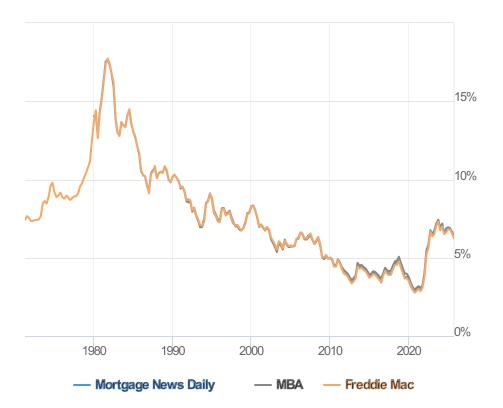
MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

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Mortgage Rates Start Week Near 3 Month Highs

Both stocks and bonds lost ground on Monday. This pushed mortgage rates up near their highest levels in just over 3 months (because mortgages are based on bond prices). To put the 3-month highs in perspective, today's rates are right in line with those seen 2 weeks ago.



Jason Brookes

Broker, Grand Avenue Realty & Lending

www.GrandAveLending.com **P:** (562) 233-8564

4420 E. Miraloma Ave, Ste M Anaheim California 92807 NMLS 1372327 DRE 1412977

When we see a larger-than-average shift in rates, it's often attributable to an obvious catalyst. These can be things like economic reports, comments from the Fed, or geopolitical developments.

In today's case, there are no obvious scapegoats. That said, given the proximity of the next Fed announcement, "pre-Fed jitters" will likely be a popular guess. Ultimately, between Thanksgiving and New Years, we're simply more likely to see random volatility without a clear root cause.

Clear connections will be more likely over the next 2 days due to Tuesday's economic data and Wednesday's Fed announcement.