



### Improving Mortgage Experiences in America

### **National Survey of Mortgage Originations**

You can complete this paper copy and mail it back 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. Online responses are also processed more quickly, making it less likely that you will receive reminders to complete this survey.

	To Complete the Survey Online	
PC/TABLET	Go to: <u>www.NSMOsurvey.com</u> and enter the unique access code provided in the letter and your 5-digit zip code.	
MOBILE DEVICE	Text your unique access code to (202) 759-2029 to receive a link to the survey or scan the QR code.	
ESPAÑOL	Vaya a: <u>www.NSMOsurvey.com</u> e ingrese el código de acceso único que se le envió en la carta y su código postal de 5 digitos.	
	Para contestar la encuesta en un aparato móvil/teléfono inteligente Envie en un mensaje de texto su código de acceso único al (202) 759-2 o escanee el código QR.	029

If you have any online difficulties or questions about the survey, please call 1-855-339-7877 or visit our websites - www.fhfa.gov/nsmo and consumerfinance.gov

### **National Survey of Mortgage Originations**

#### WHO ARE THE SURVEY SPONSORS?

The **Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA),** is an independent regulatory agency responsible for the effective supervision, regulation, and housing mission oversight of **Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac,** the <u>Federal Home Loan Bank System</u>, and the Office of Finance, and ensures a competitive, liquid, efficient, and resilient housing finance market.

The **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)** is a Federal agency created in 2010 to make mortgages, credit cards, automobile and other consumer loans work better and ensure that these markets are fair, transparent, and competitive.

#### WHY TAKE THIS SURVEY?

The most effective way for the sponsoring agencies to understand the mortgage process is to ask you about your experience. Learning directly from borrowers like you about your mortgage experiences will help us improve lending practices and the mortgage process for future borrowers.

#### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The time will vary based on your experiences, but you can expect to spend 20-30 minutes.

#### **HOW WERE YOU SELECTED?**

Survey recipients were selected at random from across the United States. Your answers will not be connected to your name or any other identifying information.

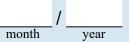
#### We look forward to hearing from you.

**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.

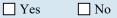
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection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

OMB No. 2590-0012 Expires 6/30/2023

- 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?
- 2. When did you take out this mortgage? If you took out or co-signed for more than one mortgage, please refer to your experience with the most recent refinance, modification, or new mortgage.



3. Did we mail this survey to the address of the property you financed with this mortgage?



- **4.** Who signed or co-signed for this mortgage? *Mark <u>all</u> that apply.* 
  - I signed
  - Spouse/partner including a former spouse/partner
  - Parents
  - Children
  - Other relatives
  - Other (e.g. friend, business partner)
- → If you co-signed this loan with others, take into account all co-signers as best you can when answering the survey. If no co-signers, answer based on your own situation.
- 5. When you began the process of getting this mortgage, how familiar were you (and any co-signers) with each of the following?

	Very	Somewhat	At All
The mortgage interest rates available at that time			
The different types of mortgages available			
The mortgage process			
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			

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

Very	Somewhat
------	----------

🗌 Not at all

7. How firm an idea did you have about the mortgage you wanted?

Firm idea Some i	dea
------------------	-----

Little idea

Not

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

	Lot	Little	At All
Your mortgage lender/broker			
Other mortgage lenders/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, credit unions or financial planners			
Housing counselors			
Other (specify)			

- 9. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes your shopping process?
  - ☐ I picked the loan type first, and then I picked the mortgage lender/broker
  - ☐ I picked the mortgage lender/broker first, and then I picked the loan type
- 10. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes how you applied for this mortgage?

Directly to a lender, such as a bank or credit union

- Through a mortgage broker who works with multiple lenders to get you a loan
- Through a builder who arranged financing
- Other (specify)

 $\square 2$ 

11. How many different mortgage lenders/brokers did you seriously consider before choosing where to apply for this mortgage?

4

3

	1083

5 or more

 $\Box$  1

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In person No primary way

- ow open were you to suggestions from your ortgage lender/broker about mortgages with fferent features or terms?
  - ] Very

Somewhat

Not at all

ow important were each of the following in termining the mortgage you took out?

		Not
	Important	Important
Lower interest rate		
Lower APR (Annual Percentage Rate	e) 🗌	
Lower closing fees		
Lower down payment		
Lower monthly payment		
An interest rate fixed for the life		
of the loan		
A term of 30 years		
No mortgage insurance		

our lender may have given you a booklet Your home loan toolkit: A step-by-step uide," do you remember receiving a copy?

Yes
No
Don't know

#### the process of getting this mortgage from our mortgage lender/broker, did you...

	Yes	No
Have to add another co-signer to qualify		
Resolve credit report errors or problems		
Answer follow-up requests for more information about income or assets		
Have more than one appraisal		
Redo/refile paperwork due to processing delays		
Delay or postpone closing date		
Have your "Loan Estimate" revised to reflect changes in your loan terms		
Check other sources to confirm that terms of this mortgage were reasonable		

id the "Loan Estimate" you received from your ortgage lender/broker...

	Yes	No
Have easy to understand information		
Contain valuable information		
Cause you to take an action, such as seek a change in your loan or closing		



### 22. 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 (discount points)		
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		

### 23. In selecting your settlement/closing agent did you use someone...

	Yes	No
Selected/recommended by the mortgage lender/broker, or real estate agent		
You used previously		
Found shopping around		

Did not have a settlement/closing agent

#### 24. Do you have title insurance on this mortgage?



### 25. Which <u>one</u> best describes how you picked the title insurance?

- Reissued previous title insurance
- Used title insurance recommended by mortgage lender/broker or settlement agent
- Shopped around

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

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

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

	Very	Somewhat	Not At All
Mortgage lender/broker you used			
Application process			
Documentation process required for the loan			
Property appraisal			
Loan closing process			
Information in mortgage disclosure documents			
Timeliness of mortgage disclosure documents			
Settlement agent			

### 28. Did you take a course about home-buying or talk to a professional housing counselor?



 $\square$  No  $\rightarrow$  Skip to 32 on page 4

#### 29. Was your home-buying course or counseling...

	Yes	No
In person, one-on-one		
In person, in a group		
Over the phone		
Online		
Required		

### 30. How many hours was your home-buying course or counseling?

- Less than 3 hours
- 3 6 hours
- 7 12 hours
- More than 12 hours

### 31. Overall, how helpful was your home-buying course or counseling?

Ury Very

Somewhat Not at all



32. Which <u>one</u> of these reasons best describes this most recent mortgage?	36. How important were the following in your ↑ decision to refinance, modify or obtain a new
<ul> <li>To buy a property</li> <li>To refinance or modify an earlier mortgage</li> <li>To add/remove co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)</li> <li>To finance a construction loan</li> <li>To take out a new loan on a mortgage-free property</li> <li>Some other purpose (specify)</li> </ul>	mortgage?       Not         Important       Important         Change to a fixed-rate loan
33. Did you do the following before or after you made an offer on this house or property? Before After Did	<ul><li>37. Approximately how much was owed, in total, on the old mortgage(s) and loan(s) you refinanced?</li></ul>
Offer         Offer         Not Do           Contacted a lender to explore mortgage options         Image: Contacted a lender to explore	<ul> <li>\$00</li> <li>□ Zero (the property was mortgage-free)</li> </ul>
Got a pre-approval or pre- qualification from a lender	38. Did you use the money you got from this new mortgage for any of the following? Yes No
Indee a decision on which     lender to use     Submitted an official loan     application	College expenses          Auto or other major purchase          Buy out co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)          Pay off other bills or debts
34. Did you use any of the following sources of funds to buy this property?	Home repairs or new construction
Used       Used         Proceeds from the sale of another property <ul> <li></li></ul>	Other (specify)
Assistance or loan from a nonprofit or government agency	Did not get money from refinancing
A second lien, home equity loan, or home equity line of credit (HELOC)	This Mortgage
	<ul> <li>→ 39. When you took out this most recent mortgage or refinance, what was the dollar amount you borrowed?</li> <li>\$00 □ Don't know</li> </ul>
% □ Don't know	40. What is the monthly payment, including the amount paid to escrow for taxes and insurance?
	\$00 □ Don't know
	41. What is the interest rate on this mortgage?
	% Don't know



Don't

#### 42. Which one of the following best describes how you 47. Were the loan costs you paid similar to what you decided on the interest rate of your mortgage?

- 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

#### 43. Does this mortgage have...

	Yes	No	Know
A prepayment penalty (fee if the mortgage is paid off early)			
An escrow account for taxes and/or homeowner insurance			
An adjustable rate (one that can change over the life of the loan)			
A balloon payment			
Interest-only payments			
Private mortgage insurance			
Lender-required flood insurance			

#### 44. At any time after you made your final loan application did any of the following change?

	Higher	Same	Lower
Monthly payment			
Interest rate			
Other fees			
Amount of money needed to close loan			

45. The "Closing Disclosure" statement you received at closing shows the loan closing costs and other closing costs separately. What were the loan closing costs you paid on this loan?

Don't know

46. How were the total closing costs (loan costs and other costs) for this loan paid? Don't

.00

	Yes	No	Know
By me or a co-signer with a check	_	_	_
or wire transfer			
Added to the mortgage amount			
By mortgage lender/broker			
By seller/builder			
Other (specify)			

Loan had no closing costs

had expected to pay based on the Loan Estimates or Closing Disclosures you received?

Yes No No

- 48. After closing on this mortgage, how much cash reserves in checking, savings, and other similar assets did you have remaining?
  - 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
- 49. Did you seek input about your closing documents from any of the following people?

	1 65	110
Mortgage lender/broker		
Settlement/closing agent		
Real estate agent		
Personal attorney		
Title insurance agent		
Trusted friend or relative who is not		
a co-signer on the mortgage		
Housing counselor		
Other (specify)		

50. Did you face any of the following at your loan closing?

	Yes	No
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		
payment		
More cash needed at closing than		
expected, e.g. escrow, unexpected fees		
Less cash needed at closing than		
expected		
Asked to sign blank documents at closing		
Asked to sign pre-dated or post-dated		
documents at closing		
Felt rushed at closing or not given time		
to read documents		

51. Is there any additional problem you encountered while getting this mortgage that you'd like to tell us about?



52. At the same time you took out this mortgage,	58. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes
did you also take out another loan on the property you financed with this mortgage (a	this property?
second lien, home equity loan, or a home equity	Single-family detached house
line of credit (HELOC))?	Mobile home or manufactured home
rine of crean (IIIIIOC)). →□ Yes	Townhouse, row house, or villa
	2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit dwelling
$\bigcup \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Skip to 54}$	Apartment (or condo/co-op) in apartment
53. What was the amount of this loan?	building Unit in a partly commercial structure
¢ 00	Other (specify)
\$00	
54. How well could you explain to someone the	59. Does this mortgage cover more than one unit?
Not	Yes No
Very Somewhat At Al	
Process of taking out a mortgage Difference between a fixed- and	60. About how much do you think this property is worth in terms of what you could sell it for now?
an adjustable-rate mortgage	worth in terms of what you could sen it for now:
Difference between a prime and	\$ .00 Don't know
subprime loan	
Difference between a mortgage's	61. Do you rent out all or any portion of this
interest rate and its APR	property?
Amortization of a loan	Yes
Consequences of not making required mortgage payments	$\square \text{ No} \rightarrow \text{Skip to } 63$
Difference between lender's and owner's title insurance	↓ 62. How much rent do you receive annually?
Relationship between discount points and interest rate	\$00 per year
Reason payments into an escrow account can change	
	63. Besides you, the mortgage co-signers, and
This Mortgaged Property	renters, does anyone else help pay the expenses for this property?
This Wortgaged Freperty	$\Box Yes \Box No$
55. When did you first become the owner of this	
property?	64. Which one of the following best describes how
1	you use this property?
	Primary residence (where you
month year	
	spend the majority of your time)
56. What was the purchase price of this property, o	It will be my primary residence soon
56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> </ul>
56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Skip to 67 on page 7</li> </ul>
56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Skip to 67 on page 7</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?</li> <li> §</li></ul>	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Rental or investment property</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?</li> <li>\$00 □ Don't know</li> <li>57. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes how</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Rental or investment property</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?</li> <li>§00 □ Don't know</li> <li>57. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes how you acquired this property?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Rental or investment property</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?</li> <li>\$</li></ul>	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Rental or investment property</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> <li>65. If primary residence, when did you move into</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?</li> <li>\$</li></ul>	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Rental or investment property</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> </ul> 65. If primary residence, when did you move into this property?
<ul> <li>56. What was the purchase price of this property, o if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?</li> <li>\$</li></ul>	<ul> <li>It will be my primary residence soon</li> <li>Seasonal or second home</li> <li>Home for other relatives</li> <li>Rental or investment property</li> <li>Other (specify)</li> <li>65. If primary residence, when did you move into</li> </ul>



# 66. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes your willingness or ability to move from your primary residence?

- Willing and able to move
- Willing but unable to move
- Unwilling to move
- Unsure/Don't know at this time

#### 67. In the last couple years, how have the following changed in the neighborhood where this property is located?

	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 o short sales	r		
Number of homes impac by natural disasters	ted		
House prices			
Overall desirability of living there			

# 68. What do you think will happen to the prices of homes in this neighborhood over the next couple of years?

- Increase a lot
- Increase a little
- Remain about the same
- Decrease a little
- Decrease a lot

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

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

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

			1101
	Very	Somewhat	At All
Sell this property			
Move but keep this property			
Refinance the mortgage on this property			
Pay off this mortgage and own the property mortgage-free			

### Your Household

- 71. What is your current marital status?
  - Married
    Separated
    Never married
    Divorced
    Widowed
  - 72. Do you have a partner who shares the decision-making and responsibilities of running your household but is not your legal spouse?
    - Yes No

Please answer the following questions for you and your spouse or partner, if applicable.

73. Age at last birthday:

74.

Male

Female

	You	Spouse/ Partner
	years	years
Sex:		
	You	Spouse/ Partner

Snouse/

Spouse/ Partner

#### 75. Highest level of education achieved:

	You	Spouse/ Partner
Some schooling		
High school graduate		
Technical school		
Some college		
College graduate		
Postgraduate studies		

76. Hispanic or Latino:

Yes	You	Partner
No		

77. Race: Mark <u>all</u> that apply.

	You	Partr
White		
Black or African American		
American Indian or Alaska Native		
Asian		
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		



Not

#### 78. Current work status: Mark <u>all</u> that apply.

		Spouse
	You	Partne
Self-employed full time		
Self-employed part time		
Employed full time		
Employed part time		
Retired		
Unemployed, temporarily laid-off or on leave		
Not working for pay (student, homemaker, disabled)		

#### 79. Ever served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, Reserves or National Guard?

Never served in the military	You	Partne
Only on active duty for training in the Reserves or National Guard		
Now on active duty		
On active duty in the past, but not now		

### 80. Besides you (and your spouse/partner) who else lives in your household? *Mark <u>all</u> that apply.*

Children/grandchildren under age 18
Children/grandchildren age 18 – 22
Children/grandchildren age 23 or older
Parents of you or your spouse or partner

- Other relatives like siblings or cousins
- Non-relative

No one else

### 81. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

#### $\Box Yes$

No → Skip to 84

82. Was it important to get your mortgage documents in this language?

Yes No

83. Did you get mortgage documents in this language?

🗌 Yes 📃 No

# **84.** Approximately how much is your total annual household income from all sources (wages, salaries, tips, interest, child support, investment income, retirement, social security, and alimony)?

Less than \$35,000
\$35,000 to \$49,999
\$50,000 to \$74,999
\$75,000 to \$99,999
\$100,000 to \$174,999
\$175,000 or more

### 85. How does this total annual household income compare to what it is in a "normal" year?

Higher than normal

Normal

Lower than normal

### 86. Does your total annual household income include any of the following sources?

	Yes	No
Wages or salary		
Business or self-employment		
Interest or dividends		
Alimony or child support		
Social Security, pension or other		
retirement benefits		

### 87. Does anyone in your household have any of the following?

	y es	INO
401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension plan		
Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds (not in		
retirement accounts or pension plans)		
Certificates of deposit		
Investment real estate		

- 88. Which <u>one</u> of the following statements best describes the amount of financial risk you are willing to take when you save or make investments?
  - Take substantial financial risks expecting to earn substantial returns
  - Take above-average financial risks expecting to earn above-average returns
  - Take average financial risks expecting to earn average returns
  - Not willing to take any financial risks



### 89. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree
Owning a home is a good financial investment		
Most mortgage lenders generally treat borrowers well		
Most mortgage lenders would offer me roughly the same rates and fees		
Late payments will lower my credit rating		
Lenders shouldn't care about any late payments, only whether loans are fully repaid		
It is okay to default or stop making mortgage payments if it is in the borrower's financial interest		
I would consider counseling or taking a course about managing my finances if I faced financial difficulties		

### 90. In the last couple of years, have any of the following happened to you?

	Yes	No
Separated, divorced or partner left		
Married, remarried or new partner		
Death of a household member		
Addition to your household		
(not spouse/partner)		
Person leaving your household		
(not spouse/partner)		
Disability or serious illness of		
household member		
Disaster affecting a property you own		
Disaster affecting your (or your		
spouse/partner's) work		
Moved within the area (less than 50 miles)		
Moved to a new area (50 miles or more)		

# 91. 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		

### 92. 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			

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

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

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

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

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

	Very	Somewhat	At All
Pay your bills for the next 3 months without borrowing			
Get significant financial help from family or friends			
Borrow a significant amount from a bank or credit union			
Significantly increase your income			

96. In the next ten years, what do you think could decrease the value of a property you own?



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.

