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The Week Ahead: Bond Markets Won't Miss October

It's no mystery that the prevailing trend in bond markets has been negative for several months. **At first**, this was no big deal, as Treasury yields just hit all-time lows in early July. Coming off all-time lows, it's easy to forgive a bit of a corrective bounce. After all, rates can't go perpetually lower without blowing off some steam from time to time.

With that in mind, things **weren't too alarming** heading into the end of August. True, the low yields on any given day were trending higher, but the high yields remained under a ceiling of 1.60%, in general.

That began to change in early September as the first hints of European Central Bank tapering begin trickling in. Yields tried to break back below 1.60% at the end of the month, but were only able to hold it for a few days. October brought **renewed selling momentum** from the outset. 1.73--which had been a ceiling in September--quickly became a floor. In only a few short weeks, yields were up to intraday highs of 1.879%, and closing levels right around the long-term inflection point at 1.84%.

We enter the current week not only in line with that inflection point, but also pushed up against the top of the prevailing trend channel.



MBS and Treasury

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	99.82	+0.01
10 YR Treasury	4.9058	-0.0241
30 YR Treasury	5.2730	-0.0352

Pricing as of: 11/2 9:12AM EST



Average Mortgage Rates

	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			
30YR Fixed	7.27%	-0.02	0.00
15YR Fixed	6.92%	-0.03	0.00
30YR FHA	6.90%	-0.01	0.00
30YR Jumbo	7.55%	0.00	0.00
7/6 SOFR	6.78%	-0.10	0.00
30YR VA	6.91%	-0.01	0.00

Rates as of: 10/30

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With the Bank of Japan tomorrow, the Fed Wednesday, and NFP Friday, bonds have several opportunities to catch a temporary break before volatility picks back up in early December (important ECB and Fed announcements). Actually, rather than "several opportunities, it would be more accurate to say that this week represents the **last chance** to remain committed to current uptrend. There are plenty of gains to be had if bonds can hold this ceiling, but losses could easily accelerate if they don't.

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Timothy Baron 

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