MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

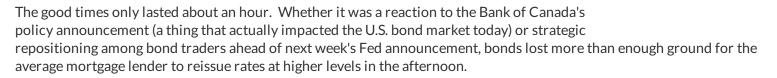
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Mortgage Rates Started Lower, But Ended Higher

Mortgage rates were having a pretty decent day at first. The bond market was only slightly weaker overnight (implies some upward pressure on rates), but quickly improved after the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data at 8:30am ET.

Notably, CPI was right in line with forecasts--something that often results in lower conviction and volatility for interest rates. We only tend to see big reactions to 'as-expected' numbers on the most closely watched reports. In other words, today's market reaction confirms just how closely CPI is being watched.

8:30am ET is early enough in the day that it allows bonds time to improve before the earliest mortgage lenders release their rate offerings for the day. As such, the average lender was 0.03% lower than yesterday when morning rates came out.



When the smoke cleared, today's rates ended up being 0.02% higher than yesterday as opposed to 0.03% lower. This isn't a big swing in the bigger picture, but together with the previous two days, rates are now up 0.12% so far this week.



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