

**One in five Kiwis more likely to pay mobile bill than mortgage** – 3News, 02 April 2009

From 2007 to 2008, the number mortgagee sales increased by 275 percent

Mortgages are generally thought to be the highest priority for NZ households, but the results of the payment priorities survey challenges this view.

Twenty percent of people with a home mortgage say this is the payment they would be least likely to make if they didn't have enough money to pay all the bills.

The survey found pay TV, mobile phones bills and internet connections were all high priorities.

The findings have surprised the Federation of Family Budgeting Services who say most people they see - have a roof over their heads as their top priority.

Budgeting services advise anyone who can't afford their mortgage repayments to contact the bank - and it's a view echoed by the banks.

While mortgagee sales are viewed as a last resort - they are on the rise here.

Banks say there are a range of options that can be explored before a mortgagee sale - such as repayment holidays and moving to interest only repayments.

The study also found kiwi consumers are big on positive reinforcement, responding well to paying bills if early payment is rewarded and we would pay bills more quickly if early repayment was listed on a credit report.