

MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

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Mortgage Rates Nudge Lower to Remain In The Same Old Range

Recent stock market losses have gotten a lot of attention in the news recently. While there's no reliable correlation between stocks and interest rates, when stock losses are as big as they have been recently, it increases the tendency for rates to move in the same direction. That was definitely the case today.

Bonds (which dictate rates) improved overnight as stocks sank further. But as early as 7am, a reversal began to take shape. The catalyst was a comment from NY Fed Pres Williams who said he sees a good case for a rate cut at the upcoming December meeting.

On one hand, improved rate cut odds are typically good for longer term interest rates. That was apparent in the immediate moments following the comment. But in many cases, such comments are also good for stocks.

On occasions where stocks aren't in the throes of a big sell-off, the net effect is often a divergence between stocks and rates (i.e. stocks move higher on Fed rate cut enthusiasm and bonds move lower for the same reason). In this week's case, because a decent amount of downward pressure on rates is attributable to recent stock losses, the rebound in stocks quickly gave way to upward pressure in rates.



Nathaniel Rutkoski

Mortgage Broker, Zoom Loans

www.ZMLoans.com

M: (408) 767-6311

2140 W Grantline Rd
Tracy CA 95376

NMLS# 356590

ZOOM LOANS



Melissa Jimenez

Realtor, Realty ONE Group Zoom

melissajimenezrealtor.com

P: (209) 627-0612

mjrealstate12@gmail.com

01916015



Fortunately, the overnight gains were large enough to absorb that upward pressure. As such, mortgage rates managed to hold on to a modest improvement versus Thursday's latest levels. This keeps rates in the same narrow, sideways range that's been intact since the late October Fed meeting.

