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 */ 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 */ 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 may 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 */
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 may 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**

**Q14a** # 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. — 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 —

— Q52a — 1 - Most important
— Q52b — 2 - Second most important

— END SERIES —

— DISPLAY — 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.

— DISPLAY — Now, let’s focus on the consumer demand for single-family refinance 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 refinance mortgages go up, go down, or stay the same?

Consumer Demand for Refinance 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 —

— Q10a — 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. -]
— Q10b — 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 may 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. -]

/* END SERIES */

/* DISPLAY */ Now, let’s focus on the refinance mortgages over the next three months.

/* METRIC A */ 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

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* Q18a */ 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. -]

/* Q18b */ 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 may carry higher interest rates than GSE loans. Exclude Government loans from this category. -]

/* Q18c */ 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. -]

/* END SERIES */

Profit Margin

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

/* Q22 */ 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

You mentioned earlier that “market trend changes” is an important factor for your firm’s profit margin to decrease. What market trend changes are you seeing? Please share details with us. (Optional)
You mentioned earlier that “market trend changes” is an important factor for your firm’s profit margin to increase. What market trend changes are you seeing? Please share details with us. (Optional)

Which processes listed below are the most important for your organization to streamline? Please select up to two processes and rank them in order of importance.

1) Loan origination process
2) Title review process
3) Appraisal process
4) Loss mitigation workout process
5) Escrow administration process
6) Borrower income validation
7) Condo project approval process
8) Other

Credit Standards

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

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

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 may 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 */

/* DISPLAY */ Now let's focus on the next three months.

/* METRIC A */ 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 may 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 */
Rotating Questions – Condominium Mortgages

/* DISPLAY */ In this section, we would like to gather your views and experiences with underwriting condominium (condo) mortgage loans. Please consider all condo mortgage loans your organization originates, across GSEs, FHA, or aggregators, when answering the questions.

/* QR406 */ Over the past 12 months, has your organization originated single-family condominium mortgage loans for consumers?

1) Yes
2) No

/* QR407 */ ## IF NO (QR406=C2) ##
Could you please share some details about why your organization has not originated single-family condominium loans? What are the barriers or concerns? (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

/* QR408 */ ## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) ##
Approximately what share of your organization’s total mortgage loan production volume (including purchase and refinance mortgages) is condo lending?

1) 1%-2%
2) 3%-4%
3) 5%-10%
4) 11%-15%
5) 16%-20%
6) Over 20%
7) Don’t know/not sure

/* QR409 */ ## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) AND QR408 = NOT C7 ##
You mentioned that condo lending accounts for about /* INSERT QR408 */ of your firm’s total loan production volume. In your view, how do you expect that share to grow, contract, or stay the same over the next 12 months at your organization?

1) Will grow significantly
2) Will grow somewhat
3) Will stay about the same
4) Will contract somewhat
5) Will contract significantly

/* QR410 */ ## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) ##
In your view, has the COVID-19 outbreak made consumers’ interests in buying a condo home…?

1) Increase significantly
2) Increase somewhat
3) Stay about the same
4) Decrease somewhat
5) Decrease significantly
6) Don’t know/Not sure
\* QR412 \*/ ## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) ## Does your organization have dedicated “condo approval teams” that focus on all condo specific work?

1) Yes  
2) No  
3) Don’t know/Not sure

\* QR413 */## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) ## Is your organization currently lending in newly constructed condo projects?

1) Yes  
2) No  
3) Don’t know/Not sure

\* QR414 */## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) AND QR413=C1 ## When does your organization usually start lending in newly constructed condo projects?

1) When the construction starts or during the construction  
2) When the project hits 25% occupancy  
3) When the project hits 50% occupancy  
4) When the project hits 75% occupancy  
5) When the unit owners take control of the HOA  
6) Don’t know/Not sure

\* QR415 */## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) AND QR413=C1 ## Does your organization form partnerships with condo builders as their preferred lender?

1) Yes  
2) No  
3) Don’t know/Not sure

\* METRIC A */## IF ORIGINATES CONDO LOANS (QR406=C1) ## Listed below are some data or information sources used for condo project underwriting. In your view, which are most useful sources of data? Please select up to two and rank them in order of usefulness. \## ALWAYS SHOW ANSWER CHOICES C1 AND C2 TOGETHER, AND ROTATE THEM TOGETHER WITH OTHER ANSWER CHOICES \##

\* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

1) HOA questionnaire  
2) Other HOA documents  
3) Appraisals  
4) Real estate agents  
5) Sellers  
6) Builders/developers  
7) Sales contracts  
8) Public records  
9) Google  
10) Insurance agents  
11) Lender project approval lists  
12) Other \*/ SPECIFY */ / */ DO NOT ROTATE */
Listed below are different risks secondary-market investors might use in evaluating condo eligibility. In your view, which are the most important risks you think secondary-market investors should focus on? Please select up to two and rank them in order of importance.

1) Litigation (construction defect litigation or other litigation)
2) Deferred maintenance or aging projects, amenities, and buildings
3) HOA financial instability (including reserve, delinquency rate of HOA dues, and special assessments)
4) Commercial space or mixed use
5) Hotel or resort use or short-term rentals
6) Oversupply or overvaluation
7) Inadequate insurance
8) Natural disasters
9) Other

Listed below is the same list of risks. In your view, what are the risks whose concern levels have grown significantly over the past year? Please select up to two and rank them in order of increased concern level.

1) Litigation (construction defect litigation or other litigation)
2) Deferred maintenance or aging projects, amenities, and buildings
3) HOA financial instability (including reserve, delinquency rate of HOA dues, and special assessments)
4) Commercial space or mixed use
5) Hotel or resort use or short-term rentals
6) Oversupply or overvaluation
7) Inadequate insurance
8) Natural disasters
9) Other
If there’s one thing you could change in the condo project underwriting policies or processes, what would that be? Please share your views with us. (Optional)

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)

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 Q3 2020 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.