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Mortgage Rates Improve Slightly

Mortgage rates fell modestly today, and thus managed to avoid heading any closer to the 7-year highs just overhead. Underlying bond markets benefitted from concerns about Italy's stance on the Euro currency based on one Italian official's comments. Those were later characterized as "just one man's opinion," thus not having a big, lasting impact on rates.

To understand what's going on here, first consider that interest rates are based on supply and demand in the bond market. The more that investors want to **buy** bonds, the **lower** rates go. When something threatens the stability of some major world economy (like the European Union could be somewhat threatened by Italy moving back to its own currency), investors tend to buy more bonds of safer haven countries.

Ultimately, the European news **wasn't a huge deal** for the bond market--thus the fairly small reaction (especially in the US). Still, it was enough for a token improvement in rates. This leaves us squarely in the same range that's dominated most of the past 2 weeks as we head into the week's most important calendar events. Whereas we looked to the Fed to break us out of this range last week, we're now looking to the upcoming data to carry that same banner. Much like the Fed, it may or may not be up to the task. All we know is that the **potential/risk** is there for bigger gains/losses starting tomorrow, but especially after Friday's big jobs report.

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National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30 Yr. Fixed	6.43%	+0.02	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.95%	0.00	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	5.82%	+0.02	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.62%	0.00	0.00
5/1 ARM	6.28%	-0.01	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	6.35%	-0.51	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	5.51%	-0.65	0.00

Mortgage Bankers Assoc.

30 Yr. Fixed	6.44%	-0.06	0.54
15 Yr. Fixed	5.88%	-0.16	0.68
30 Yr. FHA	6.36%	-0.06	0.85
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.75%	+0.07	0.39
5/1 ARM	5.98%	-0.27	0.65

Rates as of: 8/30

MBS and Treasury Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 5.0	99.37	+0.02
MBS GNMA 5.0	99.93	+0.02
10 YR Treasury	3.9068	+0.0029

	Price / Yield	Change
30 YR Treasury	4.1960	+0.0028

Pricing as of: 9/17:34PM EST

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