Welcome to the Mortgage Lender Sentiment Survey®, a quarterly survey conducted by Fannie Mae among senior mortgage executives like you. We need your help to gather your views and experience with the mortgage market. Your participation is critical to ensure that results portray a representative view of key mortgage industry indicators. We hope this research will provide intelligence to help you manage your business practices.

The information you provide in this survey will be kept confidential. All results will be reported in the aggregate, and responses will not be linked to any individual person or company.

Thank you for taking part in this survey, your participation is greatly appreciated.

NHS Questions

This first series of questions asks about the overall economy and mortgage lending industry, nationwide. We’re specifically interested in your opinion as a senior mortgage executive.

/* Q1 */ In general, do you, as a senior mortgage executive, think the U.S. economy overall is on the right track or the wrong track?

1) Right track
2) Wrong track
3) Don't know

/* Q1A */ Do you think it is very difficult, somewhat difficult, somewhat easy, or very easy for consumers to get a home mortgage today?

1) Very difficult
2) Somewhat difficult
3) Somewhat easy
4) Very easy
5) Don’t know

/* Q2 */ Nationally, during the next 12 months, do you, as a senior mortgage executive, think home prices in general will go up, go down, or stay the same as where they are now?

1) Go up
2) Go down
3) Stay the same
4) Don’t know

/* Q4a */ ## IF Q2=C1 ## By about what percent do you, as a senior mortgage executive, think home prices nationally will go up on average over the next 12 months? /* OPEN END NUMERIC (0 TO 100) */

/* Q5a */ ## IF Q2=C2 ## By about what percent do you, as a senior mortgage executive, think home prices nationally will go down on average over the next 12 months? /* OPEN END NUMERIC (0 TO 100) */
Consumer Demand

/* DISPLAY */ This section is about consumer demand for single-family mortgages. We will be asking you these questions across three market categories, GSE-Eligible, Non-GSE-Eligible, and Government. We will also be asking these questions separately by purchase market and refinance market.

/* DISPLAY */ Now, let’s focus on the consumer demand for single-family purchase mortgages your firm has experienced over the past three months.

/* METRIC A */ Over the past three months, apart from normal seasonal variation, did your firm’s consumer demand for single-family purchase mortgages go up, go down, or stay the same?

Hover over the terms “GSE Eligible,” “Non-GSE Eligible,” and “Government” in the table below to see the definitions.

**Consumer Demand for Purchase Mortgages for the Past 3 Months**

1) Went up significantly
2) Went up somewhat
3) Stayed the same
4) Went down somewhat
5) Went down significantly
6) Not applicable

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q6a */ Purchase - [* GSE Eligible *] [- GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages meeting the underwriting guidelines, including loan limit amounts, of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

/* Q6b */ Purchase - [* Non-GSE Eligible *] [- Non-GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages that do not meet the GSE guidelines for purchase. These loans typically require larger down payments and typically carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

/* Q6c */ Purchase - [* Government *] [- Government Mortgages primarily include Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insured loans but also includes other programs such as Rural Housing Guaranteed and Direct loans. -]

/* END SERIES */

/* Q7 */ ## IF (Q6a=c1, c2, c4, c5) OR (Q6b= c1, c2, c4, c5) OR (Q6c= c1, c2, c4, c5) ## What do you think drove the change in your firm’s consumer demand for single family purchase mortgages over the past three months? Please be as specific as possible. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

/* END SERIES */
Now, let’s focus on the purchase mortgages over the next three months.

Over the next three months, apart from normal seasonal variation, do you expect your firm’s consumer demand for single-family purchase mortgages to go up, go down, or stay the same?

### Consumer Demand for Purchase Mortgages for the Next 3 Months

1. Go up significantly
2. Go up somewhat
3. Stay the same
4. Go down somewhat
5. Go down significantly
6. Not applicable

### REPEAT CODES */

/* Q14a */ Purchase - [* GSE Eligible *] [- GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages meeting the underwriting guidelines, including loan limit amounts, of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

/* Q14b */ Purchase - [* Non-GSE Eligible *] [- Non-GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages that do not meet the GSE guidelines for purchase. These loans typically require larger down payments and typically carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

/* Q14c */ Purchase - [* Government *] [- Government Mortgages primarily include Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insured loans but also includes other programs such as Rural Housing Guaranteed and Direct loans. -]

### END SERIES */

/* METRIC A */ # If Q14a=C1, C2 # You mentioned that you expect your firm’s consumer demand for **GSE** eligible loans will go up over the next three months. Which of the following housing marketplace factors do you think will drive the demand to go up? Please select up to two of the most important reasons and rank them in order of importance. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1. Home prices are low
2. Mortgage rates are favorable
3. There are many homes available on the market
4. It is easy to qualify for a mortgage
5. Economic conditions (e.g., employment) overall are favorable
6. Other /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

### REPEAT CODES */

/* Q46a */ 1 - Most important
/* Q46b */ 2 - Second most important

### END SERIES */
You mentioned that you expect your firm’s consumer demand for GSE eligible loans will go down over the next three months. Which of the following housing marketplace factors do you think will drive the demand down? Please select up to two of the most important reasons and rank them in order of importance. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1) Home prices are high
2) Mortgage rates are not favorable
3) There are not many homes available on the market
4) It is difficult to qualify for a mortgage
5) Economic conditions (e.g., employment) overall are not favorable
6) Other /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q47a */ 1 - Most important
/* Q47b */ 2 - Second most important

/* END SERIES */

You mentioned that you expect your firm’s consumer demand for Non-GSE eligible loans will go up over the next three months. Which of the following housing marketplace factors do you think will drive the demand to go up? Please select up to two of the most important reasons and rank them in order of importance. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1) Home prices are low
2) Mortgage rates are favorable
3) There are many homes available on the market
4) It is easy to qualify for a mortgage
5) Economic conditions (e.g., employment) overall are favorable
6) Other /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q49a */ 1 - Most important
/* Q49b */ 2 - Second most important

/* END SERIES */
You mentioned that you expect your firm’s consumer demand for Non-GSE eligible loans will go down over the next three months. Which of the following housing marketplace factors do you think will drive the demand down? Please select up to two of the most important reasons and rank them in order of importance. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1) Home prices are high
2) Mortgage rates are not favorable
3) There are not many homes available on the market
4) It is difficult to qualify for a mortgage
5) Economic conditions (e.g., employment) overall are not favorable
6) Other /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q50a */ 1 - Most important
/* Q50b */ 2 - Second most important

/* END SERIES */

You mentioned that you expect your firm’s consumer demand for government loans will go up over the next three months. Which of the following housing marketplace factors do you think will drive the demand to go up? Please select up to two of the most important reasons and rank them in order of importance. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1) Home prices are low
2) Mortgage rates are favorable
3) There are many homes available on the market
4) It is easy to qualify for a mortgage
5) Economic conditions (e.g., employment) overall are favorable
6) Other /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q51a */ 1 - Most important
/* Q51b */ 2 - Second most important

/* END SERIES */
You mentioned that you expect your firm’s consumer demand for government loans will go down over the next three months. Which of the following housing marketplace factors do you think will drive the demand down? Please select up to two of the most important reasons and rank them in order of importance.

1) Home prices are high
2) Mortgage rates are not favorable
3) There are not many homes available on the market
4) It is difficult to qualify for a mortgage
5) Economic conditions (e.g., employment) overall are not favorable
6) Other

The next section is about consumer demand for refinance mortgages. Similarly, we will be asking these questions across three market categories, GSE-Eligible, Non-GSE-Eligible, and Government.

Now, let’s focus on the consumer demand for single-family refinance mortgages your firm has experienced over the past three months.

Over the past three months, apart from normal seasonal variation, did your firm’s consumer demand for single-family refinance mortgages go up, go down, or stay the same?

1) Went up significantly
2) Went up somewhat
3) Stayed the same
4) Went down somewhat
5) Went down significantly
6) Not applicable

Refinance - [* GSE Eligible *] [- GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages meeting the underwriting guidelines, including loan limit amounts, of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

Refinance - [* Non-GSE Eligible *] [- Non-GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages that do not meet the GSE guidelines for purchase. These loans typically require larger down payments typically and carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category. -]
Refinance - [Government] - Government Mortgages primarily include Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insured loans but also includes other programs such as Rural Housing Guaranteed and Direct loans.

Now, let's focus on the refinance mortgages over the next three months.

Over the next three months, apart from normal seasonal variation, do you expect your firm's consumer demand for single-family refinance mortgages to go up, go down, or stay the same?

**Consumer Demand for Refinance Mortgages for the Next 3 Months**

1) Go up significantly
2) Go up somewhat
3) Stay the same
4) Go down somewhat
5) Go down significantly
6) Not applicable

Refinance - [GSE Eligible] - GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages meeting the underwriting guidelines, including loan limit amounts, of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Exclude Government loans from this category.

Refinance - [Non-GSE Eligible] - Non-GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages that do not meet the GSE guidelines for purchase. These loans typically require larger down payments and typically carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category.

Refinance - [Government] - Government Mortgages primarily include Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insured loans but also includes other programs such as Rural Housing Guaranteed and Direct loans.

Now you will see some questions regarding your firm's profit margin outlook.

Over the next three months, how much do you expect your firm's profit margin to change for its single-family mortgage production?

1) Increase significantly (25+ basis points)
2) Increase somewhat (5 - 25 basis points)
3) Remain about the same (0 - 5 basis points)
4) Decrease somewhat (5 - 25 basis points)
5) Decrease significantly (25+ basis points)
6) Not sure/Prefer not to answer/Not applicable
What do you think will drive the decrease in your firm’s profit margin over the next three months? Please select the two most important reasons and rank them in order of importance.

1) Consumer demand
2) Competition from other lenders
3) Government monetary or fiscal policy
4) Government regulatory compliance
5) GSE pricing and policies
6) Non-GSE (other investors) pricing and policies
7) Operational efficiency (i.e. technology)
8) Staffing (personnel costs)
9) Marketing expenses
10) Servicing costs
11) Market trend changes (i.e. shift from refinance to purchase)
12) Other

What do you think will drive the increase in your firm’s profit margin over the next three months? Please select the two most important reasons and rank them in order of importance.

1) Consumer demand
2) Less competition from other lenders
3) Government monetary or fiscal policy
4) Government regulatory compliance
5) GSE pricing and policies
6) Non-GSE (other investors) pricing and policies
7) Operational efficiency (i.e. technology)
8) Staffing (personnel costs) reduction
9) Marketing expense reduction
10) Servicing cost reduction
11) Market trend changes (i.e. shift from refinance to purchase)
12) Other
Credit Standards

/* DISPLAY */ This section is about your firm’s credit standards for approving applications from individuals for mortgage loans.

/* METRIC A */ Now, let’s focus on the past three months.

Over the past three months, how did your firm’s credit standards for approving consumer applications for mortgage loans change (across both purchase mortgages and refinance mortgages)? Please answer for GSE eligible mortgages, non-GSE eligible mortgages, and Government mortgages.

Credit Standards over the Past 3 Months
1) Eased considerably
2) Eased somewhat
3) Remained basically unchanged
4) Tightened somewhat
5) Tightened considerably
6) Not applicable

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q27a */ [* GSE Eligible *] [- GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages meeting the underwriting guidelines, including loan limit amounts, of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Exclude Government loans from this category. -]
/* Q27b */ [* Non-GSE Eligible *] [- Non-GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages that do not meet the GSE guidelines for purchase. These loans typically require larger down payments and typically carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category. -]
/* Q27c */ [* Government *] [- Government Mortgages primarily include Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insured loans but also includes other programs such as Rural Housing Guaranteed and Direct loans. -]

/* END SERIES */

/* Q28 */ ## IF ANY (Q27a, Q27b, Q27c) = c1,c2,c4,c5 ## What do you think drove the change in your firm’s credit standards for approving consumer applications for purchase and refinance mortgage loans over the last three months? Please be as specific as possible. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */
Now let's focus on the next three months.

Over the next three months, how do you expect your firm's credit standards for approving applications from individuals for mortgage loans to change (across purchase mortgages and refinance mortgages)?

**Credit Standards over the Next 3 Months**

1) Ease considerably
2) Ease somewhat
3) Remain basically unchanged
4) Tighten somewhat
5) Tighten considerably
6) Not applicable

**REPEAT CODES */

**Q31a */ [GSE Eligible *] [GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages meeting the underwriting guidelines, including loan limit amounts, of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

**Q31b */ [Non-GSE Eligible *] [Non-GSE Eligible Mortgages are defined as mortgages that do not meet the GSE guidelines for purchase. These loans typically require larger down payments and typically carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

**Q31c */ [Government *] [Government Mortgages primarily include Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) insured loans but also includes other programs such as Rural Housing Guaranteed and Direct loans. -]

**END SERIES */

**Q32 */ [IF ANY (Q31a, Q31b, Q31c) = c1,c2,c4,c5 ] What do you think will drive the change in your firm's credit standards for approving consumer applications for purchase and refinance mortgage loans over the next three months? Please be as specific as possible. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

**QR83 */ Does your firm originate or acquire loans through wholesale channels such as mortgage brokers or correspondent channels?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Not sure/don’t know

**QR84 */ [IF QR83=c1 ] Does your firm apply credit overlays when originating or acquiring loans through wholesale channels?

1) Yes
2) No
3) Not sure/don’t know
How does your firm anticipate changing your credit overlays to brokers/correspondents over the next 6 months?

1) We plan on reducing credit overlays
2) We plan on increasing credit overlays
3) We plan on keeping credit overlays about the same

Mortgage Execution Share

The next series of questions is about your firm's mortgage-origination execution strategy.

Approximately, what percent of your firm’s total mortgage originations goes to each of the following categories? Please enter a percent in each box below. If a category is not applicable to your firm, please enter 0. The percentages below must add up to 100%.

Portfolio Retention
GSE (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac)
Ginnie Mae (FHA/VA)
Private Label Securities / Non-Agency Securities
Whole Loan Sales to NON-GSE (Correspondent)
Other

On the previous page you indicated "other." Please specify your firm's other post mortgage-origination execution category.

Looking forward, what percent of your firm’s total mortgage originations over the next 12 months will go to each of the following categories? Please enter a percent for each category. If a category is not applicable to your firm, please enter 0. The percentages below must add up to 100%.
Mortgage Servicing Rights

/* DISPLAY */ Now, we will be asking you about your firm’s mortgage servicing rights (MSR) strategy.

/* METRIC A */ Approximately, what percent of your mortgage servicing rights (MSR) goes to each of the following categories? Please enter a percent in each box below. If a category is not applicable to your firm, please enter 0. The percentages below must add up to 100%. /* OPEN END NUMERIC (0 TO 100) */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q38a */ MSR retained, serviced in-house
/* Q38b */ MSR retained, serviced by a subservicer
/* Q38c */ MSR sold

/* END SERIES */

/* METRIC A */ Looking forward, what percent of your firm’s mortgage servicing rights (MSR) over the next 12 months will go to each of the following categories? Please enter a percent for each category. If a category is not applicable to your firm, please enter 0. The percentages below must add up to 100%. /* OPEN END NUMERIC (0 TO 100) */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q45a */ MSR retained, serviced in-house
/* Q45b */ MSR retained, serviced by a subservicer
/* Q45c */ MSR sold

/* END SERIES */

/* Q45d */ /* IF Q38C does not equal Q45C */ What do you think will drive the change in your firm’s percentage of MSR sold over the next 12 months? Please be as specific as possible. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */
Rotating Questions – Data Initiatives

Mortgage processes involve transmitting a large volume of data among a series of interconnected players. A number of data initiatives have been rolled out and some are underway to establish or update data standards, transmission protocols, platforms, and datasets. Some examples include the Uniform Mortgage Data Program® (UMDP®) and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data. In this section, we would like to learn about your firm’s experiences with these industry-wide data initiatives.

Overall, how valuable do you think these data initiatives are for the mortgage industry?

1) Very valuable
2) Somewhat valuable
3) Not very valuable
4) Not at all valuable

Overall, how well do you think the mortgage industry is doing at managing data?

1) Very well
2) Somewhat well
3) Not very well
4) Not at all well

Listed below are some potential benefits that could result from these data initiatives. Based on your firm’s experience, please select up to two of the biggest benefits you think these data initiatives may bring to your firm and rank them in order of significance.

1) Enhance data accuracy and consistency of mortgage transaction
2) Enhance consumer borrower experience
3) Reduce compliance costs
4) Improve data security
5) Reduce cycle time
6) Offer flexibility in switching vendors or partners
7) Reduce repurchase risk
8) Permit better data analyses to inform my firm’s business strategies
9) Other
10) I don’t see benefits

I don’t see benefits

Most Important Benefit
Second Most Important Benefit

End Series
Any thoughts you would like to share on how to derive more value from these industry-wide data initiatives? (Optional) OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ

Listed below are some challenges lending institutions may face when implementing data standards and submission requirements. Based on your firm’s experience thus far, please select up to two of the biggest challenges for your firm and rank them in order of significance.

Random Rotate Choices

1) Training internal staff
2) Ensuring data quality and accuracy
3) Finding the right talent or vendors
4) Ensuring data security
5) Updating IT systems
6) Working with my third-party technology vendors
7) Converting paper documents to electronic data
8) Getting key players (e.g., loan officers, data providers, & closing agents) to follow data standardization requirements
9) Other SPECIFY DO NOT ROTATE

REPEAT CODES

1 - Biggest Challenge
2 - Second Biggest Challenge

END SERIES

Could you share some details about how or why is a big challenge for your firm? (Optional) OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ

Could you share some details about how or why is a big challenge for your firm? (Optional) OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ
/* METRIC A */ ## IF QR234b=1-9 ## You mentioned that /* [INSERT QR234a] */ and /* [INSERT QR234b] */ are big challenges for your firm. Listed below are some resources that may help. Based on your firm’s experience, please select up to two resources you think your firm needs the most.

## IF QR234b (does not equal) 1-9 ## You mentioned that /* [INSERT QR234a] */ is a big challenge for your firm. Listed below are some resources that may help. Based on your firm’s experience, please select up to two resources you think your firm needs the most.

/* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1) Dedicated IT resources
2) More training and tutorials
3) More time to implement data standards
4) Resources to find the right talent or vendors
5) More support from my vendors
6) Additional funding for these projects
7) Other /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* QR236a */ 1 - Most Needed
/* QR236b */ 2 - Second Most Needed

/* END SERIES */

/* QR237 */ What major concerns does your firm have, if any, with these data initiatives? (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

/* DISPLAY */ Last, we have a few simple questions about information security.

/* QR238 */ In today’s digitized and networked world, how well-prepared do you think the mortgage industry is to prevent data breaches or cyberattacks? /* RANDOMLY REVERSE CHOICES */

1) Very prepared
2) Somewhat prepared
3) Not very prepared
4) Not at all prepared
5) Don’t know/Not sure

/* QR239 */ How prepared do you think the mortgage industry is to prevent data breaches or cyberattacks, in comparison to other industries that handle personally identifiable information? /* RANDOMLY REVERSE CHOICES */

1) Much more prepared
2) Somewhat more prepared
3) About the same
4) Somewhat less prepared
5) Much less prepared
6) Don’t know/Not sure
/* QR240 */ Which of the following statements best describes your firm’s current status with cyber risk insurance for your mortgage business? /* RANDOMLY REVERSE CHOICES */

1) We have not looked into cyber risk insurance for our mortgage business
2) We have started investigating cyber risk insurance, but have not decided yet to use it
3) We currently have cyber risk insurance for our mortgage business
4) Don’t know/Not sure

/* Q43 */ This is the last question. Are there other topics that you think would be interesting or useful to be included in the future quarterly survey among senior mortgage executives like yourself? (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

/* DISPLAY */ This now completes the survey. We really appreciate you taking the time to contribute to this important industry research.

You can find the previous quarters’ results as well as special topic analyses on the Mortgage Lender Sentiment Survey® page on FannieMae.com.

Please note that responses to the survey questions will be aggregated and analyzed solely to identify important topics, trends, and issues surrounding the mortgage industry. Fannie Mae will not publish respondent names or affiliated institutions.

At this point, you may close your browser window or click below to enter your email address if you would like to receive a copy of the Q4 2017 Mortgage Lender Sentiment Survey® report when it’s released. To ensure that your survey responses remain anonymous, after clicking on the link you will be directed to a separate website to enter your email address.