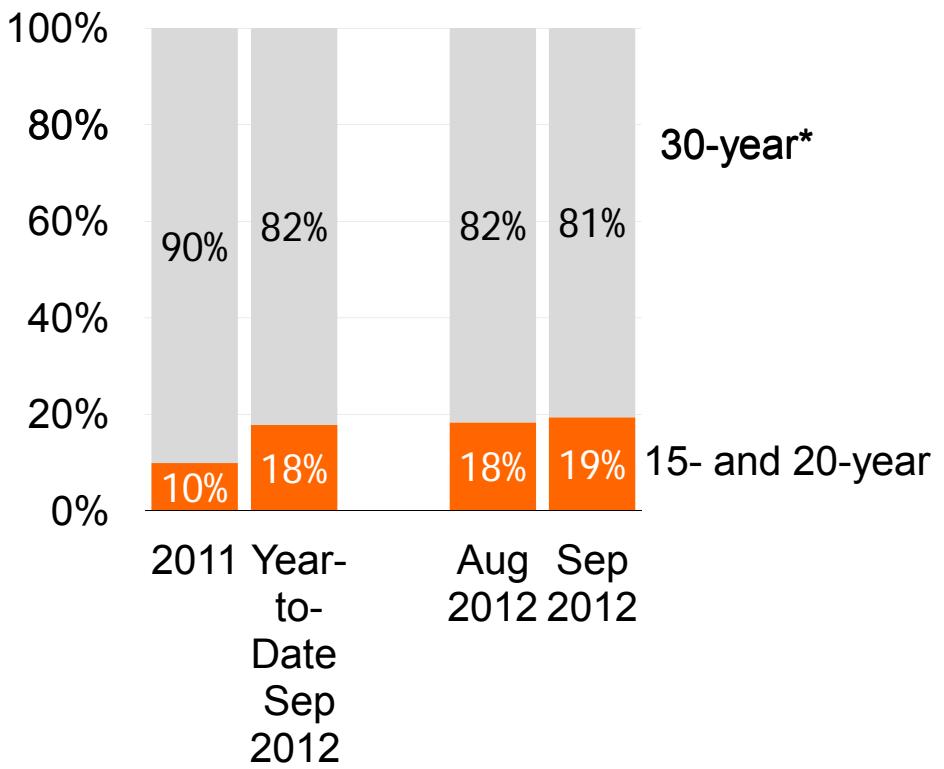
\* The number of completed HARP refinances reported for deeply underwater borrowers increased sharply in June 2012 as further enhancements to HARP went into effect. Starting June 1, 2012, lenders became able to deliver loans with loan-to-value ratios greater than 125 percent refinanced through HARP to the Enterprises to be securitized.

Borrowers in September with loan-to-value ratios greater than 105 percent continued to account for half the volume of HARP loans. In September, 19 percent of HARP refinances for underwater borrowers were for shorter-term 15- and 20-year mortgages, which build equity faster than traditional 30-year mortgages.

Percentage of HARP Refinances by Loan-to-Value Ratio



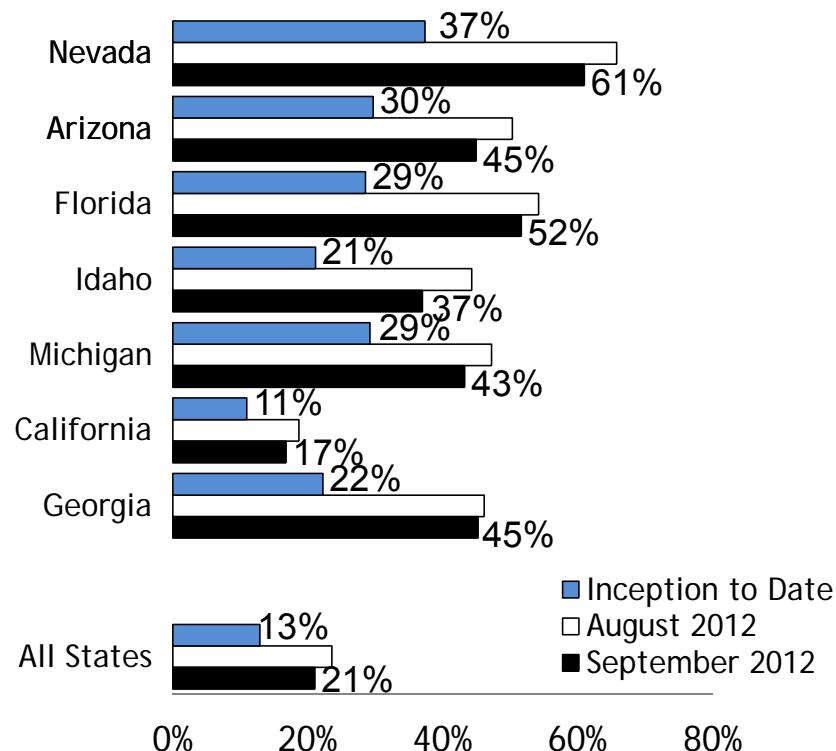
Mortgage Term of HARP Refinances of Underwater Borrowers (LTV Greater than 105%)



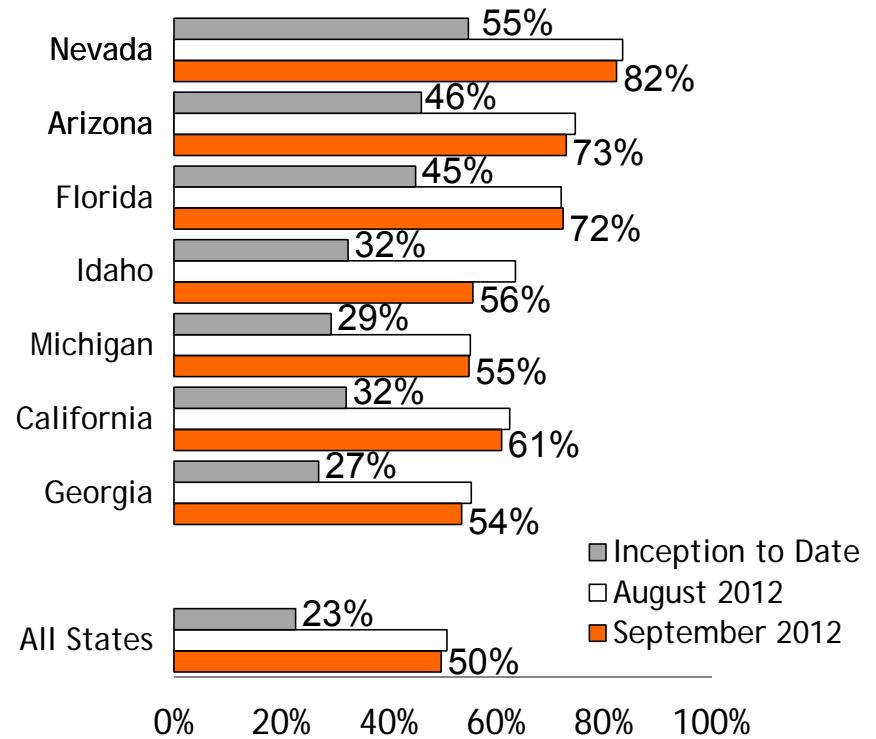
HARP continued to account for a substantial portion of total refinance volume in certain states. In September 2012, HARP refinances represented 45 percent or more of total refinances in Nevada, Arizona, Florida and Georgia, compared to 21 percent of total refinances nationwide.

Underwater borrowers accounted for a large portion of HARP refinances in a number of states. In Nevada, Arizona and Florida, underwater borrowers represented over 70 percent of HARP volume, and in California they represented more than 60 percent of HARP refinances.

**Total HARP as a Percentage of Total Refinances**



**HARP LTV >105% as a Percentage of Total HARP**



## Appendix: Data Tables

## Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac - Monthly Refinance Volume (# of loans)

	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
<b>Total Refinances</b>													
Fannie Mae	169,066	183,055	233,837	264,305	221,270	211,428	329,207	176,631	230,499	234,335	244,634	281,343	293,119
Freddie Mac	94,703	111,822	124,544	112,050	130,655	123,603	162,239	90,977	110,686	148,202	111,457	138,678	138,223
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,769</b>	<b>294,877</b>	<b>358,381</b>	<b>376,355</b>	<b>351,925</b>	<b>335,031</b>	<b>491,446</b>	<b>267,608</b>	<b>341,185</b>	<b>382,537</b>	<b>356,091</b>	<b>420,021</b>	<b>431,342</b>
<b>Total HARP</b>													
Fannie Mae	19,599	17,766	21,209	13,825	29,268	24,010	41,634	26,826	39,944	61,162	54,315	56,855	52,975
Freddie Mac	15,216	15,799	15,094	9,499	26,914	20,531	37,840	22,625	27,503	64,704	42,056	42,030	37,814
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,815</b>	<b>33,565</b>	<b>36,303</b>	<b>23,324</b>	<b>56,182</b>	<b>44,541</b>	<b>79,474</b>	<b>49,451</b>	<b>67,447</b>	<b>125,866</b>	<b>96,371</b>	<b>98,885</b>	<b>90,789</b>
<b>HARP LTV &gt;80% -105%</b>													
Fannie Mae	17,140	15,510	18,958	12,465	25,162	19,430	32,356	19,735	27,582	28,016	27,111	29,182	27,571
Freddie Mac	11,900	12,821	12,192	8,141	21,254	15,176	25,522	14,345	18,270	19,734	19,328	19,494	18,062
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,040</b>	<b>28,331</b>	<b>31,150</b>	<b>20,606</b>	<b>46,416</b>	<b>34,606</b>	<b>57,878</b>	<b>34,080</b>	<b>45,852</b>	<b>47,750</b>	<b>46,439</b>	<b>48,676</b>	<b>45,633</b>
<b>HARP LTV &gt;105% -125%</b>													
Fannie Mae	2,459	2,256	2,251	1,360	4,106	3,828	7,814	5,577	10,368	12,461	12,623	13,008	12,364
Freddie Mac	3,316	2,978	2,902	1,358	5,660	4,557	10,896	6,067	8,273	11,897	10,658	10,257	9,566
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,775</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>5,153</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>9,766</b>	<b>8,385</b>	<b>18,710</b>	<b>11,644</b>	<b>18,641</b>	<b>24,358</b>	<b>23,281</b>	<b>23,265</b>	<b>21,930</b>
<b>HARP LTV &gt;125%</b>													
Fannie Mae						752	1,464	1,514	1,994	20,685	14,581	14,665	13,040
Freddie Mac						798	1,422	2,213	960	33,073	12,070	12,279	10,186
<b>Total</b>						<b>1,550</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>3,727</b>	<b>2,954</b>	<b>53,758</b>	<b>26,651</b>	<b>26,944</b>	<b>23,226</b>
<b>All Other Streamlined Refis</b>													
Fannie Mae	50,235	39,298	50,879	52,006	41,619	41,916	60,756	30,332	43,533	45,615	42,908	53,014	51,728
Freddie Mac	22,479	25,491	23,933	29,810	21,548	19,378	25,899	13,122	19,261	17,636	15,699	21,522	19,487
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,714</b>	<b>64,789</b>	<b>74,812</b>	<b>81,816</b>	<b>63,167</b>	<b>61,294</b>	<b>86,655</b>	<b>43,454</b>	<b>62,794</b>	<b>63,251</b>	<b>58,607</b>	<b>74,536</b>	<b>71,215</b>

Notes:

**Initially HARP Refinance Loans** were defined as Fannie Mae to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to Freddie Mac first-lien refinance loans with limited and no cash out that have loan-to-value ratios over 80 percent up to 125 percent.**HARP Enhancements:** On October 24, 2011, FHFA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac announced HARP changes to reach more borrowers. Effective December 1, 2011, existing Enterprise borrowers who are current on their mortgage payments can refinance and reduce their monthly mortgage payments at loan-to-value ratios above 80 percent without any maximum loan-to-value limit.**All Other Streamlined Refis** are streamlined refinances that do not qualify as HARP refinances. Fannie Mae implements streamlined refinances through the Refi Plus product for manual underwriting and DU Refi Plus product for loans underwritten through Desktop Underwriter. The product is available for refinances of existing Fannie Mae loans only. Freddie Mac implements streamlined refinances through the Relief Refinance Mortgage product. Loans may be originated by any Freddie Mac approved servicer.

**Appendix: Data Tables****Fannie Mae - Loan Count by LTV and Product (Mortgage Term)**

	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
<b>Total Refinances</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	73,888	79,000	107,620	138,233	108,816	116,828	194,160	96,234	135,621	133,152	137,642	161,122	169,030
FRM 20	16,318	20,026	24,690	22,532	24,143	16,783	26,968	14,500	19,205	22,900	21,657	26,423	28,311
FRM 15	70,008	76,032	93,903	95,282	79,726	70,518	98,983	59,534	69,290	72,102	79,403	88,209	89,637
<b>HARP &gt;80-105 LTV</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	11,232	10,306	12,114	10,139	15,931	14,028	22,495	13,787	19,000	19,333	18,455	20,145	19,172
FRM 20	2,257	2,323	2,702	689	3,683	1,998	4,086	2,394	3,333	3,689	3,653	4,132	3,653
FRM 15	2,973	2,437	3,787	1,385	5,265	3,170	5,445	3,363	5,003	4,712	4,769	4,716	4,527
<b>HARP &gt;105-125 LTV</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	2,191	1,999	1,984	1,260	3,654	3,444	6,922	5,141	8,891	10,094	10,246	10,663	9,757
FRM 20	268	257	267	100	451	384	892	436	1,477	1,579	1,520	1,376	1,393
FRM 15					1					788	857	969	1,214
<b>HARP &gt; 125 LTV</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)						700	1,362	1,425	1,818	17,588	12,277	12,650	10,817
FRM 20						52	102	89	176	2,556	1,535	1,122	1,332
FRM 15									541	769	893	891	
<b>All Other Streamlined Refis</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	20,179	16,933	20,197	24,023	19,125	21,919	32,573	15,906	23,343	26,438	23,542	29,582	28,628
FRM 20	6,914	7,122	9,382	7,034	6,163	4,278	6,774	3,158	4,151	5,270	5,175	7,483	7,062
FRM 15	22,132	14,565	20,667	20,436	15,809	15,310	20,872	10,956	15,701	13,526	13,857	15,645	15,756

**Appendix: Data Tables****Freddie Mac - Loan Count by LTV and Product (Mortgage Term)**

	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12
<b>Total Refinances</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	42,304	50,683	53,169	48,918	64,406	65,538	81,006	43,422	51,153	93,431	61,764	81,230	76,410
FRM 20	8,074	11,639	14,547	10,228	13,772	10,227	17,029	8,785	10,696	12,911	11,890	12,795	12,248
FRM 15	38,274	45,030	51,385	47,470	47,423	43,334	58,863	35,155	44,461	38,170	34,330	41,171	45,578
<b>HARP &gt;80-105 LTV</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	7,872	8,167	7,860	6,512	13,567	10,839	17,503	9,384	12,263	13,428	12,925	13,770	12,293
FRM 20	1,454	1,937	1,861	454	2,796	1,686	3,641	2,047	2,471	2,696	2,355	2,270	2,479
FRM 15	2,346	2,523	2,274	981	4,733	2,499	4,211	2,781	3,363	3,478	3,878	3,344	3,144
<b>HARP &gt;105-125 LTV</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	2,780	2,606	2,384	1,174	4,742	3,827	9,139	4,849	6,062	9,032	7,858	7,889	7,375
FRM 20	268	169	216	79	374	328	936	436	1,103	1,303	1,268	1,137	1,015
FRM 15	268	203	302	105	544	402	821	782	1,108	1,562	1,532	1,231	1,176
<b>HARP &gt; 125 LTV</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)						670	1,200	1,840	807	27,238	9,649	9,787	8,452
FRM 20						49	96	226	79	2,749	1,008	1,385	882
FRM 15						79	126	147	74	3,086	1,413	1,107	852
<b>All Other Streamlined Refis</b>													
FRM 30 (incl FRM 25 & 40)	8,659	9,820	9,157	12,875	9,127	8,733	11,959	4,264	9,049	7,761	6,064	11,339	8,422
FRM 20	2,973	3,691	4,116	3,067	2,777	2,066	3,278	1,911	2,160	2,118	1,965	2,367	3,088
FRM 15	10,680	11,803	10,459	13,717	9,516	8,447	10,553	6,856	7,951	7,611	7,570	7,745	7,883





