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The Week Ahead: Bonds Look to Data and Month-End For Breakout Potential

Whereas the previous week was generally devoid of significant economic data or market moving events, the current week is more of a contender. On the data front, there are relatively important reports throughout the week including a key inflation report on Friday (PCE). Given the extent to which Fed speakers have increased their focus on inflation specifically (as opposed to "inflation + _____, where the other considerations include job growth, financial conditions, and geopolitical risks), traders will be **increasingly focused on inflation data**. Friday's PCE is one of the Fed's favorites.

Speaking of Fed speakers, there are several on tap again this week, with **Yellen herself** taking questions at a conference in London tomorrow afternoon just after 1pm ET. Markets are hoping she'll shed some light on how the committee might reconcile an apparently growing debate between hiking rates and reducing the Fed's bond market reinvestments (not to mention what sort of inflation data might be required to slow/stop one of both of those components).

Beyond the aforementioned scheduled events, there's also the general phenomenon of "**month-end**" (which also included "quarter-end" this time around). This refers to traders needing to buy/sell a certain combination of securities in order to meet one of several potential requirements for the end of period.

When it comes to bond markets, the biggest month-end consideration is typically money managers who have to match the "duration" (average maturity) of all of their bond holdings to a published index (here's the primer on month-end bond buying). There's no consistent implication for positive vs negative momentum--simply for increased motivation to trade. This can create **seemingly random** tradeflows that can mysteriously augment or counteract the effects of any organic reaction we're seeing to the data and scheduled events.

In terms of technical levels, the hope is that some combination of the above will be enough to **motivate a break** of one of the trends seen in the chart below. The past several trading sessions have been quite noncommittal in terms of approaching either trend (the horizontal lines are simply set by June 14th's range and the yellow lines are the core downtrend that's connected most of the intraday highs/lows).

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.43	-0.62
10 YR Treasury	4.9860	+0.0952
30 YR Treasury	5.3557	+0.0737

Pricing as of: 11/10 5:59PM EST



Average Mortgage Rates

	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30YR Fixed	7.30%	+0.12	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.92%	+0.09	0.00
30YR FHA	6.89%	+0.07	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.40%	+0.03	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.80%	+0.31	0.00
30YR VA	6.90%	+0.07	0.00

Rates as of: 11/10

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