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The Week Ahead: Limited Data, Bond Auctions, and More Indecision

The basic candlestick or bar chart that the average bond analyst uses to track 10yr Treasury yields is doing a good job of capturing the current opposing forces in rates. **On the one hand**, the combination of economic data, NAFTA 2.0, and Fed comments (among other things) makes a logical case for higher rates. This is easily seen as the pervasive series of "higher lows" over the past 2 months.

On the other hand, doubts about the sustainability of lofty economic numbers and doubts about the market's ability to thrive with 10yr yields over 3.25% make a case for support. This can be seen in the less-developed series of "lower highs" leading back from the long-term high 2 weeks ago.

The result is the typical triangle--a consolidation pattern where the higher lows and lower highs eventually collide. The takeaway from such triangles can be as simple as saying "**oh look, there's a triangle**. There must be some indecision around these levels!" or as presumptuous as "rates are clearly storing energy in anticipation of a big breakout."

MBS & 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
30 YR Treasury	4.1960	+0.0028

Pricing as of: 9/1 7:34PM EST



Average Mortgage Rates

	Rate	Change	Points
MarketNewsletters.com			
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



	Rate	Change	Points
30 Yr. Jumbo	6.75%	+0.07	0.39
5/1 ARM	5.98%	-0.27	0.65

Rates as of: 8/30

Either way, the triangle **will have to be broken** early this week. It wouldn't be a surprise to see an underwhelming follow-through, given the sparsely populated economic calendar. Bigger-ticket reports don't show up until the 2nd half of the week and even then, the reports aren't the biggest market movers recently.

3.18% (where we're starting out today) has been a short-term pivot point of some significance. It's been more willing to act as a ceiling recently, but is being approached as a floor coming down from Friday's higher levels. If it results in a bounce toward higher rates, 3.21-3.22% would be the next level to watch, based on last week's highs. If rates can continue to rally, 3.13% remains the level to beat.

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