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The 2 Components of Mortgage Rates: Upfront Cost and the Rate Itself

Mortgage rates, for the purposes of this article, will refer to the most commonly-quoted loans available through the most prevalent channels. That essentially means **conforming, fixed rate loans**—especially 30yr and 15yr fixed.

An example of one of these mainstream **rate quotes** would be a 30yr fixed from a big bank or mortgage lender either directly via a retail branch of that bank or indirectly via a mortgage originator who has access to several correspondent or brokered banking channels. In **both cases** we're talking about some large underlying financial entity that is in the business of making lots of loans.

These sorts of lenders will typically **adjust their rate sheet offerings** every day. In fact, it's **extremely rare** to see absolutely no change in any given lender's rate sheet from one day to the next. That said, it's also rare for rates to change so much that the actual contract interest rate is affected. That's because rates are almost universally quoted in .125% increments. As such, rates would have to change by .125% in order for a rate that had been quoted at 4.0% to now be quoted at 4.125%, all other things being equal.

The "**fine-tuning adjustment**" for mortgage rates lies in the upfront cost side of the equation. This can either be an actual cost out of the borrower's pocket ("discount points"), or a rebate from the lender. Rebates to cover closing costs, etc., are a common feature of loan quotes, and lenders are able to offer them because of the interest collected over time. The higher the rate, the higher the potential rebate. The lower the rate, the higher the cost. **For example**, if a 4% rate involved neither an upfront discount nor a rebate from the lender, then a 3.875% might require a 1.0% discount point and a 4.125% might result in a 1% rebate from the lender.

In that example the discount point and the rebate are both part of the same component of "mortgage rates." One is negative and the other is positive, but they both represent the **COST** side of the equation. This is the side of the mortgage rate equation that is almost guaranteed to be changing every day — **sometimes multiple times per day**, and those changes can be extrapolated to changes in effective rate. In other words, an effective rate of 4.04 doesn't mean that people are being quoted 4.04. Rather, the actual rate quotes are mostly likely 4.0% with an upfront cost or 4.125% with a rebate.

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National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
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Mortgage News Daily

30 Yr. Fixed	7.07%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.45%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.51%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.26%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.02%	-0.01	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	6.86%	-0.01	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.16%	+0.03	0.00

Rates as of: 6/28

Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 5.5	98.49	-0.45
MBS GNMA 5.5	99.10	-0.44
10 YR Treasury	4.3980	+0.1111
30 YR Treasury	4.5640	+0.1383

Pricing as of: 6/28 5:59PM EST

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jun 12	208.5	+15.58%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%

Real Talk

At The Rate Shop, we're not your average mortgage banker. We specialize in bringing you ridiculously low interest rates that will make you wonder what the other guys are doing. In fact the ONLY objection we ever hear is "your rates sound too good to be true". Well they're not, and here is why...

After 15 years in the retail banking world I was frustrated with the high interest rates that came from that business model. As I looked around at all the bloated layers of management and their expensive salaries and the overhead of running a larger company (think rent costs, employee health and benefit costs, payroll taxes, and on and on) it dawned on me that I was a part of the problem, and the solution, for me at least, was so easy to see.

Start my own mortgage brokerage shop. No expensive executive salaries, no expensive building to pay rent at, no unnecessary employees and all the costs that are associated with that. What happens when you cut out all the fat? You can provide lower rates and lower closing costs. It's simple. Now here is the best part, you still get great service from a local Kansas City Lender. My mission is to let everyone know that low rates and great customer service are NOT mutually exclusive.

Thanks for coming along on this journey where Low Rates meet Great Service. The two do NOT have to be mutually exclusive. It's just a lie that the big box mortgage companies have been telling you for years. Don't believe me? Give me a call or shoot me a text on my personal cell phone today and compare my rates and costs up against any other lender in the country, and be prepared to be blown away.

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