



Homeowner Costs and Expectations

American Survey of Mortgage Borrowers

The best way to learn about the experiences of mortgage borrowers today is to hear directly from you.

The survey may be completed in one of two ways, online or you can complete the paper survey and return it in the postage paid envelope.

To complete the survey online, in English or Spanish

Go to: <u>www.ASMBsurvey.com</u>

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

Para contestar la encuesta por Internet en inglés o en español

Vaya a: www.ASMBsurvey.com

Ingrese el código de acceso único que se le envió en la carta.

If you have any questions, please call us toll free 1-855-531-0724 or visit our websites, <u>www.fhfa.gov/ASMB</u> or <u>consumerfinance.gov</u>.

American Survey of Mortgage Borrowers

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 Federal Home Loan Bank System, 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.

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.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

The time will vary based on your experiences, but you can expect to spend 15-25 minutes.

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. XXXX-XXXX Expires xx/xx/xxxx

Your Mortgage Today

1. Do you currently have a mortgage loan?

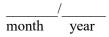
□ Yes, I have at least one mortgage loan

 \square No, I do not have a mortgage loan on

any property **Skip to 68 on page 7**

- 2. Which <u>one</u> of these reasons best describes why you took out this mortgage? If you have more than one mortgage loan, answer about the mortgage on your primary residence. If you don't have a mortgage on your primary residence, answer about a mortgage on another property.
 - \Box To buy a property
 - □ To refinance or modify an earlier mortgage
 - \Box To add/remove co-signer(s)/co-owner(s)
 - \Box To finance a construction loan
 - □ To take out a new loan on a mortgage-free property
 - □ Some other purpose (specify)

3. When did you take out this mortgage?



- 4. Did we mail this survey to the address of the property you financed with this mortgage?
 - □ Yes □ No
- 5. Who signed or co-signed for this mortgage? *Mark all that apply.*
 - □ I signed
 - □ Spouse/partner including a former spouse/partner
 - □ Parents
 - □ Children
 - \Box Other relatives
 - □ Other (e.g., friend, business partner)

- 6. When you took out this mortgage, what was the dollar amount you borrowed?
 - \$_____. 00 □ Don't know
- 7. What was the interest rate on this mortgage?

____%

Don't know

- 8. Is the current interest rate on your mortgage higher or lower than the mortgage rates lenders are offering today?
 - \Box A lot higher
 - \Box A little higher
 - \Box About the same
 - \Box A little lower
 - $\Box \quad A \text{ lot lower}$
 - Don't know
- 9. How do you think the mortgage rates offered by lenders will change in the next two years?
 - \Box Increase a lot
 - □ Increase a little
 - \Box Stay about the same
 - Decrease a little
 - Decrease a lot
 - Don't know

Property Associated with this Mortgage

10. When did you <u>first</u> become the owner of the property associated with this mortgage?

11. What was the purchase price of this property, or if you built it, how much did the construction and land cost?

\$_____. 00 □ Don't know

12. Which <u>one</u> of the following best describes this property?

- □ Single-family detached house
- \Box Mobile home or manufactured home
- □ Townhouse, row house, or villa
- □ 2-unit, 3-unit, or 4-unit dwelling
- □ Condo, co-op, or apartment in a building with 5 or more units
- □ Unit in a partly commercial structure
- \Box Other (specify)

13. When was this property built?

- □ 2020 or later
- $\square \quad 2010-2019$
- \Box 2000 2009
- □ 1990 1999
- □ 1980 1989
- □ 1970 1979
- □ 1960 1969
- □ 1950 1959
- Earlier than 1950
- 14. How much do you think this property would sell for today?

\$.00

□ Don't know

- 15. What do you think will happen to the prices of homes in this property's neighborhood over the next two years?
 - \Box Increase a lot
 - □ Increase a little
 - \Box Stay about the same
 - Decrease a little
 - □ Decrease a lot

16. How would you describe the physical condition of this property?

- □ Excellent
- \Box Very good
- \Box Good
- 🗆 Fair
- □ Poor

17. How many bedrooms and bathrooms are in this property/your unit?

Bedrooms Bathrooms

18. In general, how satisfied are you with this property?

- □ Very satisfied
- \Box Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- $\hfill\square$ Somewhat dissatisfied
- □ Very dissatisfied
- 19. In the last two years, have you considered selling this property?
 - □ Yes □ No
- 20. Do any of the following describe why you did not sell this property?

	Yes	No
Mortgage has a low interest rate		
Happy with the property or location		
Close to family and friends		
Close to job		
Could not find another property to buy		
Difficult to qualify for new mortgage		

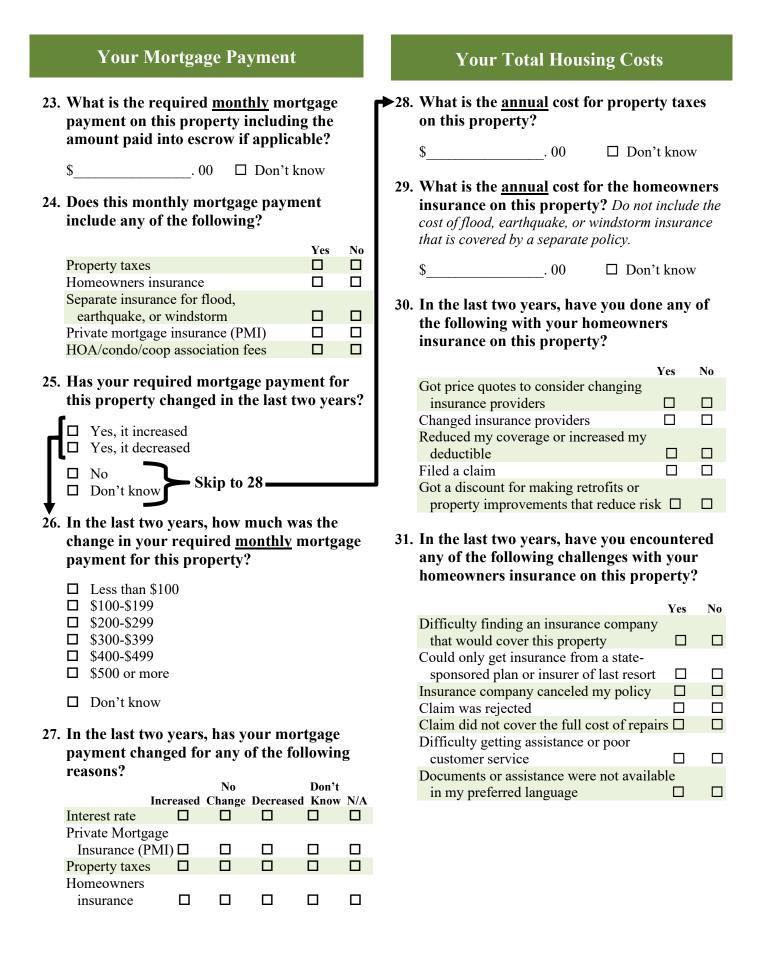
 $\square \quad N/A - none of the above$

21. When do you think you might sell this property, if at all?

- □ Currently trying to sell
- \Box 1-2 years
- \Box 3-4 years
- \Box 5-6 years
- \Box 7-8 years
- □ 9-10 years
- \Box More than 10 years
- Do not expect to sell

22. If mortgage rates offered by lenders decreased significantly, would you be more or less likely to:

	More Likely	No Change	Less Likely
Refinance this mortgage			
Borrow against this property'	s		
equity			
Sell this property			
Buy a new property			
Move within the area (less			
than 50 miles)			
Move to a new area (more			
than 50 miles)			
Renovate this property			



32. Do you have a separate policy for flood, ▶ 36. Is this property part of a condo, co-op, or earthquake, or windstorm insurance in homeowners association (HOA)? addition to homeowners insurance? ■□ Yes *Mark all that apply.* □ No ■ Skip to 40 □ Flood insurance 37. What is the monthly association fee? Earthquake insurance □ Windstorm insurance \$.00 □ Don't know □ No Don't know Skip to 36 -38. In the last 12 months, has your association required any special assessments or additional payments? 33. What is the total annual cost for your flood, earthquake, and/or windstorm insurance? □ Yes □ No ■ Skip to 40 \$.00 □ Don't know 39. What was the total amount of the special 34. In the last two years, have any of the assessments and additional payments? following happened with your flood, earthquake, and/or windstorm insurance on \$.00 Don't know this property? 40. In the last two years, how did the cost of the Yes No following change for this property? Got price quotes to consider changing insurance providers Increased Increased Same or Don't Changed insurance providers A Lot A Little Decreased Know N/A Reduced my coverages or increased my Property taxes Homeowners deductible insurance Filed a claim Flood insurance \Box Got a discount for making retrofits or Earthquake improvements that reduce risk insurance Windstorm 35. In the last two years, have you encountered insurance any of the following challenges with your HOA/condo/ flood, earthquake, and/or windstorm П coop fees insurance on this property? Yes No 41. In the next two years, how do you expect the Difficulty finding an insurance company cost of the following to change for this that would cover this property property? Could only get insurance from a state-Increase Increase Same or Don't sponsored plan or insurer of last resort Decrease Know N/A A Lot A Little Insurance company canceled my policy Property taxes Claim was rejected Homeowners Claim did not cover the full cost of repairs \Box insurance Difficulty getting assistance or poor Flood insurance customer service Earthquake Documents or assistance were not insurance available in my preferred language Windstorm insurance

п

HOA/condo/

coop fees

42. Do you currently have an escrow account for this property?



- 43. In the last two years, did your servicer notify you of a shortage of funds or deficiency in your escrow account?
 - □ Yes, I paid a lump sum to resolve it
 - □ Yes, monthly payment was increased
 - □ No
 - Don't know
- 44. In the last two years, have you had any of the following challenges with the escrow account for this property?

	Yes	No
Servicer made delayed or incorrect		
payments for taxes, insurance etc.		
Servicer made other mistakes		
Paid added fees or costs due to mistakes made by the servicer		
Did not receive advanced notice about a change to required escrow payment		
Servicer purchased insurance for me (force-placed insurance)		
Had difficulty getting assistance or poor customer service		
Documents or assistance were not available in my preferred language		

Accessing This Property's Equity

- 45. In the last two years, have you borrowed against the equity in this property using any of the following? *Mark all that apply*.
 - □ Home equity loan or line of credit
 - □ Cashout refinance
 - Did not borrow against the equity Skip to 48

46. What was the total amount you borrowed?

If a cashout refinance, how much cash did you get?

- □ Less than \$5,000
- □ \$5,000-\$9,999
- □ \$10,000-\$19,999
- □ \$20,000-\$49,999
- □ \$50,000-\$99,999
- □ \$100,000 or more
- Don't know
- 47. Did you use the money you borrowed for any of the following?

	Yes	No
College expenses		
Auto or other major purchase		
Buy out co-signer(s)/co-owners(s)		
Pay off other bills or debts		
Home repairs, renovations, or		
Improvements		
Savings		
Closing costs of new mortgage		
Business or investment		
Routine living expenses		
Other (specify)		

Property Repairs & Improvements

►48. In the last two years, have you done repairs or home improvements to any of the following for this property? HOA/condo/coop: do not include repairs to shared spaces.

	Yes	No
Building systems: plumbing, heating, etc.		
Kitchen or bathrooms		
Other interior living spaces		
Foundation, roof, or home exterior		
Deck, porch, or yard		
Built new addition or added living space		
Energy efficiency upgrades (solar panels, heat pump, etc.)		
Retrofits to better protect against		
natural disasters		
Other (specify)		

□ No repairs/improvements made → Skip to 54

- 49. What was the total cost of all repairs and improvements to this property in the last two years?
 - □ \$100 or less
 - □ \$100-\$999
 - □ \$1,000-\$4,999
 - □ \$5,000-\$9,999
 - □ \$10,000-\$19,999
 - □ \$20,000-49,999
 - □ \$50,000 or more

50. Compared to prior years, was the total amount spent for this property...

- \Box A lot higher
- \Box A little higher
- $\hfill\square$ About the same
- \Box A little lower
- \Box A lot lower
- \square N/A owned less than two years

51. Did you use any of the following to pay for the repairs and improvements?

·	Yes	No
Savings or cash		
Loan from family or friends		
Credit card paid off over time		
Home equity loan or line of credit		
Financing through the contractor		
Reimbursements from an insurance claim		
Other loan or financing		

52. How much of these costs were due to unexpected repairs?

- 🛛 All
- □ Most
- □ Some
- □ None

53. Were any of these costs because of damage from a major weather event or natural disaster?

- □ Yes
- □ No

54. Does this property currently need any repairs?



- 55. What is your best guess of what those repairs would cost?
 - \Box Less than \$100
 - □ \$100-\$999
 - □ \$1,000-\$4,999
 - □ \$5,000-\$9,999
 - □ \$10,000-\$19,999
 - □ \$20,000-\$49,999
 - □ \$50,000 or more

56. Are any of the following reasons you have not made those repairs?

	Yes	No
Could not afford it		
Could not find a contractor		
Waiting for the cost or materials or labor		
to come down		
Could not get approved for financing		
Waiting for the interest rate on financing		
to come down		
Haven't had time		
Waiting a little longer, repairs aren't urgent		

Property Uses

57. Which <u>one of the following best describes</u> how you use this property today?

ſ	■ Seasonal or second home
	□ Home for other relatives
	□ Rental or investment property
	□ Vacant or currently for sale
	\Box Other (specify)

□ Yes □ No → Skip to 60

59. When did you move out of this property?

- \Box Within the last 2 years
- □ 3-4 years ago
- \Box 5-6 years ago
- □ 7-8 years ago
- □ 9-10 years ago
- \Box More than 10 years ago

60. Do you own or rent your current primary residence?

- \Box Own with a mortgage
- □ Own free and clear (no mortgage)
- □ Rent
- □ Other _____
- 61. Do you own any other properties?

□ Yes

□ No **→ Skip to 68**

- 62. Have you previously lived in any of these properties as your primary residence?

63. How long ago did you move out of that

property? If multiple properties, answer for the property you lived in most recently.

- \Box Within the last 2 years
- □ 3-4 years ago
- □ 5-6 years ago
- □ 7-8 years ago
- □ 9-10 years ago
- \Box More than 10 years ago

64. Which of the following best describes how you use that property today?

- \Box Seasonal or second home
- \Box Home for other relatives
- □ Rental or investment property
- \Box Vacant or currently for sale
- \Box Other (specify)_

65. In the last two years, have you considered selling that property?

 \Box Yes \Box No

66. Do any of the following describe why you did not sell that property?

	Yes	No
Mortgage has a low interest rate		
Happy with the property or location		
Close to family and friends		
Close to job		
Could not find another property to buy		
Difficult to qualify for a new mortgage		

- \square N/A none of the above
- 67. If the mortgage rates offered by lenders decreased significantly, would you be more or less likely to:

	More	No	Less
	Likely	Change	Likely
Refinance the mortgage			
Sell the property			

You and Your Household

68. What is your current marital status?

■□ Married

- □ Separated ■
- □ Never married
- □ Divorced
- □ Widowed
- 69. 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.

70. Age at last birthday:

You	Spouse/ Partner
years	years

Snouse/

71. Highest level of education:

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

72. Race and/or ethnicity: Mark all that apply.

•		Spouse/
	You	Partner
White		
Hispanic or Latino		
Black or African American		
Asian		
Middle Eastern or North African		
American Indian or Alaska Native		
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		

73. What sex were you (or your spouse/partner) assigned at birth?

0		Spouse/
	You	Partner
Male		
Female		

74. Gender: Mark all that apply.

Male	You	Spouse/ Partner
Female		
Transgender, non-binary, or another gender		

75. Sexual Orientation: Mark all that apply.

Spouse/ Partner

76. Current work status: Mark all that apply.

	_	Spouse/
	You	Partner
Self-employed full time		
Self-employed part time		
Employed full time		
Employed part time		
Retired		
Unemployed, temporarily		
laid-off, furloughed		
Not working for pay (student,		
homemaker, disabled)		

77. How long does it usually take to commute from home to work (one-way)?

	You	Partner
Less than 15 minutes		
15-29 minutes		
30-59 minutes		
An hour or longer		
N/A – no commute		

78. Have you teleworked or worked from home in the last month?

	Spouse/
You	Partner
	You

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

	You	Spouse/ Partner
Never served in the military		
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. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

 \Box Yes \Box No

81. Besides you (and your spouse/partner), who else permanently lives in your home? Mark <u>all</u> that apply.

- □ Children/grandchildren 12 and under
- □ Children/grandchildren 13 -18
- □ Children/grandchildren aged 19 or older
- □ Parents of you or your spouse/partner
- □ Other relatives like siblings or cousins
- □ Non-relatives
- \Box No one else

82. In the last two years, did any of the following happen?

	Yes	No
Married, remarried or new partner		
Separated, divorced or partner left		
Disability of a household member		
Serious illness of a household member		
Had a baby or added a new person to		
household (not spouse/partner)		
Death of household member		
Person left household (not		
spouse/partner)		

Spouse/

83. In the next two years, do you expect any of the following to happen?

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)?

- \Box 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. 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		

86. Do you or anyone in your household have any of the following?

	Yes	No
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		
Cryptocurrencies		
~ 1		

87. 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 risks expecting to earn substantial returns
- □ Take above-average risks expecting to earn above-average returns
- □ Take average risks expecting to earn average returns
- □ Not willing to take any financial risks

88. In the last 12 months, how often have you struggled to pay all your bills on time?

- \Box Almost every month
- \Box Some months
- \Box A couple of months
- □ Never

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

Very Some	what	Not A t All
Pay your bills for the next 3	ewnat 1	At All
months without borrowing \Box		
Get significant financial help		
from family or friends \Box		
Borrow a significant amount		
from a bank or credit union \square		
Significantly increase your		
income		

90. In the last two years, how have the following changed?

	Significant Increase	Significant Decrease
Household income		
Housing expenses		
Non-housing expense	es 🗆	

91. Over the next two years, how do you expect the following to change?

	Significant Increase	Significant Decrease
Household income		
Housing expenses		
0 1		
Non-housing expense	es 🗆	

If you wish to add comments or further explain any of your answers, please do that here.

Do not put your name or address on the questionnaire.

Thank you for completing our survey!

Please use the enclosed business-reply envelope to return your completed questionnaire.

FHFA 1600 Research Blvd, RC B16 Rockville, MD 20850