

# MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

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## Mortgage Rates Lower Today, But in a Narrow Range

After hitting long-term highs on May 19th, mortgage rates dropped somewhat quickly by May 26th. Ever since then, they've been moving back and forth in a very narrow range. Today's movement happened to be the good kind with the average lender cutting top-tier 30yr fixed rates by 0.03%.

As always, keep in mind that mortgages are most commonly offered in 0.125% increments. When our daily rate index changes by only 0.03%, it's because we are also measuring the underlying costs associated with any given rate and extrapolating the relative impact on interest rates.

To use a crude example, let's consider two different hypothetical rate quote options yesterday and today.

- Yesterday
  - 6.625% at a cost of \$12 upfront
  - 6.50% at a cost of \$24 upfront
- Today
  - 6.625% at a cost of \$9 upfront
  - 6.50% at a cost of \$21 upfront

Now pretend you only have \$15 to spend for closing costs. You still can't afford to buy your rate down to 6.5%, and you'll still be choosing the 6.625% quote. But while the interest rate portion of your quote didn't change, the actual interest cost improved. Our index captures and expresses these improvements in a single number.



### Matthew M. Loan

Senior Loan Officer,  
Mortgage Company, LLC.

[mbslive.net](http://mbslive.net)

P: (704) 867-5309

M: (980) 867-5309

1050 W. Main St.  
Charlotte NC 28031

NMLS: #987654321



### Christina "Demo" Realtor

Managing Partner, Real  
Estate Company, LLC.

[mbslive.net](http://mbslive.net)

P: (704) 555-1212

M: (980) 555-1212

[social+test@mbslive.net](mailto:social+test@mbslive.net)

12954 S. Broad St.  
Charlotte NC 28031



