This survey, which measures consumers’ attitudes and concerns about housing issues in the nation’s 25 largest metropolitan statistical areas on a biennial basis, found that 84 percent of Americans believe that purchasing a home is a good financial decision, the highest since 2007.

Housing Costs

Lack of affordable housing is a growing problem.

Nationally, 44 percent of respondents categorized the lack of available housing that is affordable as a very big or fairly big problem. In the top 25 markets, more than half see the lack of affordable housing as a big problem. This is up 11 points from the 2015 Housing Pulse survey.

The lack of affordable housing and the cost of housing is especially troublesome to renters, non-whites, and women. Additionally, housing costs are more of a strain for those under the age of 50 than older Americans.

Housing Costs

The majority believe needing public assistance for housing is due to difficult circumstances, not poor personal choices.

Most people who need public assistance for housing are struggling because of low wages, high rents and limited job opportunities.

Buying a Home

44%

Pocketbook Issues

Forty-four percent of respondents stated that affordable health insurance, low wages, and housing costs top list of problems facing Americans.

40%

Down Payment

Little more than 40 percent believe that banks and lenders require a down payment of 15 percent or more when buying a home.

51%

Budget

When forced to choose, 51 percent picked a neighborhood with better schools and job opportunities even if housing prices are a strain on their budget.

TRUSTED SOURCES

When it comes to buying, most people trust their family or friends as a source of information. A local REALTOR® or real estate agent is a close second.

Visit www.nar.realtor for the full results of the 2017 Housing Pulse Survey.