

# Recent Home Buyer and Seller Profiles

November 4, 2016
National Association of REALTORS®
Research Division



## Methodology



In July 2016, NAR mailed out a 132-question survey using a random sample weighted to be representative of sales on a geographic basis to 93,171 recent home buyers. The recent home buyers had to have purchased a primary residence home between July of 2015 and June of 2016. A total of 5,465 responses were received from primary residence buyers. After accounting for undeliverable questionnaires, the survey had an adjusted response rate of 5.9 percent.

Respondents had the option to fill out the survey via hard copy or online. The online survey was available in English and Spanish.

Consumer names and addresses were obtained from Experian, a firm that maintains an extensive database of recent home buyers derived from county records. Information about sellers comes from those buyers who also sold a home.

All information in this Profile is characteristic of the 12-month period ending June 2016, with the exception of income data, which are reported for 2015. In some sections comparisons are also given for results obtained in previous surveys. Not all results are directly comparable due to changes in questionnaire design and sample size. Some results are presented for the four U.S. Census regions: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. The median is the primary statistical measure used throughout this report. Due to rounding and omissions for space, percentage distributions may not add to 100 percent.

Data gathered in the report is based on primary residence home buyers. From the 2016 Investment and Vacation Home Buyer Survey, 65 percent of home buyers were primary residence buyers, which accounts for 3,738,000 homes sold in 2015. Using that calculation, the sample at the 95 percent confidence level and has a confidence interval of plus-or-minus 1.32%.

## Demographic Changes

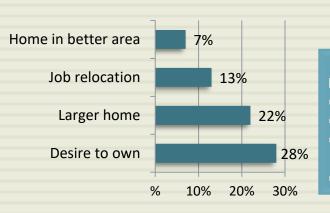
	2010 Profile	2011 Profile	2012 Profile	2013 Profile	2014 Profile	2015 Profile	2016 Profile	
Median Age	39	45	42	42	44	44	44	
Gross Household Income	\$72,200	\$80,900	\$78,600	\$83,300	\$84,500	\$86,100	\$88,500	
Household Composition	58% married couples, 20% single females, 12% single males, 8% unmarried couples	64% married couples, 18% single females, 10% single males, 7% unmarried couples	65% married couples, 16% single females, 9% single males, 8% unmarried couples	66% married couples, 16% single females, 9% single males, 7% unmarried couples	65% married couples, 16% single females, 9% single males, 8% unmarried couples	67% married couples, 15% single females, 9% single males, 7% unmarried couples	66% married couples, 17% single females, 7% single males, 8% unmarried couples	
Children in Home	35%	36%	41%	40%	35%	37%	38%	
Own a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Home	14%	19%	19%	19%	21%	19%	15%	

## Married with Kids

## Type of Home Purchased



### Reasons to Purchase Home



#### **Buyer Facts**

Median Age: 37

Median Income: \$100,000

- 32% are first-time buyers
- 85% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 88% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 2,200
- Median home price: \$277,000

31% of all respondents

#### 12% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Cost savings- 21%
- Health/caretaking of aging parents-18%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house- 14%
- To spend more time with aging parents- 11%

#### Unique to these buyers:

64% found the quality of the neighborhood important

7% bought directly from a builder or builder's agent

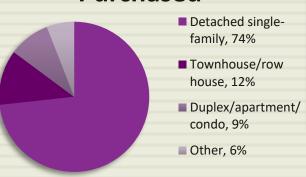
68% were repeat buyers

Typical home had 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

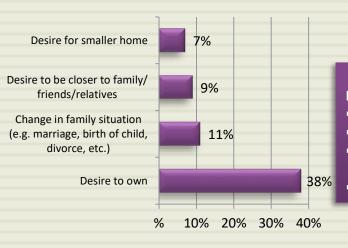


# Single Females

## Type of Home Purchased



## Reasons to Purchase Home



#### **Buyer Facts**

Median Age: 50

Median Income: \$55,300

- 36% are first-time buyers
- 87% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 89% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,520
- Median home price: \$173,000

17% of all respondents

#### Unique to these buyers:

68% made financial compromises to purchase

50%
purchased in a
suburb/
subdivision

Convenience to friends and family was an influencing factor, 49%

Typical home had 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

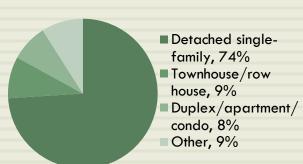
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#### 12% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

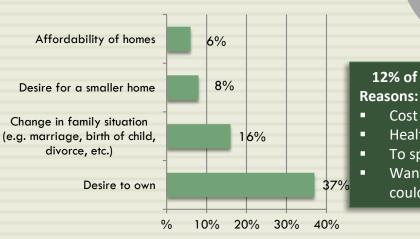
- Health/caretaking of aging parents-21%
- Cost savings- 21%
- Children / relatives over 18 moving back into house-10%
- Children / relatives over 18 never left home- 10%

# Single Males

#### Type of Home Purchased



#### Reasons to Purchase Home



#### **Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 47
- Median Income: \$69,600
- 37% are first-time buyers
- 92% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 89% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,575
- Median home price: \$190,600

7% of all respondents

#### Unique to these buyers:

Quality of the neighborhood was important to 48% of buyers

62% made financial compromises when purchasing their home

Share of single males has dropped from 12% in 2010 to 7% in 2016

Typical home had 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

## Cost savings-25% Health/caretaking of aging parents-9% To spend more time with aging parents-9%

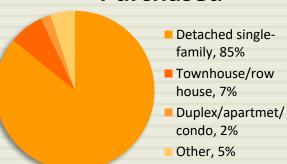
Wanted a larger home that multiple incomes could afford together- 4%

12% of buyers bought multi-generational home

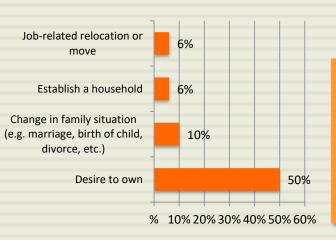


## Unmarried Couples

## Type of Home Purchased



#### Reasons to Purchase Home

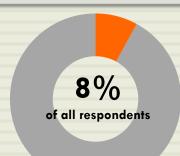


#### **Buyer Facts**

■ Median Age: 33

Median Income: \$84,800

- 60% are first-time buyers91% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 92% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,670
- Median home price: \$181,400



#### 6% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Health/caretaking of aging parents-24%
- Cost savings-16%
- Wanted a larger home that multiple incomes could afford together- 13%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house/to spend more time with aging parents-8%

#### Unique to these buyers:

Convenience to job was an influencing factor more than any other group,

57%

77% had no children under the age of 18 living in their home

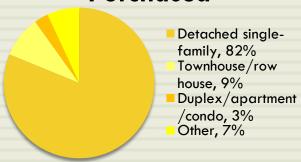
23% of unmarried couples compromised on the size of their home

Typical home had 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms



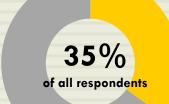
## First-time Buyers

## Type of Home Purchased

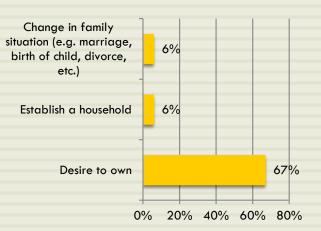


#### **Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 32
- Median Income: \$72,000
- 90% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 90% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,650
- Median home price: \$182,500



#### Reasons to Purchase Home



#### 10% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Cost savings-25%
- Health/caretaking of aging parents-16%
- Children over 18 moving back into house-11%
- Wanted a larger home that multiple incomes could afford-8%

#### Unique to these buyers:

The expected tenure of first-time buyers was a median of 10 years

58% were married couples, and 18% single females, 14% unmarried couples

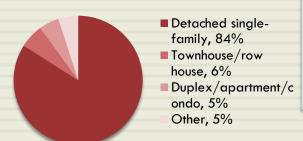
Convenience to job was an important factor when purchasing, at 57%

92% were satisfied with the home buying process



## Repeat Buyers

### Type of Home Purchased

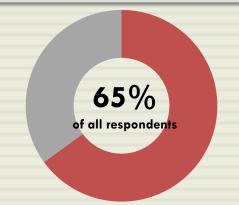


#### **Buyer Facts**

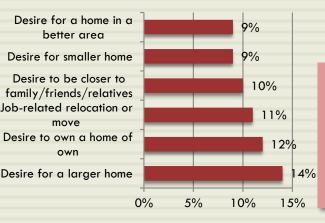
Median Age: 52

Median Income: \$98,000

- 83% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 87% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 2,000
- Median home price: \$250,000



#### Reasons to Purchase Home



#### 12% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Health/caretaking of aging parents-20%
- Cost savings-15%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house-15%
- To spend more time with aging parents- 8%

#### Unique to these buyers:

18% contacted a real estate agent as their first step in buying

Expected to stay in their home for 15 years

36% made no compromises on the characteristics of their home

57% purchased in a suburb/ subdivision



## Buyers of Multi-Generational Housing





#### **Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 52
- Median Income: \$90,500
- 30% are first-time buyers
- 84% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 83% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 2,100
- Median home price: \$251,000

11% of all respondents

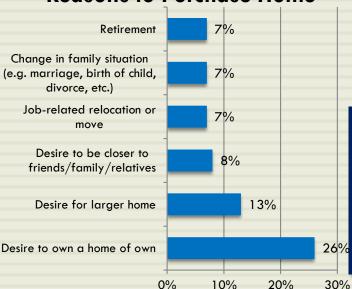
#### Unique to these buyers:

Homes typically had 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

> 61% found the quality of the neighborhood to be important

67% were married couples, and 17% were single females

#### **Reasons to Purchase Home**



#### Reasons for purchasing multi-generational home:

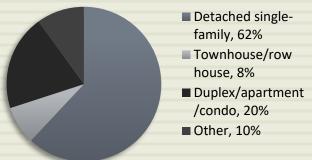
- Health/caretaking of aging parents-19%
- Cost savings-18%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house-14%
- To spend more time with aging parents- 8%
- Wanted a larger home that multiple incomes could afford-7%
- Children/relatives over 18 never left home- 6%

47% were located in a suburb/subdivision

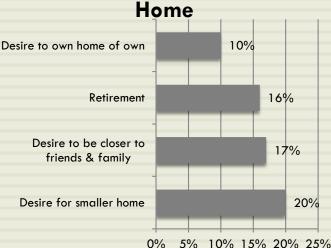


## Buyers of Senior Housing

## Type of Home Purchased



#### Reasons to Purchase Home



#### **Buyer Facts**

Median Age: 67

Median Income: \$66,700

- 11% are first-time buyers
- 69% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 81% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,770
- Median home price: \$225,000

8% of all respondents

### Household Composition of Buvers



#### Unique to these buyers:

49% made no compromises when purchasing

27% first
contacted a real
estate agent when
starting the
buying process

34% found the overall affordability of homes important

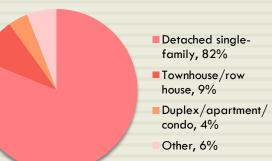
Homes typically had 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms



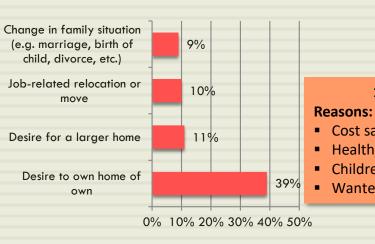
■ Other, 2% 2016 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers

# Buyers Who Found Commuting Costs Very Important





#### Reasons to Purchase Home

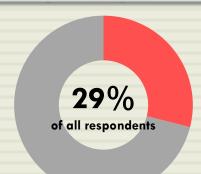


#### **Buyer Facts**

Median Age: 38

Median Income: \$83,900

- 46% are first-time buyers
- 84% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 90% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,800
- Median home price: \$215,000



#### Unique to these buyers:

65% said that convenience to their job was important when choosing a neighborhood

Typical home had 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

23% compromised on the price of their home

54%
purchased in a
suburb/
subdivision

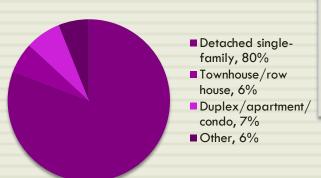
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11% of buyers bought multi-generational home

- Cost savings-22%
- Health/caretaking of aging parents-17%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house-12%
- Wanted a larger home that multiple incomes could afford- 7%

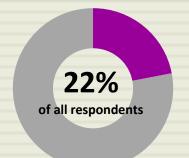
# Buyers Who Downsized By Size of Their Home

#### **Type of Home Purchased**

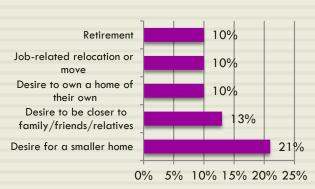


#### **Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 60
- Median Income: \$87,700
- 82% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 86% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,750
- Median home price: \$229,000



#### Reasons to Purchase Home



#### 12% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house-26%
- Health/caretaking of aging parents-14%
- Cost savings-13%
- To spend more time with aging parents- 6%
- Children/relatives over 18 never left home- 6%

#### Unique to these buyers:

66% were married couples and 20% were single females

54% purchased
a home in a
suburb or
subdivision

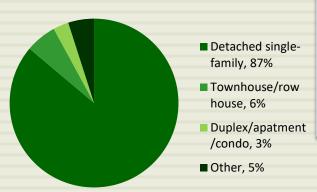
Typical home had 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms

Homes purchased were typically 650 square feet smaller than homes sold



## Buyers with Student Loan Debt

#### **Type of Home Purchased**



#### **Buyer Facts**

Median Age: 35

Median Income: \$89,300

- 53% are first-time buyers
- 89% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 90% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,820
- Median home price: \$210,000

27% of all respondents

#### Unique to these buyers:

Typically had \$25,000 of student loan debt

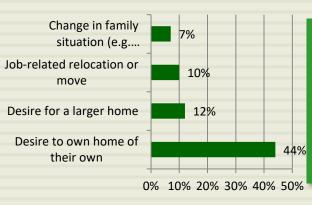
Debt delayed
buyers from
saving for a
downpayment for
3 years

21% cited saving for the downpayment as the most difficult step in the home buying process

42% cut spending on luxury and non-essential items to be able to make their home purchase

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#### **Reasons to Purchase Home**



#### 10% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Health/caretaking of aging parents-24%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into house-19%
- Cost savings-14%
- To spend more time with aging parents-11%
- Wanted larger home that multiple incomes could afford together-6%

# Buyer, Self, or Spouse are Active Duty Military or Veteran

#### **Active Duty Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 35
- Median Income: \$94,400
- 51% are first-time buyers
- 87% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 87% bought through an agent/broker

57% rented an

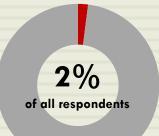
- Median square feet of home purchased: 2,100
- Median home price: \$297,300

#### Unique to these buyers:

apartment or house prior to their recent home purchase satisfied with the home buying

process

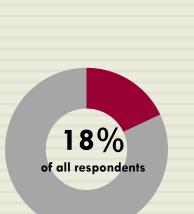
11% purchased a multigenerational home



#### **Veteran Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 59
- Median Income: \$83,900
- 18% are first-time buyers
- 82% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 90% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 2,000
- Median home price: \$222,000

#### Unique to these buyers:



36% previous home prior to their recent home purchase

82% purchased a detached single-family home



14% purchased

a multi-

generational

home

## Gay/Lesbian or Bisexual

#### Gay/Lesbian Buyer Facts

- Median Age: 47
- Median Income: \$98,800
- 32% are first-time buyers
- 84% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 88% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,700
- Median home price: \$240,800

#### Unique to these buyers:

40% were married couples, and 25% unmarried couples

32% rented an apartment or house prior to buying, or owned previous home

9% were single females and 23% were single males 3% of all respondents

#### **Bisexual Buyer Facts**

■ Median Age: 36

1%

of all

respondents

- Median Income: \$54,600
- 46% are first-time buyers
- 96% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 91% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,400
- Median home price: \$124,000

#### Unique to these buyers:

46% rented an apartment or house prior to buying

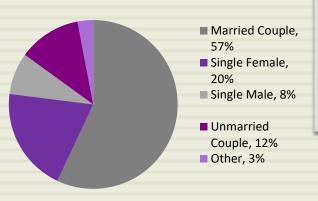
30% were married couples, and 30% unmarried couples

35% were single females and 5% were single males



# Buyers Who were Rejected by a Mortgage Lender

#### **Household Composition**



#### **Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 45
- Median Income: \$71,400
- 47% are first-time buyers
- 85% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 87% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,800
- Median home price: \$176,000

#### Unique to these buyers:

Mortgage
application was
typically denied
one time

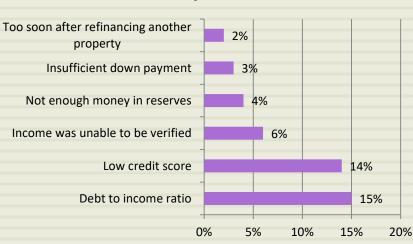
31% have

student loan

debt, with a

median debt of \$30,000 Debt typically delayed buyers for 3 years from saving for a dowr payment or buying

### Reasons Mortgage Application was Rejected



5% of all respondents

#### Race/Ethnicity

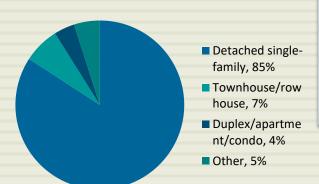
- 74%, White/Caucasian
  - 12%, Black/African American
- 9%, Hispanic/Latino/Mexican/Puerto Rican
- 6%, Asian/Pacific Islander
- 2%, Other

56% said getting a mortgage was the most difficult step in the home buying process

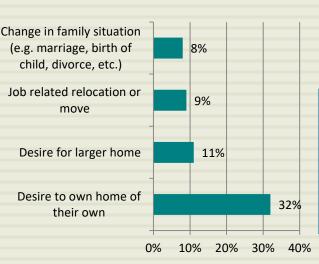


# Buyers Who Frequently Used the Internet to Search for Their Home

#### **Type of Home Purchased**

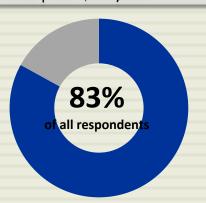


#### **Reasons to Purchase Home**



#### **Buyer Facts**

- Median Age: 41
- Median Income: \$90,000
- 36% are first-time buyers
- 87% are buyers of previously owned homes
- 91% bought through an agent/broker
- Median square feet of home purchased: 1,900
- Median home price: \$230,000



#### 11% of buyers bought multi-generational home Reasons:

- Health/Caretaking of aging parents- 20%
- Cost Savings- 18%
- Children/relatives over 18 moving back into the house- 15%
- To spend more time with aging parents- 8%

#### Unique to these buyers:

68% were married couples, and 16% single females

49% first looked online for properties for sale

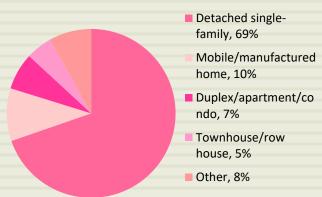
43% rented an apartment or house prior to buying

92% were satisfied the home buying process

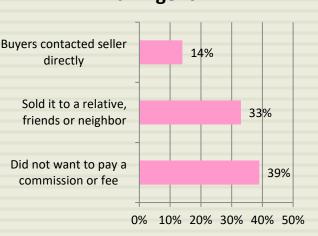


## FSBO Sellers

#### **Type of Home Sold**



### Reasons for Selling Without an Agent

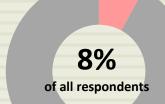


#### **Buyer Facts**

Median Age: 59

Median Income: \$100,600

- 40% are first-time sellers
- Median square feet of home sold: 1,800
- Median home selling price: \$185,000



#### **Ways FSBO Sellers Marketed Their Home:**

- Yard sign- 33%
- Third party aggregator- 21%
- Open House- 21%
- Multiple Listing Service (MLS)-13%
- Friends, relatives, or family- 16%

#### Unique to these sellers:

18% cited the most difficult task as getting the price right when selling

37% determined the asking price based on recent homes sold in the area

FSBO homes were typically on the market for just one week before selling

> 54% of FSBOs did not need to sell urgently

