



**Wire Account Verification
Service for Consumers**

Give your clients peace of mind knowing that their
real estate closing funds are in the right hands.

FundingShield

Protect Them Now

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a shield icon containing a keyhole and a key. To the right, two smartphones are shown displaying the service's interface. A blue button with white text reads 'Protect Them Now'.



Consumers comfortable with online closings

Source: Notarize

The majority of U.S. adults are comfortable completing online financial transactions, including real estate, according to a survey by Notarize, a company that offers remote online notarization.

Eighty-one percent of 2,000 U.S. adults surveyed say they feel secure making financial transactions online. But more than half of the U.S. adults who've completed financial transactions online say that two-factor authentication and security questions help make them feel more secure completing an online financial transaction.

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More households paid their rent and mortgage in 2nd quarter

Source: Housing Wire

Fewer than five million households failed to make their rent or mortgage payments in the second quarter of 2021, despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic still being felt across the country.

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association's Research Institute for Housing America (RIHA), 8.6% of renters (2.86 million households) missed, delayed, or made a reduced payment in June 2021, while 4.6%

homeowners (2.19 million) missed their mortgage payment. In addition, 28 million student debt borrowers (44.8%) missed payments.

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Pandemic home renovations rise in first-half 2021

Source: Selective Insurance/Harris Poll

Home renovations surged during the pandemic, and homeowners are embracing major redos that increase their homes' value in particular.

More than half—55%—of more than 2,000 U.S. homeowners surveyed said they made substantial improvements to their homes that they believe will boost their home's value, according to a July survey commissioned by Selective Insurance and conducted by The Harris Poll. That marks a 25% increase in large-scale home improvement projects reported by homeowners compared to its December 2020 survey results.

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Homeowner equity surges during hot housing market

Source: ATTOM Data Solutions

Thirty-four percent of residential properties in the U.S. with a mortgage were considered “equity rich” in the second quarter, which means the combined estimated amount of loans secured by the properties was at least 50% of its estimated market value, according to ATTOM Data Solutions. The number continues to grow, increasing from 31.2% in the first quarter and 27.5% in the second quarter of 2020.

On a metro level, the areas in California with the highest share of mortgaged properties that were equity rich in the second quarter were: San Jose: 69.4% equity-rich; San Francisco: 64.9%; Los Angeles: 57.9%; and San Diego: 54.3%.

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Redfin adds climate risk ratings to listings

Source: Redfin

With more Americans factoring climate change into their homebuying decisions, real estate brokerage Redfin has begun to publish climate risk data in its listings and throughout its website to help home buyers and homeowners understand the threat of fire, heat, drought,

and storms to properties across the country.

About half of 2,000 survey respondents who plan to move in the next year said extreme temperatures and the increasing frequency or intensity of natural disasters played a role in their decision to relocate, according to the survey. About one-third of respondents said that rising sea levels influenced their decisions of where to buy or move away from.

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Weekly mortgage demand hints at return of the first-time homebuyer

Source: CNBC

A slight increase in mortgage rates did not deter borrowers, especially since rates are still historically low. The average contract interest rate for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages with conforming loan balances (\$548,250 or less) increased to 2.99% from 2.97%, with points decreasing to 0.30 from 0.33 (including the origination fee) for loans with a 20% down payment.

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