

# **JULY 2021**

# Harrisonburg & Rockingham County Real Estate Market Report



Guiding you through every move

An analysis of real estate activity through June 30, 2021 provided courtesy of Scott P. Rogers, Funkhouser Real Estate Group



# **HOME SALES REPORT**

**Harrisonburg & Rockingham County** 

**July 2021** 

All Residential Sales	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
June	174	145	134	171	27.61%
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	654	637	616	736	19.48%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	1,297	1,289	1,303	1,615	23.94%

Median Sales Price	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
June	\$230,500	\$240,000	\$242,400	\$290,000	19.64%
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	\$215,315	\$219,900	\$235,000	\$260,000	10.64%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	\$210,000	\$214,000	\$230,000	\$255,000	10.87%

Median Days on Market	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	22	21	12	4	-66.67%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	29	23	15	6	-60.00%

June 2021 was quite active in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County real estate market with 171 home sales closing -- up 28% from last June. This active month of sales brought the year to date pace of sales up to 736 home sales -- almost 20% higher than the first half of last year. An increase in the pace of home sales has

paired nicely with an increase in the price of those sold homes. The median sales price has risen 11% over the past year when comparing the first half of this year to the first half of last year. Finally, this has all been within the context of a very quickly moving market with the median days on market now down to just four days!

# HOME SALES REPORT

**Harrisonburg & Rockingham County** 

**July 2021** 

<b>Detached Homes</b>	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	470	462	437	499	14.19%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	934	936	929	1,104	18.84%

Median Sales Price	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	\$230,000	\$232,000	\$254,900	\$288,500	13.18%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	\$229,900	\$227,750	\$250,000	\$285,000	14.00%

Attached Homes	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	184	175	179	237	32.40%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	363	353	374	511	36.63%

Median Sales Price	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change ('20 - '21)
Year-To-Date (Jan - Jun)	\$165,000	\$174,900	\$189,900	\$206,500	8.74%
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)	\$164,900	\$171,750	\$180,400	\$200,000	10.86%

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 12 months we have seen an 19% increase in the pace of detached home sales, and an 14% increase in their median sales price.

In contrast, there has been a much larger (37%) increase in the pace of attached home sales, and a relatively similar (11%) increase in the median sales price of those attached homes. The median sales price of detached homes is now up to \$285,000 -- an increase of over \$35,000 over the past year.

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

# Home Sales				
June				
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)				

City of Harrisonburg				
2020	2021	% Change		
43	51	18.60%		
382 470 23.04%				

Rockingham County					
2020	2020 2021 % Change				
91	120	31.87%			
921 1,145 24.32%					

Median Sales Price				
June				
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)				

City of Harrisonburg				
2020	2021	% Change		
\$197,500	\$235,000	18.99%		
\$203,500 \$225,000 10.57%				

Rockingham County			
2020	2021	% Change	
\$250,000	\$305,000	22.00%	
\$241,650	\$269,000	11.32%	

Median Days on Market		
June		
Last 12 Months (Jul - Jun)		

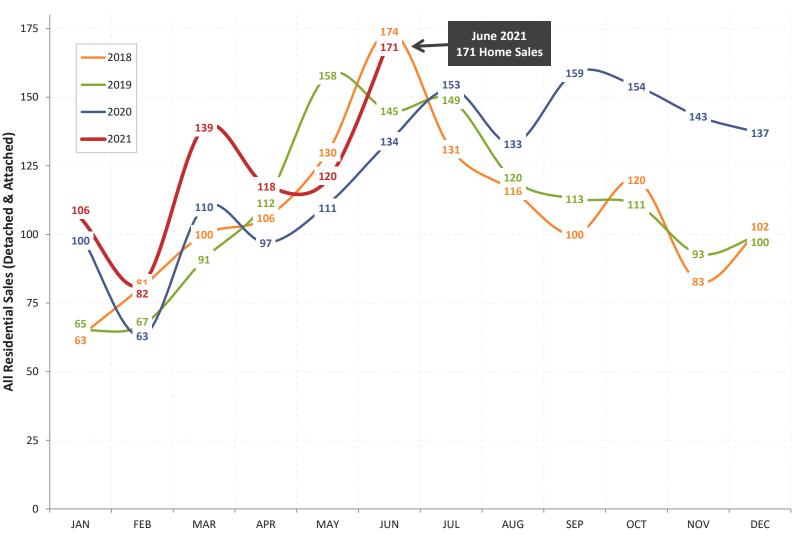
City of Harrisonburg			
2020	2021	% Change	
5	3	-40.00%	
9	4	-55.56%	

Rockingham County			
2020	2021	% Change	
6	4	-33.33%	
18	6	-66.67%	

About two and a half times as many homes sell each year in Rockingham County as compared to the City of Harrisonburg. Over the past year we have seen a significant increase in City home sales -- with 23% more sales -- as well as an 11% increase in the median sales price of those homes. Meanwhile, in the County, the similar, 24%

increase in home sales over the past year, was accompanied by a similar 11% increase in the median sales price in the County. The median sales price in the County is a good bit higher (\$269,000) than the City (\$225,000) though likely because more townhomes, duplexes and condos are located in the City.





Every month thus far in 2021 (red line) has had a stronger performance than the same month last year (blue line) and the pace is only quickening! Back in June 2018 we saw the most monthly home sales (174) in a month -- ever -- and we almost matched that this June with 171 home sales. Looking ahead to the next few

months, we are likely to still see quite a few home sales in July, but then sales are very likely to slow back down as we move through August and into September and October. We saw quite a few sales in the last four months of 2020, but that was atypical and likely because COVID slowed things down in early 2020.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

# **Monthly Cumulative Residential Sales**

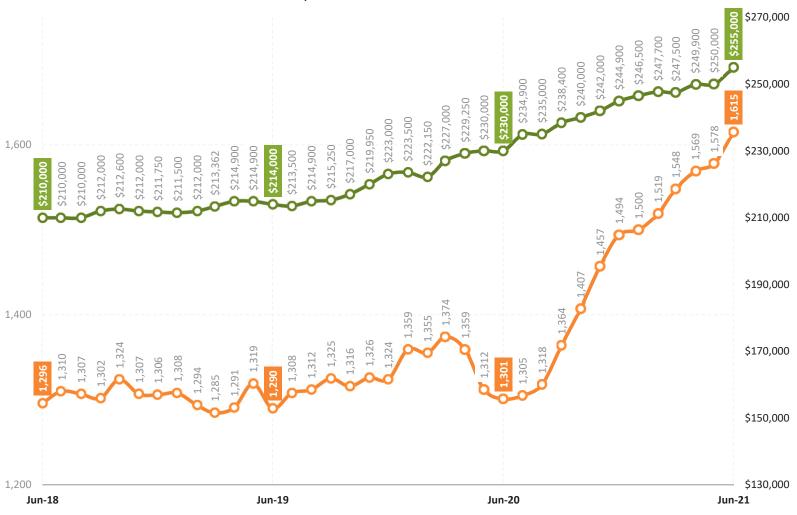


This colorful graph offers another way to look at the overall sales trends for the past few years in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County housing market. Looking back, 2016 seemed like an exciting year with a 17% increase in sales compared to the prior year. Within that context, the 13% increase in home sales in 2020 doesn't

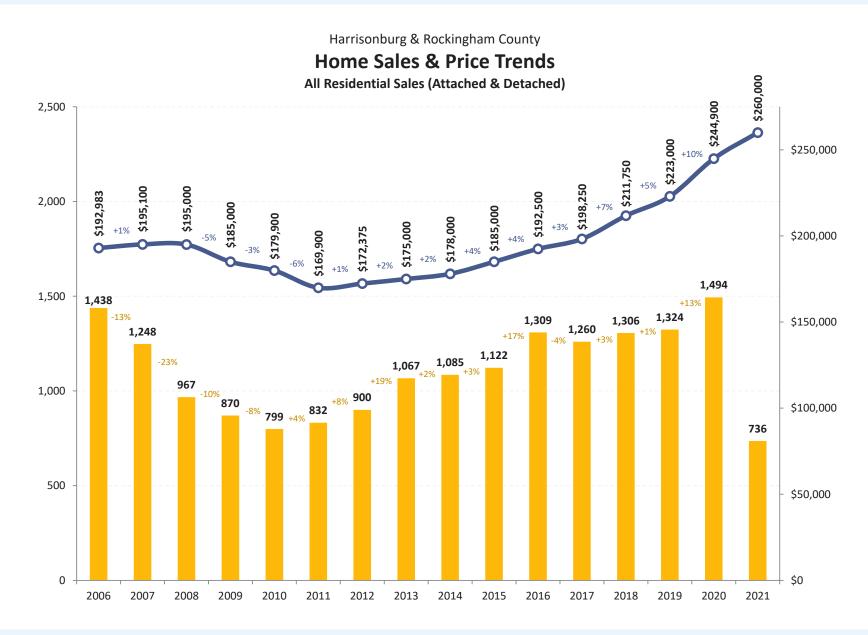
seem quite as extreme -- we have seen a larger increase in home sales in a single year in the past decade. But still, it was an unexpectedly strong year of home sales last year. With half of the year in the books, it is seeming that 2021 has a shot at being the strongest year of home sales ever seen in this local area.

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

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

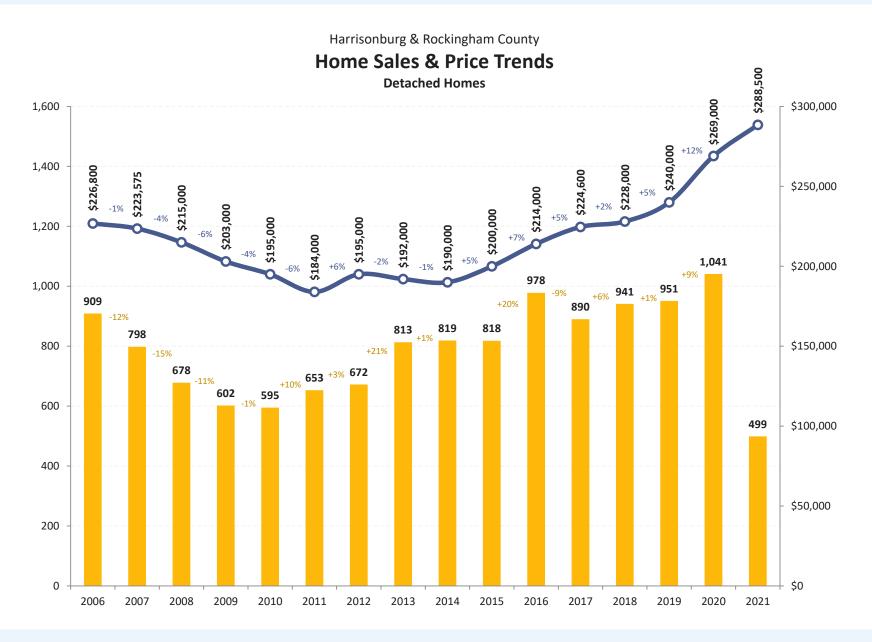


This graph shows a rolling 12 month trend line of the number of homes sold in the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County area, as well as the median price of the homes that sold during these time frames. Each data point shows one year's worth of home sales, which eliminates the volatility of evaluating sales figures on a monthly basis. The annual pace of home sales dropped off suddenly in late spring 2020 due to COVID but a few months later started rising quite rapidly, flying past 1,500 home sales per year and now surging past 1,600 sales per year! The median sales price has been trending upwards for several years now.



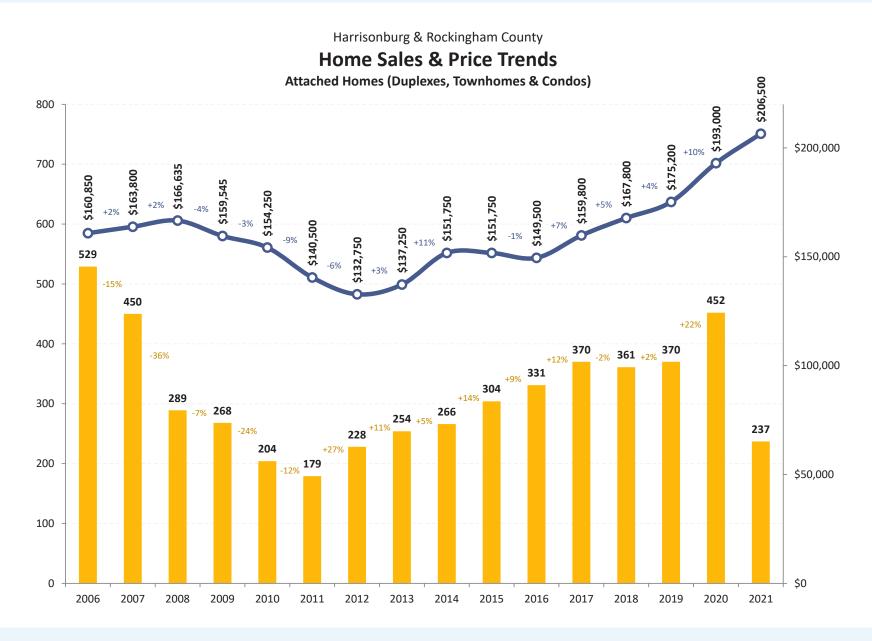
This graph provides an overall indicator of the state of our housing market, showing both the number of homes being sold each year since 2006 (yellow bars) as well as changes in the median sales price during the same time period (blue line). Over the past 10 years we have seen relatively steady increases in the number of homes

sold each year in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County - with a larger than normal 13% increase in the pace of home sales last year taking us to 1,493 home sales. The median sales price has also been consistently increasing for nine years now, up to an all time high last year of \$244,900.



The single family home market in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County has improved rather steadily over the past 10 years with increases almost every year in the number of homes sold. After having peaked in 2016 with 978 home sales, we finally broke through 1,000 sales per year with 1,041 home sales in 2020. The

median sales price has now been rising for six years straight, from \$190,000 back in 2014 to a new (all time) high of \$269,000 in 2020. The median sales price of detached homes rose 12% in 2020, the first double digit price increase we have seen in at least 15 years.

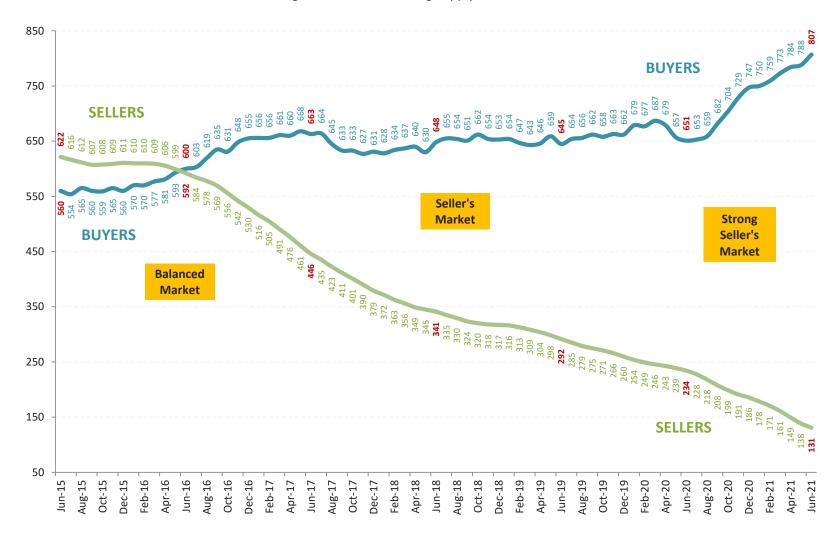


The pace of sales of attached homes (duplexes, townhouses and condos) rose steadily between 2011 and 2017 and then plateaued for a few years right around 370 home sales per year. But then, 2020. The sales of attached homes jumped significantly in 2020, showing a 22% year over year increase, with 452 home sales.

This takes us all the way back to the level of sales seen in 2007 -- though not to the much higher levels seen in 2005 and 2006. The median sales price of attached homes has been rising (for the most part) for eight years now and has hit a new (all time) high of \$193,000, up from less than \$150K only four years ago.

### Market Balance between Buyers and Sellers

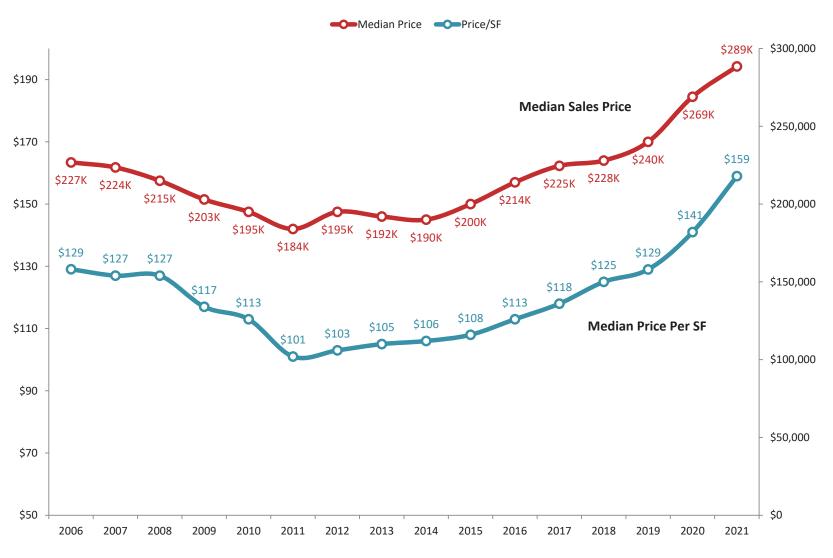
Assuming Six Months of Housing Supply is a Balanced Market



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

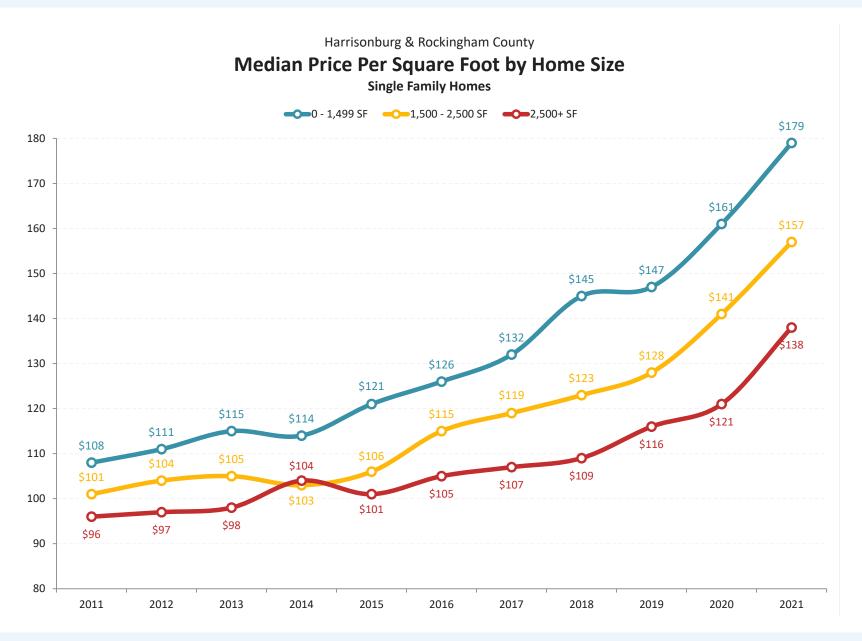
(active listings) at any given time. Over the past several years we have seen a steady increase in buyers and a declining number of sellers. In June 2016, these two trajectories crossed, and there are now many (many!) more buyers buying in a six month period than there are homes for sale at any given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





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 2020) we have seen increases in the median sales price as well as the median price per square foot of single family homes.

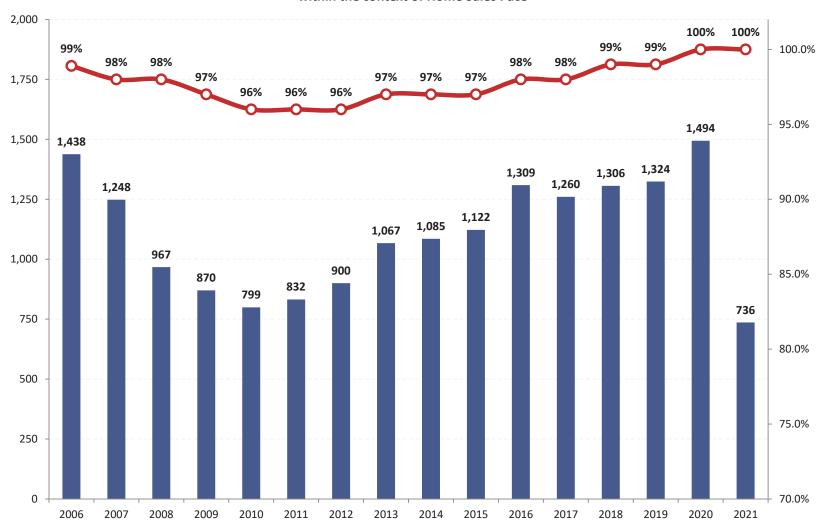


Price per square foot of single family homes certainly varies for many reasons, including the age, location, lot size and structural characteristics of each home sold. However, there are some similarities in homes of similar sizes. Looking at 2020 figures, this graph illustrates that the median price per square foot of larger homes

(2500+ SF) was a good bit lower (\$121/SF) than that of homes with less than 1500 SF (\$161/SF) during 2020. 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. 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 (remained there in 2017), and has been holding at 99% since 2018, but has now popped up to a median of 100% in 2020 which will likely stay there in 2021.

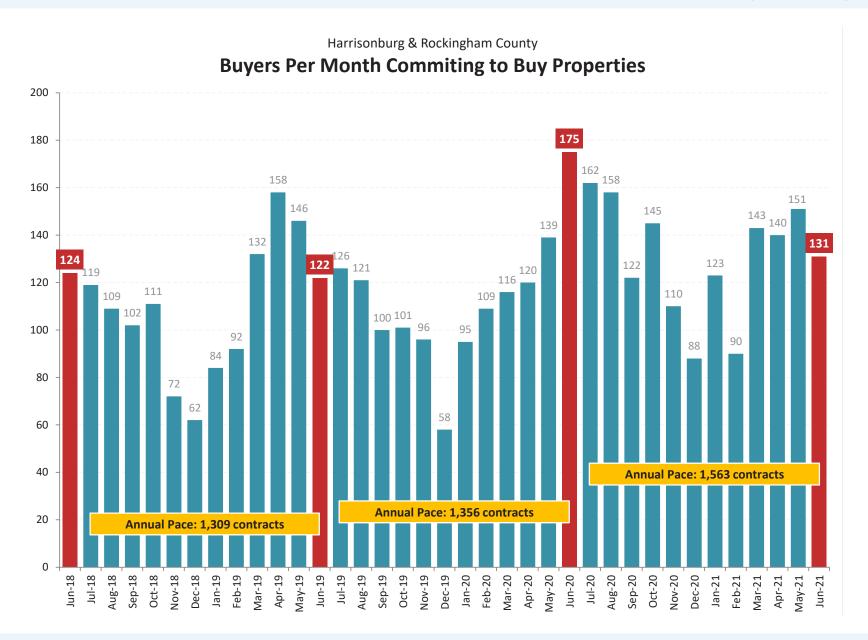
#### **New Construction Detached Home Sales Trends**

Number of Sales, Median Price Per Square Foot



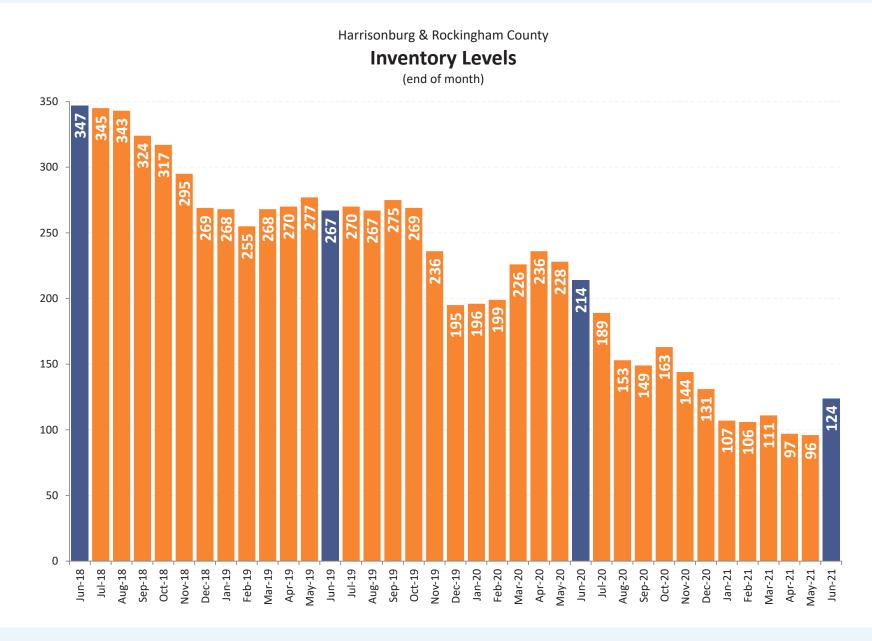
New home builders have been building more homes over the past five years (70 - 82 per year) than seen during the preceding five years. These figures, of course, only represent new homes being marketed through the MLS. Plenty of additional new homes are built by local home builders on lots already owned by the person who

will live in the home - and thus they do not show up in the new home sales metrics above. When looking just at these new home sales, we see a steady increase in the price per square foot of homes being built and sold over the past ten years, with the largest increase in that value taking place in 2020.



While only 131 homes went under contract in June 2021 compared to 175 last June, we must remember that last June (and last May, July and August) were particularly crazy months as the real estate market started to take off after a particularly slow March and April due to Covid. Comparing the contract numbers this June to the prior

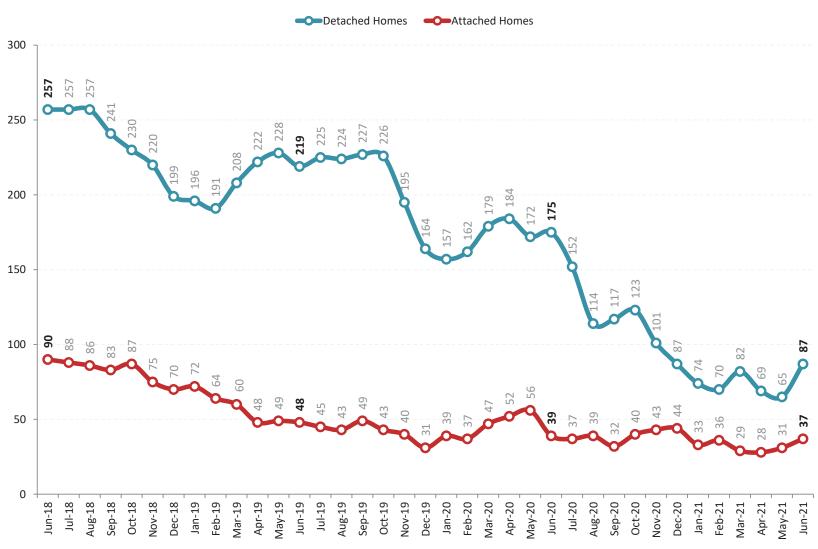
to months of June (2018, 2019) we see that there was an increase in the amount of contract activity. So, we might not see quite as many homes sell in August of this year based on slightly slower contract activity in June, but we are definitely on track for a much stronger than is typical year.



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

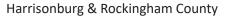
can increase, with inventory levels declining if the median "days on market" is also declining, which is definitely the case in our local market. So, plenty (maybe, maybe not) homes are being listed for sale, but they are then going under contract quickly, which keeps inventory levels low but the pace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



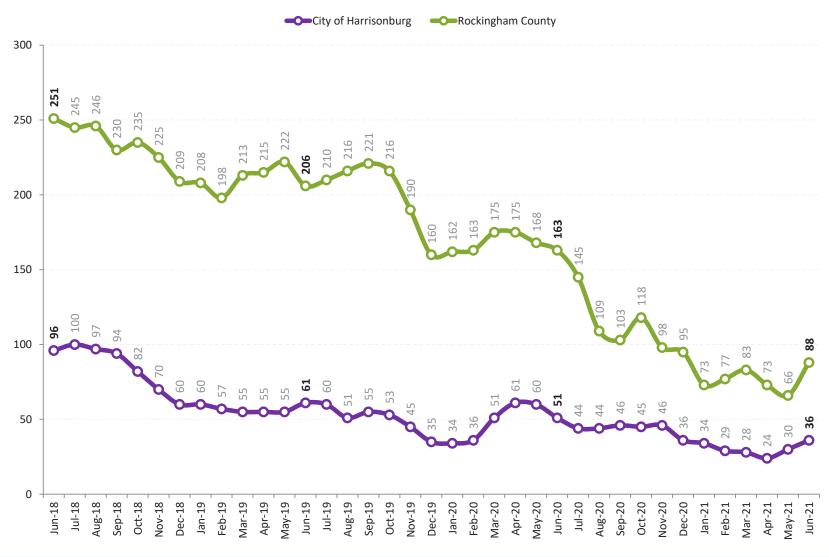


This graph examines the differences in inventory levels over time when examining only single family homes as compared to attached dwellings (townhouses, duplexes, condos). The number of detached homes for sale has decreased by 50% over the past year, while the number of attached homes (townhouses, duplexes and condos)

for sale has stayed relatively constant -- moving from 39 down to 37 over the past year. We usually see an increase in inventory levels in the spring, but most new listings are quickly going under contract, thus keeping inventory levels quite low.



## **Inventory Levels by Property Location**



Inventory levels have fallen 46% in Rockingham County over the past year while City inventory levels have fallen 29% during the same timeframe. Of note -- there are more than twice as many home sales and homes for sale in the County as compared to the City. 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 praice in the City, and the lower median days on market in the City as compared to the same metrics in the County.

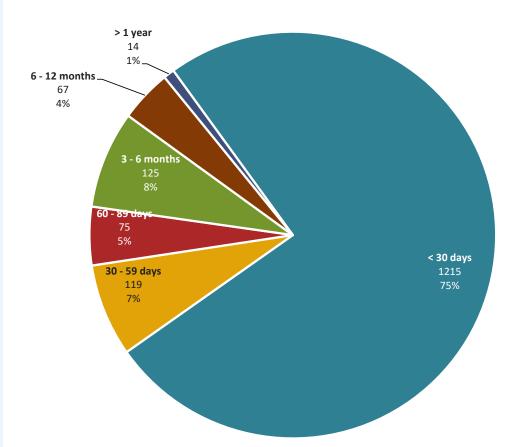
### **Days on Market Analysis of Sold Properties**

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

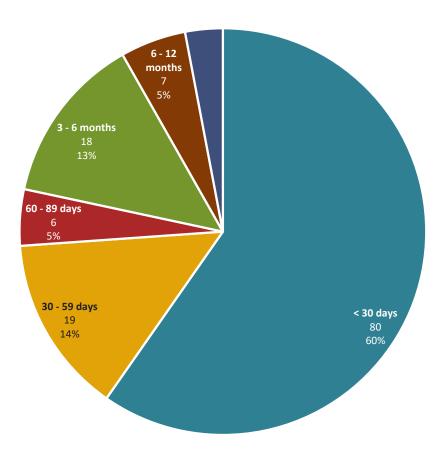
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

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

**Active Residential Listings** 



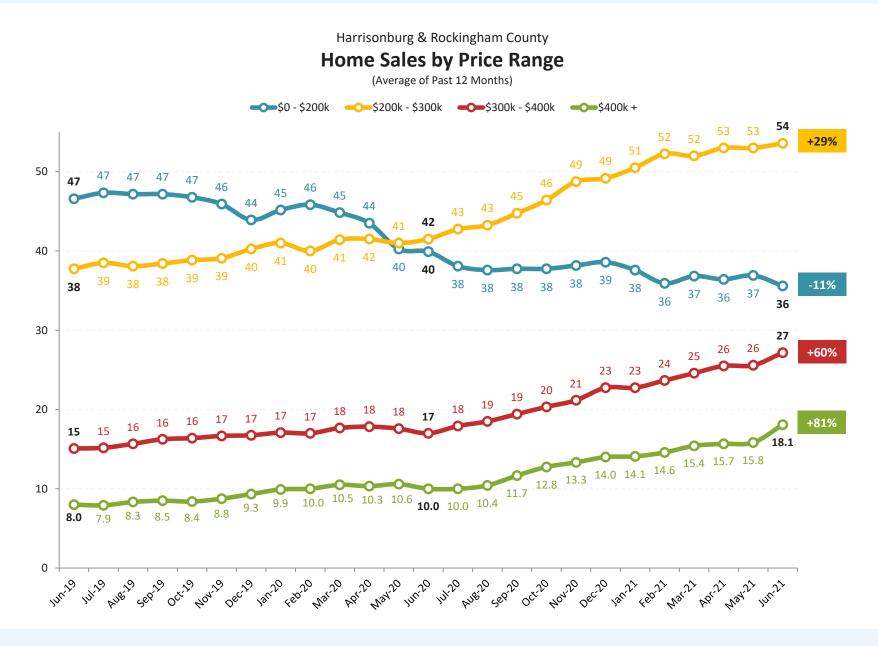




Median Days On Market: 19

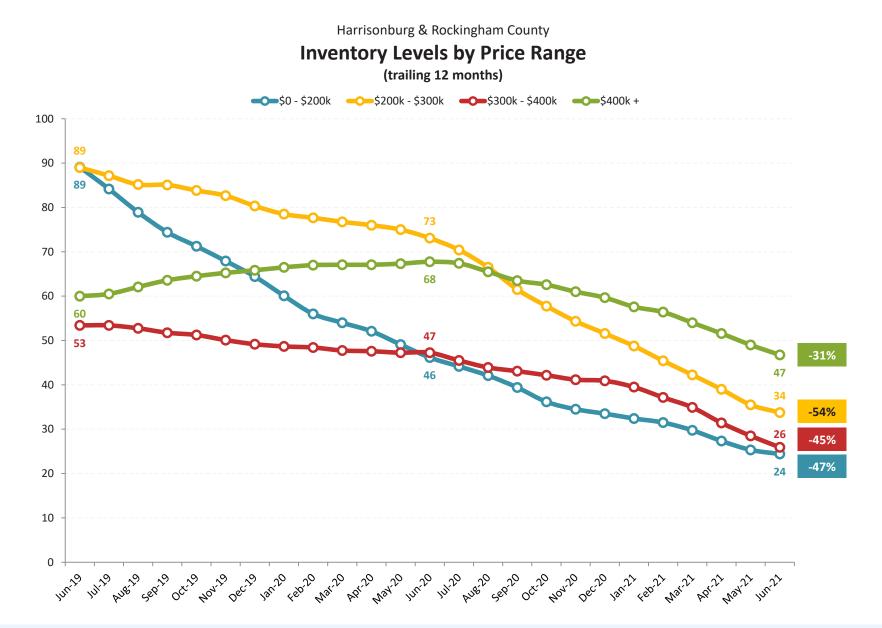
Declining inventory levels are contributing to an overall decline in the time it takes to sell a home in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. The current median "Days on Market" is 6 days for homes that have sold in the past year. Remarkably, 75% of homes that have sold in the past year have gone under 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 82% 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.



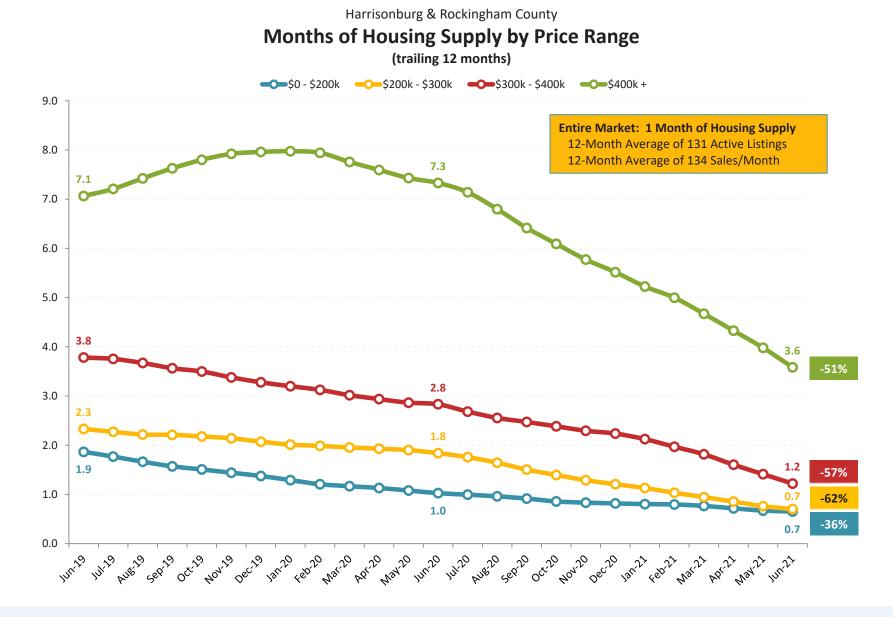
The pace of home sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County varies significantly based on price range. The graph above shows the average number of home sales per month (given a 12-month average) as we have passed through the past two years. Home sales have been declining over the past several years 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 three of the other price ranges (\$200K-\$300K, \$300K-\$400K, \$400K+) over the past year.



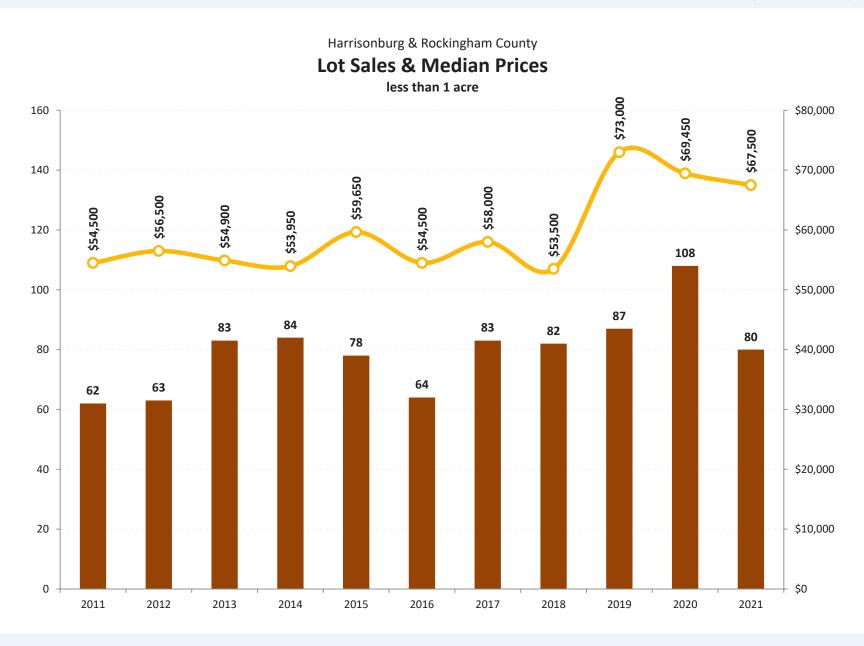
Inventory levels shift up and down seasonally, so this graph (now) looks at changes in average inventory over a 12 month period. We are seeing different trends in inventory levels by price range with the most notable changes being the 54% decline in inventory levels between \$200K and \$300K, the 47% decline in the under \$200K

price range, and the 45% decline in the \$300K - \$400K price range. Meanwhile, the inventory levels in the \$400K+ price range are also declining, but not quite as quickly. Some, but not all, of these changes in inventory levels are due to changes in market value (increases) over the past few years.



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 between three and four 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 take less than one month (!!) to go through the under \$200K and under \$300K inventory. Many consider a six month supply to be a balance between buyers and sellers.

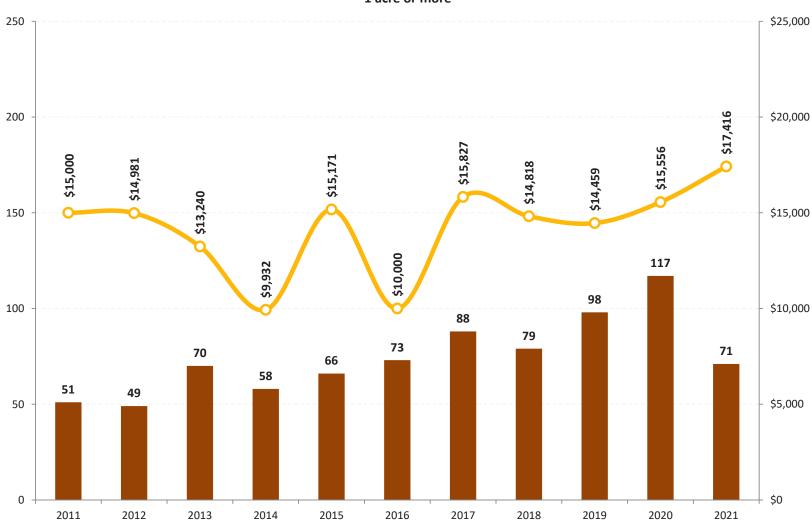


For six of the past seven years we have seen right around 80 sales per year of lots of less than an acre in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. In 2020, that annual pace of sales increased a good bit to 108 sales of building lots. Despite that increase in the number of lot sales, the median sales price for those lots declined slightly to

\$69,450. That decline is likely a result of which particular lots sold, not necessarily an indication that all lots are selling at lower prices now than they were a year ago. It seems likely that we will see another 100+ lot sales in 2021.

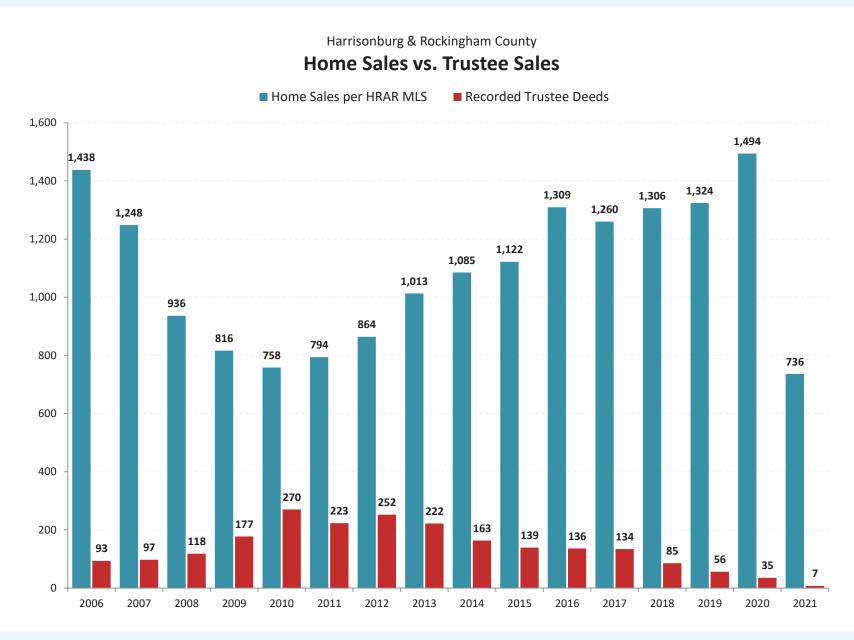
#### **Land Sales & Median Price Per Acre**

1 acre or more



The pace of sales of parcels of land larger than one acre in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County has increased over the past ten years to 117 land sales in 2020 --- marking the highest year of sales in over 15 years. The median price per acre has remained right around \$15,000 per acre over the past four years. Of note -- some

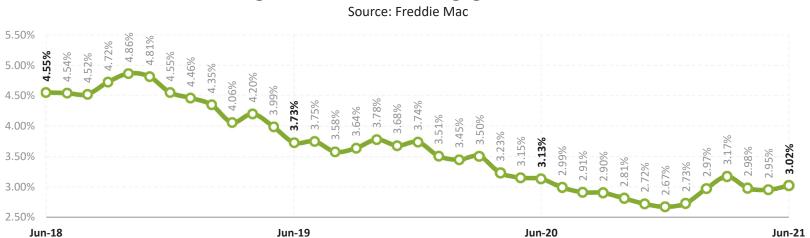
aspects of this "median price per acre" calculation are affected by which parcels actually sell in a given year. The increase in buyer demand over the past 10 years has not seemed to have created any significant upward lifting pressure on values to date.

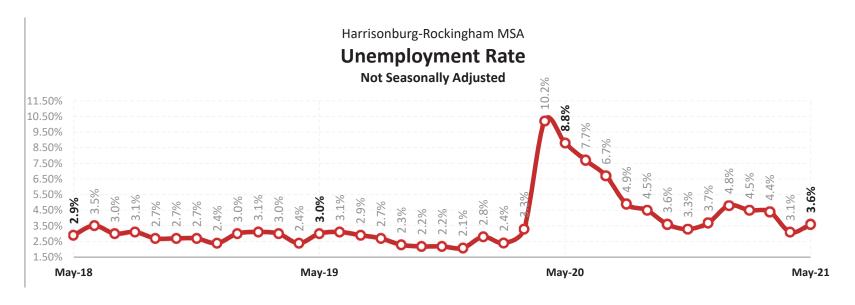


The graph above is a comparison of two imprecise measures -- but the comparison can still be helpful. The blue bars show the number of home sales recorded in the HRAR MLS -- this does not include private sales that did not involve a Realtor, nor new home sales directly from a builder. The red bars show 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 over the past nine years and is now at the lowest level seen anytime in the past 15 years! The temporary moratorium on foreclosures likely kept that figure low in 2020.

### **Average 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Interest Rate**





As shown in the top graph above, for most of the past three years, home buyers have seen extremely low interest rates -- almost always under 4.5%. Over the past two years those interest rates steadily declined to a historic low rate of 2.67% in December 2020. Rates then started to rise again in 2021 but have stayed right

around 3%. The second graph illustrates trends in the local unemployment rate, which was mostly between 2% and 3% for several years but then climbed to 10.2% due to COVID-19 before declining again. A (usually) low local unemployment rate and 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 and 3D Walk Through technology. He leads the local market in the adoption of new marketing techniques - for example, 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:

BuyingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com, SellingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com, HarrisonburgHousingMarket.com, NewListingsInHarrisonburg.com, JustSoldInHarrisonburg.com, HarrisonburgNeighborhoods.com, HarrisonburgTownhouses.com, HarrisonburgInvestmentProperties.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....
SCOTT P. ROGERS, Associate Broker
540-578-0102 (mobile)
scott@HarrisonburgHousingToday.com



OUTCES

How To Navigate The Home Purchasing Process BuyingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com

The Best Marketing Strategies For Selling Your Home SellingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com

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

Trustee Sales in Harrisonburg & Rockingham County HarrisonburgForeclosures.com

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