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No, Mortgage Rates Are Definitely Not Back to All-Time Lows!

It's Thursday and thus time, once again, for the weekly mortgage rate survey from Freddie Mac. News organizations and even some bond market strategists (sadly) rely on Freddie's weekly update for a sense of mortgage rate movement. That's why an **overwhelming majority** of the new mortgage rate articles on any given week come out on Thursdays.

Unfortunately, the unified onslaught of news coverage adds unjustified credibility to what is at best stale information. This creates uncomfortable conversations for loan originators and their clients who ask why their recently quoted rate isn't any lower. After all, today's rates are at all-time lows, right?!

Wrong...

And that's **not** just a halfhearted "wrong" due to some technicality or tricky math. Today's rates are actually and unequivocally **not even close** to those seen on August 4th or thereabouts. Are they low? Sure! Are they under 3% for top tier scenarios? Absolutely. But whereas today's going rate for top tier clients at aggressively priced lenders is under 2.9, it was easily under 2.8 in early August. More importantly--perhaps **MOST** importantly when we're talking about the week-over-week change--the average lender has been quoting HIGHER rates compared to last week.

How is Freddie getting it **so wrong?** With respect to this week versus last, the answer is **simple**. Freddie's survey mostly reflects mortgage rates on Monday's and Tuesdays. Last week's best rates didn't hit until Wednesday and Thursday.

As far as the discrepancy between this week's numbers and those seen in early August, that's anyone's guess. **Here's mine:** Freddie's survey goes out to a wide variety of originators. A large enough portion of respondents must be in the cohort of originators who are slow to change rates with the rest of the market. Those originators truly may be quoting lower rates today versus early August, but they are the exception to the rule.

Bottom line, the average lender has slightly higher rates today versus last week, and obviously higher rates versus early August.

National Average Mortgage Rates



Mortgage News Daily	Rate	Change	Points
30YR Fixed	7.48%	-0.03	0.00
15YR Fixed	7.02%	-0.02	0.00
30YR FHA	7.05%	-0.03	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.52%	0.00	0.00
7/6 SOFR	7.10%	-0.02	0.00
30YR VA	7.07%	-0.03	0.00

Rates as of: 11/17

MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	98.89	+0.00
10 YR Treasury	5.1022	-0.0142
30 YR Treasury	5.4515	-0.0076

Pricing as of: 11/17 8:40PM EST

Recent Housing Data

		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Nov 4	204.6	+6.23%
Building Permits	Sep	1.4M	+0.43%
Housing Starts	Sep	1.22M	-4.24%
New Home Sales	Sep	676K	-1.17%
Pending Home Sales	Aug	71.2	0%
Existing Home Sales	Oct	3.99M	+0.25%
Builder Confidence	Oct	29	-9.38%

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Daily Mortgage Rate Update

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Responsive service, experienced expertise

I've dedicated my 26 year mortgage career to client education, superior service, and honest answers. The lending landscape has changed dramatically the past few years, and continues to do so. My job is to ensure client partners' loans close quickly, without surprises, and I take that responsibility very seriously. Referrals are a responsibility I appreciate; they're a measure of trust, and that trust must be earned every day, on every referral.

Ted Rood 

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