

Special Questions on Builders Challenges/ Problems Faced in 2023 and Expect to Face in 2024

January 2024



**Economics & Housing Policy Group** 

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#### **Introduction:**

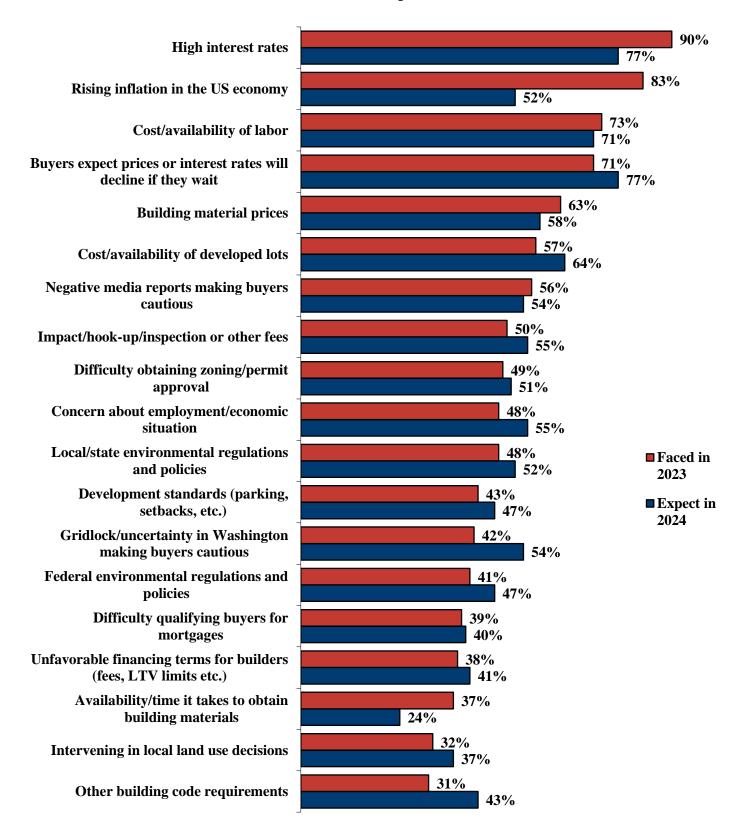
For more than 30 years, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has conducted a monthly survey of single-family builder members in order to generate the NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI). The HMI survey asks builders to rate market conditions for the sale of new homes at the present time and expected over the next 6 months, as well as the traffic of prospective buyers. The results are combined into a single composite index that measures the overall strength of the market for new single-family housing. Throughout its history, the HMI has become a leading indicator of single-family housing starts and is widely reported in business media and used by the Federal Reserve Bank, government agencies, and Wall Street analysts.

The survey questionnaire (Appendix I) was sent electronically to a panel of 3,000 builder members. A total of 414 builders responded to the survey, for a response rate of 14 percent. This report analyses responses by the four census regions and by the number of for-sale units started by the builder in 2023.

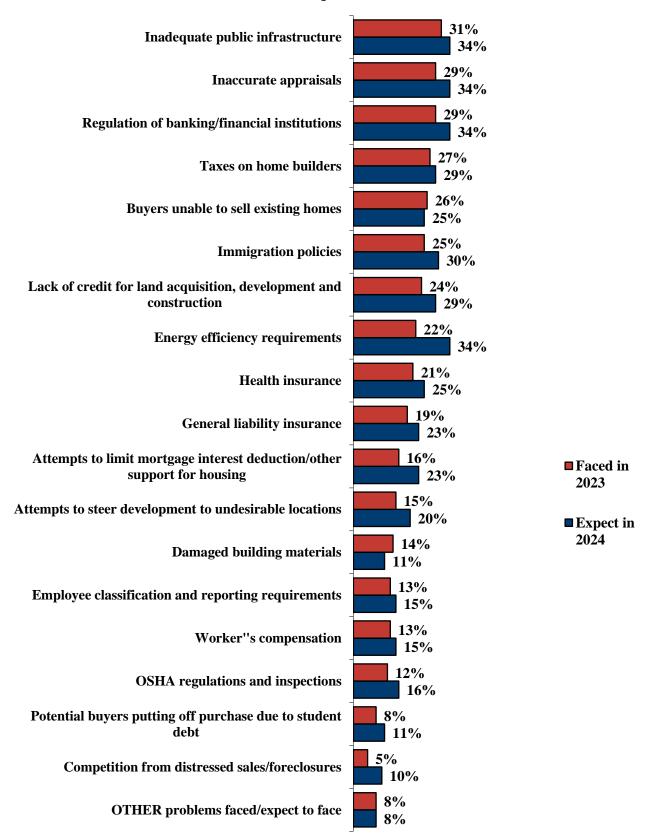
In addition to the questions that provide the data needed to compute the HMI, the survey often also includes a set of "special" questions on a topic of current interest to the housing industry. The January 2024 special questions address issues relating to the most significant problems faced by builders during 2023, and problems they expect to face during 2024.

# What, in your opinion, were the most significant problems faced by builders during 2023, and which do you expect to be most significant during 2024?

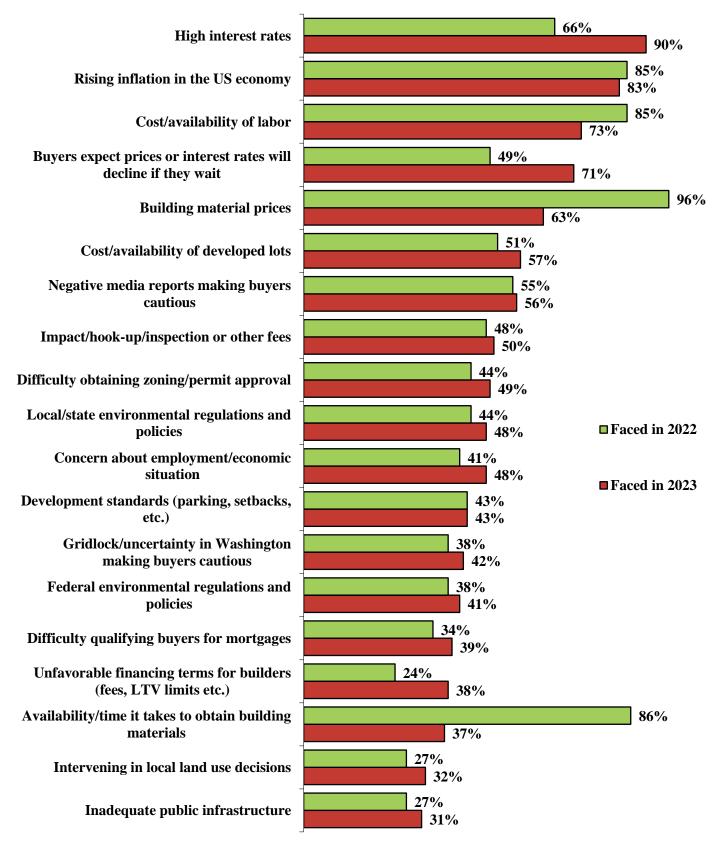
(Percent of Respondents)



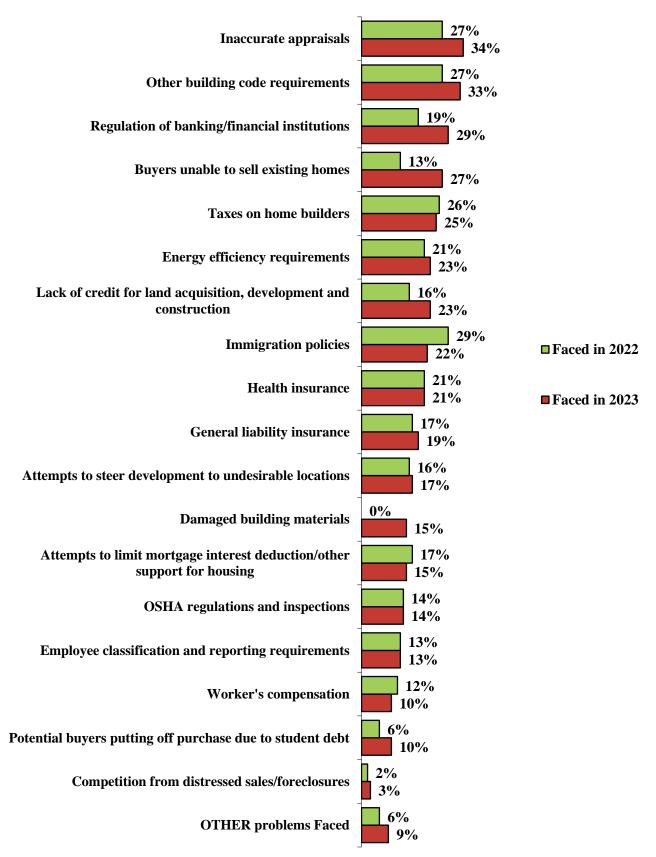
#### What, in your opinion, were the most significant problems faced by builders during 2023, and which do you expect to be most significant during 2024? - *continued* (Percent of Respondents)



### Most significant problems FACED by builders during 2022 vs. 2023 (Percent of Respondents)



# Most significant problems FACED by builders during 2022 vs. 2023 - *continued* (Percent of Respondents)



# Most significant problems Builders Faced and Expect to Face - HISTORY (Percent of Respondents)

	Januar	ry 2024	Jan	a-23	Dec	c-21	Dec	c-20	Dec	:-19	Jan	-19	Dec	:-17
	Faced in 2023	Expect in 2024	Faced in 2022	Expect in 2023	Faced in 2021	Expect in 2022	Faced in 2020	Expect in 2021	Faced in 2019	Expect in 2020	Faced in 2018	Expect in 2019	Faced in 2017	Expect in 2018
BUILDER COSTS							11	•	11		I			
Building material prices	63	58	96	62	96	91	96	89	66	66	87	69	77	84
Availability/time it takes to obtain building materials	39	26	86	50	91	90	78	80	na	na	na	na	na	na
Damaged building materials	15	13	na	na										
Cost/availability of labor	74	75	85	73	82	85	65	71	87	85	82	82	82	84
Cost/availability of developed lots	64	70	51	51	49	61	48	57	63	66	58	63	58	62
Energy efficiency requirements	23	37	21	40	13	27	13	23	20	25	13	17	17	21
Other building code requirements	33	45	27	41	21	30	17	26	24	32	21	25	23	29
Workers compensation	10	13	12	15	12	13	10	12	14	14	12	12	12	13
General liability insurance	19	21	17	20	12	15	12	15	15	15	13	14	14	15
Health insurance	21	24	21	25	22	25	18	23	34	36	28	28	37	40

# Most significant problems Builders Faced and Expect to Face – HISTORY (Percent of Respondents) – *continued*

	De	c-16	Jan	-16	Jan	n-15	Jan	e-14	Jan	e-13	Jan	n-12
	Faced in 2016	Expect in 2017	Faced in 2015	Expect in 2016	Faced in 2014	Expect in 2015	Faced in 2013	Expect in 2014	Faced in 2012	Expect in 2013	Faced in 2011	Expect in 2012
<b>BUILDER COSTS</b> – continued						<u>.</u>						
Building material prices	48	60	42	56	58	66	68	81	46	76	33	62
Availability/time it takes to obtain building materials	na	na										
Damaged building materials	na	na										
Cost/availability of labor	78	82	71	76	61	68	53	65	30	51	13	21
Cost/availability of developed lots	60	67	58	59	55	57	46	55	34	48	21	30
Energy efficiency requirements	24	33	20	26	25	28	26	34	25	33	29	38
Other building code requirements	32	35	28	32	30	37	31	36	27	33	33	39
Workers compensation	18	20	17	18	18	18	19	22	18	20	22	23
General liability insurance	23	25	18	19	21	22	19	21	20	24	25	26
Health insurance	42	40	34	39	34	39	33	48	30	42	37	43

# Most significant problems Builders Faced and Expect to Face – HISTORY (Percent of Respondents) – *continued*

	Jan 20	uary 24	23	Jan	21-	Dec	20-	Dec	19-	Dec	19	Jan	17-	Dec	16-	Dec	16-	Jan	15-	Jan	14-	Jan	13-	Jan	12-	Jan
	Faced in 2023	Expect in 2024	Faced in 2022	Expect in 2023	Faced in 2021	Expect in 2022	Faced in 2020	Expect in 2021	Faced in 2019	Expect in 2020	Faced in 2018	Expect in 2019	Faced in 2017	Expect in 2018	Faced in 2016	Expect in 2017	Faced in 2015	Expect in 2016	Faced in 2014	Expect in 2015	Faced in 2013	Expect in 2014	Faced in 2012	Expect in 2013	Faced in 2011	Expect in 2012
FINANCING PROP	BLEN	AS	-																							
High interest rates	90	77	66	93	2	31	1	7	3	6	27	56	4	18	3	28	4	15	3	10	5	26	3	5	5	6
Unfavorable financing terms (fees, LTV limits etc.)	38	41	24	45	9	17	14	18	21	20	20	24	23	25	28	28	25	26	28	30	33	38	33	37	43	50
Difficulty qualifying buyers for mortgages	39	40	34	61	9	23	7	14	13	16	17	26	17	21	26	29	33	35	46	43	46	48	57	58	69	69
Lack of credit for land acquisition, development and construction	24	29	16	29	12	20	20	21	19	20	21	21	23	26	27	28	26	26	37	36	36	36	42	47	42	48
Inaccurate appraisals	29	34	27	38	45	51	46	49	41	40	40	37	47	42	49	46	52	48	58	50	58	50	68	59	69	66

# Most significant problems Builders Faced and Expect to Face - HISTORY

(Percent of Respondents) – continued

	Jan	<i>a-24</i>	23	Ian	21-	Dec	20-1		19-	-	19-,		17-	Dec	16-	Dec	16-	Ian	15-	Ian	14-	Ian	13.	Jan	12	Ian
																	-	2016		-				-	-	
	2023	2024	2022	2023	2021	2022	202	2021	20	2020	2018	2019	2017	2018	2016	2017	20		2014	2015	2013	2014	2012	2013	2011	2012
	Faced in	Expect in	<sup>r</sup> aced in	Expect in	<sup>q</sup> aced in	t in	Faced in 2020	t in	Faced in 2019	Expect in	Faced in	Expect in	Faced in	t in	Faced in	Expect in	Faced in 2015	t in	Faced in	t in	Faced in	t in	l in	t in	Faced in	t in
	pəəi	pec	sec	pec	pəəi	Expect	icec	Expect	ncea	pec	1000	pec	nced	Expect	pəəi	pec	pəsi	Expect	pəəi	Expect	1000	Expect	Faced in	Expect	)eo(	Expect
	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \iota$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex	$F \iota$	Ex	$F \epsilon$	Ex
PROBLEMS ATTR	ACT	ring	BU	YER	S																					
Buyers unable to	26	25	13	52	1	4	2	5	13	18	19	24	15	17	20	19	27	26	42	40	42	32	60	44	83	77
sell existing homes	20	23	15	52	1	4		5	15	10	17	24	15	17	20	19	21	20	42	40	42	52	00	44	05	
Concern about																										
employment/	<b>48</b>	55	41	73	24	46	48	57	25	32	28	46	25	27	44	39	47	55	51	54	60	60	71	69	79	73
economic situation																										
<b>Competition from</b>																										
distressed	5	10	2	20	3	6	4	12	6	6	6	7	11	8	15	10	21	14	32	19	40	23	54	39	72	70
sales/foreclosures																										
Buyers expect																										
prices or interest	71	77	49	80	23	26	15	15	21	19	23	31	13	11	12	12	13	11	16	15	16	14	20	13	35	27
rates will decline if			-				_			-	_	-	_				_			_				_		
they wait																										
Negative media	-	- 4	~~	70	26	20	20	24	20		10	(2)	22	20	25	20	20	25	0.0	20	01	20	47	27		
reports making	56	54	55	79	26	38	30	34	39	44	48	62	22	28	25	30	28	35	26	30	31	29	47	37	63	56
buyers cautious Gridlock/																										
uncertainty in																										
Washington	42	54	38	54	32	50	42	44	45	56	45	53	39	42	50	26	46	53	48	45	65	62	67	70	68	72
making buyers	44	34	50	54	52	50	42	44	45	50	45	55	39	42	50	20	40	55	40	43	05	02	07	70	00	12
cautious																										
Potential buyers																										
putting off	0		-	0	_		0	0	10	10		10		10	10	10										
purchase due to	8	11	6	8	5	6	8	9	18	19	12	12	17	19	19	18	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
student																										
COVID-19 making																										
buyers reluctant to	na	na	na	na	16	10	43	32	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
shop for a home																										

# Most significant problems Builders Faced and Expect to Face - HISTORY

(Percent of Respondents) – *continued* 

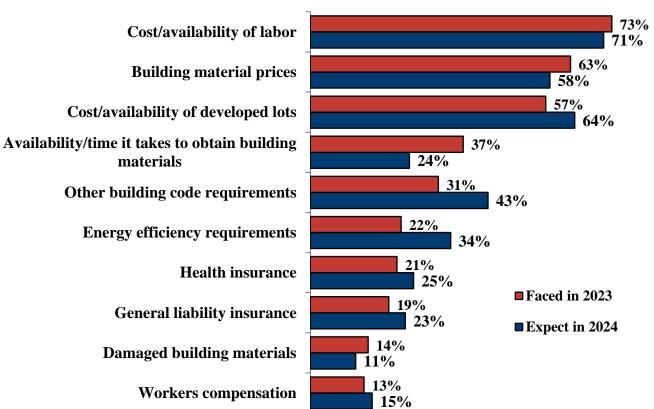
		uary 24	23-	Jan	21-	Dec	20-1	Dec	19-1	Dec	19	Jan	17-1	Dec	16-	Dec	16-	Jan	15-		14-	Jan	13-	Jan	12	Jan
	Faced in 2023	Expect in 2024	Faced in 2022	Expect in 2023	Faced in 2021	Expect in 2022	Faced in 2020	Expect in 2021	Faced in 2019	Expect in 2020	Faced in 2018	Expect in 2019	Faced in 2017	Expect in 2018	Faced in 2016	Expect in 2017	Faced in 2015	Expect in 2016	Faced in 2014	Expect in 2015	Faced in 2013	Expect in 2014	Faced in 2012	Expect in 2013	Faced in 2011	Expect in 2012
FEDERAL GOVERN	ME	NT P	OLI	CIES	5				-				-	-						-						
Federal environmental regulations and policies	41	47	38	53	37	52	28	48	34	36	35	38	44	42	58	52	55	57	53	57	46	54	43	49	47	53
Rising inflation in the US economy	83	52	85	83	63	90	na	na																		
OSHA regulations and inspections	12	16	14	19	20	32	18	31	24	26	23	23	31	33	39	39	36	41	34	38	39	43	34	42	40	47
Regulation of banking/financial institutions	29	34	19	30	14	28	18	33	23	24	31	33	38	36	55	48	53	53	62	61	63	67	70	69	77	78
Attempts to limit mortgage interest deduction/other support for housing	16	23	17	31	12	30	23	36	33	36	31	38	31	49	21	30	23	32	31	40	37	50	35	55	42	60
Taxes on home builders	27	29	26	35	23	43	21	41	27	32	23	26	29	29	32	30	22	26	29	33	26	31	22	36	27	33
Employee classification and reporting requirements	13	15	13	22	11	20	12	20	12	15	12	15	12	14	24	24	19	23	13	15	16	21	12	18	17	21
Immigration policies	25	30	29	35	31	36	27	27	37	39	40	46	34	41	22	33	25	30	24	30	17	22	12	16	15	19
Intervening in local land use decisions	32	37	27	34	25	33	21	30	25	28	21	20	20	21	28	26	25	28	27	30	26	29	19	24	18	24

January 23-Jan 21-Dec 20-Dec 19-Dec 19-Jan 16-Dec 16-Jan 15-Jan 14-Jan 13-Jan 12-Jan 17-Dec Expect in 2016 Expect in 2019 Expect in 2018 Expect in 2015 Expect in 2014 Expect in 2024 Expect in 2023 Expect in 2022 Expect in 2020 Expect in 2017 Faced in 2015 Expect in 2013 Faced in 2023 Faced in 2022 Faced in 2020 Expect in 2021 Faced in 2019 Faced in 2018 Faced in 2017 Faced in 2016 Faced in 2013 Faced in 2012 Faced in 2011 Faced in 2021 Expect in Faced in LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES Impact/hookup/inspection or other fees **Inadequate public** na infrastructure Difficulty obtaining zoning/permit approval Local/state environmental regulations and policies Attempts to steer development to undesirable locations Development standards (parking, setbacks, etc.) **OTHER** problems 

#### Most significant problems Builders Faced and Expect to Face – HISTORY (Percent of Respondents) – *continued*

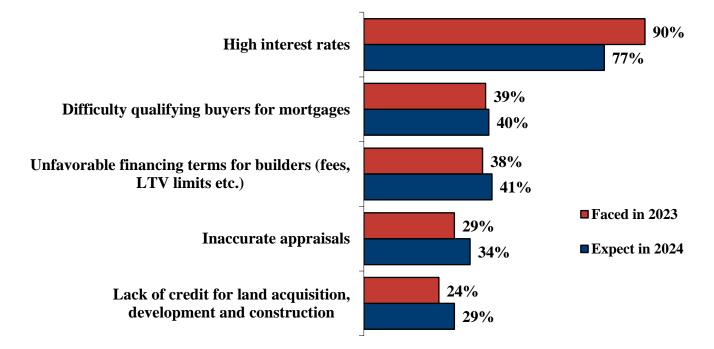
What, in your opinion, were the most significant problems faced by builders during 2023, and which do you expect to be most significant during 2024? – BY CATEGORY

(Percent of Respondents)



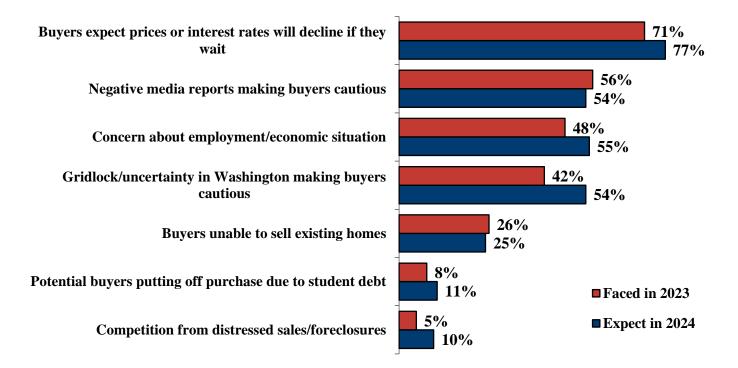
# **BUILDER COSTS**

# **FINANCING PROBLEMS**

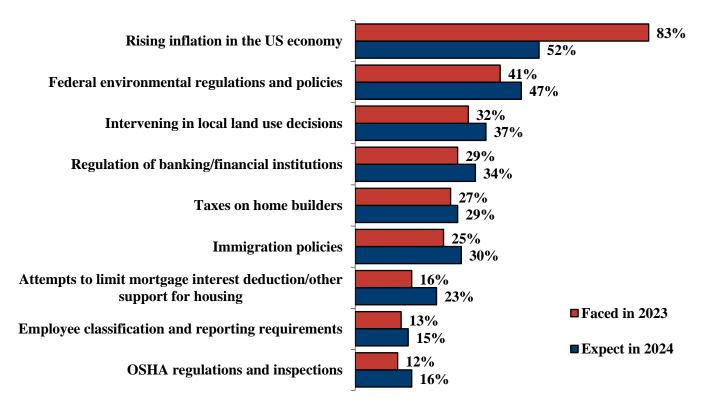


What, in your opinion, were the most significant <u>problems</u> faced by builders during 2023, and which do you expect to be most significant during 2024? – By Category (*continued*) (Percent of Respondents)

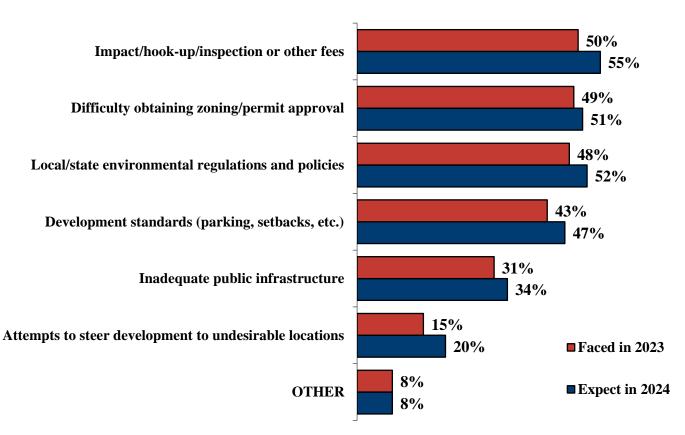
#### **PROBLEMS ATTRACTING BUYERS**



### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES



#### What, in your opinion, were the most significant <u>problems</u> faced by builders during 2023 and which do you expect to be most significant during 2024? – By Category (*continued*) (Percent of Respondents)



#### LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES

**Detailed Tables** 

	Total		Regi		<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	Total Numbe	er of Unit 2023	s Started d	luring
		NE	MW	S	W	5 or Fewer	6 to 24	25 to 99	100+
BUILDER COSTS									
Building material prices	63	68	66	62	58	67	67	49	56
Availability/time it takes to obtain building materials	37	46	35	37	39	41	36	34	38
Damaged building materials	14	14	15	15	11	16	13	14	12
Cost/availability of labor	73	68	80	70	73	75	74	65	79
Cost/availability of developed lots	57	57	49	61	55	52	60	58	65
Energy efficiency requirements	22	46	15	16	41	18	25	28	9
Other building code requirements	31	54	29	29	31	24	33	37	38
Worker's compensation	13	21	15	12	9	16	11	15	6
General liability insurance	19	32	17	20	17	20	20	22	12
Health insurance	21	36	24	18	20	22	24	24	0
FINANCING PROBLEMS									
High interest rates	90	79	91	91	91	86	90	94	100
Unfavorable financing terms for builders (fees, LTV limits etc.)	38	36	30	41	42	35	36	49	29
Difficulty qualifying buyers for mortgages	39	32	40	39	44	35	36	48	56
Lack of credit for land acquisition, development and construction	24	21	20	27	22	22	30	19	18
Inaccurate appraisals	29	25	35	31	17	33	27	29	21
PROBLEMS ATTRACTING BUYI	ERS								
Buyers unable to sell existing homes	26	18	19	26	42	22	29	28	32
Concern about employment/economic situation	48	29	57	43	56	48	44	54	47
Competition from distressed sales/foreclosures	5	4	1	6	6	6	4	5	0
Buyers expect prices or interest rates will decline if they wait	71	57	70	72	77	63	70	81	85
Negative media reports making buyers cautious	56	36	55	60	58	50	56	65	68
Gridlock/uncertainty in Washington making buyers cautious	42	43	42	41	47	39	44	44	41
Potential buyers putting off purchase due to student debt	8	14	4	9	6	9	6	5	15

# What, in your opinion, were the most significant problems <u>FACED</u> by builders during 2023? (Percent of Respondents)

(Percent of Respondents) - <i>continued</i>												
	Total		Regi	on		Total Numbe	er of Unit 2023	s Started d	luring			
		NE	MW	S	W	5 or Fewer	6 to 24	25 to 99	100+			
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLI	CIES	I	1	1	I							
Federal environmental regulations and policies	41	46	39	40	44	33	40	51	53			
Rising inflation in the US economy	83	75	86	82	81	83	84	80	82			
OSHA regulations and inspections	12	25	14	12	6	13	14	11	6			
Regulation of banking/financial institutions	29	25	19	35	25	28	32	28	21			
Attempts to limit mortgage interest deduction/other support for housing	16	21	10	17	17	17	16	13	18			
Taxes on home builders	27	36	21	25	36	29	29	25	15			
Employee classification and reporting requirements	13	39	11	10	13	13	12	13	15			
Immigration policies	25	25	18	28	23	28	20	22	38			
Intervening in local land use decisions	32	46	27	34	28	21	35	43	47			
LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES												
Impact/hook-up/inspection or other fees	50	32	43	50	69	39	53	58	71			
Inadequate public infrastructure	31	36	19	35	34	26	34	32	38			
Difficulty obtaining zoning/permit approval	49	61	32	51	63	35	52	59	76			
Local/state environmental regulations and policies	48	79	41	47	50	34	50	62	71			
Attempts to steer development to undesirable locations	15	18	12	15	16	8	19	16	21			
Development standards (parking, setbacks, etc.)	43	43	36	45	48	32	46	54	56			
OTHER problems Faced in 2023	8	7	8	6	13	8	8	9	3			
Responses	395	28	99	204	64	147	135	79	34			

#### What, in your opinion, were the most significant problems <u>FACED</u> by builders during 2023? (Percent of Respondents) - *continued*

#### **Total Number of Units Started during** Region Total 5 or Fewer 6 to 24 NE MW S W 25 to 99 100 +**BUILDER COSTS Building material prices** Availability/time it takes to obtain building materials **Damaged building materials Cost/availability of labor** Cost/availability of developed lots **Energy efficiency requirements** Other building code requirements **Workers compensation General liability insurance** Health insurance FINANCING PROBLEMS **High interest rates** Unfavorable financing terms for builders (fees, LTV limits etc.) Difficulty qualifying buyers for mortgages Lack of credit for land acquisition. development and construction **Inaccurate appraisals PROBLEMS ATTRACTING BUYERS Buyers unable to sell existing** homes **Concern about** employment/economic situation **Competition from distressed** sales/foreclosures **Buyers expect prices or interest** rates will decline if they wait Negative media reports making buyers cautious Gridlock/uncertainty in Washington making buyers cautious Potential buyers putting off purchase due to student

# What, in your opinion, are problems you <u>EXPECT</u> to be most significant during 2024? (Percent of Respondents)

	Total	JI KC	Regi		com	Total Numbe	er of Units 2023	s Started d	luring
	Iotai	NE	MW	S	W	5 or Fewer	6 to 24	25 to 99	100+
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLI	CIES								
Federal environmental regulations and policies	47	52	46	46	52	41	43	60	64
Rising inflation in the US economy	52	48	56	49	55	60	53	44	30
OSHA regulations and inspections	16	28	20	14	11	15	18	19	12
Regulation of banking/financial institutions	34	31	32	38	26	32	34	40	24
Attempts to limit mortgage interest deduction/other support for housing	23	21	20	23	28	22	24	21	24
Taxes on home builders	29	38	27	27	38	31	30	30	18
Employee classification and reporting requirements	15	38	16	10	17	15	14	16	15
Immigration policies	30	24	28	32	29	34	25	26	39
Intervening in local land use decisions	37	48	33	40	26	26	41	46	42
LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES									
Impact/hook-up/inspection or other fees	55	41	48	55	72	43	58	66	73
Inadequate public infrastructure	34	38	23	37	37	28	37	36	42
Difficulty obtaining zoning/permit approval	51	59	37	53	65	36	54	63	82
Local/state environmental regulations and policies	52	79	46	49	55	39	52	66	70
Attempts to steer development to undesirable locations	20	17	20	19	22	13	23	23	27
Development standards (parking, setbacks, etc.)	47	48	39	48	57	36	46	64	64
OTHER problems Expect to face in 2024	8	14	10	5	12	7	8	11	3
Responses	394	29	98	202	65	150	131	80	33

### What, in your opinion, are problems you <u>EXPECT</u> to be most significant during 2024? (Percent of Respondents) - *continued*

### Appendix I: Survey Questionnaire: HMI Special Questions for January 2024

Faced in 2023	Expect in 2024	PROBLEMS
		BUILDER COSTS
		Building material prices
		Availability/time it takes to obtain building materials
		Damaged building materials
		Cost/availability of labor
		Cost/availability of developed lots
		Energy efficiency requirements
		Other building code requirements
		Worker's compensation
		General liability insurance
		Health insurance
		FINANCING PROBLEMS
		High interest rates
		Unfavorable financing terms for builders (fees, LTV limits etc.)
		Difficulty qualifying buyers for mortgages
		Lack of credit for land acquisition, development and construction
		Inaccurate appraisals
		PROBLEMS ATTRACTING BUYERS
		Buyers unable to sell existing homes
		Concern about employment/economic situation
		Competition from distressed sales/foreclosures
		Buyers expect prices or interest rates will decline if they wait
		Negative media reports making buyers cautious
		Gridlock/uncertainty in Washington making buyers cautious
		Potential buyers putting off purchase due to student debt
	·	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES
		Federal environmental regulations and policies
		Rising inflation in the US economy
		OSHA regulations and inspections
		Regulation of banking/financial institutions
_		Attempts to limit mortgage interest deduction/other support for housing
	_	
		Taxes on home builders
		Employee classification and reporting requirements
		Immigration policies
		Intervening in local land use decisions
		LOCAL LAND USE POLICIES
		Impact/hook-up/inspection or other fees
		Inadequate public infrastructure
		Difficulty obtaining zoning/permit approval
		Local/state environmental regulations and policies
		Attempts to steer development to undesirable locations
		Development standards (parking, setbacks, etc.) OTHER: Faced in 2023
	_	
		OTHER: Expect TO Face in 2024)

What, in your opinion, were the most significant <u>problems</u> faced by builders during 2023, and which do you expect to be most significant during 2024? Check all that apply.

#### THANK YOU