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International

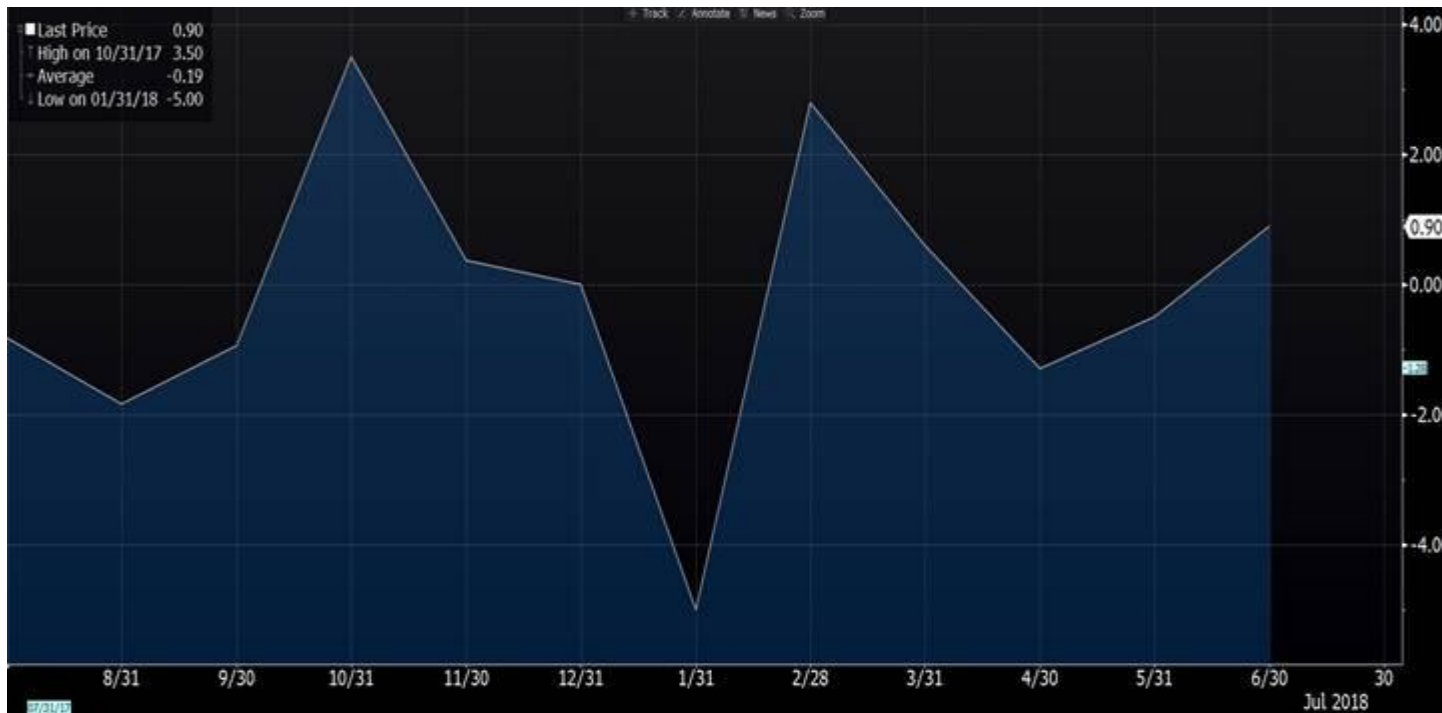
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## U.S. Pending Home Sales Increase for First Time in Three Months.

- Pending home sales, a measure of signed contracts to buy existing homes, rose 0.9% in June compared to May, according to the National Association of Realtors.
- Sales, however, were 2.5% lower than June 2017. Pending home sales have been down annually for six straight months.
- A breakdown of the report showed that the index rose across all four U.S. regions on a month-on-month basis.
- Despite rising inventory in many markets, home prices continues to march higher at a swift pace indicating that demand is outpacing supply.
- One headwind going forward is mortgage rates. Should rates move even more decisively higher, especially amid still-high home prices, sales could weaken.
- Forecasts range from -0.7% to 1% from 26 economist surveyed.
- Economists consider pending sales a leading indicator because they track contract signings.

## U.S. Pending Home Sales Index M-o-M



Source: Bloomberg



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