## MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

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## Mortgage Rates Tick Gently Higher to End Week

In terms of the market movement that underlies and dictates mortgage rate movement, today looked a lot like yesterday. Things started strong and faded gently as the day progressed. There were no notable economic reports or news events apart from a White House press conference where Trump said there will be "flexibility on tariffs."

Tariffs have generally been a depressant for financial markets, acting to push stock prices lower and--at times--increasing demand for bonds (which, in turn, helps rates move lower). With that in mind, when we've seen headlines that suggest a slightly less austere tariff policy, it has frequently resulted in some stock market strength and bond market weakness. Today was no exception.

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The caveat is that these trading patterns played out on a very small scale for the bond market. As such, the average lender is almost perfectly in line with yesterday's latest mortgage rate offerings, but technically just a hair higher.