

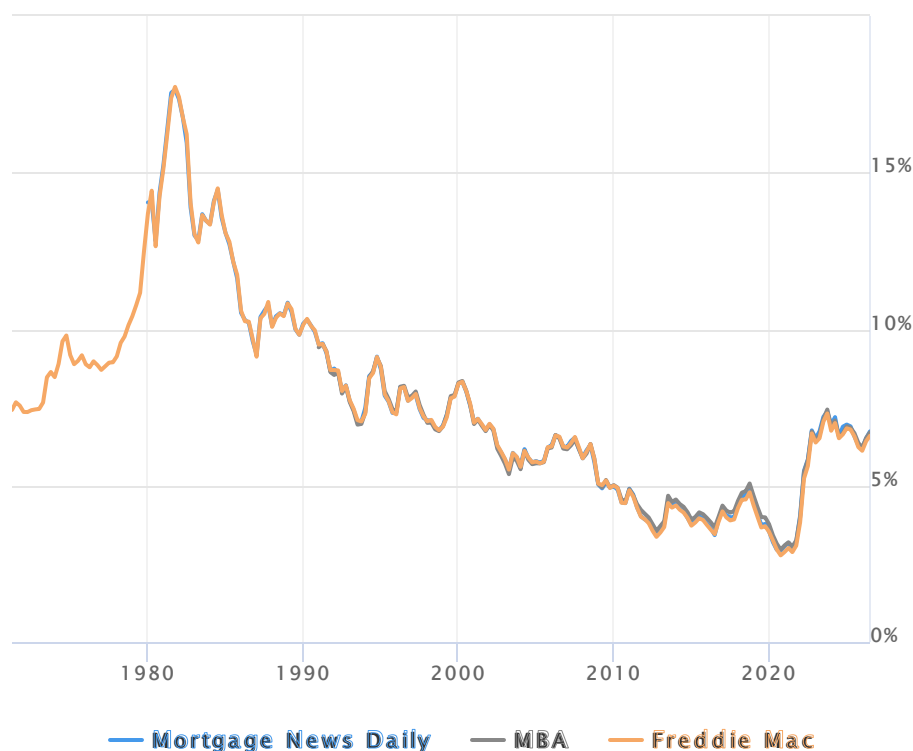
MORTGAGE RATE WATCH

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Mortgage Rates Follow Oil Prices Lower

Fuel prices continue dictating most of the day-to-day momentum for interest rates and today was a notable example. Early this morning, news reports suggested progress in the peace process via Pakistani mediators. Oil prices dropped sharply in response and bond yields followed the move.

Bond yields correlate with mortgage rates. When yields are falling, mortgage lenders are generally able to offer lower rates than they otherwise would have, depending on the timing and size of the move. In today's case, it was good for a 0.04% drop in average top-tier 30yr fixed mortgage rates--resulting in the lowest levels in nearly a week.



Jerry Siegel

Mortgage Loan Originator,
Barrett Financial Group,
LLC

www.jerrysiegelmortgage.com

M: (415) 828-9343

jerry@camortgagepro.com

Home Office:
Lafayette CA 94549

NMLS 236113

