



## Rich E. Blanchard

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## How Low Can Mortgage Rates Go?

**Mortgage rates** are on a tear. In the bigger picture, 2019 has been the best year in more than a decade. Only 2002 was arguably on the same level in terms of the move from peak to trough. If we include late 2018's higher rates the overall move is now bigger than the one seen in 2008/2009.

While someone somewhere might be willing to draw a few parallels, 2019 is nothing like 2009. In other words, trade war fears and global growth concerns (which deserve most of the credit for the downward momentum in rates) are nothing like the financial crisis and Great Recession. Why, then, have the current motivations packed such a punch?

The **biggest reason** for the size of 2019's move is the extent to which rates were arguably "too high" at the end of 2018. It's really that simple. There was a lot of defensiveness in play with respect to how high rates might go--so much that traders lost sight of what was sustainable or logical. Simply put, there are reasons for rates to be at current levels. The starting point in late 2018 means they've had to traverse a great distance to get there.

**Can rates go lower from here?** History suggests it's possible on two fronts. First off, they've been a bit lower in the past--both in 2016 and 2012. Beyond that, the 2011/2012 drop in rates was actually a bit bigger than the current example. If we manage to match the magnitude of that move, rates could easily break all-time lows. That's by no means a prediction--just a bit of perspective. If anything the size and duration of the rate rally suggest greater risk of rates bouncing higher. Until then though.... Enjoy!

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## National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
<b>Mortgage News Daily</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.28%	-0.09	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.75%	-0.07	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.70%	-0.12	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.48%	-0.07	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.35%	-0.07	0.00
<b>Freddie Mac</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.22%	-0.22	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.47%	-0.29	0.00
<b>Mortgage Bankers Assoc.</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.24%	+0.11	0.66
15 Yr. Fixed	6.75%	+0.11	0.64
30 Yr. FHA	7.01%	+0.11	0.94
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.45%	+0.05	0.56
5/1 ARM	6.64%	+0.12	0.87

Rates as of: 5/3

## MBS and Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	100.09	+0.31
MBS GNMA 6.0	101.03	+0.29
10 YR Treasury	4.5138	-0.0657
30 YR Treasury	4.6711	-0.0579

Pricing as of: 5/3 5:04PM EST

## Expert Advice | Exceptional Service | Flawless Execution

With 27+ years of expertise in mortgage banking you can be confident in my knowledge and abilities to deliver a seamless loan transaction while providing personalized service.

**Rich E. Blanchard**

