MARKET SUMMARY

Complete Recap of Today's Market Activity

Diesel Futures Under $4. Do Bonds Care?

Market Summary: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 - 9:33PM

Bonds had a solid day, but not without some help. AM gains generally aligned with a stock market swoon that briefly saw the S&P drop to multi-month lows. But when stocks bounced, bonds generally held the gains. Why might that be? Fuel prices may have the answer. Oil and diesel prices have fallen sharply so far in November. Both are back to August's levels. Diesel has been a more reliable narrator for the story of the fuel price impact on rates, and it correlated with bonds even better than stocks today. Correlation isn't necessarily causation, but it is true that--at some point--if diesel/fuel prices fall enough, it would have a beneficial impact on inflation and the bond market.

Latest Video Analysis



Do Bonds Care About Fuel Prices Again?



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MBS & Treasury Markets

UMBS 6.0	99.06	+0.17	10YR	5.076%	-0.040%	11/18/2026 5:00PM EST

Bonds Cautiously Examining Stock Market Swoon

Stocks hit the lowest levels in months yesterday and are heading back toward those lows in the first few minutes following the 9:30am opening bell. After yields quickly corrected higher following last week's CPI data (among other things), they've been very reluctant to follow the stock market sell-off in proportion to the correlation that existed before last week. Still, we continue to assume there's some level of weakness in stocks that would be too big for bonds to ignore. Unsurprisingly, it seems that bonds are more willing to consider this when stocks are more actively pushing into multi-month lows and failing to bounce. We can also consider some potential implied relief by the drop in diesel prices (now the biggest drop since the start of the war and only the second notable correction).

MBS MORNING: Strong Retail Sales Only a Mild Inconvenience For Bonds

ALERT: Down Just Over an Eighth From AM Highs

Today's Mortgage Rates

30YR Fixed	7.46%	-0.02%	15YR Fixed	6.98%	-0.04%	11/18/2026

Mortgage Rates Move Slightly Lower

fell for the second straight day with help from lower prices in oil/diesel and the stock market. These shouldn't be viewed as reliable sources of inspiration as rates often move in the opposite direction. There was simply little else to justify today's improvement and the correlations happened to line up fairly well.

While rates are indeed lower, the pace of the improvement has been slow so far this week. At 7.46%, the average top-tier 30yr fixed rate is still nearly 0.20% higher compared to the beginning of last week.

There were no big-ticket events on the economic calendar and the release of the minutes from the Fed's most recent meeting (3 weeks ago) had no impact. In general, the 2nd half of November can be fairly random for rates due to idiosyncrasies associated with the holiday trading environment.

[thirtyyearmortgagerates]

Economic Calendar

Time	Event	Actual	Forecast	Prior
Wednesday, Nov 18				
7:00AM	Nov/13 Mortgage Market Index	199.8		204.6
7:00AM	Nov/13 MBA Purchase Index	137.6		141.2
7:00AM	Nov/13 MBA Refi Index	532.8		540.7
8:30AM	Oct Housing starts number mm (ml)	1.309M	1.25M	1.221M
10:00AM	Oct Pending Home Sales (%) ☆	-4.7%	-2%	-7.3%
10:30AM	Nov/13 Crude Oil Inventory (ml)	3.38M	-0.5M	4.657M
2:00PM	FOMC Minutes ★★			
Thursday, Nov 19				
8:30AM	Nov Philly Fed Prices Paid			43.20
8:30AM	Nov/07 Continued Claims (k) ☆		1710K	1697K
8:30AM	Nov/14 Jobless Claims (k) ☆		197K	200K
8:30AM	Nov Philly Fed Business Index ☆		20	20.9
10:00AM	Oct CB Leading Index MoM		0%	0%