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Next Week's Fed Rate Hike Won't Affect Rates

The Federal Reserve meets 8 times a year to set its policy rate: **The Fed Funds Rate**. At next week's meeting, a "rate hike" is a foregone conclusion. And that's precisely why it **won't** matter.

The financial market is the quintessential "discounting mechanism." That means the price of any given asset will move based **not only** on what's happening today, but also on what's **likely** to happen in the future. The more certain a future outcome, the more it will be priced in today.

The Fed Funds Rate is actually a great example because it leaves very little to chance in terms of timing and size. Markets have a **very good idea** of when the next hike is coming and an even better idea of how big it will be. Contrast that to the commodities market, where a trader might have to connect complex dots between weather patterns, production methods, and shifting consumer preferences in order to even begin thinking about the future price of soybeans.

The Fed, on the other hand, has **all but promised** that it will hike by precisely 0.25% next week, and traders have no reason to believe otherwise. Does this mean mortgage rates are going up 0.25% next week too?

Not hardly!

First of all, mortgage rates are not directly based on the Fed Funds Rate. More importantly, as we just discussed, markets will adjust for whatever can be known about the future. Interest rates are quite good at this! Any impact on mortgage rates from next week's rate hike has **already come and gone**.

How can we be so sure?

First of all, I'm **not** saying that the Fed **announcement** won't have an impact on rates (more on that in a moment). I'm saying the Fed **RATE HIKE** itself has already had the impact it's going to have. There are other aspects of the Fed's announcement that can cause volatility for mortgage rates, but as for the hike itself, consider an interest rate market that is even more closely linked to the Fed than mortgage rates.

The following chart plots overnight indexed swaps or "OIS" against the actual Fed Funds Rate. OIS can be thought of as a free market version of the Fed Funds Rate, but one that can move every day as opposed to 8 times a year. Because of that nimbleness they provide clear confirmation for impending

National Average Mortgage Rates



	Rate	Change	Points
Mortgage News Daily			

30 Yr. Fixed	7.28%	-0.09	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.75%	-0.07	0.00
30 Yr. FHA	6.70%	-0.12	0.00
30 Yr. Jumbo	7.48%	-0.07	0.00
5/1 ARM	7.35%	-0.07	0.00

Freddie Mac

30 Yr. Fixed	7.22%	-0.22	0.00
15 Yr. Fixed	6.47%	-0.29	0.00

Rates as of: 5/3

Market Data

	Price / Yield	Change
MBS UMBS 6.0	100.09	+0.31
MBS GNMA 6.0	101.03	+0.29
10 YR Treasury	4.5138	-0.0657
30 YR Treasury	4.6711	-0.0579

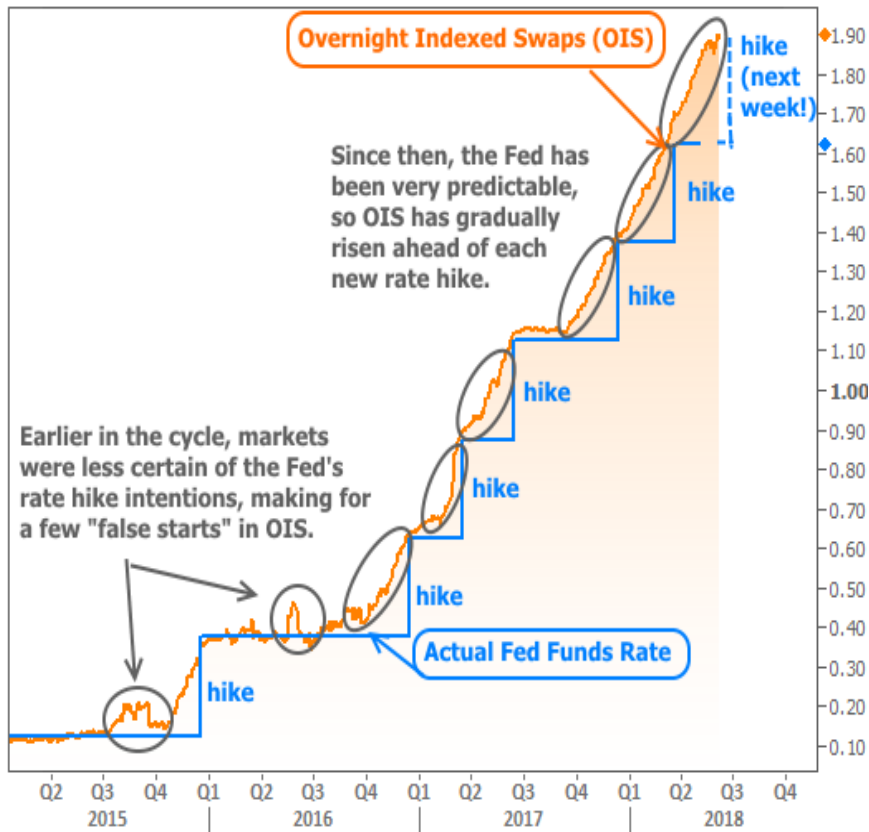
Pricing as of: 5/3 5:04PM EST

Recent Housing Data

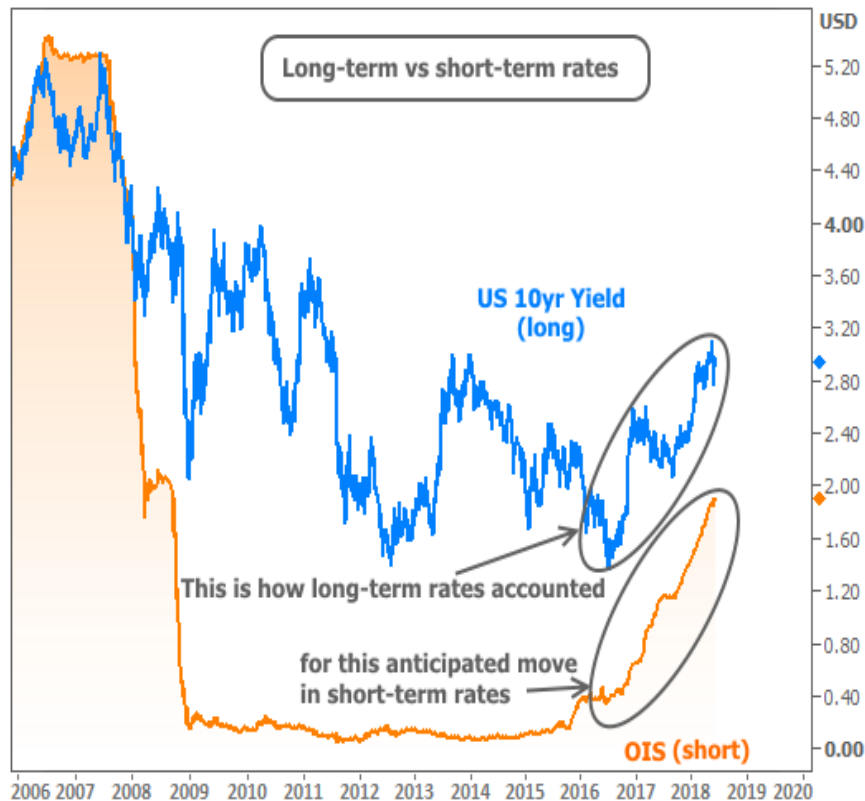
		Value	Change
Mortgage Apps	Apr 24	196.7	-2.67%
Building Permits	Mar	1.46M	-3.95%
Housing Starts	Mar	1.32M	-13.15%
New Home Sales	Mar	693K	+4.68%
Pending Home Sales	Feb	75.6	+1.75%
Existing Home Sales	Feb	3.97M	-0.75%
Builder Confidence	Mar	51	+6.25%

US Housing Market Weekly

Fed hikes. They are the **escalator** to the Fed's **staircase**.



Long-term rates, like 10yr Treasuries or mortgages, are even more willing to adjust for future probabilities. They've taken two big leaps higher during this Fed rate hike cycle WELL before each phase of the cycle was complete. In other words, if we just established that short term rates have already positioned for next week's hike, it's **not even a consideration** for longer-term rates.



While the hike itself will not be news for rates, the announcement **could** still have an impact. That's because the announcement is more than just a 'yay' or 'nay' on the next rate hike. 4 out of the year's 8 Fed announcements, in particular, are more meaningful because they bring an update to the **Fed members' forecasts**. Next week's is one of those 4.

The forecasts are most closely-watched due to the component that tracks the Fed's **rate hike outlook** (sometimes referred to as "the dots" because it's presented on a dot plot). After all, if we just established that today's rates are ready and willing to move based on whatever they can know about the future, how about an updated look at where the Fed sees rates in the future?!

Although the dots are far from a guarantee for future hikes, they are still the best tool at investors' disposal when it comes to getting a general sense of how quickly the Fed is willing to hike and to what ultimate levels. With that in mind, any big change from the previous dot plot is **always** grounds for a **big** market reaction. If rates move higher or lower in a big way at 2pm on Wednesday afternoon, this is likely the reason.

Beyond the Fed, there are **other landmines** on next week's calendar. In terms of economic data, Tuesday's Consumer Price Index (inflation data) is a heavy hitter. Thursday morning brings a policy announcement from the Fed's biggest counterpart, the European Central Bank (ECB).

Global financial markets are perhaps **even more interested** in hearing from the ECB because it will soon be forced to address the topic of ending its bond buying program--possibly as early as next week. These bond buying programs ("QE" for the Fed and the "APP" for the ECB) are big business for interest rates. The timing and details of the ECB's exit will almost certainly cause some volatility in rates, for better or worse.

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Who is Mid Valley Financial?

Mid Valley Financial, located in Fresno, CA, is the Central Valley's premier destination for a wide range of residential and commercial real estate loans. Our commitment to excellence has made us a trusted partner for property buyers and investors seeking tailored financial solutions.

****Why Choose Us:****

With a track record spanning back to our inception in 1985, we have established ourselves as a reliable and innovative lender. We proudly serve properties exclusively within California, having funded loans in all 58 counties of the state. Our deep-rooted experience enables us to navigate complex loan scenarios with expertise and efficiency.

****Our Approach:****

At Mid Valley Financial, we prioritize your financial goals. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer, envisioning your dream property, refinancing an existing mortgage, or looking to tap into your property's equity, our seasoned loan officers offer a wealth of knowledge and over 300 years of collective experience. We ensure that your funds are prepared when you need them, providing a smooth and swift loan process.

****Unlocking Possibilities:****

As one of California's leading direct lenders, we've streamlined the loan process, minimizing obstacles that often deter borrowers. Many of our clients receive approvals within an hour, showcasing our dedication to quick and hassle-free solutions.

****Your Journey with Us:****

Contact the MVF team today and let us put your journey to property ownership on cruise control. Our mission is to empower borrowers while fostering enduring and meaningful relationships. With highly competitive rates, a commitment to transparency, and a dedication to your financial success, Mid Valley Financial is your partner in realizing your real estate aspirations.

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