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Mortgage Rates Stay Sideways Despite Bond Market Gains

Mortgage rates didn't move much today, if at all. This is confounding to all those who have watched rates against the backdrop of 10yr Treasury yields (and especially those who don't qualify their view that "mortgage rates follow the 10yr Treasury yield." Indeed, such a view must always be qualified with a word like "generally" or "typically." Today offers proof with 10yr yields significantly lower (more than 0.05%) whereas the average mortgage lender is unchanged.

What's up with this?

It is true that the bond market does more than anything to dictate mortgage rate movement. While 10yr Treasuries tend to correlate very well with the bonds that underlie mortgages, that correlation can periodically break down. When we look at actual mortgage-backed securities (MBS), we see they didn't fare nearly as well today as Treasuries. So this is a purely market-driven move for mortgage lenders (because they are almost exclusively concerned with MBS prices as opposed to Treasuries). The reasons for this are complicated, but temporary.

The bottom line is that mortgage rates were stuck in the mud today and they remain at risk of bouncing higher in the event that the recent spate of trade-related drama between the US and China can be patched up (that's the underlying news fueling the move in Treasuries). On the bright side, if rates do bounce back, it will almost certainly be a bigger deal for Treasuries (i.e. mortgage rates will be somewhat insulated, depending on the size and staying power of any potential rate spike).

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National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	7.03%	-0.05	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.44%	-0.01	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.50%	-0.05	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.24%	-0.01	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.05%	-0.02	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	6.95%	+0.09	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.25%	+0.09	0.00

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.

30 Yr. Fixed	7.03%	+0.09	0.62
15 Yr. Fixed	6.56%	+0.09	0.54
30 Yr. FHA	6.90%	+0.11	0.95
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.11%	-0.01	0.50
5/1 ARM	6.38%	+0.11	0.54

Rates as of: 7/5

MBS and Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	100.61	+0.22
MBS GNMA 6.0	100.74	+0.21
10 YR Treasury	4.2818	-0.0784
30 YR Treasury	4.4857	-0.0440

Pricing as of: 7/5 5:59PM EST

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