Improving Mortgage Experiences in America

National Survey of Mortgage Originations



We are conducting this survey of people who have taken out or co-signed for a mortgage loan to purchase a housing property, or to refinance or modify an existing loan.

Learning directly from borrowers like you about your mortgage experiences will help us improve lending practices and the mortgage process for future borrowers like you. It is important to get the perspective of all borrowers for making government policies.

You can mail back the paper survey in the enclosed business reply envelope or complete the survey online. The online version may be easier to complete, because it skips any questions that do not apply to you based on your responses. Online responses are also processed more quickly making it less likely that you will receive reminders to complete this survey. We appreciate your help either way.

To complete the survey online, in English or Spanish

Go to: www.NSMOsurvey.com

Enter the unique access code provided in the letter we sent you.

Esta encuesta está disponible en español en línea

Visite al sitio web www.NSMOsurvey.com

Inicie la sesión con su número PIN único de la encuesta que se encuentra en la carta adjunta.

ABOUT THE SPONSORS: The **Federal Housing Finance Agency** and the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau** are working together to sponsor this survey. We are doing this because both agencies are concerned with improving the safety of the U.S. housing finance system and making sure all consumers have better access to mortgages. Thanks so much for helping us assist future borrowers.

You can find more information on our websites - www.fhfa.gov/nsmo and www.consumerfinance.gov

Your answers to this survey will help us as we improve the safety of the U.S. housing finance system and help to ensure that people have access to funds needed to build or improve housing.

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 4/30/20 (renewal in progress)

1. Did you take out or co-sign for a mortgage loan sometime in the last couple of years including a purchase or any refinance/modification of an existing loan?			g a	6.	ng this about							
						☐ Very		☐ Som	newhat		☐ Not a	at all
	- Yes	,	0.10	. 1	7.	How firm		-	u have	abou	t the	
2.	When did you take out this nout or co-signed for more than refer to your experience with the	one mo	ortgage, p			Firm id	ea	☐ Som	ne idea		Littl	e idea
	refinance, modification, or nev	v mortg	age.		8.	How muc sources to mortgage	get in	formatio			_	or Not
3.	Did we mail this survey to the	e addre	ss of the			**		1 /1 1		Lot	Little	At All
٥.	property you financed with the					Your mor						
						Other mor						
	Yes No					Real estate Material in	_		rs			
4.	Who signed or co-signed for a Mark <u>all</u> that apply.	this mo	rtgage?			Websites on gettir	that prov	vide infor	mation			
	☐ I signed					Newspape	er/TV/Ra	adio				
	☐ Spouse/partner including a for	mer spou	ise/partne	r		Friends/re	latives/c	o-worker	S			
	Parents Children					Bankers, o	\$		nancial			
	Other relatives					Housing c	ounselo	rs				
	Other (e.g. friend, business par	rtner)				Other (spe	ecify)					
\rightarrow	If you co-signed this loan with account all co-signers as best answering the survey. If no cobased on your own situation.	you car co-signe	n when		9.	Which on shopping			ing bes	t desc	ribes yo	ur
5.	When you began the process mortgage, how familiar were		U				gage len	der/broke	r			
	co-signers) with each of the fo	•	-	Not				ortgage ler oan type	nder/bro	ker firs	st, and the	en
	The mortgage interest rates	Very	Somewhat	At All	10.	Which on	e of th	e followi	ng best	t desci	ribes ho	W
	available at that time					you appli	ed for	this mor	tgage?			
	The different types of mortgages available					☐ Directly ☐ Throug		nder, such tgage brok				n
	The mortgage process					multi	ple lend	ers to get	you a lo	oan		
	The down payment needed to qualify for a mortgage					☐ Throug ☐ Other (rranged	financ	ing	
	The income needed to qualify for a mortgage				11.	How mar	ıy diffe	erent mo	rtgage	lende	rs/broke	ers
	Your credit history or credit score					did you s						
	The money needed at closing					where to	apply f	for this n	nortgaş	ge?		
	and money necessary at crossing					<u> </u>	2	□ 3	□ 4		5 or mo	re

12. How many different mortgage lenders/brokers did you end up applying to?	17. How important were each of the following in determining the mortgage you took out?
	Not
	Lower interest rate
12 Did you apply to make than any moutgage	Lower APR (Annual Percentage Rate)
13. Did you apply to more than one mortgage lender/broker for any of the following	Lower closing fees
reasons?	Lower down payment
Yes No	Lower monthly payment
Searching for better loan terms	An interest rate fixed for the life
Concern over qualifying for a loan	of the loan
Information learned from the	A term of 30 years
"Loan Estimate"	No mortgage insurance
Turned down on earlier application	
	18. Your lender may have given you a booklet
14. How important were each of the following in	"Your home loan toolkit: A step-by-step
choosing the mortgage lender/broker you used	guide," do you remember receiving a copy?
for the mortgage you took out?	r—□ Yes
Not Important Important	\prod_{N_0}
Having an established banking	Skip to 20
relationship	
Having a local office or branch nearby	19. Did the "Your home loan toolkit" booklet lead
Used previously to get a mortgage	you to ask additional questions about your
Mortgage lender/broker is a personal	mortgage terms?
friend or relative	☐ Yes ☐ No
Paperless online mortgage process	☐ 1es ☐ No
Recommendation from a friend/ relative/co-worker	20. In the process of getting this mortgage from
Recommendation from a real	your mortgage lender/broker, did you
estate agent/home builder	Yes No
Reputation of mortgage lender/broker	Have to add another co-signer to qualify
Spoke my primary language, which is	Resolve credit report errors or problems
not English	Answer follow-up requests for more information about income or assets
	Have more than one appraisal
15. Who initiated the first contact between you and	Redo/refile paperwork due to processing
the mortgage lender/broker you used for the	delays
mortgage you took out?	Delay or postpone closing date
_	Have your "Loan Estimate" revised
☐ I (or one of my co-signers) did ☐ The mortgage lender/broker did	to reflect changes in your loan terms
☐ We were put in contact by a third party (such as a	Check other sources to confirm that
real estate agent or home builder)	terms of this mortgage were reasonable
,	
16. How open were you to suggestions from your	21. Was the "Loan Estimate" you received from your
16. How open were you to suggestions from your mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with	21. Was the "Loan Estimate" you received from your mortgage lender/broker
16. How open were you to suggestions from your mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with different features or terms?	mortgage lender/broker Yes No
mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with different features or terms?	mortgage lender/broker Yes No Easy to understand
mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with	mortgage lender/broker Yes No
mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with different features or terms?	mortgage lender/broker Yes No Easy to understand
mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with different features or terms?	mortgage lender/broker Yes No Easy to understand
mortgage lender/broker about mortgages with different features or terms?	mortgage lender/broker Yes No Easy to understand

22.	Did the "Loan Estimate" lead you to		N.		, how satisfied are yege you got was the o			
	Ask questions of your mortgage lender/	Yes	No	mortgag	se you got was the o	iic witi	1 11111111	Not
	broker					Very	Somewhat	
	Seek a change in your loan or closing	H		Best terr	ms to fit your needs			
	Apply to a different mortgage				interest rate for which			
	lender/broker			•	ould qualify			
				Lowest	closing costs			
23.	During the application process were	vou to	ld					
	about mortgages with any of the foll	•		8 Overall	, how satisfied are y	on wit	h the	
		Yes	No	o. Overan	, now satisfied are y	ou with		Not
	An interest rate that is fixed for the					Very	Somewhat	
	life of the loan			Mortgag	ge lender/broker			
	An interest rate that could change over			you us	sed			
	the life of the loan			Applicat	tion process			
	A term of less than 30 years				entation process			
	A higher interest rate in return for lower				ed for the loan			
	closing costs				osing process			
	A lower interest rate in return for paying				tion in mortgage			_
	higher closing costs (discount points)				sure documents			
	Interest-only monthly payments				ess of mortgage sure documents			
	An escrow account for taxes and/or				ent agent	片	H	H
	homeowner insurance			Settleffic	agent			
	A prepayment penalty (fee if the mortgage	?	_					
	is paid off early)	Ш		9. Did you	ı take a course about	t home	-buying o	r
	Reduced documentation or "easy" approval			talk to a	a professional housir	ıg cour	iselor?	
				— ∏ Yes				
	An FHA, VA, USDA or Rural Housing loan			_ □ No →	Skip to 33 on page 4			
	Ioun				1 1 8			
24.	In selecting your settlement/closing a	agent d	id vou	, 0. Was voi	ur home-buying cou	rse or	counselin	g
	use someone		J	•	V 8			0
		Yes	No	In nerson	n, one-on-one	Ye	s No	
	Selected/recommended by the mortgage			_	n, in a group			
	lender/broker, or real estate agent			Over the				
	You used previously			Online	phone			
	Found shopping around	Ш	ш	Required	d			
	Did not have a settlem out/alasin a se			reoquiree	•			
	Did not have a settlement/closing ag	gent		1 Цом та	any hours was your	homo i	huvina	
25	.		0		or counseling?	nome-i	ouying	
25.	Do you have title insurance on this n	nortgag	ge?		g			
Г	-□ Yes				than 3 hours			
	No Skip to 27			3-61				
	Don't know				2 hours			
				☐ More	than 12 hours			
26.	Which one best describes how you p	icked tl	he			_		
	title insurance?				, how helpful was yo	ur hon	ne-buying	3
				course o	or counseling?			
	Reissued previous title insurance			☐ Very	☐ Somewhat		Not at all	
	Used title insurance recommended by n lender/broker or settlement agent	ortgage						
	☐ Shopped around							



33. Which <u>one</u> of these reasons best describes this most recent mortgage?	↑ decision to refinance, modify or obtain a new
_	mortgage?
To buy a property	Not
To refinance or modify an earlier mortgage	Important Important
	Change to a fixed-rate loan
To add/remove co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)	
To finance a construction loan To take out a new loan on a	Remove private mortgage insurance
To take out a new loan on a	Get a rewer monany payment
mortgage-free property	Consolidate or pay down other debt
Some other purpose (specify)	Repay the loan more quickly
	Take out cash
34. Did you do the following before or after you	38. Approximately how much was owed, in total, on
made an offer on this house or property?	the old mortgage(s) and loan(s) you refinanced?
Before After Dio	
Offer Offer Not I	.00
Contacted a lender to explore mortgage options	☐ Zero (the property was mortgage-free)
Got a pre-approval or pre-	39. Did you use the money you got from this
qualification from a lender	new mortgage for any of the following?
Decided on the type of loan	
Made a decision on which	Yes No College expenses
lender to use	Auto or other major purchase
Submitted an official loan	Buy out co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)
application	Pay off other bills or debts
	Home repairs or new construction
35. Did you use any of the following sources of	Savings
funds to buy this property?	Closing costs of new mortgage
No	
Used Use	Other (specify)
Proceeds from the sale of another property] ————————————————————————————————————
Savings, retirement account, inheritance,	
or other assets	Did not get money from refinancing
Assistance or loan from a nonprofit or	1
government agency	
A second lien, home equity loan, or home equity line of credit (HELOC)	This Mortgage
equity line of credit (HELOC)	
Seller contribution	
Seliei contribution	→40. When you took out this most recent mortgage or refinance, what was the dollar amount you
26 What are and a 64b are also also also also also also also also	borrowed?
36. What percent of the purchase price was the	bolloweu:
down payment to buy this property (including money from a prior home sale, gifts, etc.)?	\$.00 □ Don't know
0%	41. What is the monthly payment, including the
Less than 3%	amount paid to escrow for taxes and insurance?
3% to less than 5%	amount para to eseron for takes and insurance.
5% to less than 10%	\$00 □ Don't know
10% to less than 20%	
20% to less than 30%	42. What is the interest rate on this mortgage?
30% or more	
Skip to 40	── ☐ Don't know



	43. Is this an adjustable-rate mortgage (one that allows the interest rate to change over the life of the loan)?			49. Were the loan costs you paid similar to what you had expected to pay based on the Loan Estimates or Closing Disclosures you received?						
	Yes No I	Oon't know				Yes No				
	44. Which one of the following best describes how you decided on the interest rate of your mortgage?				50. After closing on this mortgage, how much cash reserves in checking, savings, and other similar assets did you have remaining?					
	Paid higher closing costs to get lower interest rate Paid lower closing costs with a higher interest rate Got a balance between closing costs and interest rate 45. Does this mortgage have				☐ Less than one month's mortgage payment ☐ 1-2 months' worth of mortgage payments ☐ 3-6 months' worth of mortgage payments ☐ 7 months' worth or more of mortgage payments					
	9 9	Ye	s No	Don't Know		Did you seek input about your closin		.9		
	A prepayment penalty (fe mortgage is paid off ea An escrow account for ta homeowner insurance A balloon payment Interest-only payments Private mortgage insuran	re if the rly) xes and/or				ocuments from any of the following Mortgage lender/broker Settlement/closing agent Real estate agent Personal attorney Title insurance agent	Yes	No		
	At any time after you application did any of	the following				Trusted friend or relative who is not a co-signer on the mortgage Housing counselor Other (specify)	8			
	Monthly payment Interest rate Other fees Amount of money neede to close loan	d [<u>c</u>	Did you face any of the following at yolosing?	your <u>lo</u> Yes	oan No		
47.	The "Closing Disclosi at closing shows the le closing costs separate closing costs you paid	oan closing co ly. What wer	osts and o	other		Loan documents not ready at closing Closing did not occur as originally scheduled Three-day rule required re-disclosure Mortgage terms different at closing than expected, e.g. interest rate, monthly				
	\$.00 🗆 D	on't know			More cash needed at closing than				
	How were the total clo other costs) for this lo		oan costs	and		expected, e.g. escrow, unexpected fees Less cash needed at closing than expected				
	·	Ye	es No	Don't Know		Asked to sign blank documents at closing	П			
	By me or a co-signer wit or wire transfer Added to the mortgage a					Asked to sign pre-dated or post-dated documents at closing				
	By mortgage lender/brok By seller/builder					Felt rushed at closing or not given time to read documents				
	Other (specify) Loan had no closing	ng costs								



53.	Is there any additional proble while getting this mortgage th	•			This Mortgaged Property	
	us about?	v			57. When did you first become the owner of this property?	
					month year	
					58. What was the purchase price of this property, or if you built it, the construction and land cost?	
				_	\$00	
					59. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes how you acquired this property?	
	At the same time you took out			,	☐ Purchased an existing home ☐ Purchased a newly-built home from a builder ☐ Had or purchased land and built a house ☐ Received as a gift or inheritance ☐ Other (specify)	
	property you financed with the second lien, home equity loan, o	is mort	t gage (a		60. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes this property?	
igcup	line of credit (HELOC))? ☐ Yes ☐ No → Skip to 56 What was the amount of this l	loan?			☐ Single-family detached house ☐ Mobile home or manufactured home ☐ Townhouse, row house, or villa ☐ 2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit dwelling ☐ Apartment (or condo/co-op) in apartment building	
	\$00 Don't know				☐ Unit in a partly commercial structure ☐ Other (specify)	
56.	How well could you explain to		ne the	Not	61. Does this mortgage cover more than one	
	Process of taking out a mortgage Difference between a fixed- and an adjustable-rate mortgage				unit? □ Yes □ No	
	Difference between a prime and subprime loan				62. About how much do you think this property is worth in terms of what you could sell it for now?	
	Difference between a mortgage's interest rate and its APR				\$00	
	Amortization of a loan					
	Consequences of not making required mortgage payments				63. Do you rent out all or any portion of this property?	
	Difference between lender's and owner's title insurance				Yes No → Skip to 65 on page 7	
	Relationship between discount points and interest rate				64. How much rent do you receive annually?	
	Reason payments into an escrow account can change				\$00 per year	

65. Besides you, the mortgage co-signers, and	71. How likely is it that in the next couple of years					
renters, does anyone else help pay the expenses for this property?	you will Not					
expenses for this property:	Very Somewhat At All					
☐ Yes ☐ No	Sell this property					
	Move but keep this property					
66. Which of the following best describes how you	Refinance the mortgage on					
use this property?	this property					
Primary residence (where you	Pay off this mortgage and own					
spend the majority of your time)	the property mortgage-free					
☐ It will be my primary residence soon						
Seasonal or second home						
☐ Home for other relatives Skip to 68	Your Household					
Rental or investment property	iodi ilodociloid					
Other (specify)	72. What is your current marital status?					
1						
67. If primary residence, when did you move	Married					
into this property?	Separated Never married					
	l — —					
1	Divorced					
month year	☐ Widowed J					
	73. Do you have a partner who shares the					
68. In the last couple years, how have the following	decision-making and responsibilities of					
changed in the neighborhood where this	running your household but is not your					
property is located?	legal spouse?					
Significant Little/No Significant	☐ Yes ☐ No					
Number of homes for sale	J – –					
Number of nomes for safe	Please answer the following questions for you and					
Number of homes for rent	your spouse or partner, if applicable.					
Number of foreclosures or						
short sales	74. Age at last birthday:					
House prices	Spouse/					
Overall desirability of	You Partner					
living there	yearsyears					
69. What do you think will happen to the prices of homes in this neighborhood over the next	75. Sex:					
couple of years?	Spouse/					
•	You Partner					
☐ Increase a lot	Male					
Increase a little	Female \square					
Remain about the same						
Decrease a little	76. Highest level of education achieved:					
☐ Decrease a lot	Spouse/					
	You Partner					
70. In the next couple of years, how do you expect	Some schooling					
the overall desirability of living in this	High school graduate					
neighborhood to change?	Technical school					
☐ Become more desirable	Some college					
☐ Stay about the same	College graduate					
☐ Become less desirable	Postgraduate studies					

77.	Hispanic or Latino:			82.	Do you speak a language other than	Englis	h at
		You	Spouse/ Partner		home?		
	Yes			Г	− □ Yes		
	No				□ No → Skip to 85		
78.	Race: Mark <u>all</u> that apply.	\$ 7	Spouse/	↓ 83.	Was it important to get your mortga documents in this language?	age	
	White	You	Partner		☐ Yes ☐ No		
	Black or African American						
	American Indian or Alaska Native			84.	Did you get mortgage documents in	this	
	Asian				language?		
	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander				Yes No		
79.	Current work status: Mark <u>all</u> to Self-employed full time Self-employed part time	hat appl You	y. Spouse/ Partner	85.	Approximately how much is your to household income from all sources (salaries, tips, interest, child support, income, retirement, social security, and	wages, nvestme	ent
	Employed full time				Less than \$35,000		
	• •				\$35,000 to \$49,999		
	Employed part time				\$50,000 to \$74,999		
	Retired Unemployed, temporarily laid-off	Ш			\$75,000 to \$99,999		
	or on leave				\$100,000 to \$174,999		
	Not working for pay (student,	П	П		\$175,000 or more		
	homemaker, disabled)	Ш		86	How does this total annual househol	d incor	ma
οΛ	Every sourced our actions during in th	a TI C	d	ου.	compare to what it is in a "normal"		ille
80.	Ever served on active duty in th Forces, Reserves or National Gu		Armea		Higher than normal	j cur i	
	Torces, reserves or runtomar Ge		Spouse/		Normal		
	Never served in the military	You	Partner		Lower than normal		
	Only on active duty for training in	_					
	the Reserves or National Guard			87.	Does your total annual household in	come	
	Now on active duty				include any of the following sources	?	
	On active duty in the past, but		П		Wassanalam	Yes	No
	not now	_	_		Wages or salary Business or self-employment		
81.	Besides you (and your spouse/pa	artner)	who else		Interest or dividends	H	
01.	lives in your household? Mark a				Alimony or child support	H	H
	Children/grandchildren under age	_ ^	F		Social Security, pension or other		
	Children/grandchildren age 18 – 2				retirement benefits		
	Children/grandchildren age 23 or						
	Parents of you or your spouse or p			88.	Does anyone in your household have	any of	f the
	Other relatives like siblings or cou				following?	·	
	☐ Non-relative					Yes	No
	_				401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension plan		
	☐ No one else				Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds (not in		
					retirement accounts or pension plans)		
					Certificates of deposit		
					Investment real estate	Ш	



89.	Which <u>one</u> of the following statement describes the amount of financial risl willing to take when you save or make	92. In the last couple of years, have any of the following happened to you (or your spouse/partner)? Yes No							
	investments?				Layoff, unemployment, o	r reduced		Yes	No
	☐ Take substantial financial risks expecting	ig to e	arn		hours of work				
	substantial returns				Retirement				
	Take above-average financial risks experience arn above-average returns	ecting	to		Promotion				
	Take average financial risks expecting t	o earn	1		Starting a new job				
	average returns	- 	-		Starting a second job				
	☐ Not willing to take any financial risks				Business failure				
					A personal financial crisi	S			
90.	Do you agree or disagree with the fol statements?			93.	In the last couple year changed for you (and				_
		Agree	Disagree		enungeu ioi you (unu	Significant	-	ſ	nificant
	Owning a home is a good financial investment				Household income	Increase	Change		ecrease
	Most mortgage lenders generally				Housing expenses		片		H
	treat borrowers well				Non-housing expenses	H	H		H
	Most mortgage lenders would offer me roughly the same rates and fees			04	In the next couple of y		, do vo	all ovr	noot.
	Late payments will lower my		_	74.	the following to change		•	_	jeci
	credit rating				spouse/partner)?	c for you	(and y	oui	
	Lenders shouldn't care about any late payments, only whether loans are fully repaid				Household income	Significant Increase	Little/N Change		gnificant ecrease
	It is okay to default or stop making	Ш			Housing expenses		H		H
	mortgage payments if it is in the borrower's financial interest				Non-housing expenses				
	I would consider counseling or taking a course about managing my finances if I faced financial difficulties			95.	How likely is it that in you (or your spouse/p		_	-	ears Not
						•	Very So	mewha	t At All
91.	In the last couple of years, have any	of the	<u> </u>		Retirement				
	following happened to you?				Difficulties making your mortgage payments				
	0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Yes	No		A layoff, unemployment,	or			
	Separated, divorced or partner left				forced reduction in hou	ırs			
	Married, remarried or new partner Death of a household member				Some other personal fina	ncial	_	_	_
	Addition to your household	Ш			crisis		Ш	Ш	Ш
	(not including spouse/partner)			96.	If your household fa	ced an un	expect	ed	
	Person leaving your household (not including spouse/partner)			700	personal financial cr years, how likely is it	isis in the	next c		e of
	Disability or serious illness of				January and a January	•			Not
	household member				Pay your bills for the nex		very Sol	mewna	t At All
	Disaster affecting a property you own				months without borrow				
	Disaster affecting your (or your spouse/partner's) work				Get significant financial from family or friends	_		П	П
	Moved within the area (less than 50 miles) Moved to a new area (50 miles or more)				Borrow a significant amo				
					Significantly increase yo income				

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

We have provided space below for any additional comments. If the COVID-19 (coronavirus) situation has affected or might affect your ability to make your mortgage payments, please tell us about it here. 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

For any questions about the survey or online access you can call toll free 1-855-339-7877.