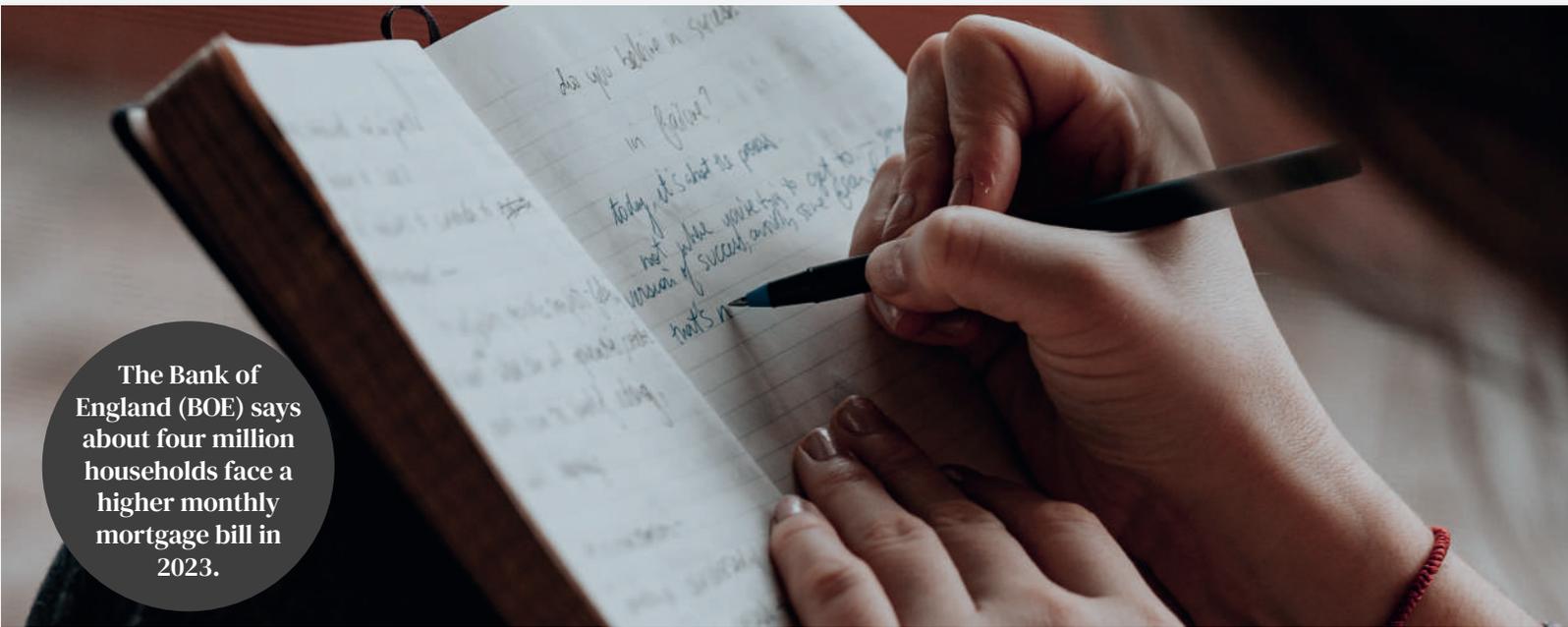


MONTHLY CATCH UP WITH LIFETIME



The Bank of England (BOE) says about four million households face a higher monthly mortgage bill in 2023.

At least **100,000 people** per month are coming to the end of their current mortgage deal and currently face a jump in their monthly repayments.

Some of them will have steep rises to contend with.

After a long period of ultra-low rates, many homeowners are now facing the likelihood of much more expensive monthly repayments.

And the BOE has warned that it may act again and raise interest rates still further if necessary, to get inflation on a downward trajectory.

A statement from the BOE read: “We know that raising interest rates means many people will face higher borrowing costs. And some businesses will face higher loan rates. But we need to act to lower inflation. Low and stable inflation is vital for a healthy economy, where people can plan for the future and where hard-earned money keeps its value.”

There are some mortgage brokers who say that mortgage rates will start to fall later this year, despite a further expected rise in the base interest rate in February. They are predicting 4% fixed rates by the end of 2023.

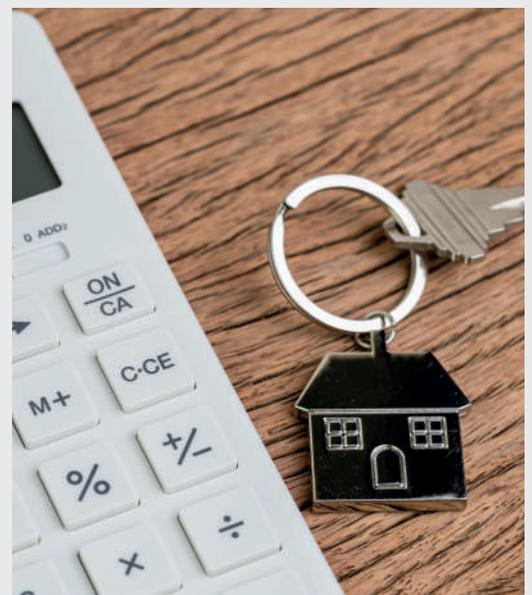
This month (January 2023), the average two-year fixed rate was 5.79% according to MoneyFacts. A year earlier, it was 2.38%.



Three-quarters of mortgage customers hold a fixed-rate mortgage.

Their monthly payments may not change immediately, but house buyers - or anyone seeking to re-mortgage - will have to pay a lot more now than if they had taken out the same mortgage a year or two ago.

As for those on tracker mortgages, compared with pre-December 2021, average tracker mortgage customers are faced with paying about £333 more a month. For variable mortgage holders it is about £210 more.



When it comes to the type of mortgage product to take, Lifetime Mortgage Adviser Scott Kershaw (pictured) says he asks clients this important question:

“Are you in a position where if the interest rates rise you can afford the repayments?”



Scott adds: “If people are coming to the end of their current deals then it is a good idea to review their mortgage needs.

“I’m also making clients aware – inspired by consumer champion Martin Lewis – that if a fixed rate is right for you now, then that is what’s important. If rates are to decrease in the future and you are still fixed in, then it always bears remembering that the decision you made was the right choice for you at the time.

“If people are currently struggling to make the payments on their mortgage, then there is a possibility of extending the mortgage term, in order to lower the monthly payments. However, you need to be fully aware that by doing this more interest will be paid on the mortgage.

“Anyone struggling to make their mortgage payments needs to speak to their existing lender as soon as possible. The lender wants to help people meet their repayments and will be able to discuss the options available.

“If you’ve secured a mortgage rate, but that deal hasn’t yet started, it’s worth checking now if you can get a cheaper rate. It may be that new mortgages are now lower than they have been in the last few weeks.

“If your new deal has already started, you’ll almost certainly be charged to cancel.”

A mortgage is a key part of your overall financial plan. If you need any help and guidance with your mortgage needs then please get in touch with Scott, telephone: 01226 208600

How to leave a review

1. Go to maps.google.com and log in to your Google account
2. Search for lifetime fm in the search bar
3. On the selected business page, click 'write a review'
4. When the window pops up, leave a star rating along with a review



Lifetime have been very helpful and explained all the aspects of our pension plan in a language that is easy to understand. They also showed us how our plan will develop in the future and advised us on certain problems we may have with not having done a power of attorney when we did our wills. I'm glad I chose Lifetime to deal with my pension after hearing some of the issues other people have. Thank you.

Mike Harper



2023 - A new year

The start of a new year is the perfect time for new beginnings.

What have you got planned for 2023 and, most importantly, do you know if your finances can cope with those plans?

By taking careful control of your money – and having a clear understanding of your financial position – you may be able to offset anxiety and stress, and in doing so make good financial decisions, rather than merely guessing.

Understanding how to look after your money and having your expenditure (bills etc..) covered plays a significant role in your mental health. It can mean that you are more comfortable and confident. Not worried and fearful.

Having a financial plan in place – in other words, a trusted, well sign-posted track that you can follow – is crucial for you and your loved ones.

It is also important to understand what brings joy into your life, and how you can use your money to do these things.

Over the last couple of years there has been much talk about the importance of financial education and financial wellbeing, especially in the workplace. It is a subject that isn't going to go away. And it shouldn't. Financial wellbeing can't be treated in isolation, as it runs through all aspects of our lives, and is often the cause of many other issues.

As 2023 starts to unfold use any spare time to keep looking at what you have, what you want to do, and where you would like to be in the future. Make your emotional and financial wellbeing a top priority. And remember, we are always here to help, offering guidance, support and advice.

Thanks again for putting your trust and faith in us.

