Mortgage Rates Could See More Volatility Next Week

Average mortgage rates drifted slightly higher to end the week, though they remained under the levels seen on Monday and Tuesday. Even then, none of this week's movement was especially abrupt. That's interesting considering there was a decent amount of economic data throughout the week.

It could be that the rate market is simply waiting for the heavier hitting events on the horizon. Next Tuesday's Job Openings data is on the watch list. It will be the first major October employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (the same agency that publishes the big jobs report) since the end of the government shutdown. That's especially notable in this case because we won't **ever** get a full jobs report for October, and the portion that remains won't come out until the following week.

Then on Wednesday, the The Fed will announce its rate decision. Markets are fairly convinced the Fed will cut rates, but the confidence isn't as iron-clad as normal. Additional surprises could arrive with the Fed's dot plot (updated rate forecasts from each Fed members) as well as Fed Chair Powell's press conference.

As always, keep in mind that a Fed rate cut has no bearing on longer-term rates like mortgages. It's actually been more common to see mortgage rates rise following Fed rate cuts.

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