Tell us about your recent mortgage experience

A nationwide survey of mortgage borrowers throughout the United States



Learning directly from borrowers, like you, about your experiences will help us improve lending practices and the mortgage process for future borrowers.

Two Federal agencies, The Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are working together on your behalf to improve the safety of the U.S. housing finance system and ensure all consumers have access to financial products and services.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to complete this survey. You can mail back the paper survey in the enclosed business reply envelope OR complete the survey online.

The online version of the questionnaire may be easier, and faster, to complete, because it automatically skips any questions that don't apply to you.

- GO TO www.NSMOsurvey.com
 LOG IN with your unique survey PIN # found in the accompanying letter
 - Esta encuesta está disponible en español en línea
- 1 Visite al sitio web <u>www.NSMOsurvey.com</u>
- Inicie la sesión con su número PIN único de la encuesta que se encuentra en la carta adjunta.

Thanks so much for your help with this important national effort to improve people's experiences in financing home ownership.

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.

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	ank you for helping us to learn in perience in getting or refinancing	5.	5. When you began the process of getting this mortgage, how concerned were you about qualifying for a mortgage?												
1.	Within the past 18 months of out or co-sign for a mortgage refinance of an existing mort	e loan ir tgage? signed for	r more the	6.	☐ Very ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all How firm an idea did you (and any co-signers) have about the mortgage you wanted?										
	one mortgage during refer to your experien recent refinance or n		Firm idea	☐ Some i		Litt	le idea								
	 No → Please return the blank questionnaire so we know the survey does not apply to you. The money enclosed is yours to keep. 					7. How much did you use each of the following sources to get information about mortgages or mortgage lenders?									
2.	Did we mail this survey to the house or property you finance			9				A Lot	A Little	Not At All					
	mortgage?		Your lender or m	ortgage broke	er 🗌										
				Other lenders or l	orokers										
	Yes No					Real estate agents	or builders								
3.	Including you, who signed or	· co-sigr	ed for			Material in the m	ail								
	this mortgage? Mark <u>all</u> that		Websites that pro on getting a mo		tion	П									
	I signed		Newspaper/TV/R				一一								
	Spouse/partner including a for		Friends/relatives/				$\overline{\Box}$								
	Parents		Bankers or finance												
	Children		Housing counseld	-											
	Other relatives		Other (specify)			_									
	Other (e.g. friend, business par	rtner)				(speeily)				П					
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 this mortgage, how familiar were you (and any						 8. Which of the following best describes your shopping process? I picked the loan type first, and then I picked the lender/mortgage broker I picked the lender/mortgage broker first, and then I picked the loan type 									
	co-signers) with each of the f		5 '	Not		i pieked tile	ioan type								
	The man decree in terms of material	Very	Somewhat	At All	9.	How did you ap	ply for this	mortgag	e? Mark	<u>one</u>					
	The mortgage interest rates available at that time			П		answer.									
	The different types of					☐ Directly to a lender, such as a bank or credit union ☐ Through a mortgage broker (someone who works									
	mortgages available			님		with multiple lenders to get a loan) Other (specify)									
	The mortgage process The down payment needed to														
	qualify for a mortgage			П						_					
	The income needed to qualify for a mortgage				10.	0. How many different lenders/mortgage brokers did you seriously consider before choosing									
	Your credit history or					where to apply									
	credit score						□ 3	□ 4	☐ 5 or mo	ore					
	The money needed at closing	Ш		Ш											

did you end up applying to?	determining the mortgage you took out?					
\square 1 \square 2 \square 3 \square 4 \square 5 or more	Not					
	Lower interest rate					
12 Did you annly to many then an alondary	Lower APR (Annual Percentage Rate)					
12. Did you apply to more than one lender/ mortgage 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						
	17. Was the "Loan Estimate" you received from your					
13. How important were each of the following in	lender/mortgage broker					
choosing the lender/mortgage broker you used	Yes No					
for the mortgage you took out?	Easy to understand					
Important Important	Valuable information					
Having an established banking	18. Did the "Loan Estimate" lead you to					
relationship	•					
Having a local office or branch nearby	Yes No Ask questions of your lender/mortgage					
Used previously to get a mortgage	broker					
Lender/mortgage broker is a personal friend or relative	Seek a change in your loan or closing					
friend or relative Lender/mortgage broker operates	Apply to a different lender/mortgage					
online	broker					
Recommendation from a friend/ relative/co-worker	19. In the process of getting this mortgage from					
Recommendation from a real	your lender/mortgage broker, did you					
estate agent/home builder	Have to add another co-signer to qualify ☐ ☐					
Reputation of the lender/mortgage broker	Resolve credit report errors or problems					
Spoke my primary language, which is not English	Answer follow-up requests for more					
not English	information about income or assets					
	Have more than one appraisal					
14. Who initiated the first contact between you and	Redo/refile paperwork due to processing					
the lender/mortgage broker you used for the	delays					
mortgage you took out?	Delay or postpone closing date					
☐ I (or one of my co-signers) did	Have your "Loan Estimate" revised					
☐ The lender/mortgage 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					
	20. Your lender may have given you a booklet					
15. How open were you to suggestions from your	"Your home loan toolkit: A step-by-step					
lender/mortgage broker about mortgages with	guide", do you remember receiving a copy?					
different features or terms?						
☐ Very ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not at all	Yes – Continue with Q21					
	□ No – Skip to Q22					
	☐ Don't know – Skip to Q22					

	lead you to ask additional questi		mortgage you got was the one with the							
	your mortgage terms?				Not					
	☐ Yes ☐ No			Very Somewhat	At All					
				Best terms to fit your needs Lowest interest rate for which						
22	During the application process were	wan tal	4	you could qualify						
<i>LL</i> .	During the application process were about mortgages with any of the follo		u	Lowest closing costs	H					
	about mortgages with any of the following	Yes	No							
	An interest rate that is fixed for the	168	110							
	life of the loan			27. Overall, how satisfied are you with the						
	An interest rate that could change over	_		Very Somewhat	Not					
	the life of the loan			Lender/mortgage broker	AtAll					
	A term of less than 30 years			you used						
	A higher interest rate in return for lower			Application process						
	closing costs			Documentation process						
	A lower interest rate in return for paying	_	_	required for the loan						
	higher closing costs (discount points)	Ш		Loan closing process						
	Interest-only monthly payments			Information in mortgage						
	An escrow account for taxes and/or homeowner insurance			disclosure documents	Ш					
	A prepayment penalty (fee if the mortgage			Timeliness of mortgage disclosure documents						
	is paid off early)		П	Settlement agent	H					
	Reduced documentation or "easy"		ш	Settlement agent						
	approval									
	An FHA, VA, USDA or Rural Housing	_	_	28. Did you take a course about home-buying o	or					
	loan	Ш		talk to a housing counselor?						
				\square No – Skip to Q32						
23.	In selecting your settlement/closing a	igent di	d	☐ Yes ─						
	you	W	NI.	20 H						
	Use an agent selected/recommended by the	Yes	No	29. How was the home-buying course or counseling provided?						
	lender/mortgage broker			~ .	3 .7					
	Use an agent you had used previously			In person, one-on-one ☐	No					
	Shop around			In person, in a group	H					
				Over the phone						
	Did not have a settlement/closing ag	gent		Online						
	5			30. How many hours was the home-buying	.					
24.	Do you have title insurance on this m	ortgag	e?	course or counseling?	5					
	Yes – Continue with Q25			C C						
	□ No – Skip to Q26			Less than 3 hours 3 – 6 hours						
	☐ Don't know – <i>Skip to Q26</i>			☐ 7 – 12 hours						
				☐ More than 12 hours						
	25. Which best describes how you pi	icked th	ie	iviole than 12 hours						
	title insurance?			31. Overall, how helpful was the home-buy	ying					
	Reissued previous title insurance			course or counseling?						
	Used title insurance recommended	bv		☐ Very ☐ Somewhat ☐ Not	at all					
	lender/mortgage broker or settler	•	nt	<u> </u>						
	☐ Shopped around									

32.	what was the primary purpose for			50. How important were the following in your						
	recent mortgage? If you refinanced		ting	decision to refinance, modify or obtain a new						
	mortgage for any reason, please sele	ct		mortgage?						
	refinance below. Mark <u>one</u> answer.			Not						
	Demokratic Community Community	022		Important Important						
	Purchase of a property – <i>Continue with</i>	i Q33		Change to a fixed-rate loan						
	Permanent financing on a	`		Get a lower interest rate						
	construction loan			Get a lower monthly payment						
				Consolidate or pay down other debt						
	Refinance or modification of an			Repay the loan more quickly						
	existing mortgage	Skip	to Q36—	Take out cash						
	☐ New loan on a mortgage-free property	ĺ	~	Take out cash						
	☐ Some other purpose (specify)									
				37. Approximately how much was owed, in total, on						
		_丿		the old mortgage(s) and loan(s) you refinanced?						
			_	the old moregage(s) and loan(s) you remained						
33.	Did you do the following before or a	fter yo	u made							
	an offer on this house or property?			\$00						
	Before	e After	Did	☐ Zero (the property was mortgage-free)						
	Offer	Offer	Not Do							
	Contacted a lender to explore			20 11 1 41 4 4 1 4 6						
	mortgage options			38. How does the total amount of your new						
	Got a pre-approval or pre-			mortgage(s) compare to the total amount of the						
	qualification from a lender			old mortgage(s) and loan(s) you paid off						
	Decided on the type of loan			(include any new second liens, home equity loans,						
	Made a decision on which			or a home equity line of credit (HELOC))?						
	<u> </u>									
				New amount is lower – <i>Skip to Q40</i>						
	Submitted an official loan		_	\square New amount is about the same – <i>Skip to Q40</i>						
	application	Ш		☐ New amount is higher						
				☐ Property was mortgage-free						
34.	What percent down payment did yo	u make	1 Toperty was mortgage-nee							
	this property?			39. Did you use the money you got from this						
				new mortgage for any of the following?						
	<u>0</u> %									
	Less than 3%			Yes No						
	3% to less than 5%			College expenses						
	5% to less than 10%			Auto or other major purchase						
	☐ 10% to less than 20%			Buy out co-borrower e.g. ex-spouse						
				Pay off other bills or debts						
	20% to less than 30%			Home repairs or new construction						
	30% or more			Savings						
				Closing costs of new mortgage						
35.	Did you use any of the following sou	rces of		Business or investment						
	funds to purchase this property?									
			Not	Other (specify)						
		Used	Used							
	Proceeds from the sale of another propert	y 🗌								
	Savings, retirement account, inheritance,			-1 ·						
	or other assets			This Mortgage						
	Assistance or loan from a nonprofit or									
	government agency			40. When you took out this most recent mortgage or						
			Ш	↑ refinance, what was the loan amount (the dollar						
	A second lien, home equity loan, or home			amount you borrowed)?						
	equity line of credit (HELOC)		Ш	amount you borrowed):						
	Gift or loan from family or friend			Δο Π Don't 1						
	Seller contribution			\$00 □ Don't know						
	Skip to Q40									
	Ship to Q40									

41.	1. What is the monthly payment, including the amount paid to escrow for taxes and insurance?						47. The Closing Disclosure statement you received at closing shows the loan closing costs and other closing costs separately. What were the loan							
	\$_		00 _] Don't	know			closing co	sts you pai	d on this	loan?			
42.	Wh	at is the interest	t rate on this	s mortş	gage?			\$.00	☐ Don't	know		
] Don't	know				e the total o	_		costs		
43.	43. Is this an adjustable-rate mortgage (one that allows the interest rate to change over the life of the loan)? ☐ Yes ☐ No							Wire trans By lender By seller/b	/mortgage br	oker	Yes	No	Don't Know	
		Oon't know						Other (spe						
44.	4. At the time of application, did the lender give you the option to set/lock the interest rate so that it would not change before closing? Yes No					Loan had no closing costs 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?								
		Oon't know						Yes No						
45.	Wh loai	en was the intern?	rest rate set/l	locked	on th	is	50. Did you seek input about your closing documents from any of the following people?							
	☐ At application ☐ Between application and closing ☐ Around closing						Settlement Real estate Personal a	e agent attorney	er	,	Yes	No		
46.		es this mortgage tures?	have any of	the fo	llowin	1g Don't			t iend or relati ner on the mo		not			
	An	orepayment penalty nortgage is paid off escrow account fo omeowner insurance	f early) or taxes and/or	Yes	No	Know		Housing c Other (spe	ounselor	ntgage				
	Inte	palloon payment erest-only payment vate mortgage insu							ne after yo on did any		lowing cl			
								Monthly p Interest ra Other fees Amount o to close	te s f money nee	ded				

52. Did you face any unpleasant 'your loan closing?	'surpr	rises" at	This Mortgaged Property					
☐ No – Skip to Q54 ☐ Yes — 53. What unpleasant surprise	es did	you face	?	57. When did you buy or get this property? If you refinanced, the date you originally bought or got the property?				
Loan documents not ready Closing did not occur as orig scheduled Three day rule required re-di Mortgage terms different at e e.g. interest rate, monthly p More cash needed at closing e.g. escrow, unexpected fe Asked to sign blank documen Rushed at closing or not give to read documents Other (specify) 54. At the same time you took ou did you also take out another property you financed with th second lien, home equity loan, of	ginally isclosure closing payments es en time	Yes Yes The property of the	month year 58. What was the purchase price of this property, or if you built it, the construction and land cost? \$					
line of credit (HELOC))? No – Skip to Q56 Yes 55. What was the amount of	this lo							
\$ Don't know 56. How well could you explain to	.00 o some	eone the	- ·	☐ Unit in a partly commercial structure ☐ Other (specify)				
	Very	Somewhat	Not At All	61. Does this mortgage cover more than one unit?				
Process of taking out a mortgage Difference between a fixed- and an adjustable-rate mortgage				☐ 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 Amortization of a loan				\$00				
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				☐ No – <i>Skip to Q65</i> ☐ Yes —				
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				
				33030				

	Besides you, the mortgage corenters, does anyone else hel	_	71. How likely is it that in the next couple of years you will						
	expenses for this property?	ip pay the	Not						
				Very Se	omewhat At All				
	☐ Yes ☐ No		Sell this property						
			Move but keep this proper	-					
66.	Which of the following best use this property?	describes how you	Refinance the mortgage on this property						
	Primary residence (where you spend the majority of your t It will be my primary residence Seasonal or second home	ime)	Pay off this mortgage and of the property mortgage-fr	_					
	Home for other relatives Rental or investment property	Skip to Q68	Your Ho	usehold					
	Other (specify)	J	72. What is your current m	narital status?					
	67. If primary residence, w into this property?	hen did you move	☐ Married – Skip to Q74 ☐ Separated ☐ Never married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed						
	month year		→						
60	In the last counts wears how	v has the following	73. Do you have a partner who shares the decision-making and responsibilities of						
08.	In the last couple years, how changed in the neighborhood	_	_	_					
	is located?	u where this property	running your household but is not your legal spouse?						
		cant Little/No Significant							
	Increa		☐ Yes ☐ No						
	Number of homes for sale		Please answer the following questions for you and						
	Number of vacant homes		your spouse or partner, if applicable.						
	Number of homes for rent		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	<u>.</u>					
	Number of foreclosures or	пп	74. Age at last birthday:						
	short sales House prices		74. Tige at last bil thuay.		Spouse/				
	Overall desirability of			You	Partner				
	living there								
				years	years				
69.	What do you think will hap	pen to the prices of							
	homes in this neighborhood		75. Sex:						
	couple of years?			*7	Spouse/				
	☐ Increase a lot		Male	You	Partner				
	☐ Increase a little		Female						
	Remain about the same		1 emaie						
	Decrease a little								
	Decrease a lot		76. Highest level of educati	on achieved:					
	Decrease a lot				Spouse/				
			Some schooling	You 	Partner				
70.	In the next couple of years,								
	the overall desirability of liv	ving in this	High school graduate						
	neighborhood to change?		Technical school	Ш	Ш				
	☐ Become more desirable		Some college						
	Stay about the same		College graduate						
	☐ Become less desirable		Postgraduate studies						

77. Hispanic or Latino:		82. Approximately how much is your total annual					
	Spouse/ You Partner	household income from all sources (wages,					
Yes	You Partner	salaries, tips, interest, child support, investment					
No		income, retirement, social security, and alimony)?					
		Less than \$35,000					
78. Race: Mark <u>all</u> that apply.	~ .	\$35,000 to \$49,999					
	Spouse/ You Partner	\$50,000 to \$74,999					
White		\$75,000 to \$99,999					
Black or African American		\$100,000 to \$174,999					
American Indian or Alaska Native		\$175,000 or more					
Asian		83. How does this total annual household income					
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		compare to what it is in a "normal" year?					
		☐ Higher than normal					
79. Current work status: Mark <u>all</u> the	at apply.	□ Normal					
	Spouse/	Lower than normal					
Self-employed full time	You Partner						
Self-employed part time		84. Does your total annual household income					
Employed full time		include any of the following sources?					
1 2		Yes No					
Employed part time		Wages or salary Business or self-employment					
Retired		Interest or dividends					
Unemployed, temporarily laid-off or on leave		Alimony or child support					
Not working for pay (student,		Social Security, pension or other					
homemaker, disabled)		retirement benefits					
80. Ever served on active duty in the	U.S. Armed	85. Does anyone in your household have any of the					
Forces: (Active duty includes servi		following?					
Armed Forces as well as activation	_	Yes No					
Reserves or National Guard).		401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension plan					
	Spouse/ You Partner	Stocks, bonds, or mutual funds (not in					
Yes, now on active duty		retirement accounts or pension plans)					
Yes, on active duty in the past, but	пп	Certificates of deposit					
not now		Investment real estate					
No, never on active duty except for		86. Which one of the following statements best					
initial/basic training		describes the amount of financial risk you are					
No, never served in the U.S. Armed Forces		willing to take when you save or make					
Affiled Porces		investments?					
81. Besides you (and your spouse/par	rtner) who else	☐ Take substantial financial risks expecting to earn					
lives in your household? Mark <u>all</u>	that apply.	substantial returns					
☐ Children/grandchildren under age 1	8	☐ Take above-average financial risks expecting to					
Children/grandchildren age 18-22		earn above-average returns					
Children/grandchildren age 23 or ol	lder	☐ Take average financial risks expecting to earn average returns					
Parents of you or your spouse or pa		☐ Not willing to take any financial risks					
Other relatives like siblings or cous							
☐ Non-relatives							
<u>_</u>							
☐ No one else							

	statements?	HOWI	ıg		in the last couple yea changed for you (and				_		
		Agree	Disagree			Significant		_	ificant		
	Owning a home is a good financial investment				Household income	Increase	Change	Dec	crease		
	Most mortgage lenders generally treat borrowers well				Housing expenses Non-housing expenses						
	Most mortgage lenders would offer me roughly the same rates and fees					•	•				
	Late payments will lower my credit rating				In the next couple of the following to chan				ect		
	Lenders shouldn't care about any late payments, only whether loans are fully repaid				spouse/partner)? Household income	Significant Increase	Little/No	_	nificant crease		
	It is okay to default or stop making mortgage payments if it is in the borrower's financial interest				Housing expenses Non-housing expenses						
	I would consider counseling or taking a course about managing my finances if I faced financial difficulties				92. How likely is it that in the next cou				_		
					you (or your spouse/p	ŕ			Not		
	In the last couple of years, have any following happened to you?	of the			Retirement		Very Som	ewhat	At All		
	ionowing nappened to your	Yes	No		Difficulties making your mortgage payments		П	П	П		
	Separated, divorced or partner left				A layoff, unemployment	or					
	Married, remarried or new partner				forced reduction in ho						
	Death of a household member				Some other personal fina	ancial					
	Addition to your household (not including spouse/partner)				crisis						
	Person leaving your household (not including spouse/partner)				93. If your household faced an unexpected personal financial crisis in the next couple of						
	Disability or serious illness of household member				years, how likely is i	it you coul	d		Not		
	Disaster affecting a property you own						Very So	mewha	at At All		
	Disaster affecting your (or your				Pay your bills for the n		_		_		
	spouse/partner's) work				months without borro	_	Ш	Ш			
	Moved within the area (less than 50 miles) Moved to a new area (50 miles or more)				Get significant financia from family or friend						
	(Borrow a significant ar	nount	ш				
00	To the least complete Conservation of the cons	- C 41			from a bank or credit						
	In the last couple of years, have any following happened to you (or your spouse/partner)?	or tne			Significantly increase y income	our					
		Yes	No								
	Layoff, unemployment, or reduced										
	hours of work										
	Retirement	Ц									
	Promotion Starting a granials										
	Starting a new job										
	Starting a second job										
	Business failure										
	A personal financial crisis										



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 not 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.