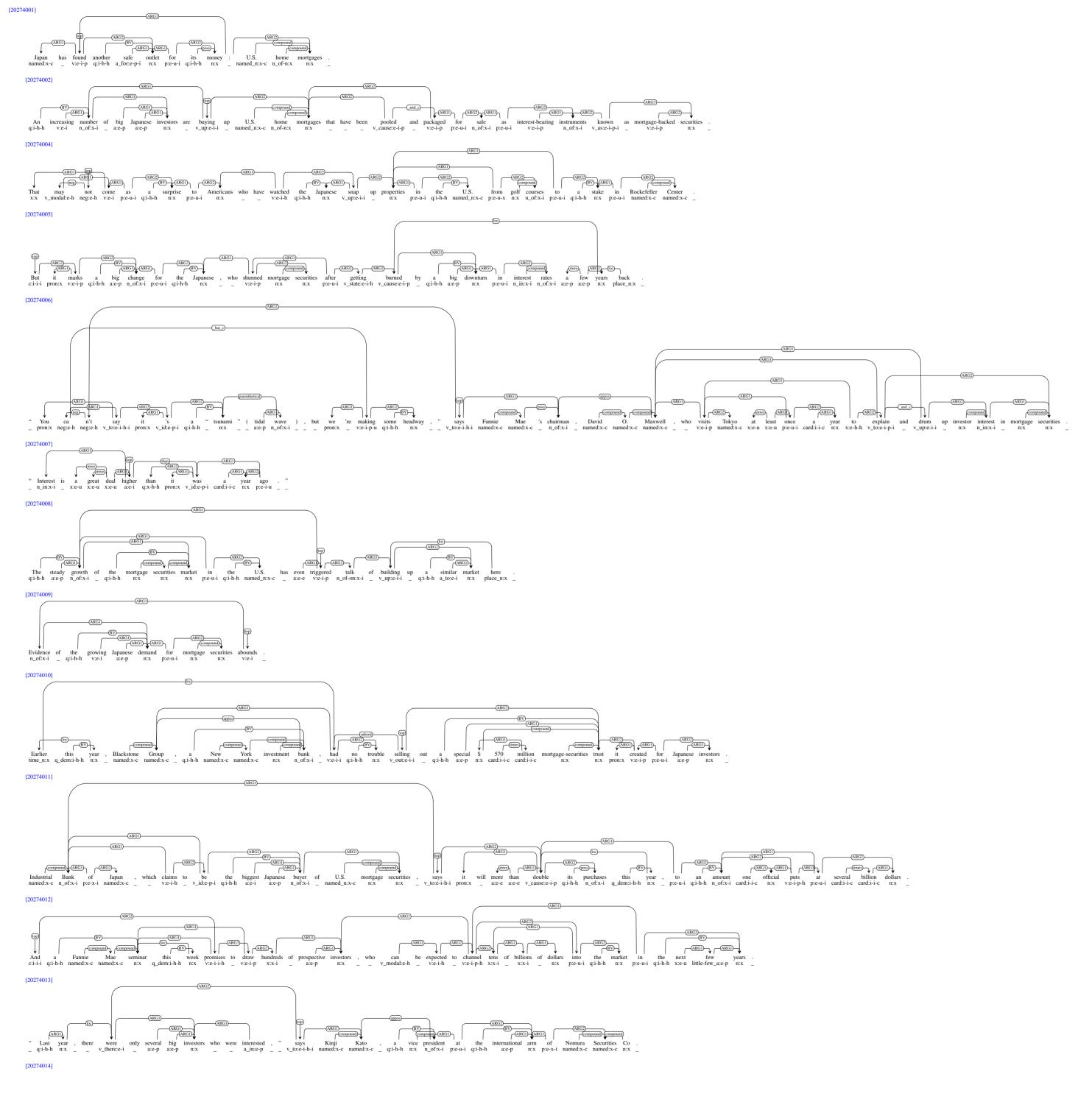
Document 0274



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"This year , some investors are changing their policies and investing a lot . "

q_dem:i-h-h n:x _ q:i-h-h n:x _ v_cause:e-i-p q:i-h-h n_of-on:x-i _ v:e-i-p q:i-h-h n:x _ _
                         y, he says , strong demand could help to drive down interest rates on mortgage securities pron:x v_to:e-i-h-i a:e-p n:x v_modal:e-h v_to:e-i-h _ v_down:e-i-i _ n_in:x-i n_of:x-i p:e-u-i n:x n:x
 At the moment , Nomura is the only Japanese institution authorized to act as a primary seller of Fannie Mae instruments . p:e-u-i q:i-h-h n:x _ named:x-c v_id:e-p-i q:i-h-h a:e-p n:x v:e-i-i-h _ v_as:e-i-i _ q:i-h-h a:e-p n_of:x-i _ named:x-c named:x-c n_of:x-i _ noned:x-c named:x-c na
But other Japanese institutions say privately that they are considering asking to join the 59-dealer selling group c:i-i-i a:e-i a:e-p n:x v_to:e-i-h-i a:e-e _ pron:x _ v:e-i-h v:e-i-h _ v:e-i-p q:i-h-h n:x v:e-i-p n_of:x
These securities are attractive to Japanese investors for three reasons q_dem:i-h-h n:x _ a:e-p p:e-u-i a:e-p n:x p:e-u-i card:i-i-c n_for:x-i
First , they are safe . _ _ pron:x _ a_for:e-p-i _
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  e , it is widely assumed that the government would support them if necessary a:e-e v:e-i-h _ q:i-h-h n_of:x-i v_modal:e-h v:e-i-p pron:x x:e-h-h a_for:e-p-i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 as Treasury bonds are x:e-h-h named:x-c n:x _
       ( U.S. Treasury bonds are still the dollar-denominated investment of choice for long-term Japanese investors ) . named_n:x-c named:x-c n:x v_id:e-p-i a:e-e q:i-h-h v:e-i-p n:x p:e-x-i n_of:x-i p:e-u-i n_of:x-i a:e-p n:x ___
   Second , they are liquid . a:e-h _ pron:x _ a:e-p _
 The secondary market in federally backed mortgage securities now exceeds $ 900 billion , or nearly half of the $ 2.2 trillion in U.S. residential mortgages issued . q:i-h-h a:e-p n:x p:e-u-i a:e-e v:e-i-p n:x n:x a:e-e v:e-i-p n:x card:i-i-c card:i-i-c ard:i-i-c ard:i-i-c p:e-u-i named_n:x-c a:e-p n:x v:e-i-p .
 Third , they offer high yields a:e-h _ pron:x v:e-i-p a:e-p n:x
At the moment , some offer as much as 1.6 to 1.8 percentage points over Treasury securities of similar maturities . p:e-u-i q:i-h-h v:e-i-p x:e-u x:e-u x:e-u card:i-i-c interval_p_end:i-i-i card:i-i-c n_of:x n_of:x p:e-u-i named:x-c n:x p:e-x-i a_to:e-i n:x __
 [20274026]
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 But there is a risk , which the Japanese discovered when they first dipped their toes into the market nearly five years ago .
c:i-i-i _ v_there:e-i q:i-h-h n_of:x-i _ _ q:i-h-h n:x v:e-i-p x:e-h-h pron:x a:e-e v_cause:e-i-p-h q:i-h-h n:x p:e-u-i q:i-h-h n:x a_to:e-e card:i-i-c n:x p:e-i-u _
Since most mortgages can be prepaid or refinanced at any time issuers of mortgage securities retain the right to buy back their bonds before maturity x:e-h-h q:i-h-h n:x v_modal:e-h v_for:e-i-p-u v:e-i-p p:e-u-i q:i-h-h n_of:x n:x p:e-x-i n:x n:x v:e-i-p q:i-h-h n:x-h v:e-i-p place_n:x q:i-h-h n:x p:e-u-i n:x
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   (compound)
   That 's a headache for long-term investors , since it forces them to reinvest their money – usually at lower rates than the original mortgage securities carried x:x v_id:e-p-i q:i-h-h n:x p:e-u-i n_of:x-i n:x _ x:e-h-h pron:x v:e-i-p
 [20274029]
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