Making Headway on ISM Data, and Lesser Supporting Actors

Market Summary: Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - 2:11PM

To say the very least, there are more moving pieces to consider at the moment when it comes to the narrative guiding volatility and momentum in the bond market. Tariff and policy-related headlines have been good for ebbs and flows in risk sentiment, but haven't necessarily accounted for a majority of the momentum. That said, an absence of a more onerous tariff roll-out has likely been worth some relief in bonds. On a more material note, today's Treasury refunding announcement confirmed the expected level of issuance this quarter--not groundbreaking news, but mildly reassuring at least. And then there's the fixture in the bond market movement game: economic data. Today's slate is limited to ADP employment and ISM Services when it comes to perennial market movers. ADP was forgettable, but ISM missed forecasts both at the headline level and in the inflation component. With that, bonds are off to a noticeably stronger start.



First World Mortgage

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127 Prospect Avenue West Hartford CT 06106



Market Movement Recap

| 08:27 AM | MBS up just over an eighth of a point and 10yr down 5bps at 4.46 |
|----------|--|
| 10:45 AM | Gains continue after ISM data. MBS up 9 ticks (.28) and 10yr down 8bps at 4.425. |
| 01:08 PM | Calmly holding best levels of the day. MBS up 3/8ths and 10yr down almost 9 bps at 4.419 |

Latest Video Analysis



Super Solid Momentum For Multiple Reasons

| UMBS 5.5 98 | 3.84 - <mark>0.06</mark> | 10YR 4.407% | -0.099% | 2/5/2025 2:10PM EST |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|

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These gains are potentially more important than gains at another random level as they help make a case for pivot down below the 4.50 mark.

UPDATE: No Major Reaction to ADP Data

MBS MORNING: Recovering Overnight Losses With Help From JOLTS and in Spite of Oil Price Bounce

Today's Mortgage Rates

30YR Fixed 6.99% -0.06% 15YR Fixed 6.37% -0.08% 2/5/2025

Mortgage Rates Score Another Victory Against Excitement

If you like your mortgage rate movement boring and minimal, this week's for you (and last week, and the week before that). Going all the way back to January 17th, the average lender hasn't changed their top tier 30yr fixed rate quote by more than 0.05%, and has been operating in an overall range of 0.07%.

To get an idea of how narrow that is, a typical highly volatile day involves rates moving by more than .12%. In stark contrast, the average rate hasn't changed by even 0.01% since last Thursday.

This stability isn't for lack of apparent inspiration for volatility. Clearly, there are plenty of political developments in the first month of any new presidential administration. Those developments have indeed translated to small scale, in-range volatility in the markets that determine, but they've largely canceled each other out, or been canceled out by other events.

Despite the calm, we wouldn't advocate a complacent attitude looking forward. Rates can still be impacted by economic data and the next 6 business days bring the heaviest hitting reports of the month (chiefly Friday's jobs report and next Wednesday's Consumer Price Index).

| Time | Event | Actual | Forecast | Prior | | |
|-------------------|--|----------|----------|----------|--|--|
| Wednesday, Feb 05 | | | | | | |
| 7:00AM | Jan/31 MBA 30-yr mortgage rate (%) | 6.97% | | 7.02% | | |
| 7:00AM | Jan/31 MBA Refi Index | 584.3 | | 520.9 | | |
| 7:00AM | Jan/31 MBA Purchase Index | 156.7 | | 162.4 | | |
| 7:00AM | Jan/31 Mortgage Market Index | 224.8 | | 220.0 | | |
| 7:00AM | Jan/31 MBA Mortgage Applications | 2.2% | | -2% | | |
| 8:15AM | Jan ADP jobs (k) 🟠 | 183K | 150K | 122K | | |
| 8:30AM | Treasury Refunding Announcement (%) | | | | | |
| 8:30AM | Dec Trade Gap (bl) | \$-98.4B | \$-96.6B | \$-78.2B | | |
| 8:30AM | Dec Exports | \$266.5B | | \$273.4B | | |
| 8:30AM | Dec Imports | \$364.9B | | \$351.6B | | |
| 9:00AM | Fed Barkin Speech 🟠 | | | | | |
| 9:45AM | Jan S&P Global Services PMI | 52.9 | 52.8 | 56.8 | | |
| 9:45AM | Jan S&P Global Composite PMI 🟠 | 52.7 | 52.4 | 55.4 | | |
| 10:00AM | Jan ISM N-Mfg PMI | 52.8 | 54.3 | 54.1 | | |
| 10:00AM | Jan ISM Biz Activity ★ | 54.5 | | 58.2 | | |
| 10:00AM | Jan ISM Services Prices | 60.4 | | 64.4 | | |
| 10:00AM | Jan ISM Services Employment | 52.3 | | 51.4 | | |
| 10:00AM | Jan ISM Services New Orders | 51.3 | | 54.2 | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Heating Oil Stocks Change | 0.373M | | 0.128M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Gasoline Production Change | -0.027M | | -0.044M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Gasoline Stocks Change | 2.233M | 1.2M | 2.957M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Crude Oil Imports Change | -0.178M | | 0.532M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Distillate Fuel Production Change | -0.186M | | 0.028M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Distillate Stocks Change | -5.471M | -1.5M | -4.994M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 Crude Oil Inventory (ml) | 8.664M | 2.6M | 3.463M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Cushing Crude Oil Stocks Change | -0.034M | | 0.326M | | |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 EIA Refinery Crude Runs Change | 0.16M | | -0.333M | | |
| 11:30AM | 17-Week Bill Auction (%) | 4.205% | | 4.190% | | |
| 1:00PM | Fed Goolsbee Speech | | | | | |
| 3:00PM | Fed Bowman Speech 🟠 | | | | | |
| 7:30PM | Fed Jefferson Speech 😭 | | | | | |
| Thursday, Feb 06 | | | | | | |
| 7:30AM | Jan Challenger layoffs (k) | | | 38.792K | | |
| 8:30AM | Q4 Nonfarm Productivity QoQ Final | | 1.4% | 2.2% | | |
| 8:30AM | Jan/25 Continued Claims (ml) | | 1870K | 1858K | | |

| Time | Event | Actual | Forecast | Prior |
|---------|---|--------|----------|---------|
| 8:30AM | Feb/01 Jobless Claims (k) ★ | | 213K | 207K |
| 8:30AM | Q4 Unit Labour Costs QoQ Final | | 3.4% | 0.8% |
| 8:30AM | Feb/01 Jobless claims 4-wk avg (k) | | | 212.5K |
| 10:00AM | Jan Total Vehicle Sales (ml) | | | 16.8M |
| 10:30AM | Jan/31 Nat gas-EIA, change bcf | | -167Bcf | -321Bcf |
| 11:30AM | 8-Week Bill Auction | | | 4.240% |
| 11:30AM | 4-Week Bill Auction | | | 4.250% |
| 12:00PM | Feb/0615-Year Mortgage Rate | | | 6.12% |
| 12:00PM | Feb/06 30-Year Mortgage Rate | | | 6.95% |
| 2:30PM | Fed Waller Speech \overleftrightarrow | | | |
| 3:30PM | Fed Daly Speech 🏠 | | | |
| 4:30PM | Feb/05 Central Bank Balance Sheet | | | \$6.82T |

Recent Housing News

- Pending Home Sales Pull Back From Best Levels Since April 2023
- Home Price Appreciation Ran Just Above Expectations in November
- Existing Home Sales Inch Up to Highest Levels Since February

Read My Latest Newsletter

Bonds Brace For Tariff Impact, Just Like Last Time

Spoiler alert: no one really knows how tariffs are going to impact the market yet. Much is left to be decided, and the outcomes can vary depending on the details. Markets were certainly willing to react to tariff headlines this week with Thursday and Friday overshadowing Wednesday's Fed announcement. In general, both stocks and bonds are treating tariffs the same way they treat the Fed Funds Ra...

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