

Esoteric Forex Drama Blasts Bonds, Maybe

Market Summary: Monday, August 3, 2026 - 5:29AM

Friday was very much NOT on the beaten path of typical bond market considerations with most of the selling arguably stemming from Japanese currency intervention. We've seen similar episodes in the past, but today's installment came with a twist. In addition to Japan confirming it was selling foreign bonds to prop up Yen values, the U.S. Treasury also apparently got involved. It warned dealers that it could make trades to support the Yen. No one but those involved knows if that means anything beyond using the ESF to execute currency trades, but the net effect seems to have been to grease the skids for U.S. accounts to sell Treasuries first and ask questions later. This isn't necessarily the final story either. It was also month-end, and it's also the week before the jobs report on a summertime Friday. Volume was fairly light relative to the size of the sell-off.

Latest Video Analysis



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MBS & Treasury Markets

UMBS 5.5	99.05	+0.16	10YR	4.691%	-0.044%	8/3/2026 3:24AM EST
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More Yen Intervention. New Lows For MBS

There's been another wave of Treasury selling that lines up with another surge in Yen values. Based on this morning's headlines, this suggests large scale efforts on the part of US institutions to sell Treasuries and buy JPY-denominated debt.

MBS are definitely not immune. 5.5 coupons are now down 3/8ths on the day and roughly an eighth of a point since many lenders' rate sheet print times.

Given that lenders were forced to price into a sell-off this morning, we'd expect repricing thresholds to be a bit bigger than normal. Still, if you were planning on locking today, there's no longer any sense in waiting for rates to improve.

ALERT: Quickly Moving to New Lows

MBS MORNING: Japan Currency Intervention, Oil, and Data Causing Some Selling



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Today's Mortgage Rates

30YR Fixed	6.83%	+0.06%	15YR Fixed	6.32%	+0.01%	7/31/2026
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Mortgage Rates Back Near Long-Term Highs

To be fair, haven't been far from their long-term highs in over a week, but today's 30yr fixed index level of 6.83% is functionally equivalent to the actual long-term high of 6.85% seen on July 23rd.

Higher rates are driven by weakness in the bond market. The latter can happen for many reasons. Sometimes those reasons are as simple as an economic report showing stronger job growth or higher inflation. Other times, the reasons are more esoteric.

Today's bond market weakness may have been modestly influenced by this morning's Employment Cost Index, but the bigger issue was definitely in the esoteric category. It involved behind the scenes intervention in forex on the part of the Treasury Department and its Japanese counterpart (Japan's Ministry of Finance).

In not so many words, Japan occasionally sells dollar-denominated bonds in order to buy Yen-denominated bonds in order to make its own currency more valuable. Today, the U.S. did the same in order to take some control of that narrative and have a say in the bonds that were being sold. Either way, bond selling = higher rates, all else equal.

[thirtyyearmortgagerates]

Economic Calendar

Last Week | This Week | Next Week

Time	Event	Actual	Forecast	Prior
Monday, Aug 03				
9:45AM	Jul S&P Global Manuf. PMI ☆		53.8	53.9
10:00AM	Jul ISM Mfg Prices Paid ★		70.3	73.0
10:00AM	Jul ISM Manufacturing PMI ★★		54	53.3
10:00AM	Jul ISM Manufacturing Employment			49.7
10:00AM	Jun Construction spending (%)		0.2%	0.1%
2:00PM	Jul Total Vehicle Sales (ml)		16.3M	16.5M
2:00PM	Loan Officer Survey			
Tuesday, Aug 04				
8:30AM	Jun Trade Gap (bl)		\$-73.0B	\$-77.6B
9:20AM	NY Fed Bill Purchases 1 to 4 months (%)		\$5.179 billion	
10:00AM	Jun JOLTs Job Quits (ml) ☆			3.065M
10:00AM	Aug IBD economic optimism		47.5	45.5
10:00AM	Jun Factory orders mm (%)		0.2%	-1.3%
10:00AM	Jun USA JOLTS Job Openings (ml) ★		7.45M	7.594M
11:30AM	6-Week Bill Auction (%)			3.700%