

MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

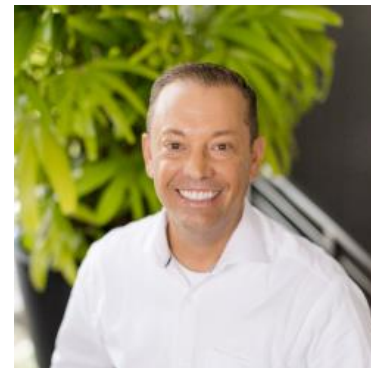
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Mortgage Rates Little Changed Ahead of Big Jobs Report

It's been a remarkably calm week for mortgage rates, and a fairly decent one relative to several recent examples. The average top tier 30yr fixed rate hovered just over 7% for most of November before breaking back into the high 6% range at the beginning of last week. Since then, there haven't been any "bad days" for the mortgage market, even if we're still a long way from the low rates of September.

If rates can't be as low as we might like them to be, the next best thing is for them to be stable and they've done exceedingly well on that front. Since last Friday, the average top tier 30yr fixed rate hasn't moved more than 0.02% on any given day. Today was the least volatile as there was no change versus yesterday's latest levels.

This little "ledge" in the high 6% range corresponds to a similar ledge in 10yr Treasury yields at 4.17%. Both are arguably bracing for impact from tomorrow's big jobs report. Said "impact" could either help or hurt, depending on the outcome of the data. In general, the lower the job count, the better it would be for rates, and vice versa.



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