# PLEASE TELL US ABOUT <u>YOUR</u> RECENT RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE EXPERIENCE

## A nationwide survey of mortgage borrowers throughout the United States

Over the last few years the U.S. economy has gone through some dramatic changes that have affected mortgage practices. Learning directly from borrowers about their experiences will help us improve lending practices and the mortgage process for future borrowers.

This research study is sponsored by two Federal agencies who are working together on behalf of all consumers:



The Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), created in 2008 as the government regulator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and to oversee and ensure the safety of the U.S. housing finance system; and

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), created in 2010 to ensure that all consumers have access to markets for consumer financial products and services and that markets for consumer financial products and services are fair, transparent, and competitive.

Thank you for your help with this important national study.

Para contestar la encuesta en español, vea las instrucciones de la carta adjunta.

We are interested in learning about your experience purchasing or refinancing either a personal home or a home for someone else, including rental property.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Privacy Act Notice:** In accordance with the Privacy Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. § 552a), the following notice is provided. The information requested on this Survey is collected pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 4544 for the purposes of gathering information for the National Mortgage Database. Routine uses which may be made of the collected information can be found in the Federal Housing Finance Agency's System of Records Notice (SORN) FHFA-21 National Mortgage Database. Providing the requested information is voluntary. Submission of the survey authorizes FHFA to collect the information provided and to disclose it as set forth in the referenced SORN.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB No. 2590-0012 Expires 12/31/2016 Thank you for helping us to learn more about your experience in getting a mortgage.

1.	Within the past 15 months or so, did you take
	out or co-sign mortgage loan documents
	(including any mortgage refinances)?

- ☐ Yes → If you took out or co-signed more than one mortgage during this period, please refer to your experiences with the <u>last</u> mortgage you took out or co-signed throughout this survey.
- No → You do not need to complete the rest of the survey. Please return the blank questionnaire so we know the survey does not apply to you. The money enclosed is yours to keep.
- 2. Did we mail this survey to the address of the house or property you financed with the mortgage?
  - Yes No

 $\Box 2$ 

- **3.** Including you, how many people signed or co-signed for this mortgage?
  - 1

3

4 or more

If this loan was co-signed by others, take into account all co-signers as best you can when answering the rest of the survey. Otherwise, it is your own situation that we want to know about.

4. When you began the process of getting your mortgage, how familiar were you (and any co-signers) with each of the following?

	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
The mortgage interest rates available at that time			
The different types of mortgages available			
The process of taking out a mortgage			
The down payment needed to qualify for a mortgage			
The income needed to qualify for a mortgage			
Your credit history or credit score			
The money needed at closing			

5. When you began the process of getting your mortgage, how concerned were you about qualifying for a mortgage?

Very	
verv	
, 01 ,	

Somewhat Not at all

6. How firm an idea did you (and any co-signers) have about the mortgage you wanted?

Firm idea Some idea

Little idea

7. How much did you use each of the following sources to get information about mortgages or mortgage lenders?

	Lot	Little	At All
Your lender or broker			
Other lenders or brokers			
Real estate agents or builders			
Material in the mail			
Websites that provide information			
on getting a mortgage			
Friends/relatives/co-workers			
Bankers or financial planners			
Housing counselors			
Other (specify)	_		

## 8. Which of the following best describes your shopping process?

- ☐ I picked the loan type first, and then I picked the lender/broker
- I picked the lender/broker first, and then I picked the loan type
- **9. How did you apply for your mortgage?** *Mark one answer.* 
  - Directly to a lender, such as a bank or credit union
  - Through a mortgage broker (someone who works with two or more lenders to get a loan)
  - Other (specify)

 $\square 2$ 

 $\Box 1$ 

10. How many different lenders/brokers did you seriously consider before choosing where to apply for your mortgage? *Mark one answer.* 

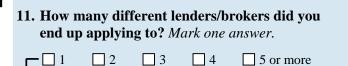
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 $\square 4$ 



 $\Box$  5 or more

Not



12.	Did you apply to more than one	;	
	lender/broker for any of the fol	lowing	
	reasons?		
		Ves	No

Searching for better loan terms	
Concern over qualifying for a loan	
Information learned from the	
"Good Faith Estimate"	
Turned down on earlier application	

13. How important were each of the following in choosing the lender/broker you used for the mortgage you took out?

	Very	Somewhat	At All
Having an established banking relationship			
Having a local office or branch nearby			
Used previously to get a mortgage			
Lender/broker is a personal friend or relative			
Lender/broker operates online			
Lender is a community bank or credit union			
Recommendation from a friend/relative/co-worker			
Recommendation from a real estate agent/home builder			
Recommendation from a lending website			
Reputation of the lender/broker			
Spoke my primary language, which is not English			

#### 14. Who initiated the first contact between you and the lender/broker you used for the mortgage you took out?

I (or one of my co-signers) did

- The lender/broker did
- We were put in contact by a third party (such as a real estate agent or home builder)

- **15.** How open were you to suggestions from your lender/broker about mortgages with different features or terms?
  - Very

Somewhat

Not at all

16. How important were each of the following in determining the mortgage you took out?

	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Low interest rate			
Low APR (Annual			
Percentage Rate)			
Low closing fees			
Low down payment			
Low monthly payment			
An interest rate fixed for			
the life of the loan			
A term of less than 30 years			
No mortgage insurance			

17. Was the "Good Faith Estimate" you received from your lender/broker...

	<b>Y</b> es	NO
Easy to understand		
Valuable information		

### 18. Did the "Good Faith Estimate" lead you to...

	Yes	No
Ask questions of your lender/broker		
Seek a change in your loan or closing		

## **19.** In the process of getting your mortgage from your lender/broker, did you...

	res	INO
Add a co-signer		
Resolve credit report errors or problems		
Answer follow-up requests for more information about income or assets		
Have multiple appraisals		
Redo/refile paperwork due to processing delays		
Delay or postpone closing date		



## **20.** During the application process were you told about mortgages with any of the following?

	Yes	No	
An interest rate that is fixed for the life of the loan			
An interest rate that could change over the life of the loan			
A term of less than 30 years			
A higher interest rate in return for lower closing costs			
A lower interest rate in return for paying higher closing costs ( <i>discount points</i> )			
Interest-only monthly payments			
An escrow account for taxes and/or homeowner insurance			
A prepayment penalty (fee if the mortgage is paid off early)			
Reduced documentation or "easy" approval			
An FHA, VA, USDA or Rural housing loan			
In selecting your settlement agent di	d you.	••	
The an exact measure and a last the	Yes	No	
lender/broker			
Use an agent you had used previously			
Shop around			
Use an agent you had used previously			
• • ·	tle		
↓ 23. (If Yes in Q22) Which best describes how you picked the title insurance?			

Reissued previous title insurance

Used title insurance recommended by lender/broker or settlement agent

Shopped around

24. Overall, how satisfied are you that the mortgage you got was the one with the...

	Very	Somewhat	At All
Best terms to fit your needs			
Lowest interest rate for which you could qualify			
Lowest closing costs			

### 25. Overall, how satisfied are you with the...

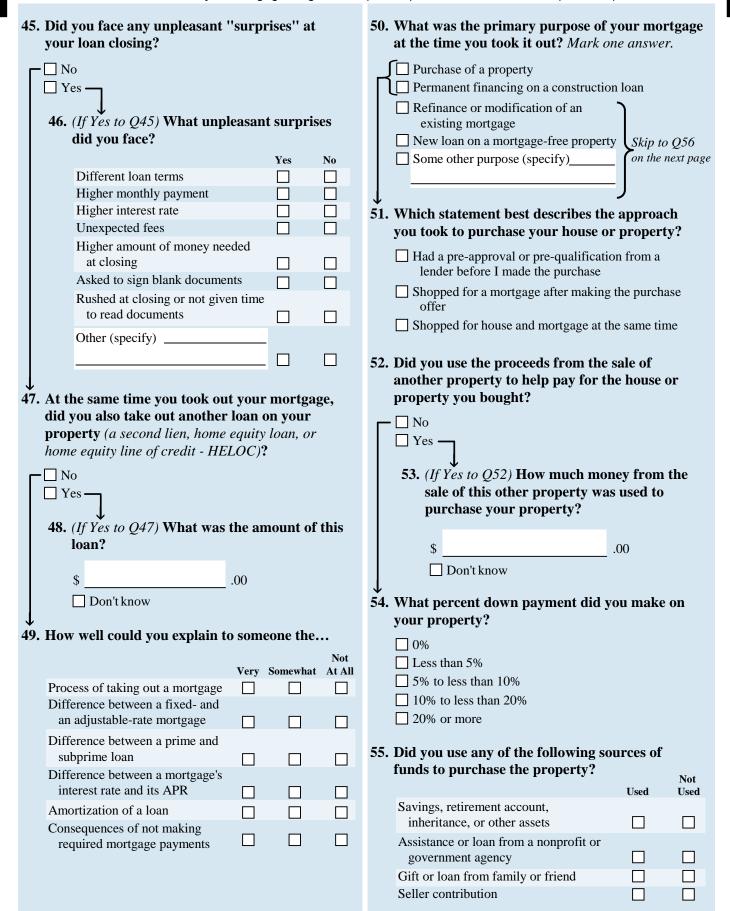
	Verv	Somewhat	Not At All	
Lender/broker you used				
Application process				
Loan closing process		П		
The information in mortgage				
disclosure documents				
The timeliness of mortgage				
disclosure documents				
Settlement agent				
26. Did you take a course about talk to a housing counselor?		-buying o	r	
$ \square Yes \_ $				
27. (If Yes to Q26) How was course or counseling pro-		1?		
In person, one-on-one		Yes	No	
In person, in a group				
Over the phone				
Online				
Omme				
<b>28.</b> ( <i>If Yes to Q26</i> ) <b>How many hours was the home-buying course or counseling?</b>				
<ul> <li>Less than 3 hours</li> <li>3 - 6 hours</li> <li>7 - 12 hours</li> <li>More than 12 hours</li> </ul>				
<b>29.</b> ( <i>If Yes to Q26</i> ) <b>Overall, I</b> home-buying course or		-	s the	
Very Somew	vhat	🗌 Not a	at all	
Your Mort	gag	e		
<b>30. When you took out your mo</b> <b>loan amount</b> (the dollar amount)		-		
.00		on't know		
<b>31. What is the monthly payment</b> (including the amount paid to escrow for taxes and insurance)?				
\$00		on't know		
32. What is the interest rate on	your 1	nortgage	?	
%		on't know		



Not

<b>33. Is this an adjustable-rate mortgage</b> (one that allows the interest rate to change over the life of	40. Does your mortgage have any of the following features?
the loan)?	Don't Yes No Know
☐ Yes ☐ No	A prepayment penalty (fee if the mortgage is paid off early)
Don't know	A balloon payment
34. At the time of application, did the lender give you the option to set/lock the interest rate so	Interest-only paymentsImage: Image: Imag
that it would not change before closing?	Credit life/debt suspension/debt cancellation insurance
□ No	41. Were the costs to close your loan paid in any of the following ways?
Don't know	Don'
35. When was the interest rate set/locked on your loan?	Yes     No     Know       By me or a co-signer (check or wire transfer)     Image: Check or minimum
	By lender/broker
At application	By seller/builder
<ul> <li>Between application and closing</li> <li>Around closing</li> </ul>	Added to the mortgage amount
	Other (specify)
36. Many mortgages have discount points paid to	
<ul> <li>the lender to get a lower interest rate. Did you pay any discount points?</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>37. (If Yes in Q36) How many discount points did you pay?</li> <li> points</li> <li> Don't know</li> <li>38. Some lenders charge origination points to cover the cost of preparing a mortgage for closing. These are often expressed as a percentage of</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>42. At or before closing did you compare the final loan costs to the Good Faith Estimate you received earlier from your lender?</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>43. (If Yes to Q42) Did you find any significant differences between the two?</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>44. Did you seek input about your closing documents from any of the following people?</li> </ul>
the loan amount. Did you pay any origination	Ves No
points?	Attorney
$\square$ No. $\mathbf{N}$ Skin to $O40$	Real estate agent
$\square \text{ No } \rightarrow Skip \text{ to } Q40$	Settlement agent
Yes —	Title agent
↓ <b>39.</b> (If Yes in Q38) <b>How many origination</b>	Trusted friend or relative who is not
points did you pay?	a co-signer on the mortgage
pomo ala jou paj.	Housing counselor
points	Other (specify)
Don't know	





Purchase or construction loan skip to Q60.



If you refinanced, took a new loan on a mortgage-free property or chose "other" in Q50 continue with Q56.

# 56. How important, if at all, were the following reasons in your decision to refinance, modify or obtain a new mortgage?

		BT 4
Very	Somewhat	Not At All
as ow	ed, in tot	al, on
ı(s) ya	ou refinan	ced?
00		
age-jr	ee)	
wnen	they were	e
e		
$\downarrow$		
you go	ot from th	is
f the f	Collowing	?
	Yes	No
e		
ge		
ge		
ige		
ge		
ige		
	n(s) yo .00 age-fr of you total : when e you go f the f	of your new total amount o when they were o you got from th f the following: Yes

### 60. When did you buy or acquire your property?

# month year

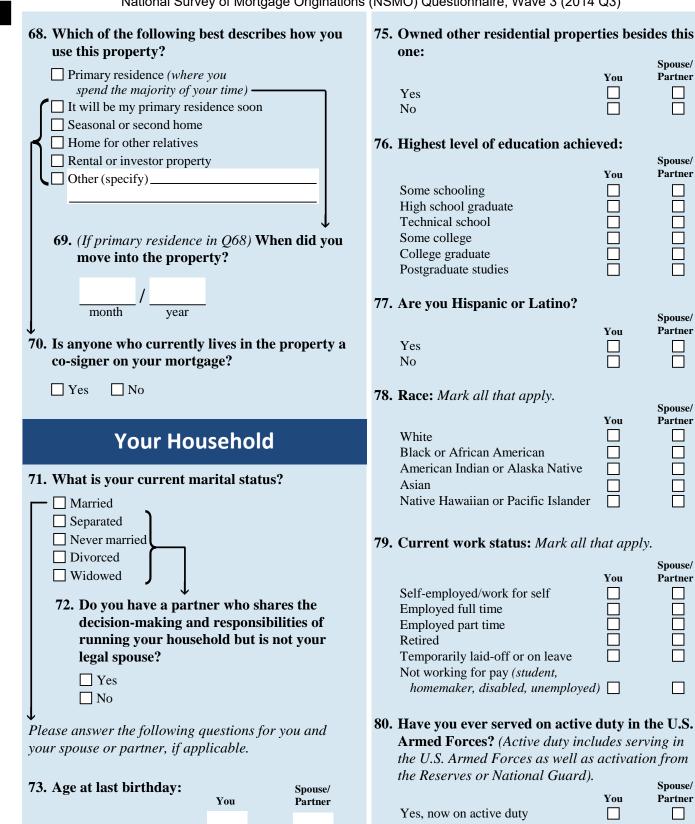
# 61. What was the purchase price of your property, or if you built it, the construction and land cost?

\$\_\_\_\_\_.00

Don't know
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<b>62. How did you acquire the property?</b> <i>Mark one answer.</i>
<ul> <li>Purchased an existing home in a standard sale from the previous owner</li> <li>Purchased a newly-built home from a builder</li> <li>Purchased a foreclosed property from a bank, investor, or government agency</li> <li>Purchased a "short sale" property from the previous owner</li> <li>Purchased land and built a house</li> <li>Received as a gift or inheritance</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>63. What type of house is on your property?</li> <li>Mark one answer.</li> <li>Single-family detached house</li> <li>Townhouse, row house, or wills</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Townhouse, row house, or villa</li> <li>Mobile home or manufactured home</li> <li>2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit dwelling</li> <li>Condo, apartment house, or co-op</li> <li>Unit in a partly commercial structure</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> <li>64. (If multiple units in Q63) How many separate</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>living units does your mortgage cover?</li> <li>units</li> <li>65. About how much do you think your property is worth in terms of what you could sell it for now?</li> </ul>
\$00 Don't know
<ul> <li>66. Do you rent out any portion of your property?</li> <li>No → Skip to Q68</li> <li>Yes →</li> <li>67. (If Yes to Q66) How much rent do you receive?</li> <li>\$00 per month</li> </ul>





Yes, now on active duty	
Yes, on active duty in the past, but not now	
No, never on active duty except for initial/basic training	
No, never served in the U.S. Armed Forces	

Π

years

Spouse/

Partner

vears

You

74. Sex:

Male

Female

81. Besides you (and your spouse/partner), does anyone else live in your household or use your		Does anyone in your household have following?	any o	f the
house as a permanent address?	1	onowing.	Yes	No
-		401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension plan		
		Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds ( <i>not in</i>		
Yes -		retirement accounts or pension plans)		
		Certificates of deposit		
<b>82.</b> (If Yes to Q81) How many of the other		Investment real estate		
household members are 18 years of age or		Investment real estate		
younger?	89. 1	Which <u>one</u> of the following statemen	ts hes	t
		lescribes the amount of financial ris		
——— household members		willing to take when you make invest		
□ None		Take substantial financial risks expecting substantial returns		
<b>83.</b> (If Yes to Q81) How many of the other household members are older than 18?	[	<ul> <li>Take above-average financial risks experience</li> <li>earn above-average returns</li> </ul>	ecting 1	to
	[	<ul> <li>Take average financial risks expecting t average returns</li> </ul>	o earn	
household members	[	Not willing to take any financial risks		
<b>84.</b> (If Yes to Q81) Do any of the other		Do you agree or disagree with the fol statements?	lowin	g
household members help pay for			Agree	Disagree
household expenses?		Owning a home is a good financial investment		
↓		Mortgage lenders generally treat borrowers well		
<b>household income from all sources</b> (wages, salaries, tips, interest, child support, investment		Late payments will lower my credit rating		
income, retirement, social security, and alimony)?		Lenders shouldn't care about any late payments, only whether loans are		
Under \$35,000		fully repaid		
\$35,000 to \$49,999		It is okay to default or stop making		
\$50,000 to \$74,999		mortgage payments if it is in the		
\$75,000 to \$99,999		borrower's financial interest		
□ \$100,000 to \$174,999				
□ \$175,000 or more		In the last couple of years, have any of the last couple of years, have any of the last couple and the las	of the	
86. How does this total annual household income			Yes	No
compare to what it is in a "normal" year?		Separated/divorced		
Higher than normal		Married/remarried/new partner		
Normal		Death of a household member		
Lower than normal		Addition to your household (not including spouse/partner)		
87. Does your total annual household income		Person leaving your household		
include any of the following sources?		(not including spouse/partner)		
Yes No		Disability or serious illness of		
Wages or salary		household member		
Business or self-employment		Disaster affecting your house		
Interest or dividends		Disaster affecting your (or your		
Alimony or child support		spouse/partner's) work		
Social Security benefits		Moved within the area (less than 50 miles)		
		Moved to a new area (50 miles or more)		

# Draft

# 92. In the last couple of years, have any of the following happened to you (or your spouse/partner)?

	Yes	No
Layoff, unemployment or reduced hours of work		
Promotion		
Starting a new job		
Starting a second job		
Business failure		
A personal financial crisis		

## **93.** In the last couple years, how have the following changed for you (and your spouse/partner)?

	Significant Increase	Little/No Change	Significant Decrease
Household income			
Housing expenses			
Non-housing expenses			

## 94. In the last couple years, how have the following changed in your neighborhood?

	Significant Increase	Little/No Change	Significant Decrease
Number of homes for sale	e 🗌		
Number of vacant homes			
Number of homes for ren	t 🗌		
Number of foreclosures of short sales	or		
House prices			
Overall desirability of living there			

## **Your Future Expectations**

- 95. What do you think will happen to the prices of homes like yours in your neighborhood over the next couple of years?
  - Increase a lot
  - Increase a little
  - Remain about the same
  - Decrease a little
  - Decrease a lot

#### 96. In the next couple of years, how do you expect the overall desirability of living in your neighborhood to change?

- Become more desirable
- Stay about the same
- Become less desirable

#### 97. In the next couple of years, how do you expect the following to change for you (and your spouse/partner)?

	Significant Increase	Little/No Change	Significant Decrease
Household income			
Housing expenses			
Non-housing expenses			

# 98. How likely is it that in the next couple of years you will...

	Very	Somewhat	At All
Move and sell your property			
Move but keep your property			
Refinance your mortgage			
Pay off your mortgage and own your property mortgage-free			

## **99.** How likely is it that in the next couple of years you (or your spouse/partner) will face...

	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Retirement			
Difficulties making your mortgage payments			
A layoff, unemployment, or forced reduction in hours			
Some other personal financial crisis			

#### 100. If your household faced an unexpected personal financial crisis in the next couple of years, how likely is it you could...

	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Pay your bills for the next 3 months without borrowing			
Get significant financial help from family or friends			
Borrow enough money from a bank or credit union			
Significantly increase your income			



The Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau thank you for completing this survey.

We have provided the space below if you wish to share additional comments or further explain any of your answers. Please do <u>not put your name or address on the questionnaire</u>.

Please use the enclosed business reply envelope to return your completed questionnaire. FHFA 1600 Research Blvd, RC B16 Rockville, MD 20850

TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY ONLINE GO TO: <u>NSMBsurvey.com</u> You will need your Personal PIN # found in the accompanying letter to access the survey. For any questions about the survey you can call 1-855-339-7877.

