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

 $\square 2$

- **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

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			
Newspaper/TV/Radio			
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.*

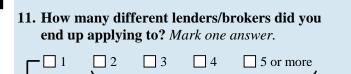
3

 $\square 4$

Draft

5 or more

Not



12. Did you apply to more than one
lender/broker for any of the following
reasons?

	105	110
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...

	Y es	INO
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 al	a you.	••
	u you. Yes	No
Use an agent recommended by the lender/broker	•	
Use an agent recommended by the	•	
lender/broker Use an agent you had used previously	Yes	
Use an agent recommended by the lender/broker Use an agent you had used previously Shop around Did your lender require you to get the insurance on your mortgage?	Yes	No
Use an agent recommended by the lender/broker Use an agent you had used previously Shop around Did your lender require you to get the insurance on your mortgage? No Yes 23. (If Yes in Q22) Which best descri you picked the title insurance? Reissued previous title insurance	Yes	No
Use an agent recommended by the lender/broker Use an agent you had used previously Shop around Did your lender require you to get the insurance on your mortgage? No Yes 23. (If Yes in Q22) Which best descri you picked the title insurance?	Yes	No

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

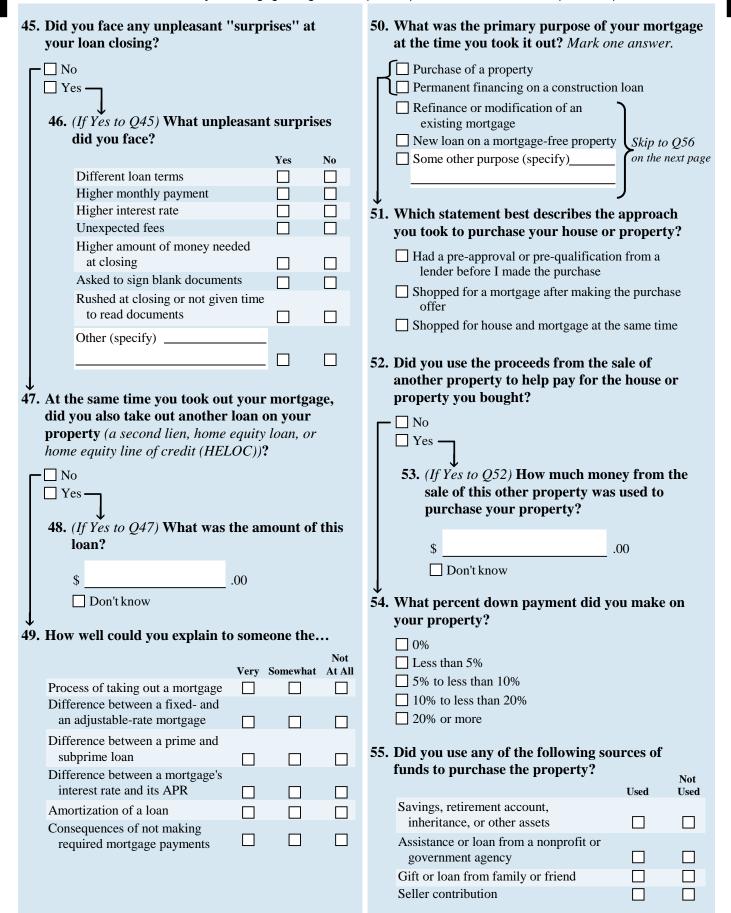
	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Best terms to fit your needs			
Lowest interest rate for which you could qualify			
Lowest closing costs			
you could qualify			

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

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

33. Is this an adjustable-rate mortgage (one that allows the interest rate to change over the life of		Does your mortgage have any of features?	f the f	ollowi	ng Don't
the loan)?			Yes	No	Know
Yes No		A prepayment penalty (fee if the mortgage is paid off early)			
Don't know		An escrow account for taxes and/or homeowner insurance			
		A balloon payment			
34. At the time of application, did the lender give		Interest-only payments Owner's title insurance			
you the option to set/lock the interest rate so that it would not change before closing?		Credit life/debt suspension/debt cancellation insurance			
☐ Yes ☐ No	41	Ware the costs to close your loss		-	
		Were the costs to close your loan the following ways?	n paid	in an	y or
Don't know					Don't
			Yes	No	Know
35. When was the interest rate set/locked on your		By me or a co-signer (<i>check or</i>	_	_	_
loan?		wire transfer)			
At application		By lender/broker	L.	L L	Ц
Between application and closing		By seller/builder	H		
Around closing		Added to the mortgage amount			
Around closing		Other (specify)			
36. Many mortgages have discount points paid to					
the lender to get a lower interest rate. Did you	12	At or before closing did you con	nono	the fi	nol
pay any discount points?		loan costs to the Good Faith Est			liai
► No		received earlier from your lende		you	
Yes		No			
37. (<i>If Yes in Q36</i>) How many discount points		Yes -			
did you pay?		43. (If Yes to Q42) Did you find a differences between the two	•	gnific	ant
points			•		
\square Don't know		☐ Yes ☐ No			
 ✓ 38. Some lenders charge origination points to cover the cost of preparing a mortgage for closing. 		Did you seek input about your c documents from any of the follo		-	e?
These are often expressed as a percentage of		-	1	 Yes	No
the loan amount. Did you pay any origination		Lender/broker			
points?		Attorney			
\Box No \sim Skin to $O40$		Real estate agent			
$\square \text{ No} \rightarrow Skip \text{ to } Q40$		Settlement agent			
Yes		Title agent			
		Trusted friend or relative who is not			
39. (<i>If Yes in Q38</i>) How many origination		a co-signer on the mortgage			
points did you pay?		Housing counselor			
		Other (specify)			
points					
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?

			B T 4
a 1 a t t	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Change to a fixed-rate loan			
Get a lower interest rate			
Get a lower monthly payment			
Consolidate or pay down other	_	_	_
debt			
Repay the loan more quickly			
Take out cash			
Approximately how much w	vas ow	ed, in tot	al, on
the old mortgage(s) and loan	n(s) yo	ou refinan	ced?
	00		
\$	00		
Zero (the property was mortg	gage-fr	ee)	
 New amount is lower New amount is about the sam New amount is higher Property was mortgage-free 			
59. Did you use the money y new mortgage for any o			
		Yes	No
		105	
College expenses			
College expenses Auto or other major purchas	se		
Auto or other major purchas	se		
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts	se		
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions	se		
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings			
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings Closing costs of new mortga			
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings Closing costs of new mortga Business or investment			
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings Closing costs of new mortga			
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Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings Closing costs of new mortga Business or investment			
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings Closing costs of new mortga Business or investment			
Auto or other major purchas Pay off other bills or debts Home repairs/additions Savings Closing costs of new mortga Business or investment	nge		

60. When did you buy or acquire your property?

month year

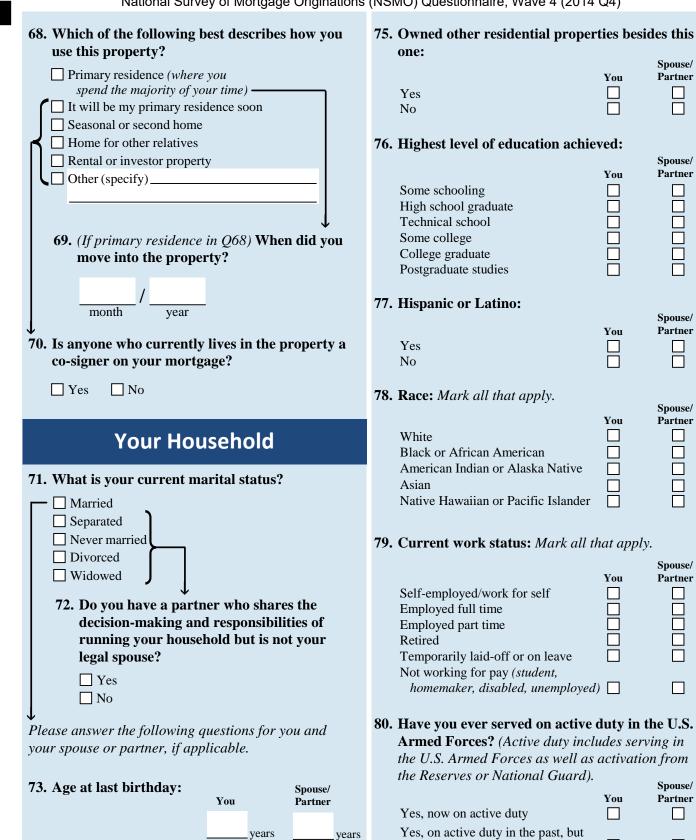
61. What was the purchase price of your property, or if you built it, the construction and land cost?

.00

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





Spouse/

Partner

Π

Spouse/

Partner

Spouse/ Partner

Spouse/

Partner

Spouse/

Partner

Spouse/

Partner

П

Π

 \square

Spouse/

Partner

You

74. Sex:

Male

Female

not now

No, never on active duty except for

initial/basic training

Armed Forces

No, never served in the U.S.

81. Besides you (and your spouse/partner), does anyone else live in your household or use your		Does anyone in your household have ollowing?	any o	f the
house as a permanent address?	L	onowing.	Yes	No
-	4	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		
82. (If Yes to Q81) How many of the other		Investment real estate		
household members are 18 years of age or	-	investment rear estate		
younger?	89. V	Which <u>one</u> of the following statement	ts hes	t
		lescribes the amount of financial ris		
——— household members		villing to take when you make invest		
□ None		Take substantial financial risks expectin substantial returns		
83. (If Yes to Q81) How many of the other household members are older than 18?	٢	Take above-average financial risks expe	ecting t	to
nousenoid memoers are older than 10.		earn above-average returns Take average financial risks expecting t	o earn	
household members		average returns Not willing to take any financial risks		
□ None				
94 (If Vac to (91) D o any of the other	90. I	Do you agree or disagree with the fol	lowin	g
84. (If Yes to Q81) Do any of the other household members help pay for	S	tatements?		
household expenses?			Agree	Disagree
$\Box Yes \Box No$		Owning a home is a good financial investment		
↓ 85. Approximately how much is your total annual]	Mortgage lenders generally treat borrowers well		
household income from all sources (<i>wages, salaries, tips, interest, child support, investment</i>]	Late payments will lower my credit rating		
income, retirement, social security, and alimony)?		Lenders shouldn't care about any late	_	_
Under \$35,000		payments, only whether loans are 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	91. I	n the last couple of years, have any o	of the	
86. How does this total annual household income	f	ollowing happened to you?		
compare to what it is in a "normal" year?		Company de d'Alizza non d	Yes	No
-		Separated/divorced	<u> </u>	
Higher than normal		Married/remarried/new partner	Ц	
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)		



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		
Retirement		
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 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</u> put your name or address on the questionnaire.

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.

