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Mortgage Rates Remain at 6-Month Highs Despite Late Day Bounce

Mortgage rates were much higher this morning, bringing them to new 6-month highs (a dubious distinction also accomplished yesterday). Unlike yesterday, there were good and bad moments today. Bond markets (which underlie rate movement) were already starting to show signs of support this morning. Early this afternoon, a scheduled auction of 10yr Treasury Notes was met with strong demand. When demand for a bond rises relative to supply, rates fall.

Mortgage rates aren't based directly on 10yr Treasuries, but there is a **strong correlation** between the two. The 10yr serves as an important benchmark for any longer-term interest rate in the US, so the strong auction suggested rates may attempt to find a ceiling here after a rocky start to the year.

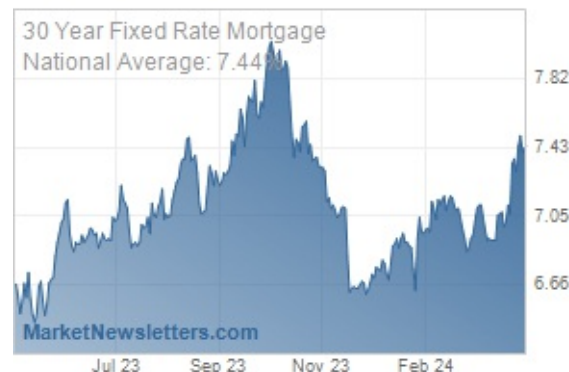
The staying power of any such ceiling **remains to be seen**, but at least for today, it allowed lenders to adjust rate sheets for the better. While that didn't quite get them back to yesterday's levels, some lenders were very close.

From a strategy standpoint, we'd still want to see a bigger commitment to lower rates before it made sense to roll the dice with respect to **locking and floating**.

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National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.44%	+0.01	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.85%	+0.01	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.92%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.62%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.41%	+0.01	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	7.10%	-0.34	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.39%	-0.37	0.00

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.

30 Yr. Fixed	7.13%	+0.12	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.64%	+0.18	0.64
30 Yr. FHA	6.90%	+0.10	0.99
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.40%	+0.27	0.46
5/1 ARM	6.52%	+0.11	0.60

Rates as of: 4/19

MBS and Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.29	-0.01
MBS GNMA 6.0	100.00	-0.06
10 YR Treasury	4.6238	-0.0027
30 YR Treasury	4.7210	-0.0108

Pricing as of: 4/19 1:28PM EST

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Rich E. Blanchard

