Mortgage rates near record lows

Average U.S. rates on fixed mortgages fell this week and are just slightly above record lows reached earlier this year.

Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said Thursday that the rate on the 30-year loan declined to 3.59 percent, down from 3.66 percent last week.

Five weeks ago, the rate fell to 3.49 percent, the lowest since long-term mortgages began in the 1950s.