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 */
/* METRIC A */ 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 */

/* 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.

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

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.

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
METRIC A */## IF Q14c=C4, C5 ## 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. -]
/* Q10c */ 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. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

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 /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

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. /* RANDOM ROTATE CHOICES */

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 /* SPECIFY */ /* DO NOT ROTATE */

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) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */
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) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

You mentioned earlier that “GSE pricing and policies” is an important factor for your firm's profit margin to decrease. How are you seeing it affect profit margin? Please share details with us. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

You mentioned earlier that “GSE pricing and policies” is an important factor for your firm's profit margin to increase. How are you seeing it affect profit margin? Please share details with us. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

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

/* REPEAT CODES */

/* 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. -]

/* 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. -]

/* 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 */
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

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 – Blockchain

/* DISPLAY */ In this section, we would like to gather your views and experiences with blockchain.

Blockchain is a decentralized, distributed, asynchronized digital ledger or database consisting of a series (or chain) of records.

/* QR462 */ How familiar are you with blockchain and its applications (e.g., cryptocurrency, smart contracts, and digital tokens) as specifically applied to enhancing your mortgage business in lending or servicing? /* RANDOMLY REVERSE CHOICES */

1) Very familiar
2) Somewhat familiar
3) Slightly familiar
4) Not familiar at all
5) Don’t know/Not sure /* DO NOT ROTATE */

/* QR463 */ What’s the current adoption status of blockchain for mortgage business at your firm?

1) We have not looked into blockchain
2) We have started investigating blockchain
3) We have used blockchain on a trial basis
4) We have rolled out blockchain applications more broadly
5) Don’t know/Not sure

/* QR464 */ ## IF QR463=3-4 ## You mentioned your firm has started using blockchain tools for its mortgage business. Could you share some examples? What are the specific functions your firm uses blockchain technology for? (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

/* QR465 */ ## IF QR463=1-3 ## In your view, approximately how many years do you think it will take your firm to more broadly adopt blockchain applications for its mortgage business?

1) 1-2 years
2) 3-4 years
3) 5+ years
4) Don’t expect to broadly adopt blockchain applications
5) Don’t know/Not sure
/* METRIC A */ In this section, you will see some blockchain ideas your firm might leverage in the future to improve (e.g., streamline) or expand its mortgage business. Some ideas do not exist yet or may require state or industry-wide adoption.

These ideas will be presented in a total of 5 sets. The first 2 sets will show 3 ideas each, and you will be asked to choose the idea that is the MOST appealing and the idea that is the LEAST appealing to your organization in each set.

For the remaining 3 sets, you will evaluate 2 ideas in each set and choose which is more appealing to your organization.

## SHOWING 5 SETS IN PLAYOFF MAXDIFF FORMAT, WITH 3 IN FIRST TWO SETS, 2 IN REMAINING 3 SETS ##

1. **Blockchain-based single-source of digital borrower information**: create a digital wallet containing all of a borrower’s information (e.g., income, employment, and credit history) to enable lenders to validate “direct-to-source.”
2. **Blockchain-based single-source of digital property information**: create a digital property record including all the data (e.g., inspection, remodeling, and insurance claims) required for validation and to facilitate the transfer during closing.
3. **Blockchain-based single-source for digital title/property transfer**: develop a blockchain-based title registry for search and validation; leverage blockchain-based smart contracts to connect the registry to lenders to complete the entire sales transaction.
4. **Blockchain-based facilitation of mortgage loan trading**: develop a blockchain-based marketplace for buying and selling loans that provides proof of loan ownership and performance and makes loan audits easier.
5. **Blockchain-based mortgage servicing by tracking loan condition and insurance, enabling quick pivoting to refinance or prevent foreclosure**: leverage blockchain to track loan performance and receive information after a loan stops performing to address issues quickly and proactively.
6. **Blockchain-based cryptocurrency/private coins/stablecoins**: develop the infrastructure necessary to accept digital currencies as deposits, payments, or collateral.

/* QR467 */ What other blockchain ideas would you like to be developed to help improve (e.g., streamline) your firm’s business, both mortgage and non-mortgage? Please share your thoughts. (Optional) /* OPEN END 1 BOXES 0 REQ */

/* QR468 */ De-centralized finance, or DeFi, refers to financial services that are provided on a public blockchain, allowing consumers to borrow, lend, or trade with a digital currency, without going through a central authority or intermediary like a traditional bank or brokerage.

How much potential do you think DeFi has to disrupt incumbent financial institutions? /* RANDOMLY REVERSE CHOICES */

1) Very high potential
2) Moderately high potential
3) Moderately low potential
4) Little to no potential
5) Don’t know/Not sure /* DO NOT ROTATE */
There has been some discussion about the potential to accept cryptocurrency from consumers as mortgage payments. How likely do you think it is for mortgage companies to roll out this type of payment method over the next 3 years? 

1) Very likely  
2) Somewhat likely  
3) Not quite likely  
4) Unlikely  
5) Don’t know/Not sure 

To the best of your knowledge, when accessing GSE selling and servicing guides, which platform do your loan officers or processors use most often?

1) Directly on AllReg (on Ellie Mae’s platform)  
2) GSEs’ own website platforms  
3) Other  
4) Don’t know/Not sure

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)

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 this quarter's 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.