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# Mostly Charts And Quick Takes on Housing and Rates

It's a busy time of year on a busier-than-normal year, so I'll keep this short. Those interested in more detail can click through the links.

One major theme in the 2nd half of 2020 is that mortgage **rates** have been **insulated** from market drama--walking a different path than their usual best friend, 10yr Treasury yields. If you ask Treasuries, the big bounce in rates is **already well underway**.



Here's how mortgage rates have bucked that trend:

#### National 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
Rates as of: 6/28			

#### **Market Data**

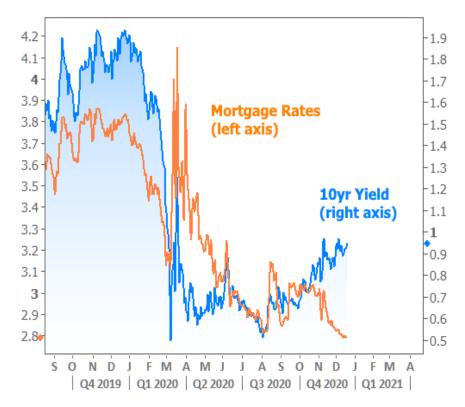
	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 5.5	98.49	-0.45
MBS GNMA 5.5	99.10	-0.44
10 YR Treasury	4.3902	-0.0078
30 YR Treasury	4.5573	-0.0067
Pricing as of: 7/1 12:50AM EST		

#### **Recent Housing Data**

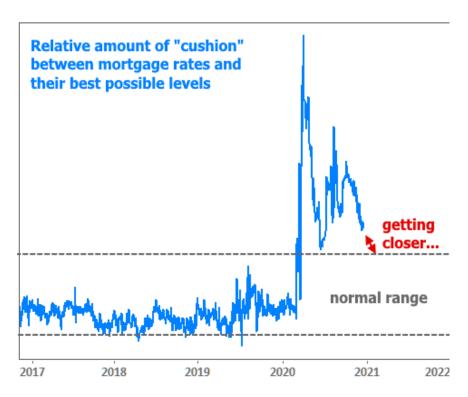
		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Jun 12	208.5	+15.58%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%

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Last week's newsletter goes into more detail on **WHY** the insulation exists (**revisit it by clicking here**), but the important thing to know is that we're getting closer to "normal" day by day. Once we get there, mortgage rates will be less willing to defy their Treasury counterparts.



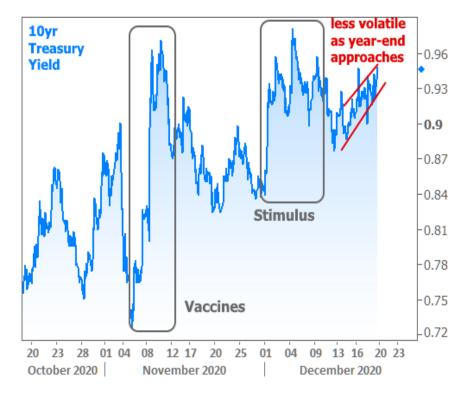
As to the likely fate of Treasury yields, there's room for movement in either direction. In the bigger picture, rates will take cues from the economic recovery--a multifaceted issue in itself--and the success of vaccine production/distribution.

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Vaccine news already had a big impact in November. Vaccine headlines have since ceded the spotlight to fiscal stimulus headlines. While there will be one more spat of volatility after congress decides on stimulus (allegedly, before Christmas), the bond market is largely cooling down at this point and getting ready for the next big move. Even the mighty Federal Reserve--frequently the most important consideration for interest rates--failed to stir markets this week (any small scale reaction is completely lost inside the red lines below).



Another theme over the past 6 months has been stunningly strong housing numbers. This week's construction and builder confidence reports are just the 2 latest additions to the list.



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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

