



## Mike Baker

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## The Week Ahead: Minimal Impact From Stimulus Passage; What is "The Hitch?"

Over the past 3-4 months, the prospect of fiscal stimulus has done major damage to the bond market. It wouldn't have been a surprise to see more weakness this morning due to the confirmation that the full \$1.9 trillion made it through the senate (which is as good as full passage because the senate was the only real hurdle to clear).

Indeed, there was some weakness in the belly of the yield curve that some traders are chalking up to stimulus, but if that's the case, it's barely noticeable as the domestic session gets underway. The real issue is that yields are not stampeding lower after Friday's drama. The more time we spend in this new, higher yield range, the more we're confirming its validity.

What's the new, higher yield range? It's still being defined, but here's a sobering factoid: for 7 straight trading days (since Feb 25th), 10yr yields have been unable to even attempt a break below 1.38%--one of several technical levels we've been tracking recently. The next higher rung on the ladder is 1.44+, a level that was based on past precedent, but that also turned out to be relevant at the end of last week.

The past precedent in question is due to 1.44's role as the lower boundary of the "hitch" zone discussed a few weeks ago. The "hitch" refers to a corrective consolidation (yields pushing back in the other direction in a narrowing pattern after a big, sustained move) that interrupts an even bigger overall move. It's like a lightning bolt shape.

The hitch signifies a trading range that was extremely important/pivotal at the time. It also happens to coincide with the past 3 instances of all-time lows. While those lows have been in the 1.3's, sellers start to get antsy as soon as yields get under 1.5%. Covid obviously changed that, but with covid hopefully en route to eventual containment, markets must wonder if the 1.3-1.5 floor area will be a thing again. At the very least, the late 2019 "hitch" provides some context for where we should see things level off for the current sell-off.

## MBS & Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 5.5	98.49	-0.45
MBS GNMA 5.5	99.10	-0.44
10 YR Treasury	4.3872	-0.0108
30 YR Treasury	4.5544	-0.0096

Pricing as of: 7/1 12:55AM EST



## Average Mortgage Rates

	Rate	Change	Points
<b>Mortgage News Daily</b>			
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
<b>Freddie Mac</b>			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.86%	-0.01	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.16%	+0.03	0.00
<b>Mortgage Bankers Assoc.</b>			
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



Considering the top of the hitch zone is 1.95, that's not really saying much. So the more important role becomes one of identifying a friendly shift in the event of a break below 1.44+%. With yields closer to 1.60% this morning, that would be a solid goal for the entire week. Much may depend on how the auction cycle goes with 3, 10, and 30yr Treasuries scheduled at 1pm on Tue-Thu respectively.

We'll get 3 readings on inflation this week as well (CPI Wed, PPI and Consumer Inflation Expectations on Fri), but short of a massive surprise, it's still a tall order for inflation data to have a big influence. Traders know it's coming, and we need to make it through the next 3-4 months of highly distorted data before assessing the real inflationary impact of the unprecedented stimulus cocktail (monetary from the Fed + Fiscal via covid relief).

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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**

