

## **JUNE 2019**

## **Harrisonburg & Rockingham County Real Estate Market Report**



Guiding you through every move

An analysis of real estate activity through May 31, 2019 provided courtesy of Scott P. Rogers, Funkhouser Real Estate Group



# **HOME SALES REPORT**

**Harrisonburg & Rockingham County** 

June 2019

All Residential Sales	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
May	133	149	130	145	11.54%
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	454	481	480	480	0.00%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	1,187	1,340	1,261	1,306	3.57%

Median Sales Price	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
May	\$185,000	\$200,000	\$221,500	\$230,000	3.84%
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	\$189,000	\$189,000	\$207,650	\$215,000	3.54%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	\$185,000	\$192,700	\$205,300	\$214,900	4.68%

Median Days on Market	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	64	49	29	28	-3.45%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	53	47	30	24	-20.00%

Home sales in 2019 are exactly on par with 2018 when looking at the first five months of the year - and only one home sale behind 2017. So, after some starts and stops this year, it looks like we might have a pretty similiar year of home sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County as we have seen for the past tw oyears. The

main difference, however, is that sales prices are increasing (about 4% over the past year) and homes are going under contract more quickly (about 20% faster this year) when they hit the market. The annual pace of home sales (1,306) is also now a good bit (3.57%) higher than it was a year ago when 1,261 homes were selling per year.

# **HOME SALES REPORT**

**Harrisonburg & Rockingham County** 

June 2019

<b>Detached Homes</b>	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	341	326	338	336	-0.59%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	864	965	903	942	4.32%

Median Sales Price	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	\$200,000	\$216,500	\$224,108	\$226,250	0.96%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	\$199,700	\$219,000	\$225,000	\$229,500	2.00%

Attached Homes	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	113	155	142	144	1.41%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	323	375	358	364	1.68%

Median Sales Price	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change ('18 - '19)
Year-To-Date (Jan - May)	\$150,900	\$155,000	\$164,950	\$174,900	6.03%
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)	\$150,900	\$150,000	\$163,000	\$171,500	5.21%

The green charts above shows trends in detached home sales -- as compared to the orange charts which show attached home sales, comprised of duplexes, townhouses and condominiums. Over the past year, the pace of detached home sales has increased 4.32% as compared to only a 1.68% increase in attached home

sales. Despite that larger increase in the pace of detached home sales, the median sales price of those detached homes has only increased 2% over the past year, as compared to the more significant 5.21% increase in the median sales price of attached home.

## **HOME SALES REPORT :: BY AREA**

# Home Sales				
May				
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)				

City of Harrisonburg					
2018	2019	% Change			
41	43	4.88%			
422 429 1.66%					

Rockingham County				
2018	2019	% Change		
89	102	14.61%		
839	877	4.53%		

Median Sales Price				
May				
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)				

City of Harrisonburg				
2018	2019	% Change		
\$221,000	\$189,500	-14.25%		
\$185,950 \$189,500 1.91%				

Rockingham County			
2018	2019	% Change	
\$222,000	\$243,000	9.46%	
\$215,000	\$225,000	4.65%	

Median Days on Market		
May		
Last 12 Months (Jun - May)		

City of Harrisonburg			
2018	2019	% Change	
6	9	50.00%	
14	16	14.29%	

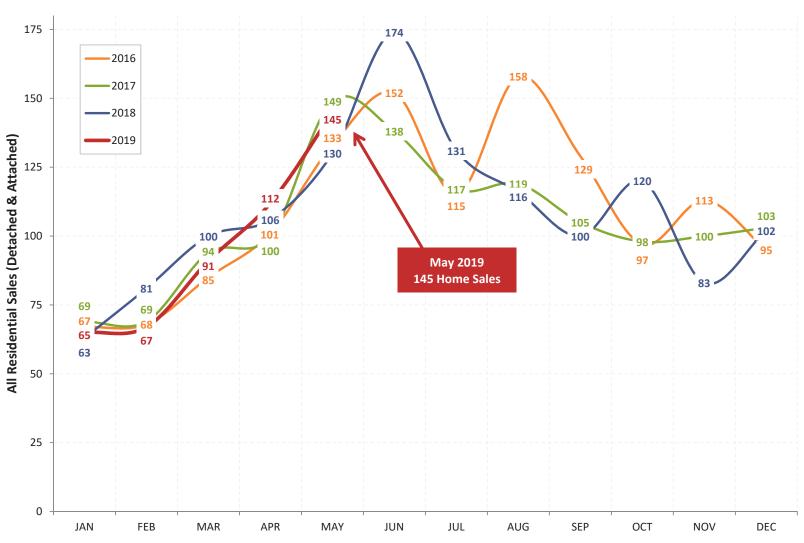
Rockingham County			
2018	2019	% Change	
36	19	-47.22%	
38	30	-21.05%	

It continues to hold true that each year almost twice as many homes sell in Rockingham County as compared to the City of Harrisonburg. Over the past 12 months, that trend continued - though with only a slight year-over-year increase in City home sales (+1.66%) as compared to a slightly larger increase (+4.53%) in the

County. The median sales price increased in each of these two regions of our local market -- though the median sales price continues to be a good bit higher in the County (\$225,000) than in the City (\$189,500). The lower City median sales price is likely a result of the majority of our area's townhouses being located in the City.

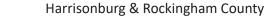


## **Month-By-Month Home Sales History**

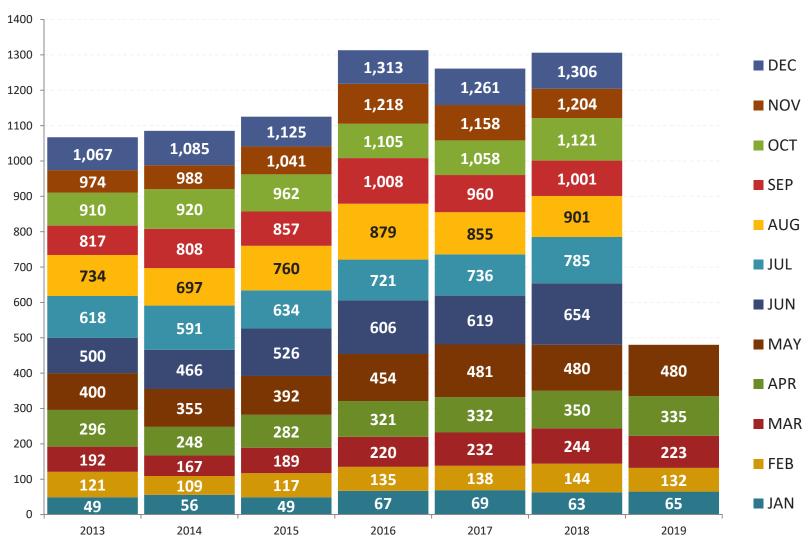


Home sales started off slow in 2019 - with January, February and March sales lower than in the same month for most of the past few years - but then things started to shift in April. We saw more home sales in April 2019 than we had seen in any of the past three months of April - and May also had a strong showing, with 145 home

sales, second only to the 149 home sales seen in May 2017. It is hard to say if we could beat (or even come close to) the 174 home sales seen last June. I predict we'll see closer to 150 to 160 home sales in June, followed by around 120 to 125 home sales in July.



## **Monthly Cumulative Residential Sales**

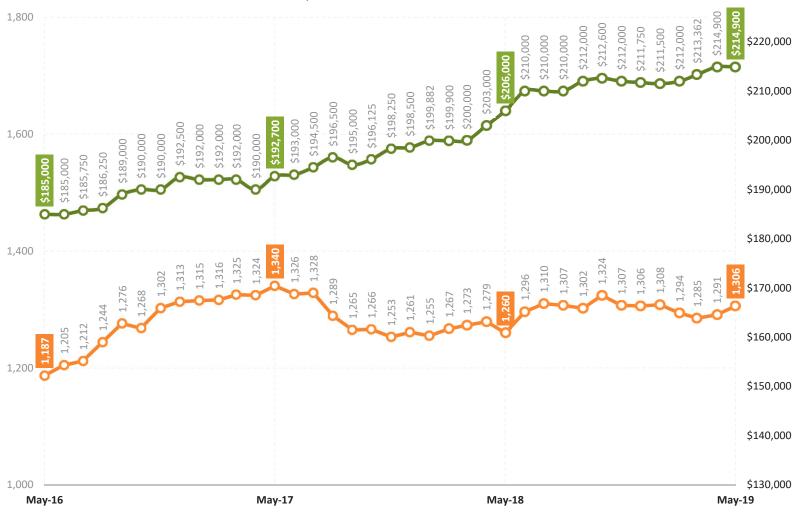


This colorful graph offers another way to look at the overall sales trends for the past few years in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County housing market. As shown above, our local housing market experienced small incremental growth between 2013 and 2015 before seeing a sharp uptick in home sales in 2016, and then a

modest decline between 2016 and 2017. That trend reversed itself in 2018 -- with an increase as compared to 2017, up to 1,306 home sales in 2018. We didn't quite match the strong sales seen in 2016 -- but we came very close -- and broke the 1,300 mark again, for only the second time in the past 10 years.

## Time-Adjusted Home Sales Trends :: All Residential Properties

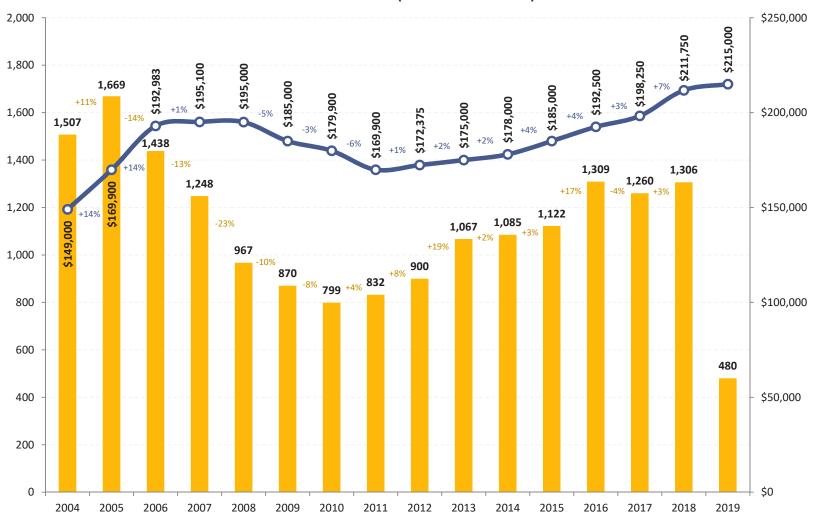
# Home Sales, Median Sales Price in each 12 Month Period



This graph shows a rolling 12 month trend line of the number of homes sold in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area, as well as the median price of the homes that sold during these time frames. Each data point shows one year's worth of home sales, which eliminates the volatility of evaluating sales figures on a monthly basis. The annual pace of home sales peaked in May 2017 at 1,340 home sales, then declined for a year and has been fluctuating around 1300 sales/year over the past 12 months -- but the median sales price has continued to steadily increase over the past three years.

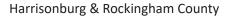
#### **Home Sales & Price Trends**

All Residential Sales (Attached & Detached)



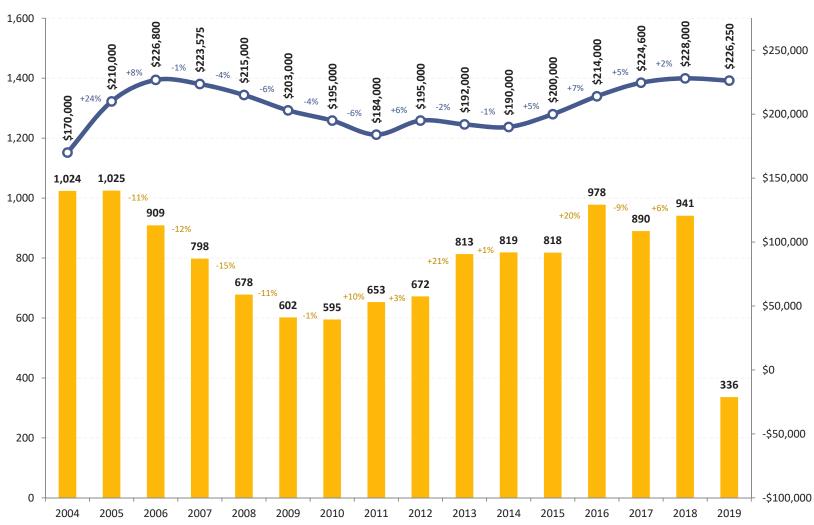
This graph provides an overall indicator of the state of our housing market, showing both the number of homes being sold each year since 2003 (yellow bars) as well as changes in the median sales price during the same time period (blue line). After six years in a row (2011-2016) of an increasing pace of home sales, we then saw a 4%

decline in the pace of home sales in 2017. This trend reversed itself in 2018 with a 3% increase in the pace of sales. We have now also completed our seventh year in a row of seeing an increase in the median sales price in our area. The median sales price of all residential sales was \$211,750 in 2018 -- up 7% from last year.



### **Home Sales & Price Trends**

**Detached Homes** 

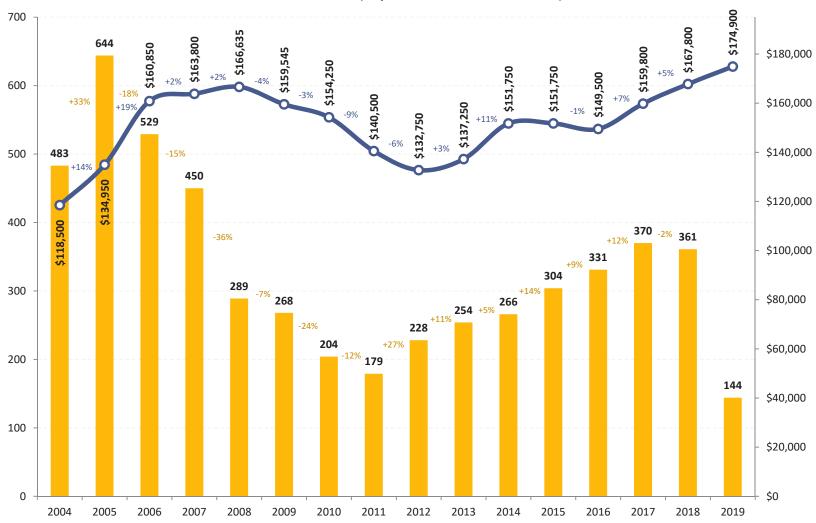


The single family home market in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County improved significantly between 2015 and 2016 with a 20% increase in the number of homes sold but then took a step backwards in 2017 with a 9% decline. In 2018, sales started charging forward again with a 6% increase in the pace of sales. Median sales

prices of single family homes has increased for each of the past four years -- though the pace of those increases slowed in 2018 to only 2%. The median sales price of single family homes last year was \$228,000 -- the highest median sales price on record for Harrisonburg and Rockingham County.

#### **Home Sales & Price Trends**

**Attached Homes (Duplexes, Townhomes & Condos)** 

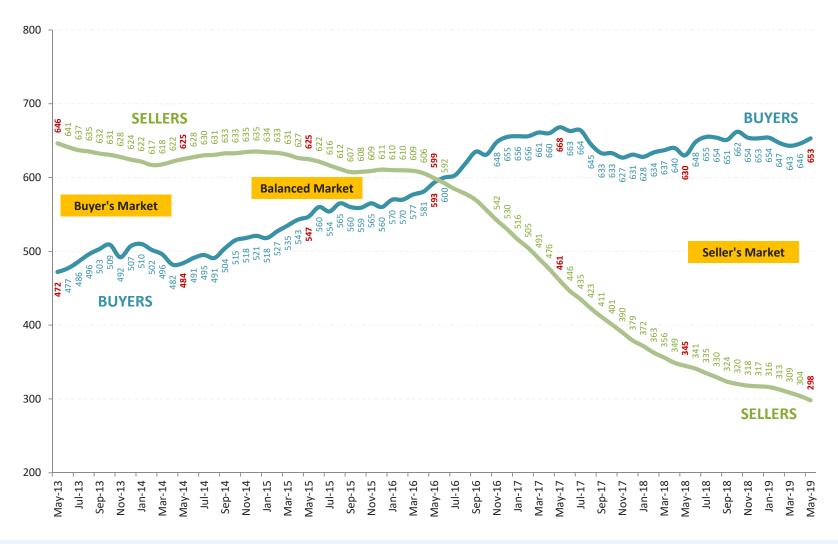


Townhouse (and duplexes and condo) sales took a small step backwards last year after six years of steady increases in the pace of sales. At year-end, 2% fewer attached dwellings (361) had sold in 2018 as compared to in 2017 when 370 sold. Despite a slight slow down in the pace of sales -- possibly caused by very low inventory absent

much new construction -- the median sales price continues to climb, now up to \$167,800. Here is yet another record broken -- the median sales price of \$167,800 (seen in 2018) was the highest we have ever seen in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. And in 2019 it is climbing even higher - eclipsing \$170K.

### Market Balance between Buyers and Sellers

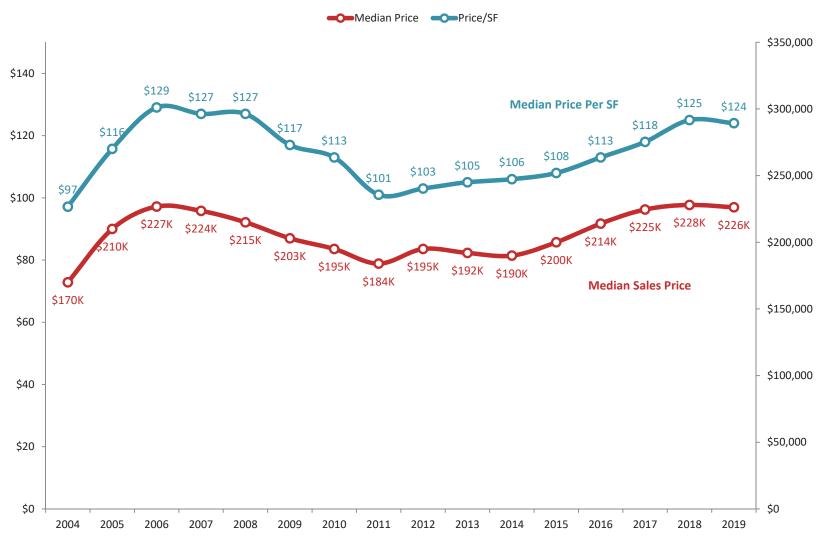
Assuming Six Months of Housing Supply is a Balanced Market



Most housing market analysts consider six months of inventory (active listings) to be an indicator of a balanced market (between buyers and sellers). The "BUYERS" trend line above is illustrating how many buyers are buying in a six month period. The "SELLERS" trend line above is illustrating how many sellers are in the market

(active listings) at any given time. Over the past several years we have seen a steady increase in buyers and a declining number of sellers. In June 2016, these two trajectories crossed, and there are now many more buyers buying in a six month period than there are homes for sale -- though the buying pace has leveled off.





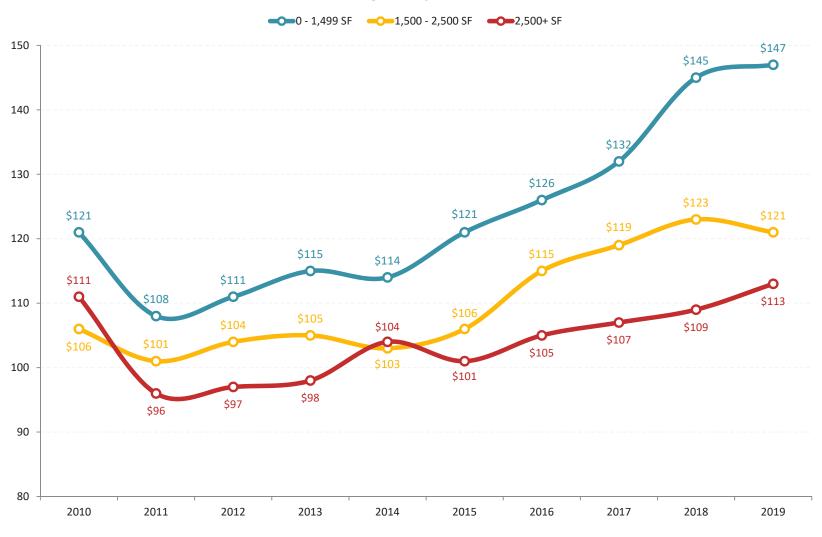
In addition to monitoring home values by overall median sales prices in our market, it can be insightful to examine the median price per square foot of homes that are selling. The graph above shows the median price per square foot of all single family homes sold over the past 15 years. The value trend captured by this graph is quite

similar to the trend shown in the single family home median sales price during the same time, which validates that assumed set of changes in home values. Over the past several years (2015 through 2018) we have seen increases in the median sales price as well as the median price per square foot of single family homes.



### **Median Price Per Square Foot by Home Size**

**Single Family Homes** 



Price per square foot of single family homes certainly varies for many reasons, including the age, location, lot size and structural characteristics of each home sold. However, there are some similarities in homes of similar sizes. Looking at 2019 figures, this graph illustrates that the median price per square foot of larger homes

(2500+ SF) is a good bit lower (\$113/SF) than that of homes with less than 1500 SF (\$147/SF). These values cannot be used as an absolute standard against which the value of any home can be measured, but they can provide some helpful guidance when trying to determine the value of a home.

#### **Median List Price to Sales Price Ratio**

within the context of Home Sales Pace

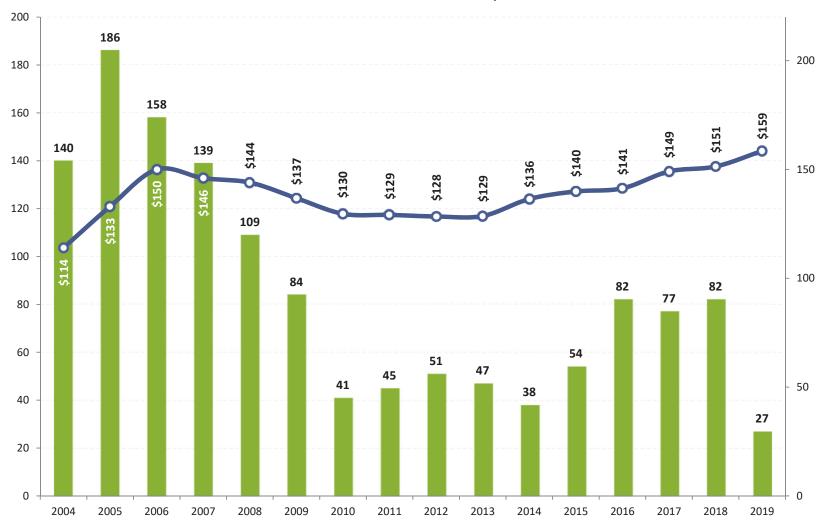


This graph shows the average list price to sales price ratio (red line) over the past 15 years as compared to the overall pace of home sales. At the peak of the housing boom (2004-2006) sellers were able to obtain a median of 99% of their asking price --- up from a median of 98% in 2001 before the pace of home sales started

escalating. Then, when the pace of home sales slowed (through 2010) this metric dropped to 96%, where it stayed for three years. Sellers started selling for slightly more in 2013-2015 when they could obtain 97% of their list price. This increased to 98% in 2016, held steady in 2017, and returned to 99% in 2018.

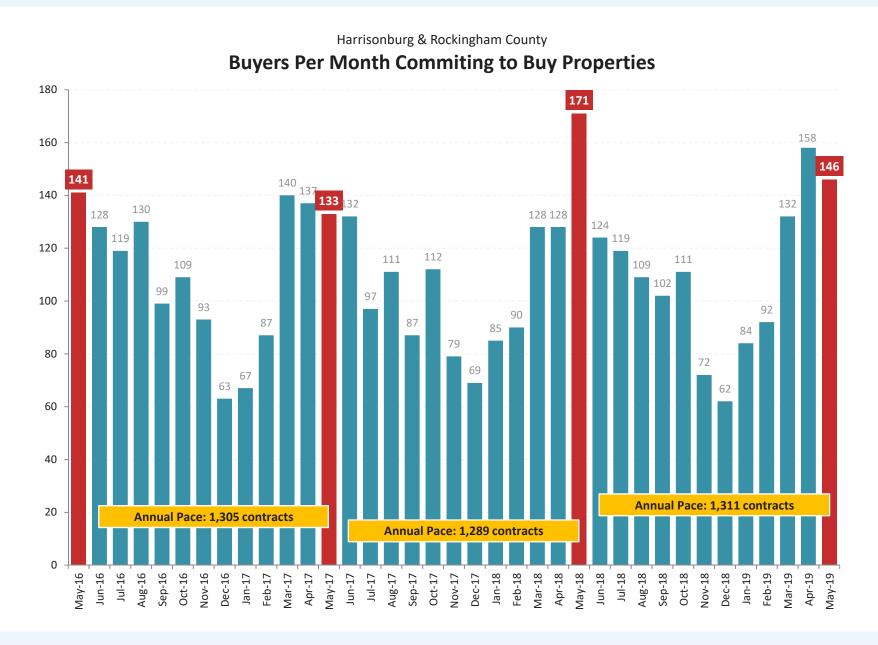
#### **New Construction Detached Home Sales Trends**

**Number of Sales, Median Price Per Square Foot** 



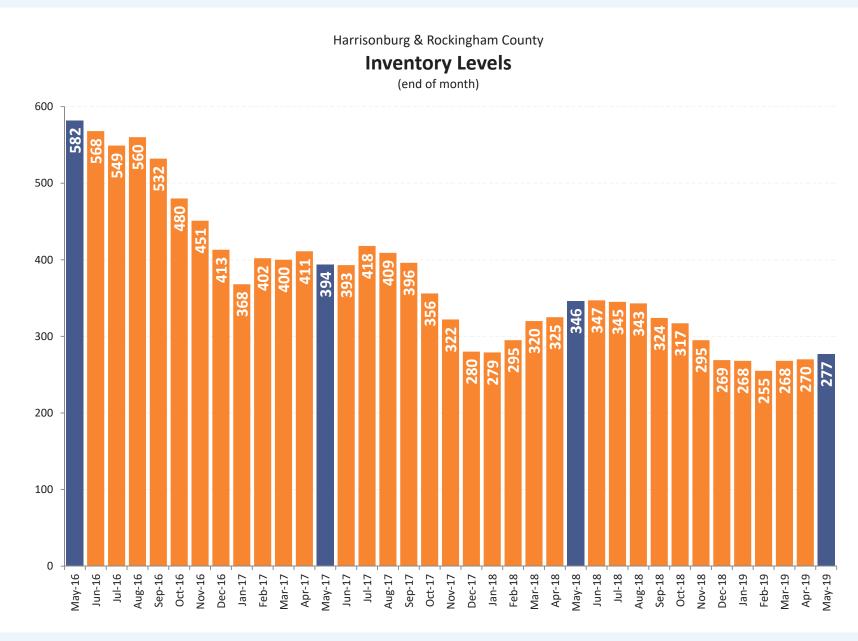
New home builders experienced a steady decline in new home sales between 2005 and 2010 -- dropping 78% from a peak of 186 to 41 sales in a year. Even if we use a starting point of 2001 (not shown above; before the housing boom) we still find a 70% drop between 2001 and 2010. The number of new home sales per year has

not crept up much since that time -- staying between 38 and 54 new home sales per year. The past three years, however, were QUITE different. There were a total of 82 new home sales in 2016, 77 in 2017, and 82 again in 2018. This was a welcome sign for new home builders -- and buyers -- though things seem to be cooling in 2019.



Contract activity spiked in April of this year with 158 contracts -- the highest number of contracts seen in a monht of April in many years -- but then this pace of contract activity cooled a bit in May. Of note - the 146 contracts seen in May 2019 is higher than two out of the three past months of May - only being surpassed by the shocking

month of 171 contracts last May. When adding up March through May contracts for the past three years we find 410 contracts in 2017, followed by 427 contracts in 2018 and then 436 contracts in 2019 - so, an overall increase in buyer activity when looking just at this Spring-ish months.

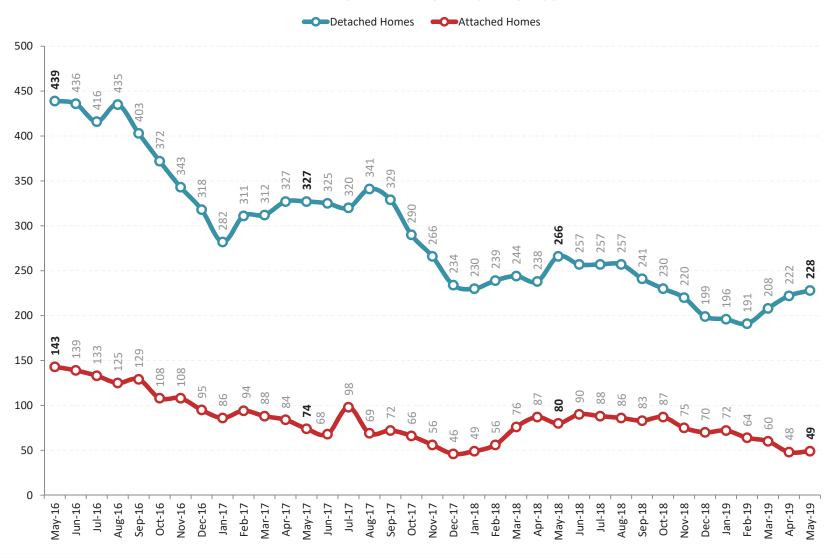


Over the past several years, inventory levels have dipped lower and lower and lower. This has not, though, been accompanied by a decline in the pace of home sales. So -- if just as many (or more) buyers are buying, how are they doing it if inventory levels are so low? They're doing it with speed. The pace of home sales

can increase, with inventory levels declining if the median "days on market" is also declining, which is definitely the case in our local market. So, plenty (maybe, maybe not) homes are being listed for sale, but they are then going under contract quickly, which keeps inventory levels low but the pace of home sales high.



## **Inventory Levels by Property Type**

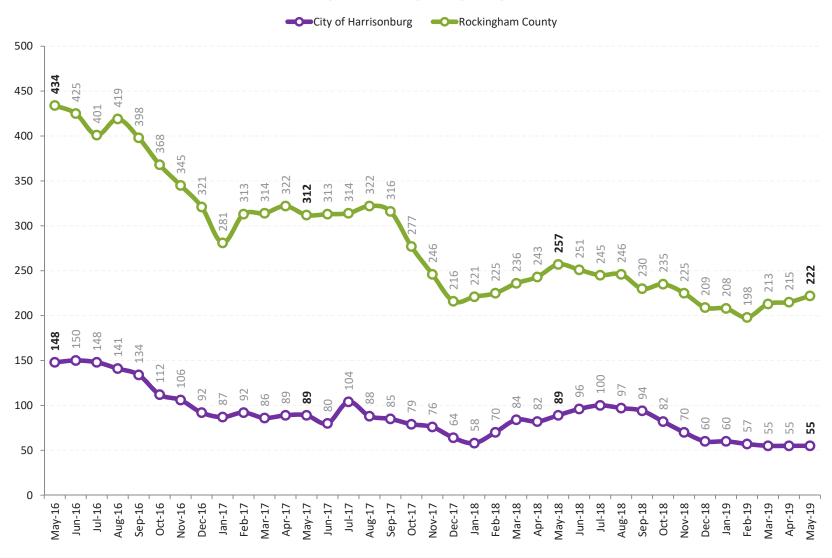


This graph examines the differences in inventory levels over time when examining only single family homes as compared to attached dwellings (townhouses, duplexes, condos). The number of detached homes for sale has decreased by 14% over the past year, while the number of attached homes (townhouses, duplexes and condos)

for sale has decreased by 39% over the past year. Last year inventory levels peaked at the end of May, so we may see further increases in inventory levels over the next month or so if we follow a similar trend.



### **Inventory Levels by Property Location**

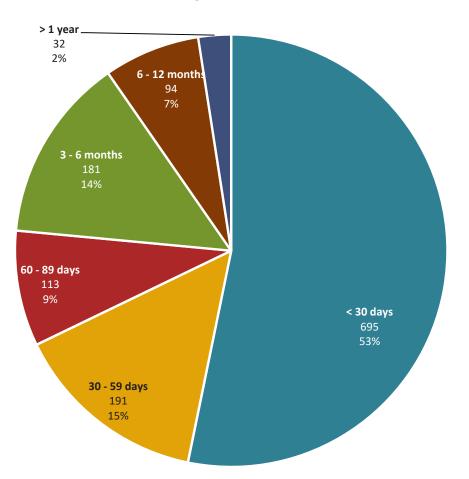


Inventory levels have fallen 14% in Rockingham County over the past year and have fallen an even more drastic 38% in the City of Harrisonburg during the same timeframe. Of note -- while there are approximately twice as many home sales in the County than in the City -- there are almost four times as many homes for sale in

the County than in the City. As such, the low inventory levels are much more of an issue in the City right now if we look at both sellers (supply) and buyers (demand). This is likely leading to the faster increases in median sales price in the City, and the lower median days on market in the City.

### **Days on Market Analysis of Sold Properties**

**Residential Listings Sold in the Past 12 Months** 

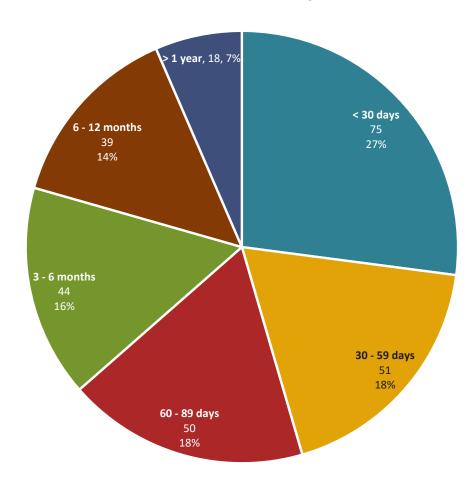


Median Days On Market: 24

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

## **Days on Market Analysis of Active Listings**

**Active Residential Listings** 



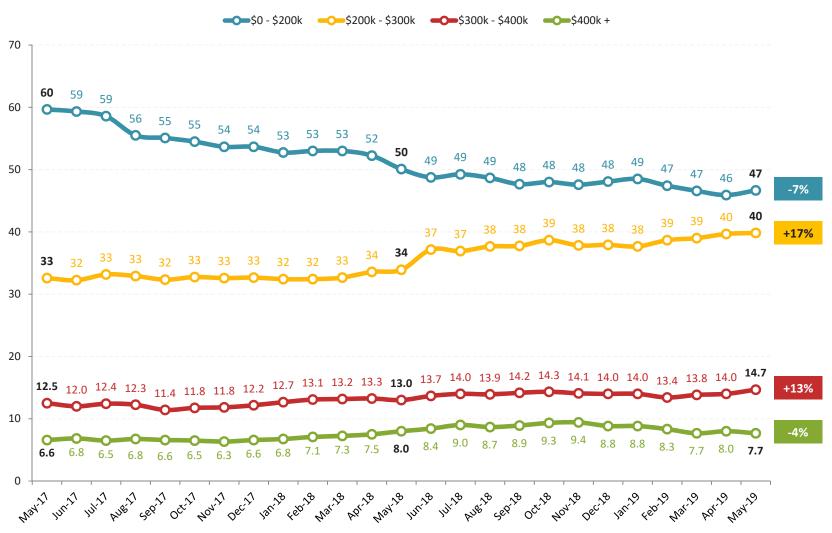
Median Days On Market: 66

Declining inventory levels are contributing to an overall decline in the time it takes to sell a home in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. The current median "Days on Market" is 24 days for homes that have sold in the past year. Remarkably, 53% of homes that have sold in the past year have gone under contract within 30 days

of having hit the market. Combine that with those that went under contract during the second month on the market, and you'll find that 68% of homes that sell go under contract within 60 days. The graph to the right, above, shows the length of time that each active listing has been on the market for sale.



(Average of Past 12 Months)

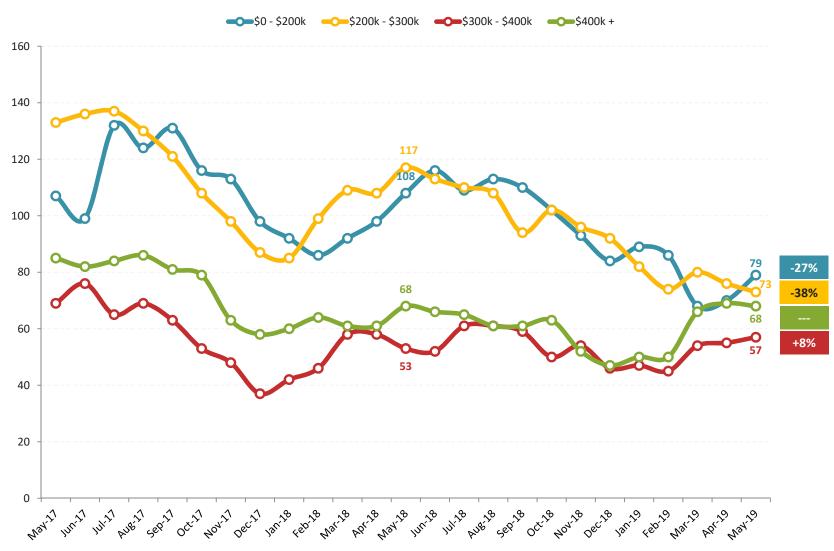


The pace of home sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County varies significantly based on price range. The graph above shows the average number of home sales per month (given a 12-month average) as we have passed through the past two years. Home sales have been declining over the past several years in the "under

\$200K" category -- though likely because of limited inventory, and fewer properties existing in this range based on increasing home values. We have seen year-over-year increases in all other price ranges -- with the most significant comparative increase in the pace of home sales being in the \$200K - \$300K price range.

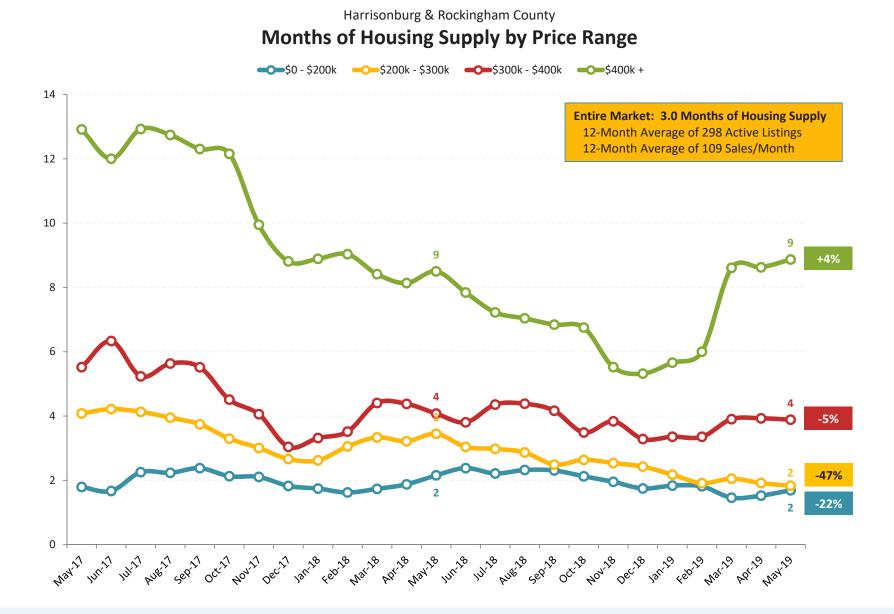


## **Inventory Levels by Price Range**



Inventory levels shift up and down seasonally, but we are also seeing differences in year-over-year trajectories in each of the four price ranges outlined above. Inventory levels of homes under \$200K and those between \$200K and \$300K have both fallen dramatically (-27%, -38%) over the past two years. Some of those homes

have appreciated into higher price segments, as inventory levels in the \$300K - \$400K price range have increased by 8% over the past year. The only price range where we have not seen a change in inventory levels is the \$400K+ price range where inventory levels have neither risen nor fallen over the past year.

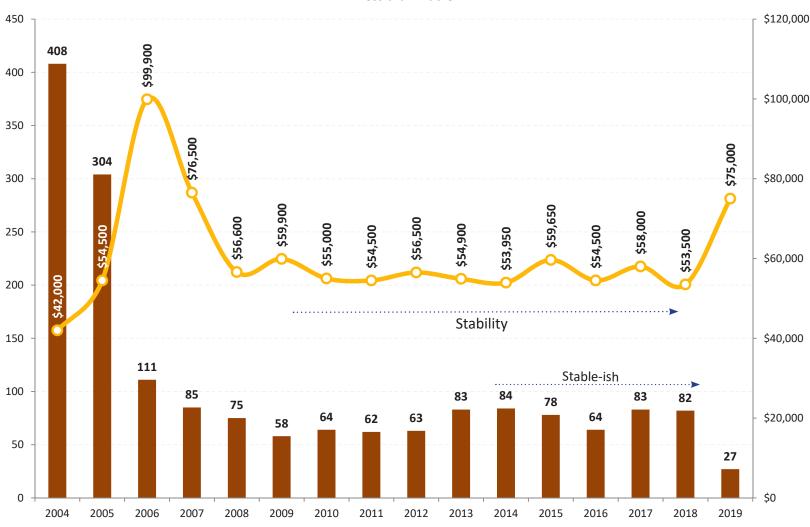


With so many home sales (lots of buyers) and so few homes on the market (not so many sellers), there are low levels of supply in some price ranges in our local real estate market. The graph above illustrates that while it would take 9 months to sell all of the homes currently for sale over \$400K if the same number of buyers

bought each month as have been buying (on average) over the past 12 months and if no new listings came on the market -- but it would only take two months (!!) to burn through the under \$200K inventory. Many consider a six month supply to be a balance between buyers and sellers.

#### **Lot Sales & Median Prices**

less than 1 acre



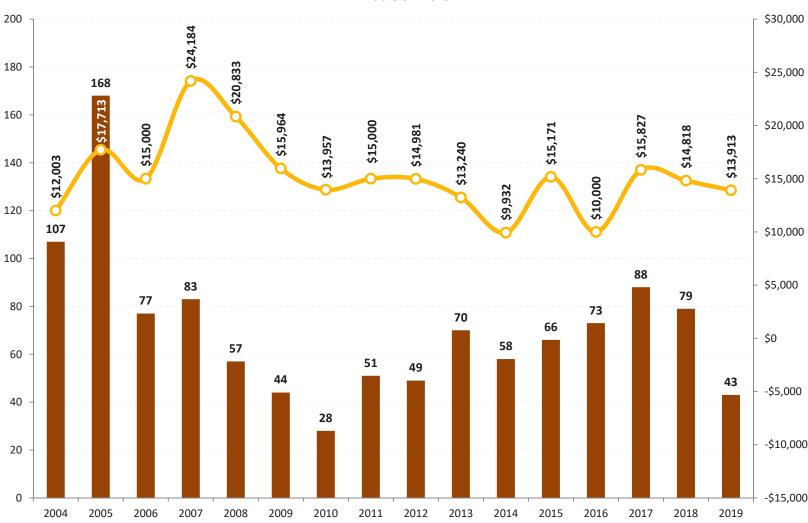
With the exception of 2016, we have seen between 78 and 84 lot sales of less than an acre for each of the past six years. This is a sharp decline from the 260 - 400 lot sales seen in 2002-2005, but it is an improvement over where things were (58-63 sales) between 2009 and 2012. From a value perspective, the sales prices of these

"less than an acre" lots have also been rather stable -- fluctuating no further than between \$53K and \$60K over the past ten years. That is, of course, after a meteoric rise and then fall to/from \$100K. This year, we are seeing many fewer lot sales, but at a much higher median sales price!



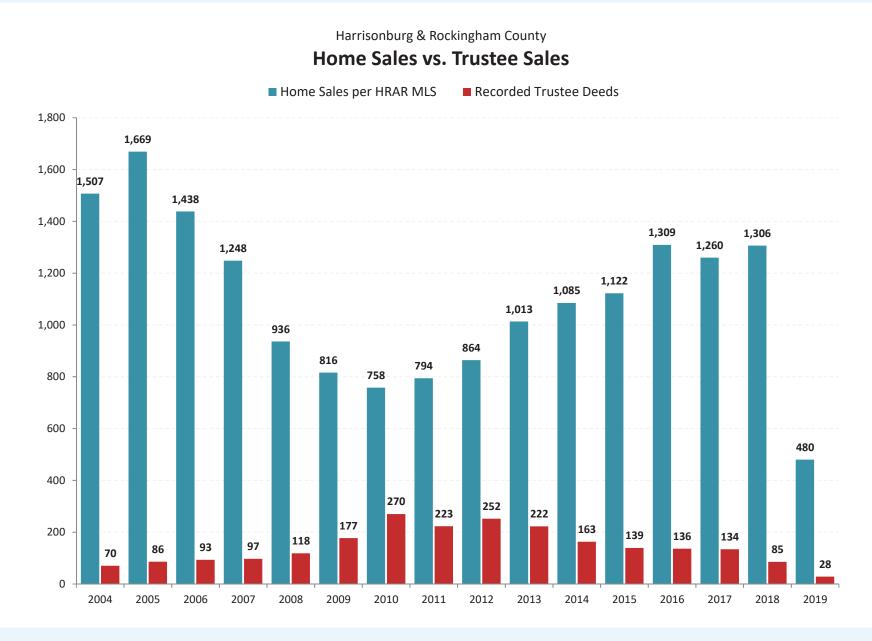
#### **Land Sales & Median Price Per Acre**

1 acre or more



Parcels of land larger than one acre in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County increased in pace during 2017 to 88 land sales -- marking the highest year of sales since 2005 -- but then declined again in 2018 to 79 lot sales. The median price per acre also declined in 2018 to \$14,818. Of note -- some aspects of this "median price per acre"

calculation are affected by which parcels actually sell in a given year. We saw an increase in buyer demand in 2017, which seems to have lead to a further increase in the median price per acre, and then a decline in demand in 2018 accompanied by a decline in prices.

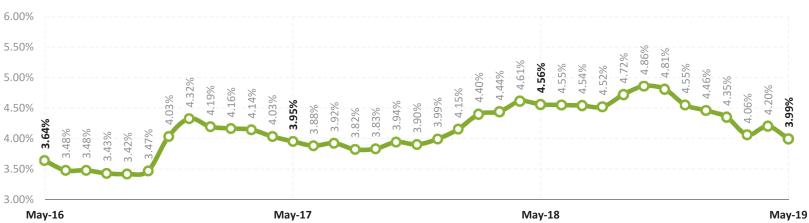


The graph above is a comparison of two imprecise measures -- but the comparison can still be helpful. The blue bars show the number of home sales recorded in the HRAR MLS -- this does not include private sales that did not involve a Realtor, nor new home sales directly from a builder. The red bars show the number of recorded

Trustee Deeds. Some foreclosed properties then show up again as REO properties. The foreclosure rate in our local market area has been trending downward -- sharply in 2018 -- and the pace of home sales is increasing much more quickly, despite having slowed slightly in 2017.



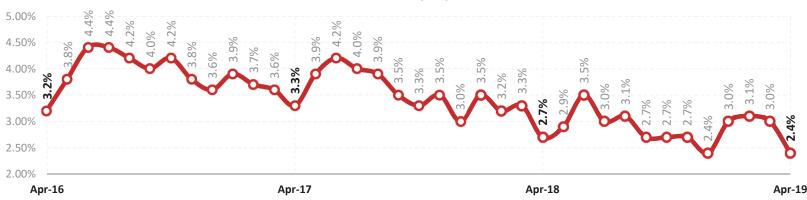




#### Harrisonburg-Rockingham MSA

## **Unemployment Rate**

**Not Seasonally Adjusted** 



As shown in the top graph above, for most of the past three years, home buyers have seen tremendously low interest rates -- almost always under 4% except in late 2016 and during just about all of 2018. Encouragingly, the average mortgage interest rate has decline significantly over the past seven months and is now just

below 4%. The second graph above illustrates trends in the local unemployment rate -- which has shown a general downward trend over the past several years to a current level of 2.4%. A low local unemployment rate and relatively low mortgage interest rates help our local housing market remain stable.

## [10] MEET THE ANALYST / REALTOR

## Harrisonburg Housing today.com

#### Scott P. Rogers, Associate Broker



Scott P. Rogers, a professional, responsive, knowledgeable, friendly Associate Broker with Funkhouser Real Estate Group, began his real estate career in 2003 and has been working hard ever since to provide exceptional service to his buyer and seller clients in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Since 2010, Scott has been recognized each year by the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Association of Realtors as being in the top 1% of all area Realtors.

A native of Montgomery County, Maryland, Scott earned a B.A. (2000) and M.Ed. (2002) from James Madison University, providing him formal education in graphic design, management and counseling -- all of

which he leverages on a daily basis to the benefit of his clients. Scott's graphic design and web development background allows him to create and utilize high caliber technology and marketing solutions for his clients.

Scott incorporates many innovative tools and technologies to serve his clients including: professional photography equipment, a quadcopter (drone), property websites for each of his listings, 3D Walk Through technology and Virtual Reality. He leads the local market in the adoption of new marketing techniques - for the latest, check out WalkThroughThisHome.com.

In 2007, Scott began providing in-depth analysis and commentary on the local real estate market via his real estate blog, HarrisonburgHousingToday.com. Since that time, he created many other valuable online resources for the local community such as:

HarrisonburgHousingMarket.com, HarrisonburgInvestmentProperties.com, HarrisonburgAssessments.com, HarrisonburgPropertyTransfers.com, HarrisonburgTownhouses.com, BuyingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com, SellingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com and HarrisonburgRealEstateResources.com.

Scott and his wife, Shaena, live in Rockingham County with their two children, Luke and Emily. In his free time, Scott enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, coaching middle school volleyball and operating TakeThemAMeal.com and PerfectPotluck.com.

Questions? Contact Scott anytime....
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How To Navigate The Home Purchasing Process
BuyingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com

The Best Marketing Strategies For Selling Your Home
SellingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com

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Harrisonburg & Rockingham County Property Search ScottPRogers.com

Analysis and Commentary on our Local Real Estate Market HarrisonburgHousingMarket.com

Daily Housing Market Analysis & Commentary HarrisonburgHousingToday.com

Fast Access to All New Listings of Homes For Sale NewListingsInHarrisonburg.com

Historical Record of Area Home Sales JustSoldInHarrisonburg.com

Property Transfers in Harrisonburg & Rockingham County HarrisonburgPropertyTransfers.com

Comprehensive Data on Single Family Home Neighborhoods HarrisonburgNeighborhoods.com

Comprehensive Data on Area Townhouse Communities HarrisonburgTownhouses.com

Analysis of Real Estate Investment Options in Harrisonburg HarrisonburgInvestmentProperties.com

The Most Realistic, Immersive Way to Experience a Home WalkThroughThisHome.com

Analysis of Property Assessments HarrisonburgAssessments.com

Listings With Low List Prices Compared to Assessed Values BestDealsInHarrisonburg.com

Trustee Sales in Harrisonburg & Rockingham County HarrisonburgForeclosures.com