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The Day Ahead: The Death Of The Long Term Trend: A Definitive, Chart-Based Assessment

Sorry for the delay on the morning commentary. As you can see, I had a lot on my mind. I also decided to go a different direction after reading the following article this morning: [R.I.P. Bond Bull Market as Charts Say Last Gasps Have Been Taken.](#)

First of all, you may be familiar with the fact that news organizations sometimes **dramatize** headlines to get clicks. So I'm not too concerned with the sensationalism of the headline. But the article itself represents an all-too-prevalent point of view among various market commentators at the moment. Namely, that the decades long bull run in bond markets is now over.

Before even beginning, I would point out that bond yields **obviously can't go lower forever**. So instead of pointing out that the bullish long-term trend is potentially over, we should instead be talking about how the future of bond yields might evolve. Most commentators seem to be missing the point, perhaps for reasons discussed in the caption of one of the charts below. Most of the rest of the analysis is in the charts themselves, so click on them for a bigger view if the font is too small.

As a sort of **prologue**, consider the following chart of Japanese bond yields. Some commentators have debated the possibility of other advanced economies "turning Japanese" with respect to currency valuations and market levels. I don't have an opinion on whether that's possible, but the chart nonetheless serve as a historical example of yields looking like they'd broken the long-term trend only to go on to make new lows (hat-tip to Edgar for the chart idea!).

MBS & Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.97	-0.20
MBS GNMA 6.0	100.20	-0.13
10 YR Treasury	4.4722	+0.0742
30 YR Treasury	4.6378	+0.0738

Pricing as of: 7/1 10:50AM EST



Average Mortgage Rates

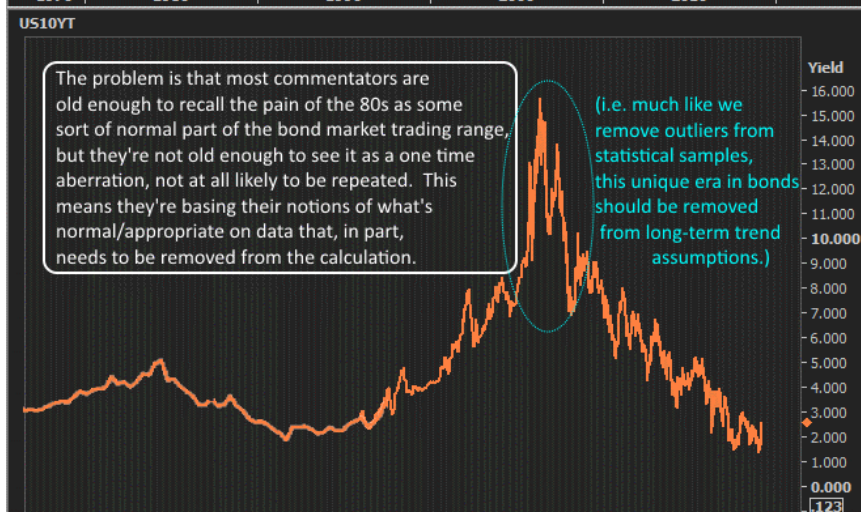
	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.07%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.45%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.51%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.26%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.02%	-0.01	0.00
Freddie Mac			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.86%	-0.01	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.16%	+0.03	0.00
Mortgage Bankers Assoc.			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.02%	-0.05	0.65
15 Yr. Fixed	6.60%	-0.15	0.55
30 Yr. FHA	6.87%	0.00	0.92
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.18%	-0.03	0.54
5/1 ARM	6.45%	+0.08	0.81

Rates as of: 6/28

Mortgage Market Commentary



Now we'll move on to various charts of US 10yr yields. The green line in the chart below is the one that some commentators are relying on to proclaim the death of the trend. **Decide for yourself** if that seems a bit arbitrary and/or silly. How many times will we continue to bump out to new trendlines before we realize something else might be going on?



Mortgage Market Commentary

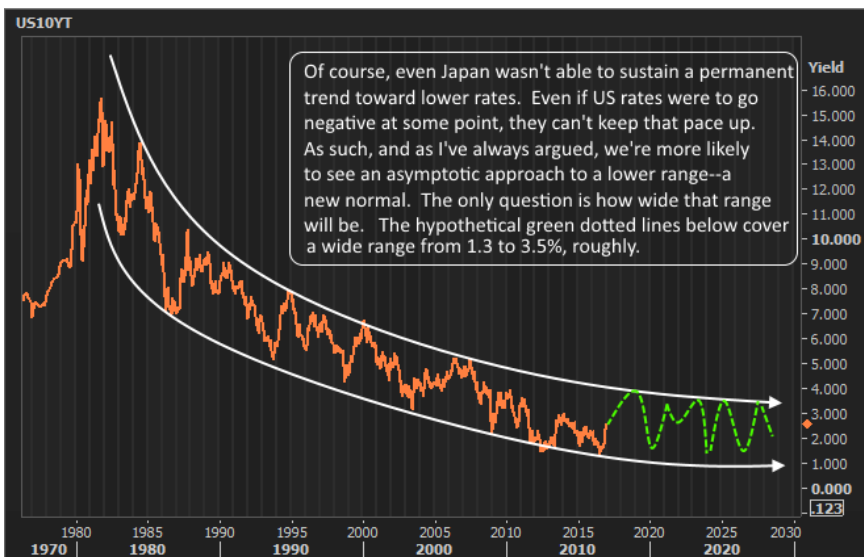


And now for the base case that I've **beaten to death over the past several years**. As an economy matures, and as the world runs out of the truly amazing motivations for exponential growth that involve a human labor force (if you haven't noticed, machines and computers have been doing and will continue to do more and more to obviate human involvement in economic growth), humans are decreasingly able to drive inflation and growth.

We will ultimately end up with a **huge** population of non-workers that subsist on some form of universal basic income. There is no other option (unless something drastic and unpleasant were to mitigate that reality). There simply won't be enough paying jobs for warm bodies.

Such a scenario is **no basis for a scary V-shaped bounce** in interest rates in the bigger picture. It is, however, a perfect argument for the asymptotic approach to a lower boundary. Keep in mind, that lower boundary could involve a range that is wide enough to ruin your day as a loan originator. We're talking about the super big picture over the super long term.

Mortgage Market Commentary



Bottom line: talking about the death of the long-term trend is madness. It's obviously not dead yet. It will, of course, die at some point. And its death is measured in gradual steps as opposed to one dramatic incident. No doubt, the recent incident has been dramatic for bond markets, but at the end of the day, that merely weakens our hero's life force for now.

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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.

Mike Baker

