Get this Market Update from a friend? *Subscribe and receive it daily ABSOLUTELY FREE at* [*http://www.RSRMarketMinute.com*](http://www.RSRMarketMinute.com)

Market Update for Jan 3, 2024

Understanding Today's Mortgage Market

Current Rate Trends

The mortgage market today is seeing a slight dip in rates, but there's potential for change as the day progresses. Early this morning, bonds experienced losses, hinting at a moderate risk of rate adjustments later. At 7 AM PT, the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data will be released. If this shows fewer job openings, it might help stabilize rates as lenders set their prices for the day.

This afternoon, we're expecting the release of the Federal Reserve's December meeting minutes. The market's reaction to these minutes is crucial. If investors feel too optimistic about a potential rate cut in March, we might see bonds weaken, possibly leading to higher rates.

Looking ahead to Friday, the jobs report will be a key factor. If it doesn't show positive signs, rates might continue to inch up.

Yesterday's Trends and Impact

Yesterday, as traders resumed work post-holiday, we saw an increase in mortgage rates. The bond market, returning to normal trading volumes, showed no signs of recovery, reinforcing the trend of rising rates. This trend will likely continue unless the upcoming jobs data brings favorable news.

Strategies for Different Loan Closing Periods

Loans Closing in Less Than 15 Days

If you're closing within the next two weeks, it's wise to be cautious. Consider whether to lock in your rate now or wait for Friday's jobs data. If you're not keen on taking a risk, locking in your current rate might be the safer choice, especially if Friday doesn't bring good news.

Loans Closing in 15-30 Days

For those with a closing window of 15 to 30 days, floating your rate is a cautious approach. However, stay mindful of your risk tolerance. While there's time for rate fluctuations, the upcoming inflation data next week is pivotal. It could bring better rates, but a negative report might mean we're seeing the best rates now for a while.

Loans Closing in 30+ Days

If your closing is more than 30 days away, there's less urgency. Floating your rate is advisable, as there's ample time to monitor market changes. With more economic data and another Fed meeting on the horizon, it's unlikely that rates will climb significantly in the next month.

Remember, every financial decision is unique. It's crucial to understand your personal situation and risk tolerance when considering mortgage rates. For personalized advice or if you have friends, family members, or colleagues who need guidance on buying, selling, or refinancing, feel free to reach out. Let's navigate this market together!

About Today's Lock Commentary…

The views and commentary are provided by Ron Siegel, an industry veteran with certifications: CMA, CDLP, CLA, VMA. Ron is a radio host who studies the markets and reviews many rate reports daily.

Ron's view on rates comes from an Originator's point of view, seeing each loan as a real person with a real desire to save some money or improve their rate situation - not a hedge fund where we "manage risk" and "take some loans off the table".

In addition to hosting a daily, syndicated radio program since 2010, Ron is a Branch Manager with Geneva Financial and licensed under NMLS 217037.