



# SEPTEMBER 2016

## Harrisonburg & Rockingham County Real Estate Market Report



*An analysis of real estate activity through August 31, 2016  
provided courtesy of Scott P. Rogers, Funkhouser Real Estate Group*



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# HOME SALES REPORT

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

September 12, 2016

# Home Sales	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change ('15 - '16)
August	116	106	126	154	22.22%
Year-To-Date (Jan-Aug)	733	693	761	871	14.45%
Last 12 Months (Sep-Aug)	1042	1,027	1,149	1,236	7.57%

Median Sales Price	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change ('15 - '16)
August	\$170,000	\$176,950	\$182,500	\$187,250	2.60%
Year-To-Date (Jan-Aug)	\$176,000	\$176,500	\$187,200	\$190,000	1.50%
Last 12 Months (Sep-Aug)	\$175,000	\$174,900	\$185,000	\$186,250	0.68%

Median Days on Market	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Change ('15 - '16)
August	51	63	55	42	-23.64%
Year-To-Date (Jan-Aug)	66	65	58	51	-12.07%
Last 12 Months (Sep-Aug)	70	64	60	51	-15.00%

August was a hot month for home sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County -- with 154 closed sales -- more than any August in recent memory, and a 22% improvement over August 2015. This contributes to a cumulative 14.45% year-to-date increase in home sales when looking at the first eight months of this year

as compared to the same timeframe last year. Median sales prices are also rising, though much more slowly -- with a 1.5% increase in the year-to-date median sales price. Homes are selling more quickly thus far in 2016, with a 12% decline in the year-to-date median days on market.

# HOME SALES REPORT :: BY AREA

# Home Sales	City of Harrisonburg			Rockingham County		
	2015	2016	% Change	2015	2016	% Change
August	41	58	41.46%	85	96	12.94%
Year-To-Date	254	303	19.29%	507	568	12.03%

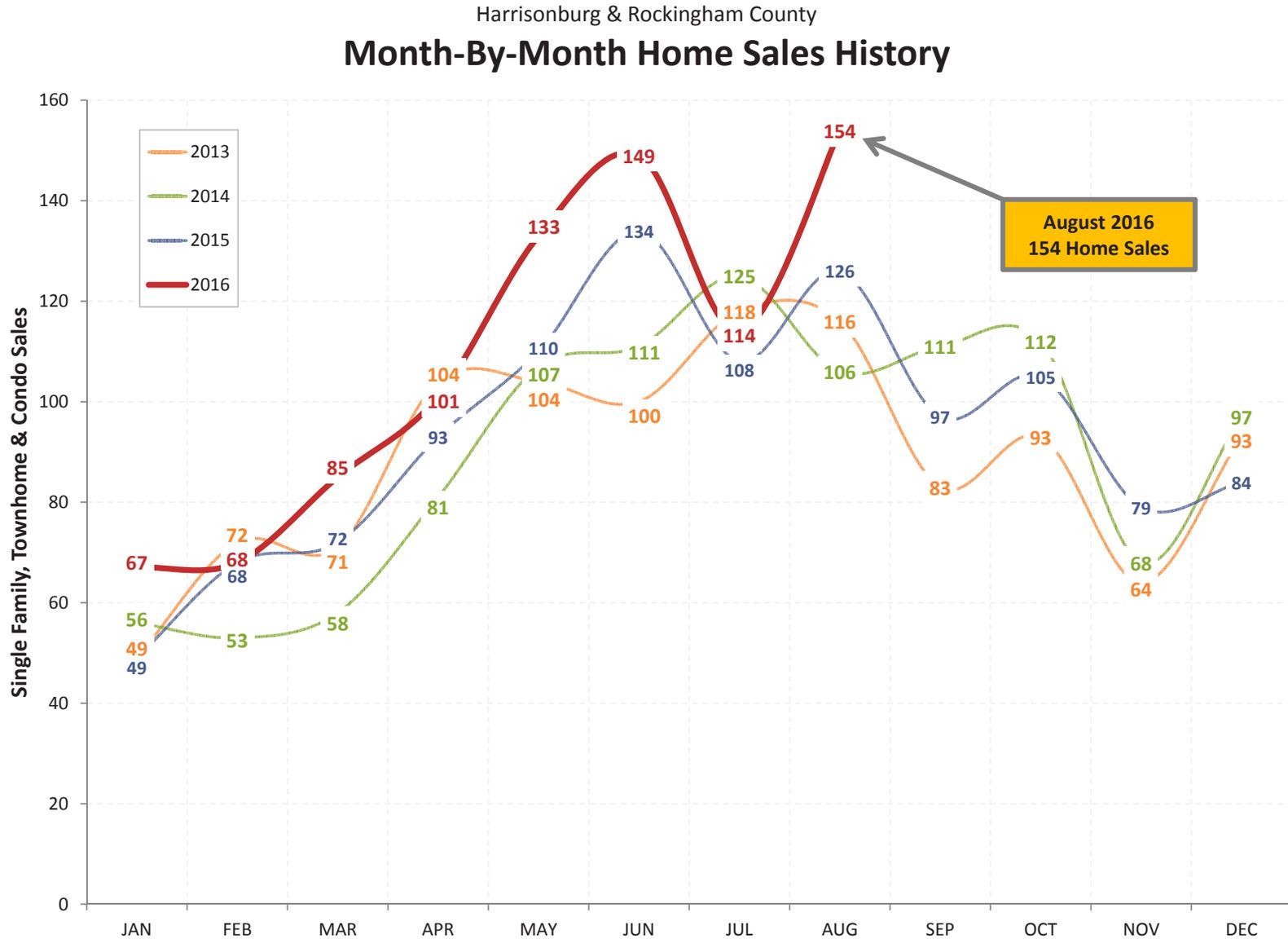
Median Sales Price	City of Harrisonburg			Rockingham County		
	2015	2016	% Change	2015	2016	% Change
August	\$161,900	\$160,000	-1.17%	\$197,500	\$201,450	2.00%
Year-To-Date	\$164,900	\$169,900	3.03%	\$197,500	\$199,000	0.76%

Median Days on Market	City of Harrisonburg			Rockingham County		
	2015	2016	% Change	2015	2016	% Change
August	56	25	-55.36%	54	59	9.26%
Year-To-Date	52	30	-42.31%	61	62	1.64%

Home sales have increased slightly more in the City (+19%) than in the County (+12%) when looking at the first eight months of the year -- and prices are following a somewhat similar trend with a larger (3%) increase in the City and a smaller (0.76%) increase in the County. Homes in the City are also selling much faster in the

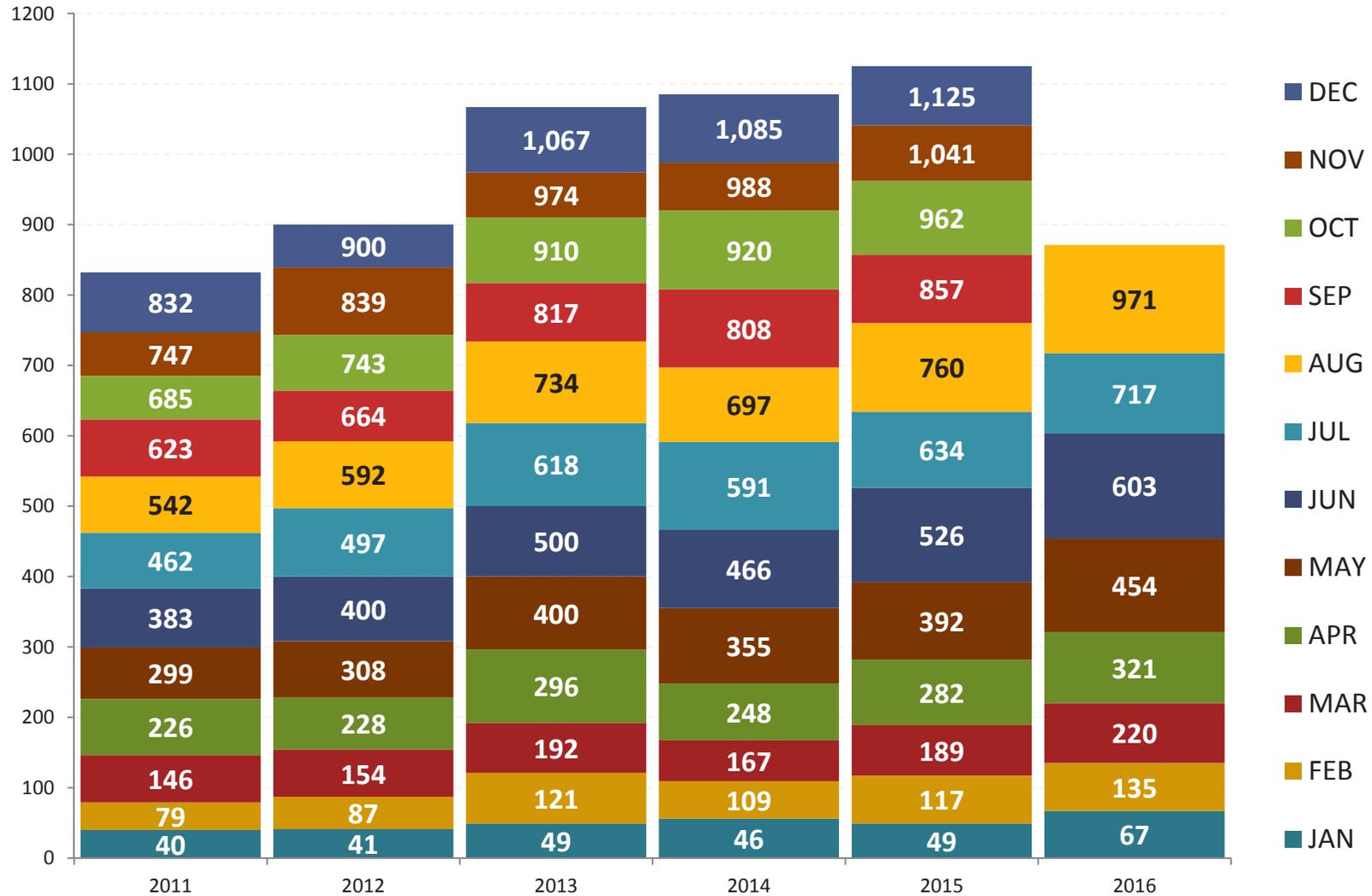
City (median of 30 days) as compared to the County (median of 62 days). While the majority of home buyers purchase in the County (568 vs. 303 so far this year), as stated, we are seeing the number of buyers in the City increase more quickly than that pace is changing in the County.



The graph above shows the month-by-month breakdown of home sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County with a red line for 2016 and a blue line for 2015. As you can see, the 154 home sales seen in August 2016 puts it above every month in the last three+ years. Last month I had predicted between 110 and 130

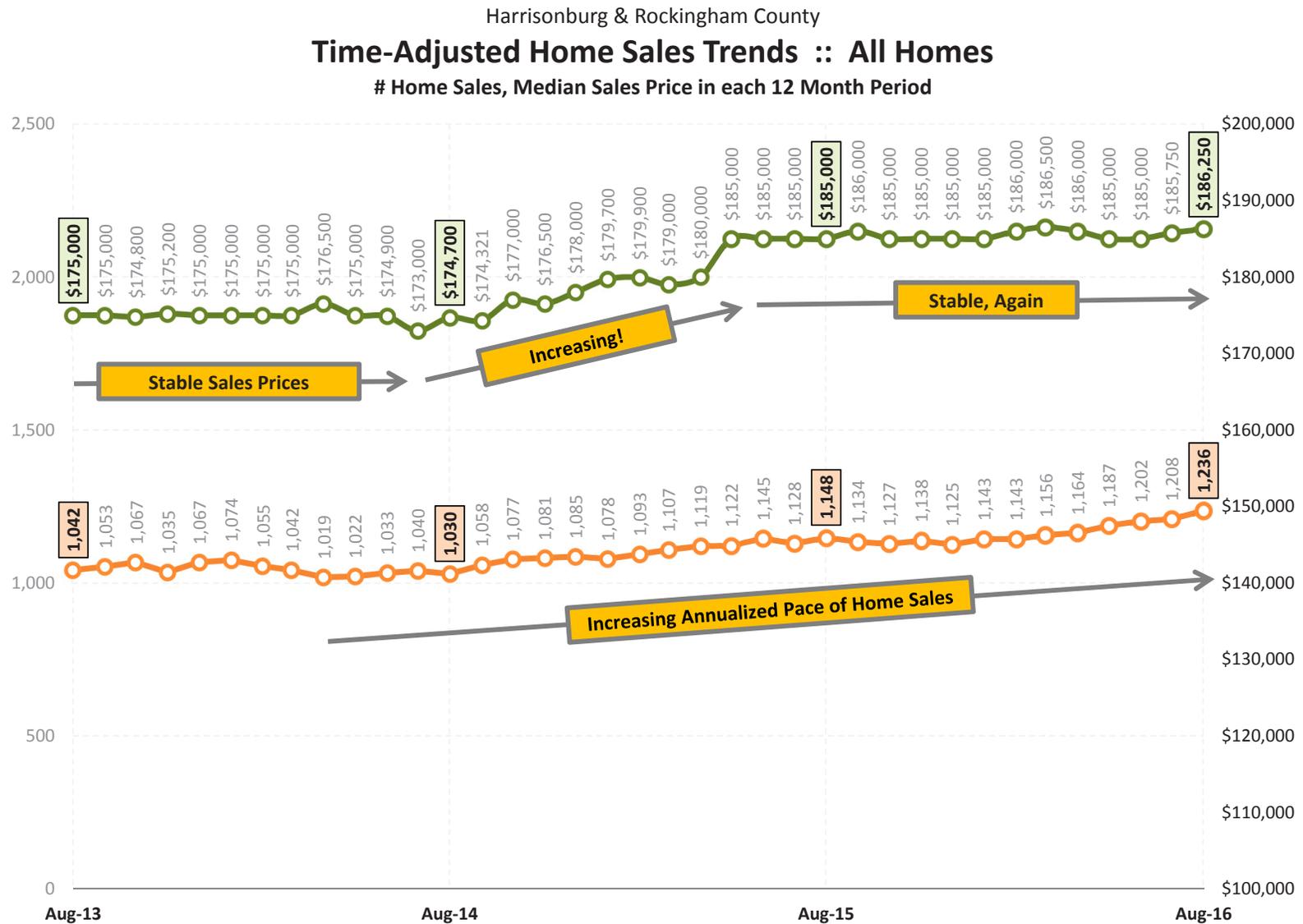
home sales in August -- it seems I was way too conservative. I'm going to assume we'll see a normal August-to-September dip next month and I will predict between 95 and 115 home sales in September 2016.

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. As is evident, there were more home sales in 2015 than in any other year in the prior four years. The largest year-over-year recovery seems to have occurred between

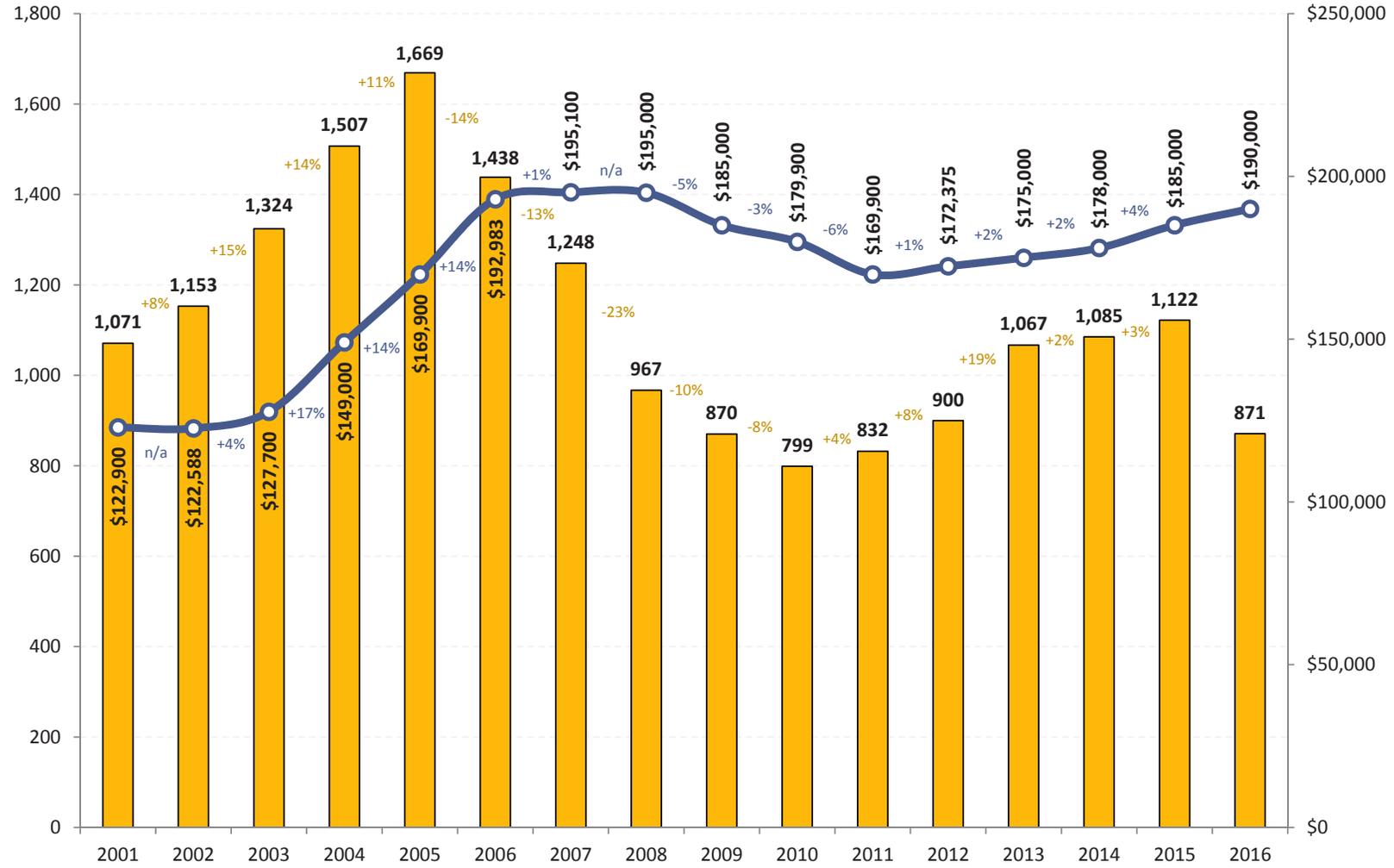
2012 and 2013 -- but we also saw a larger increase in home sales last year (2014 to 2015) than we saw the previous year (2013 to 2014). Given the pace of sales in 2016 thus far, it seems clear that we will soar past last year's total of 1,125 home sales -- perhaps as far as to 1,200 home sales this year??



This graph shows a rolling 12 months of the number of home sales 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. Over

the past 24 months we have seen relatively consistent increases in the annual pace of home sales, which has now risen to 1,236 sales/year. And after many years of median sales prices hovering between \$173K and \$175K, they finally made their way up to \$185,000 by summer 2015 and have stayed in that vicinity since then.

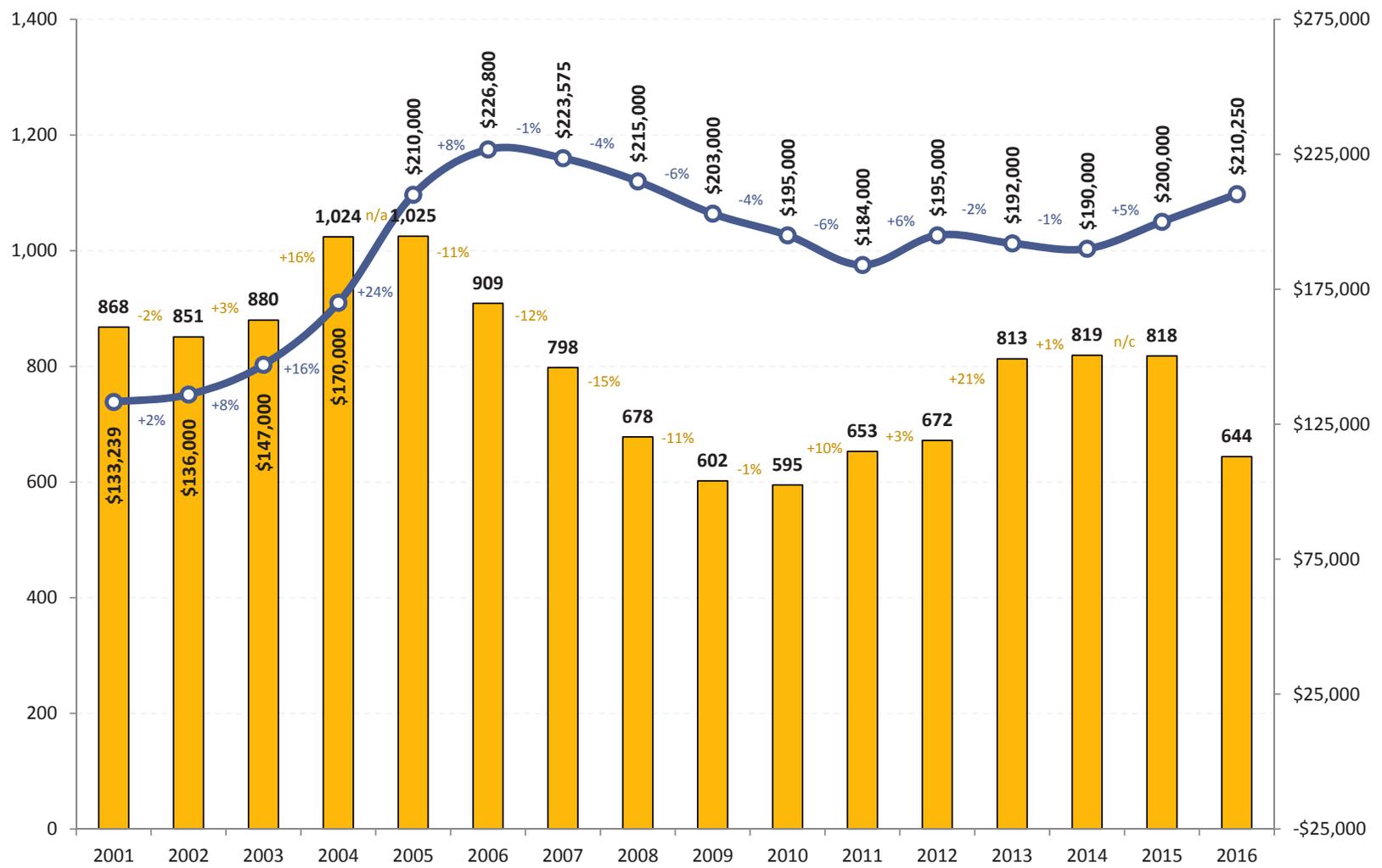
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales & Price Trends**  
 Single Family Homes & Townhomes



This graph provides an overall indicator of the state of our housing market, showing both the number of homes being sold each year since 2000 (yellow bars) as well as changes in the median sales price during the same time period (blue line). This past year (2015) marks the fifth (!) year in a row when we have seen an increase (+3%) in

the pace of sales in our local market, which was also accompanied by a 4% increase in the median sales price. We have now seen increases in the median sales price for four years in a row, though they were small (+1%, +2%, +2%) increases up until 2015 when we saw a 4% increase in the median sales price.

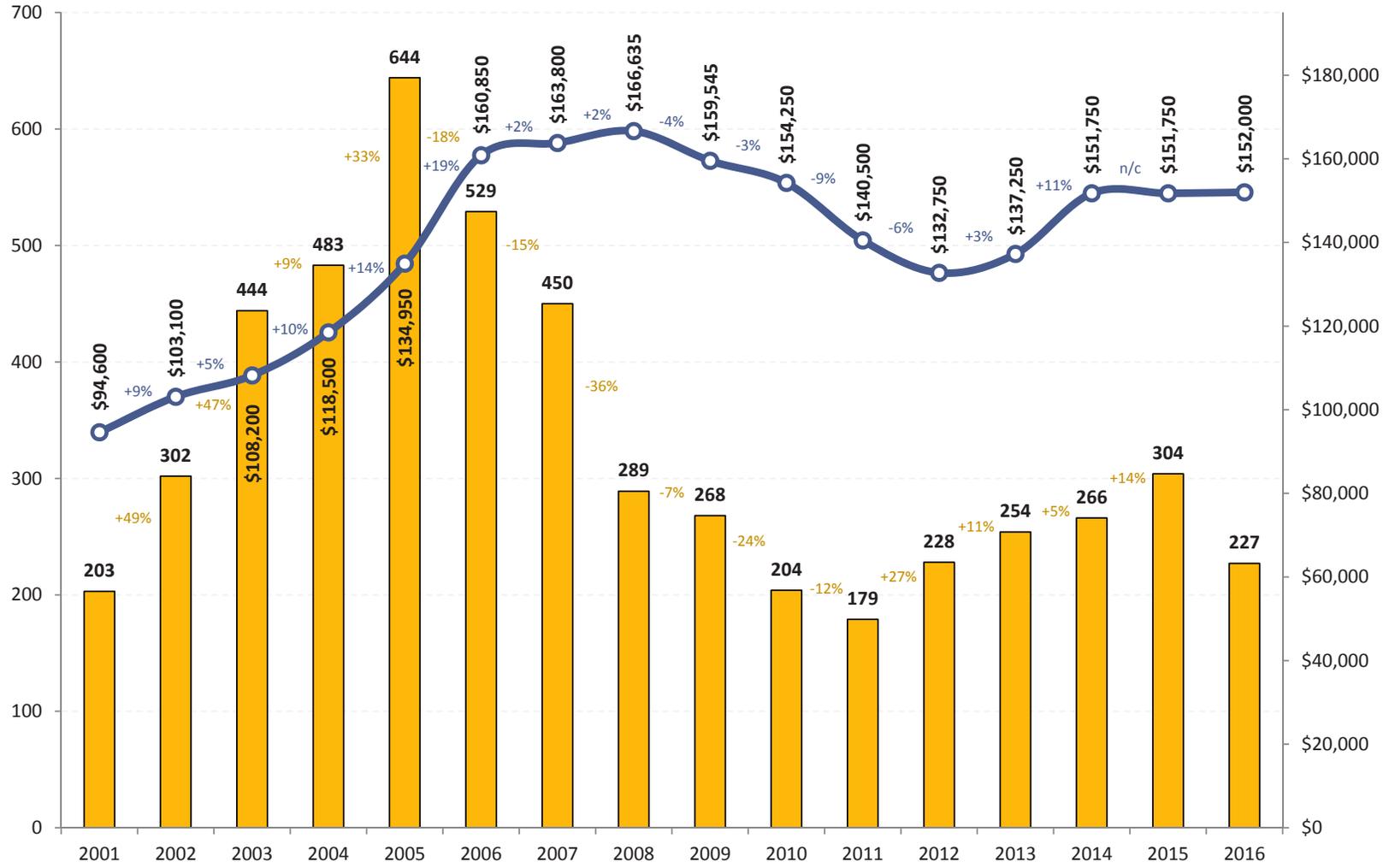
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales & Price Trends**  
 Single Family Homes



The single family home market in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County told two different stories last year (2015), depending on whether we were evaluating the price or pace of home sales. This past year (2015) marked the third year in a row with between 810 and 820 home sales -- so, virtually no change in the pace of

home sales. Over the past year, however, the median sales price of single family homes increased by 5% to \$200K -- which is the first time we have seen a \$200K or higher median sales price since 2005-2009. It is encouraging that sales prices are increasing even without substantial increases in the number of home sales.

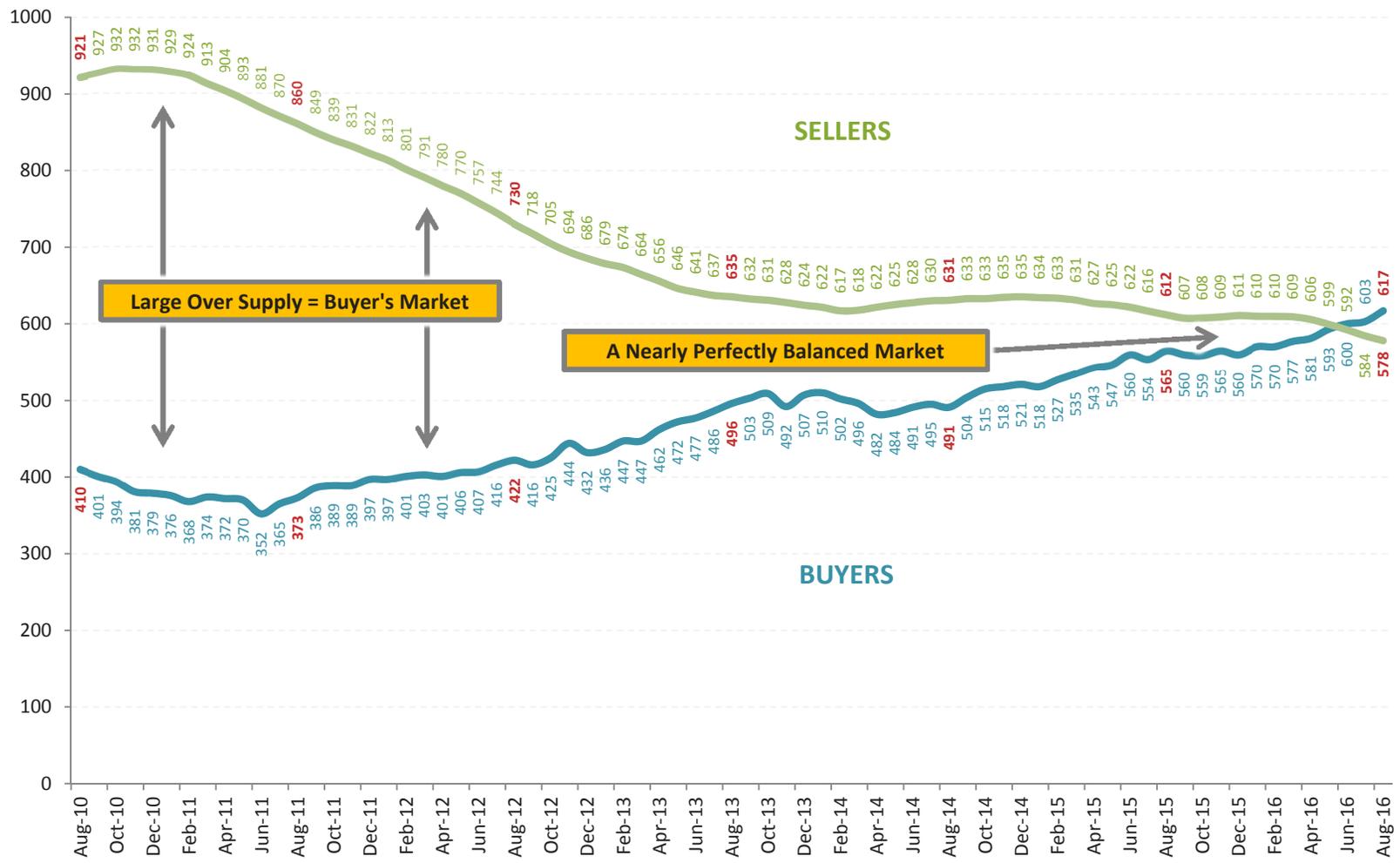
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales & Price Trends**  
 Duplexes, Townhomes & Condos



After six years (2005-2011) of rapid declines in the pace of townhouse sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, the pace of sales has been rebounding since 2012. The 304 sales seen in 2015 marked the highest level of sales seen anytime between 2008 and 2015. Despite the continuing increase in the sale of townhouses

(and duplexes and condominiums) we did not see any further market recovery in 2015 when it comes to price. The median sales price of these properties was again \$151,750 -- the exact same median sales price we saw in 2014. Thus far in 2016 we are seeing continued stability around \$152,000 as a median sales price.

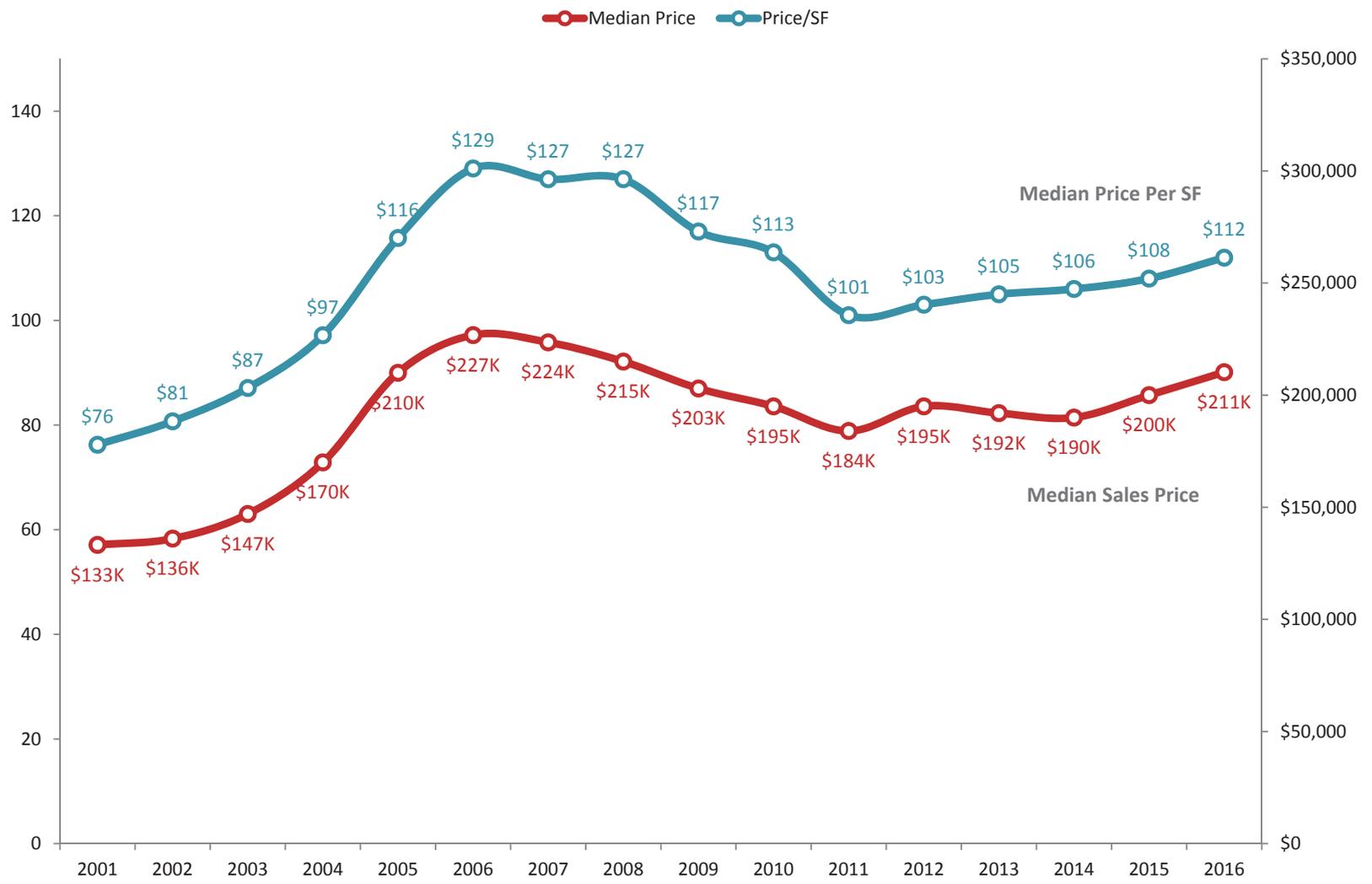
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Market Balance between Buyers and Sellers**  
 Assuming Six Months of Housing Supply is a Balanced Market



It happened! It really happened! 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 four years we have seen a steady increase in buyers and a declining number of sellers. And finally, in June 2016, these two trajectories crossed! There are more buyers buying in a six month period than there are homes for sale!

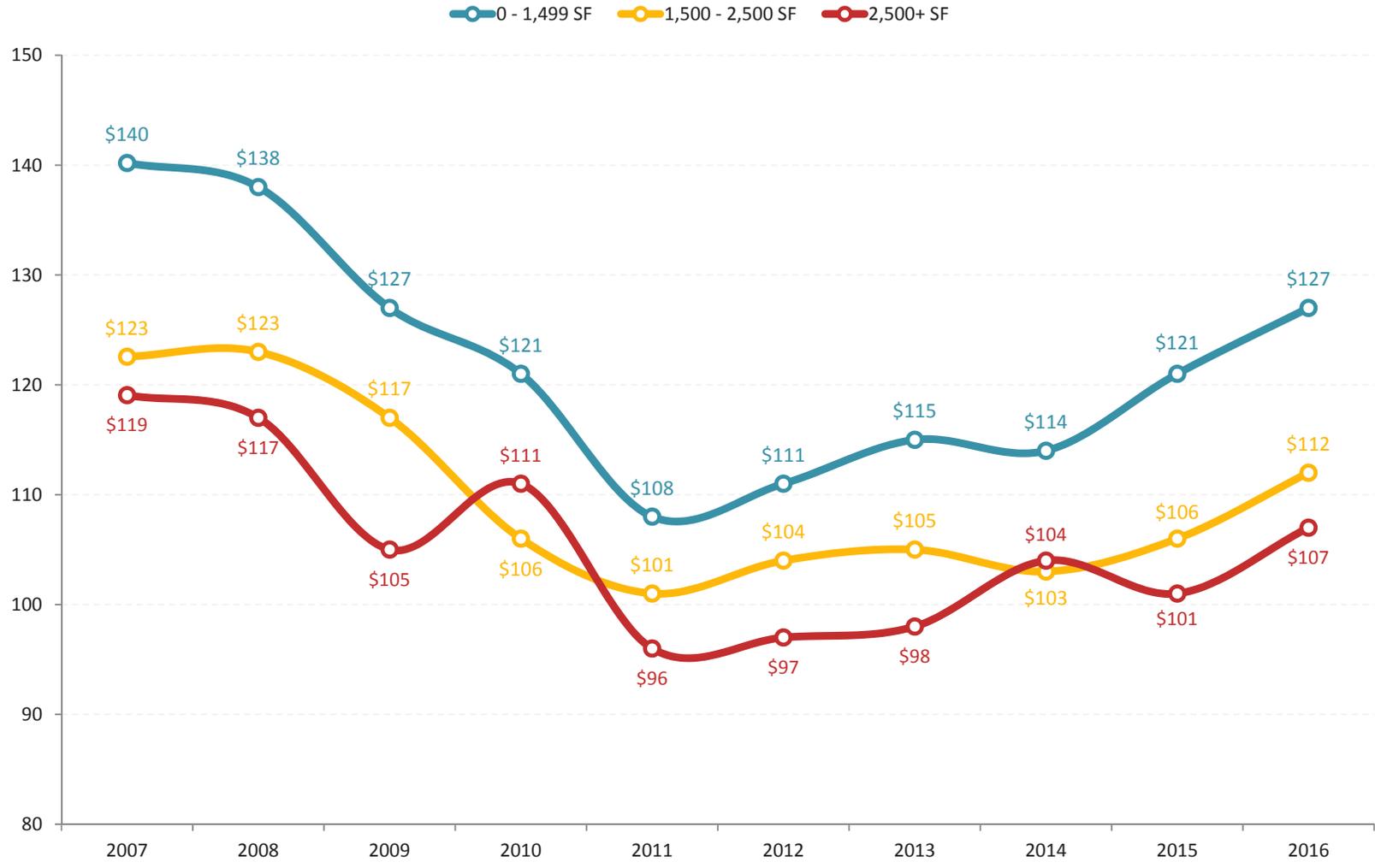
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Median Price vs. Price Per SF (Single Family Homes)**



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 10+ 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 year (2014 to 2015) we have seen increases in both the median sales price as well as the median price per square foot of single family homes.

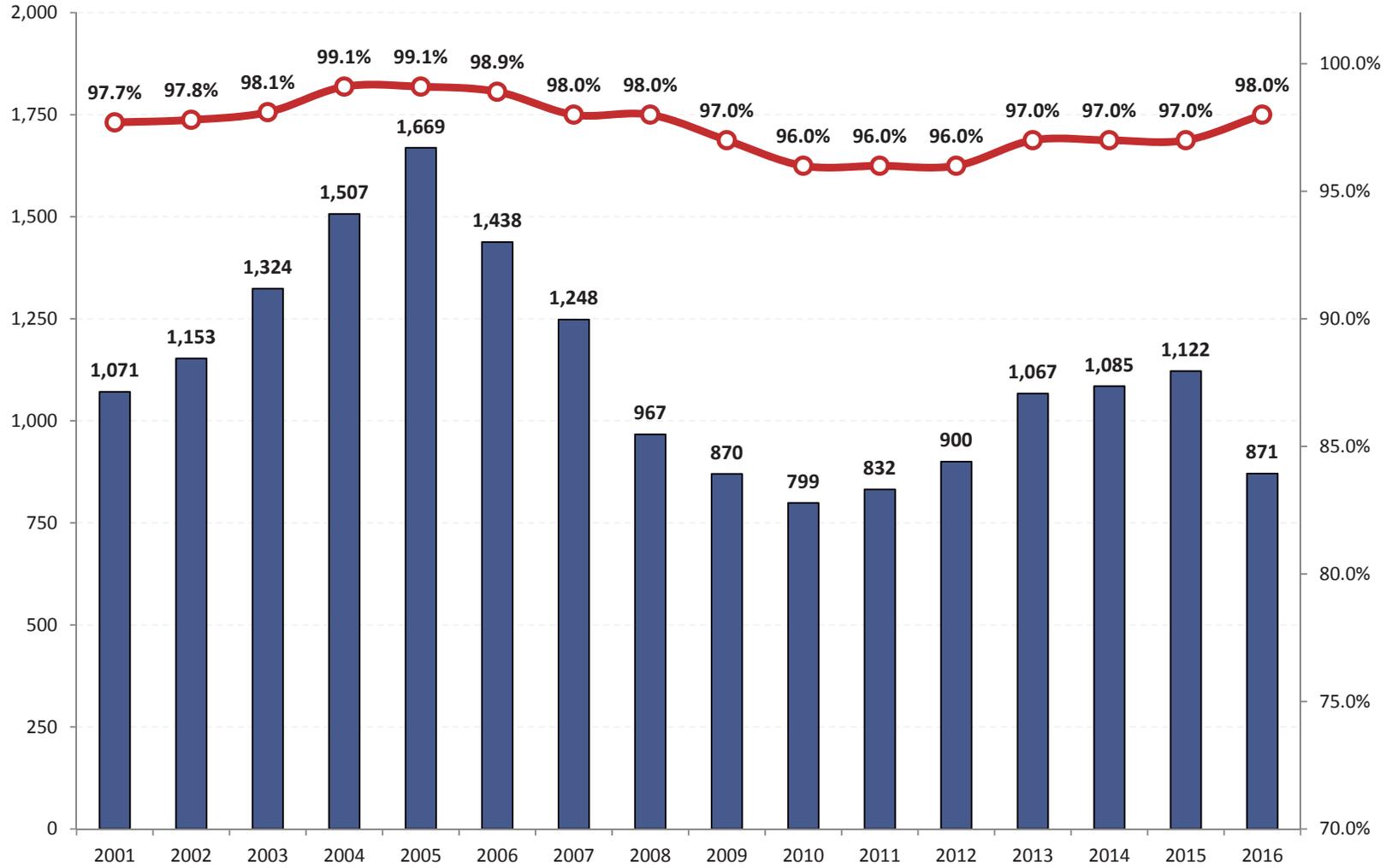
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Median Price Per Square Foot by Home Size**  
Single Family Homes



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 a similar size. In looking at 2016 figures, this graph illustrates that the median price per square foot of larger homes

(2500+ SF) is a good bit lower (\$107/SF) than that of homes with less than 1500 SF (\$127/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.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Median List Price to Sales Price Ratio**  
 within the context of Home Sales Pace

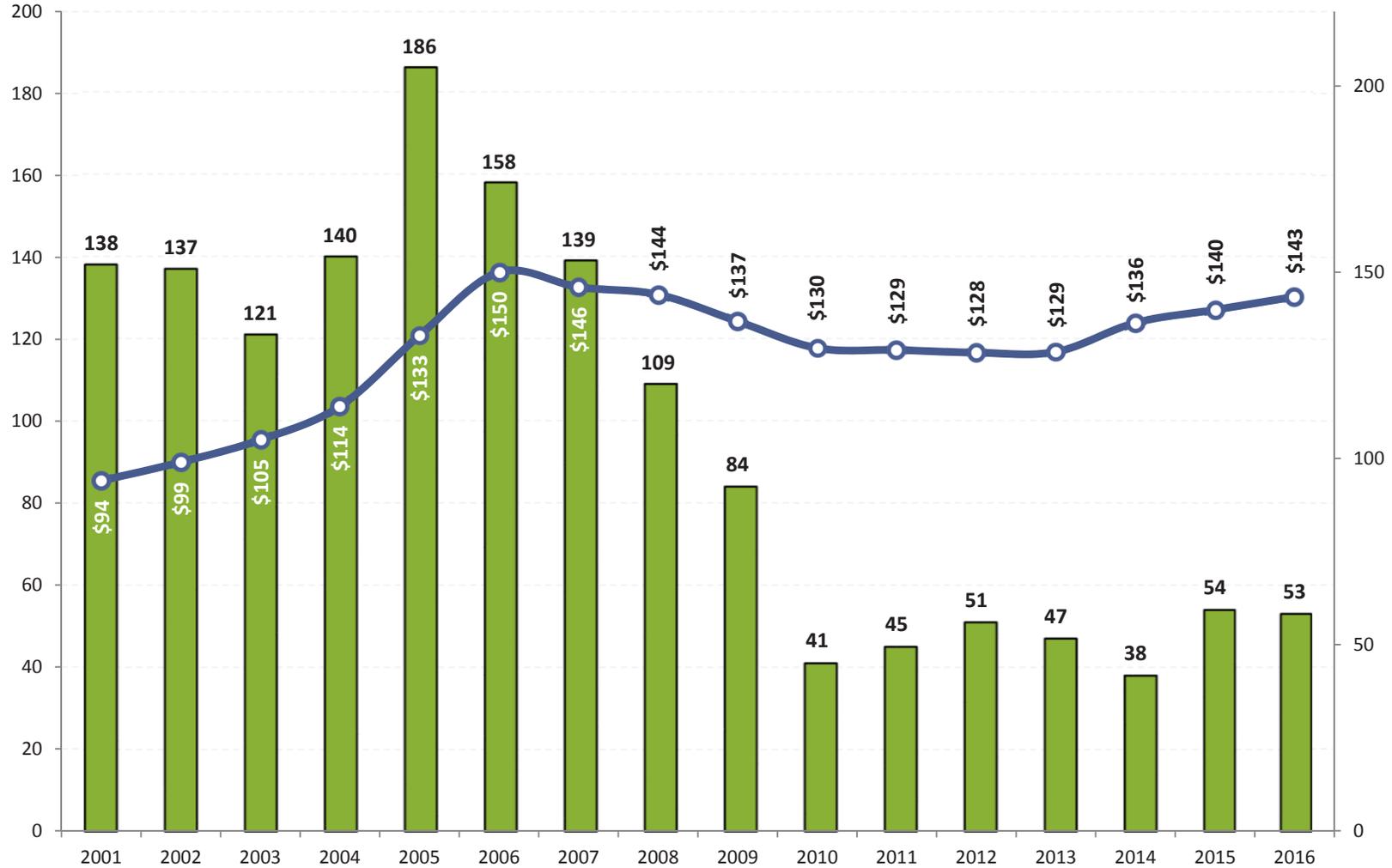


This graph shows the average list price to sales price ratio (red line) over the past 15 years as compared to the overall pace of home sales. At the peak of the housing boom (2004-2006) sellers were able to obtain a median of 99% of their asking price --- up from a median of 97.7% in 2001 before the pace of home sales started

escalating. Of note, last year we almost returned to that pre-boom level -- given the 97% average during 2015 compared to the 97% - 98% average in 2000 - 2002. And now, after several years hovering at 97%, this metric has shifted back up to 98% based on data from the first eight months of 2016.

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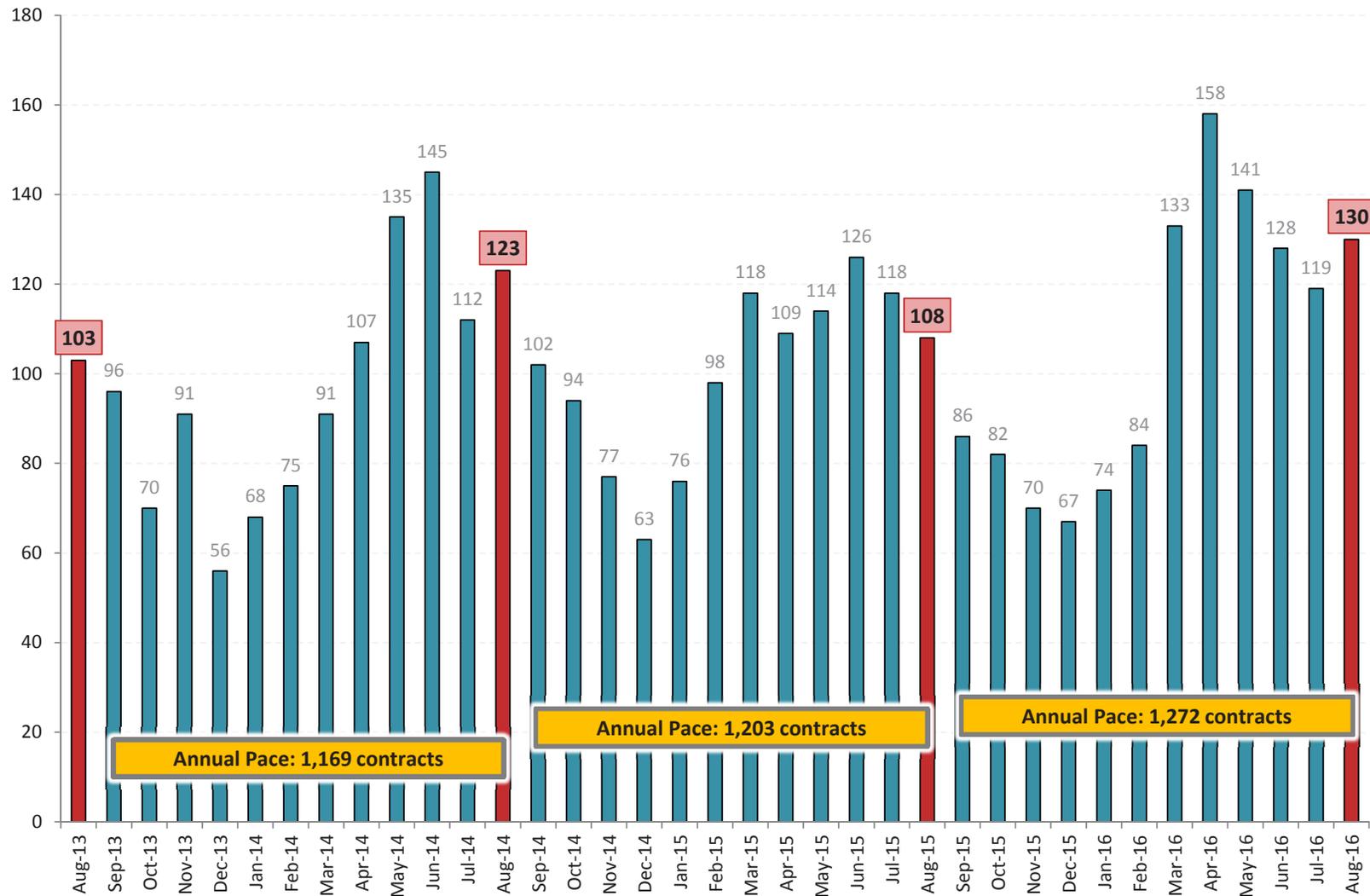
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**New Construction Single Family Home Sales Trends**  
 Number of Sales, Median Price Per Square Foot



New home builders experienced a steady decline in new home sales between 2006 and 2010 -- dropping 78% from a peak of 186 to 41 sales in a year. Even if we use a starting point of 2001 (before the housing boom) we still see 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. This year, however, seems to be different. We have seen 53 new home sales in the first eight months of the year, indicating that we will likely see a decent increase in this metric during 2016 -- a welcome sign for new home builders!

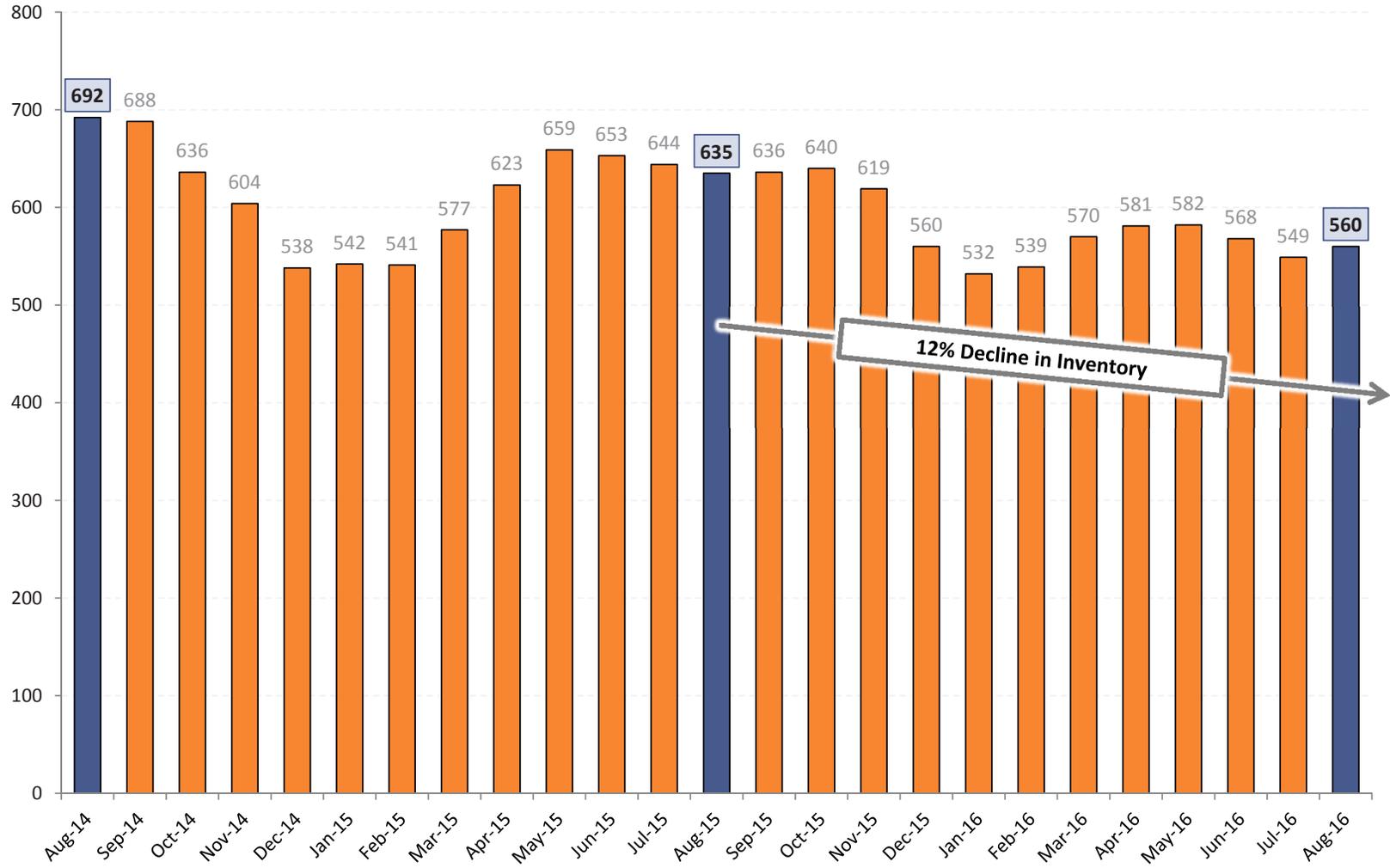
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Buyers Per Month Committing to Buy Properties**



This graph clearly illustrates what a busy buying season it has been over the past six months. We have seen an average of 135 contracts per month over the past six months -- as compared to an average of only 116 contracts per month during the same timeframe in 2015. These strong contract numbers, clearly, are leading

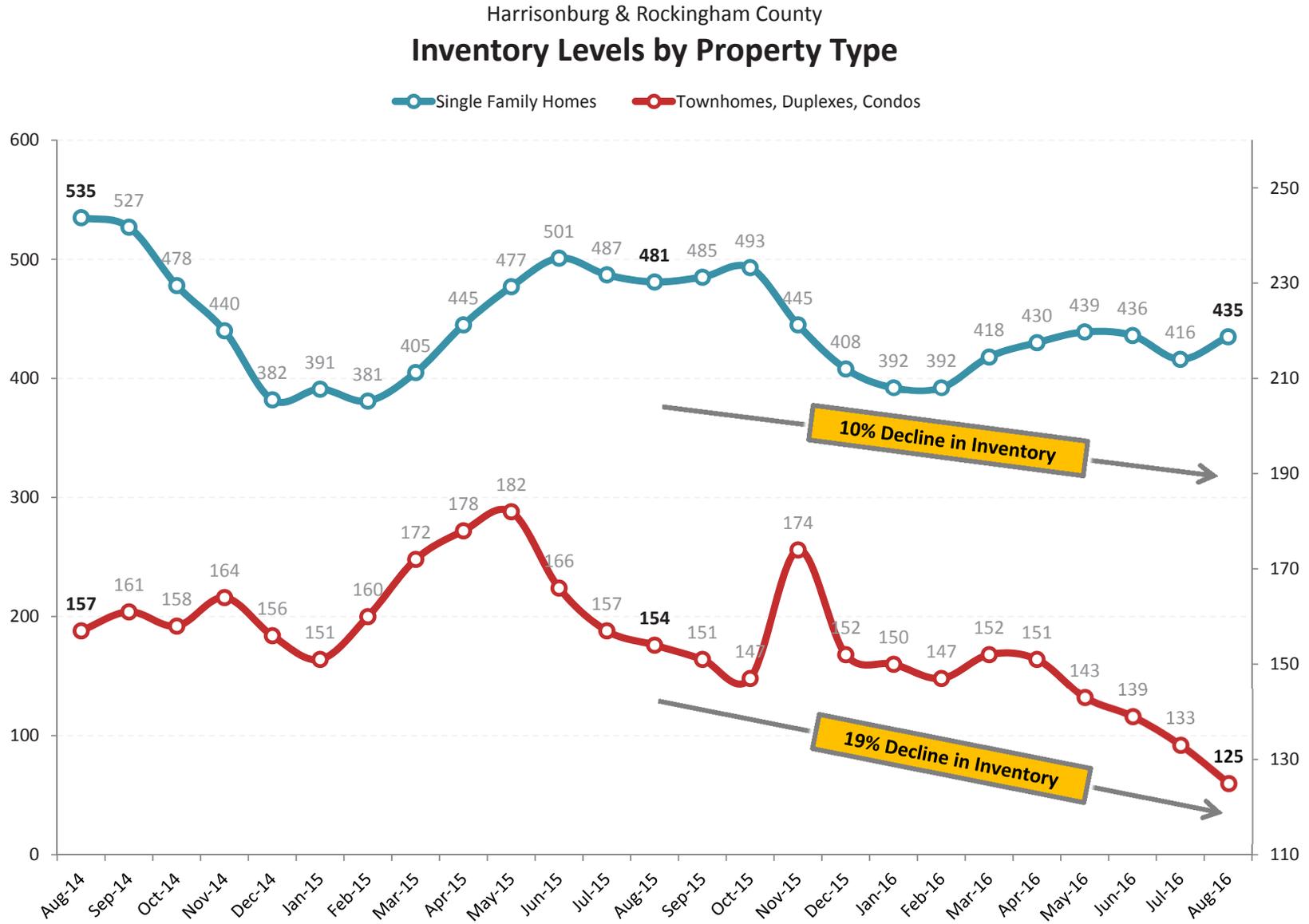
to the busy season of closings -- and we are likely to still see a strong month of sales in September and possibly October based on these contracts. If last year is any indicator, we are likely to see contract activity start to decline as we continue through September and into October.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Inventory Levels**  
(end of month)



Overall sales activity is the combined effect of many would-be home buyers deciding to make an offer on a particular home -- and those decisions are not typically taken lightly. In contrast, changes in inventory levels are the combined effect of many homeowners deciding to list their home for sale -- which may be a big, significant,

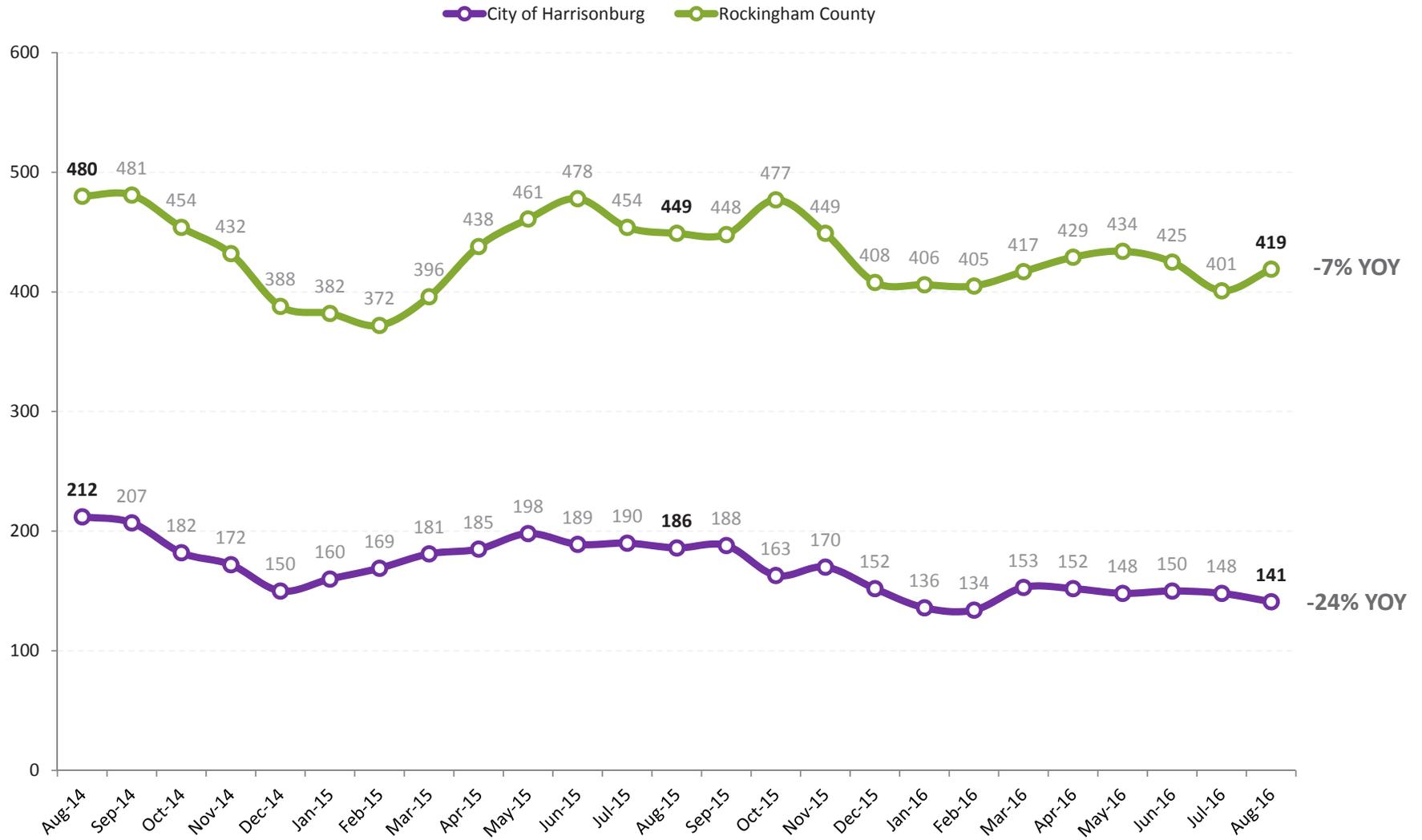
weighty decision, but it is not always so. Some homes that are on the market have been listed for sale by sellers who are "testing the market" and as a result, inventory levels can shift more quickly than home sales trends. Inventory levels have been mostly stable over the past year, though are currently down 12% year-over-year.



This graph examines the differences in inventory levels over time when examining only single family homes as compared to attached dwellings (townhomes, duplexes, condos). The number of single family homes for sale has decreased by 10% over the past year, while the number of townhomes, duplexes and condos for sale has

decreased by 19% over the past year. As is evident, inventory levels are much lower in the Winter market, and we are likely to see further declines in inventory levels over the next few months as we head into the Autumn real estate market.

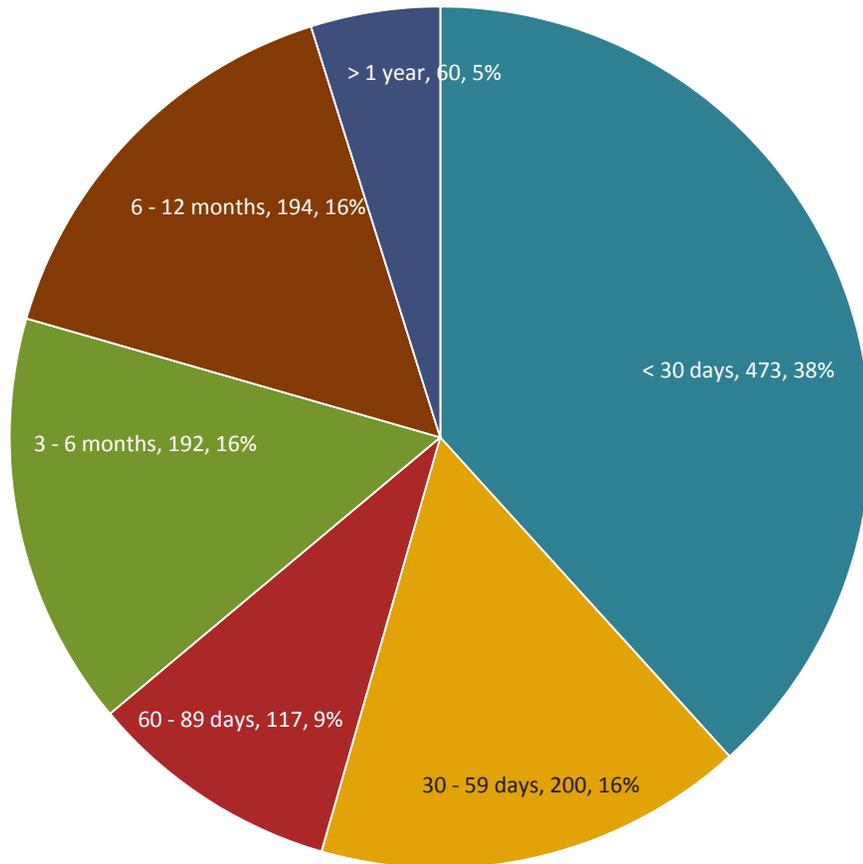
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
Inventory Levels by Property Location



Trends in inventory level currently seem to, in many ways, transcend the City / County divide, but when looking only at inventory levels in the City, we see that there has been a relatively sizable decline (-24%) over the last year in the number of properties for sale, while in the County, there has been a relatively smaller (-7%)

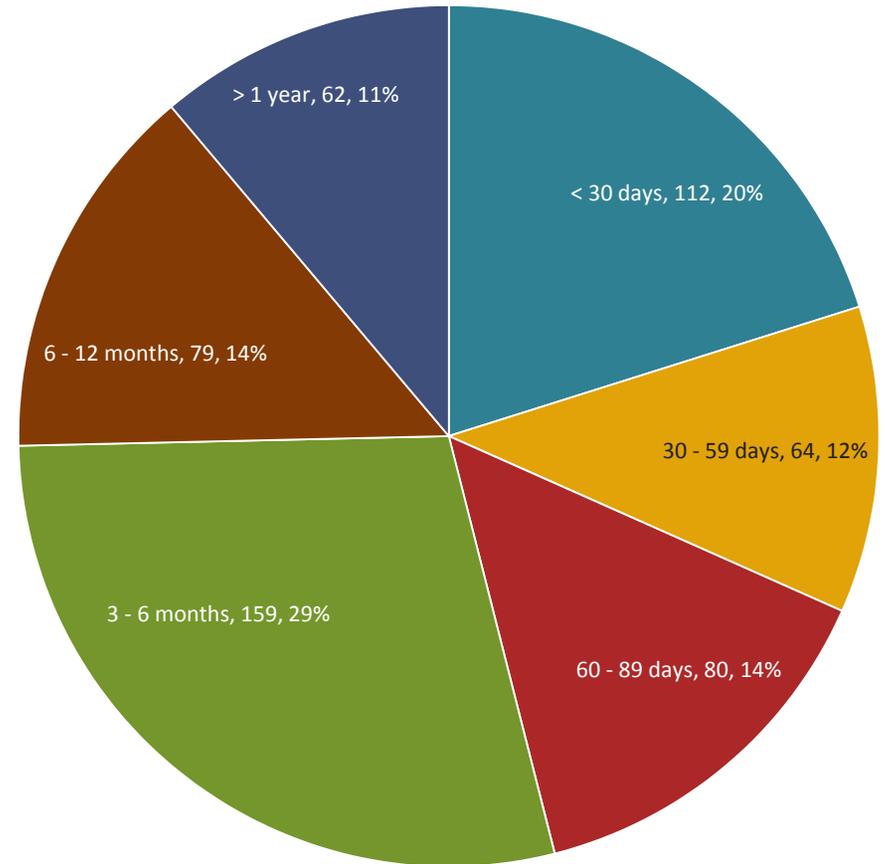
decline in the number of homes for sale. Despite relatively modest changes in inventory levels in the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County over the past year, inventory levels in the County seem much more turbulent than in the City.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Days on Market Analysis of Sold Properties**  
 Residential Listings Sold in the Past 12 Months



**Median Days On Market: 51**

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Days on Market Analysis of Active Listings**  
 Active Residential Listings

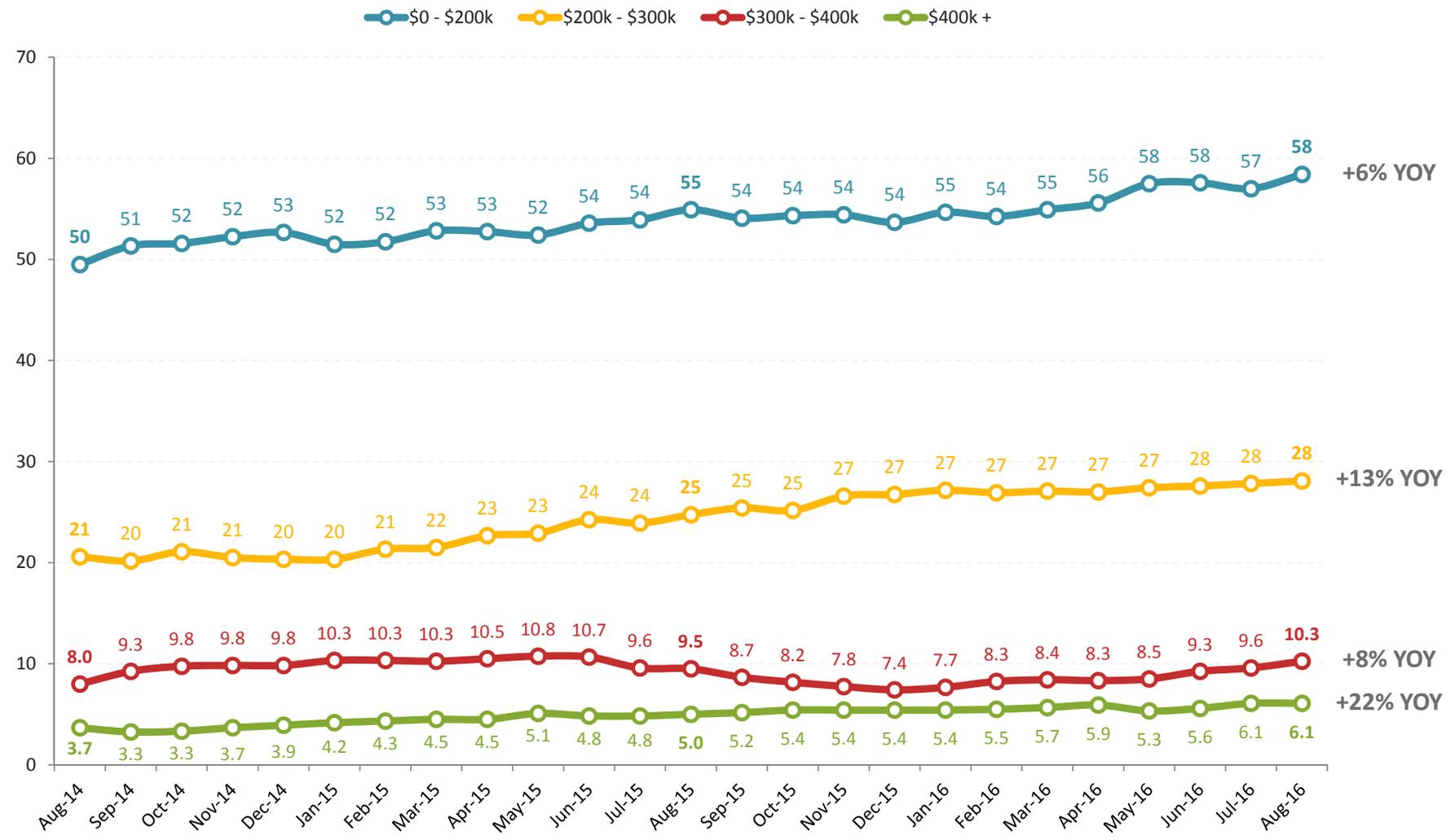


**Median Days On Market: 98**

Despite high inventory levels, and low numbers of buyers in the market, the homes that are actually selling are selling rather quickly. In fact, over 1 out of 3 homes (38%) that sell go under contract less than 30 days after being listed for sale. Include with that those that go under contract in the next 30 days (16%) and we find that

more than half of homes (54%) that sell go under contract within the first 60 days of first coming on the market. This is not, however accounting for the many homes that never sell -- that linger on the market, or are eventually taken off the market.

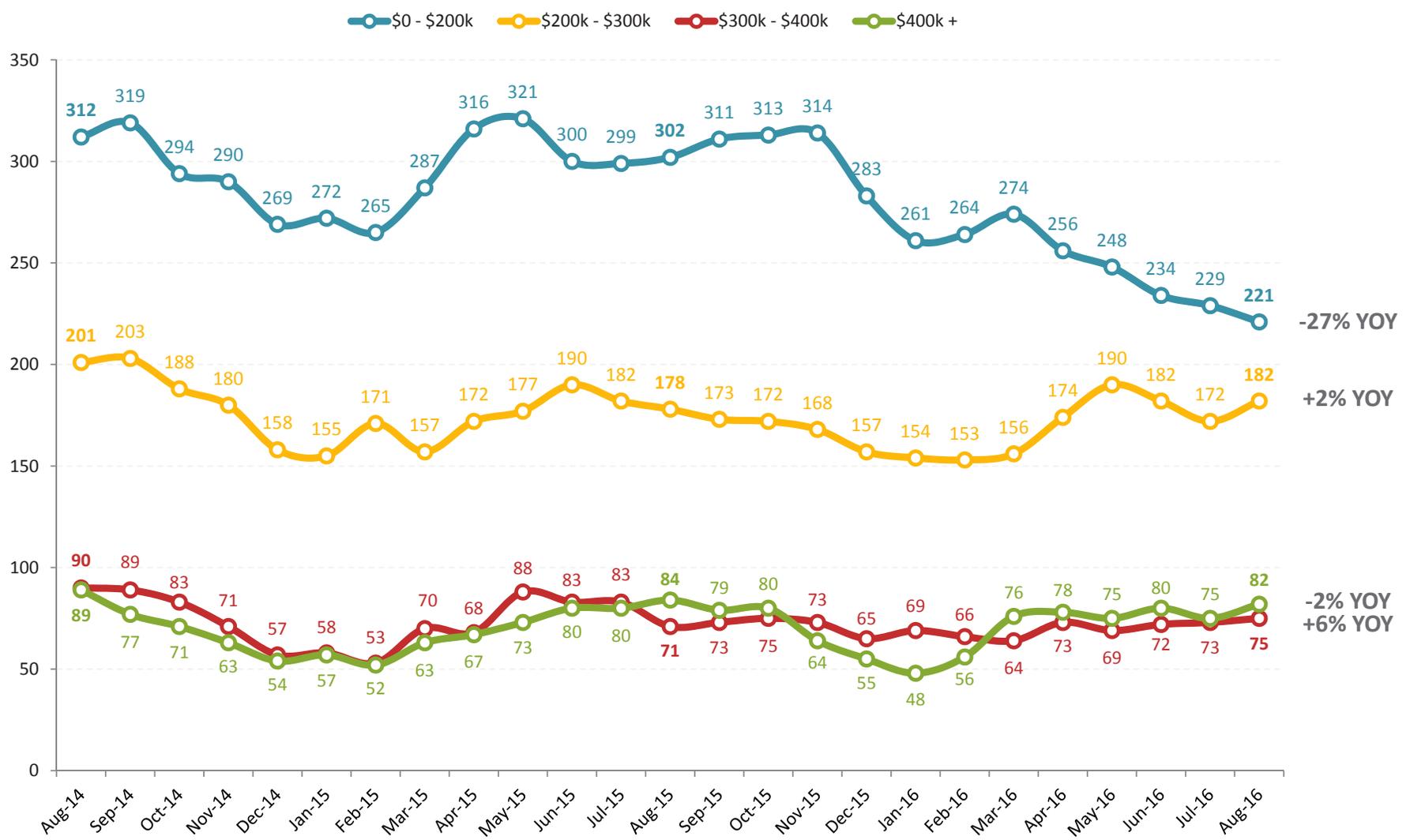
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales by Price Range**  
 (Average of Past 12 Months)



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 increased in all price ranges over the past year, with the

most significant increases being in the \$400K+ price range (+22% year-over-year) and the \$200K - \$300K price range (+13% year-over-year). The other two price ranges (under \$200K, \$300K - \$400K) have seen a 6% and 8% increase, respectively.

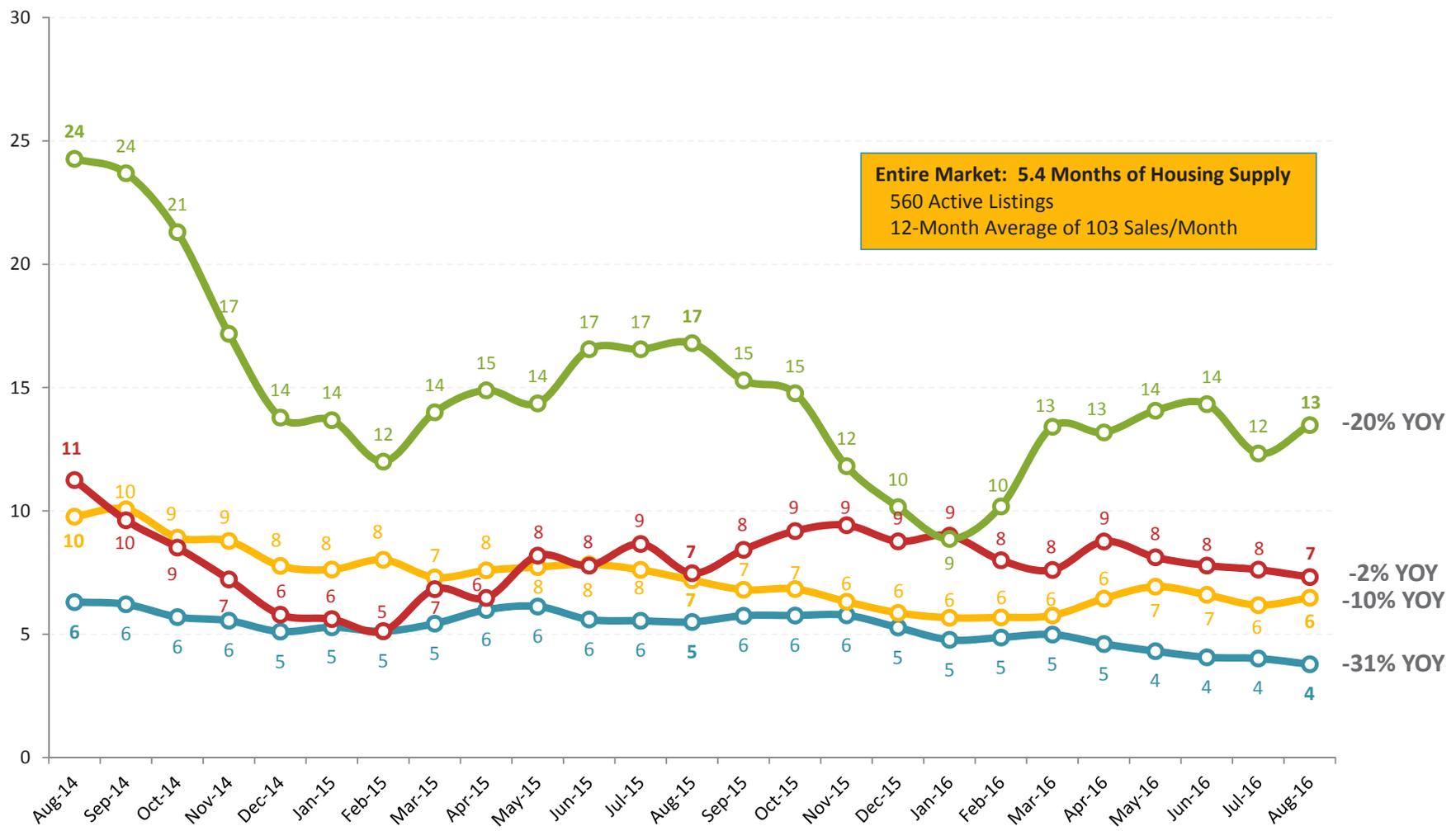
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
Inventory Levels by Price Range



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. The lowest price range (under \$200K) has seen the largest decline (-27%) in inventory levels over the past year -- while the \$200K - \$300K and the \$300K - \$400K price

ranges are actually seeing increases in inventory levels. All four price ranges are likely to see some further decreases in inventory levels over the next few months as we enter into the Autumn market.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Months of Housing Supply by Price Range**  
 ● \$0 - \$200k ● \$200k - \$300k ● \$300k - \$400k ● \$400k +

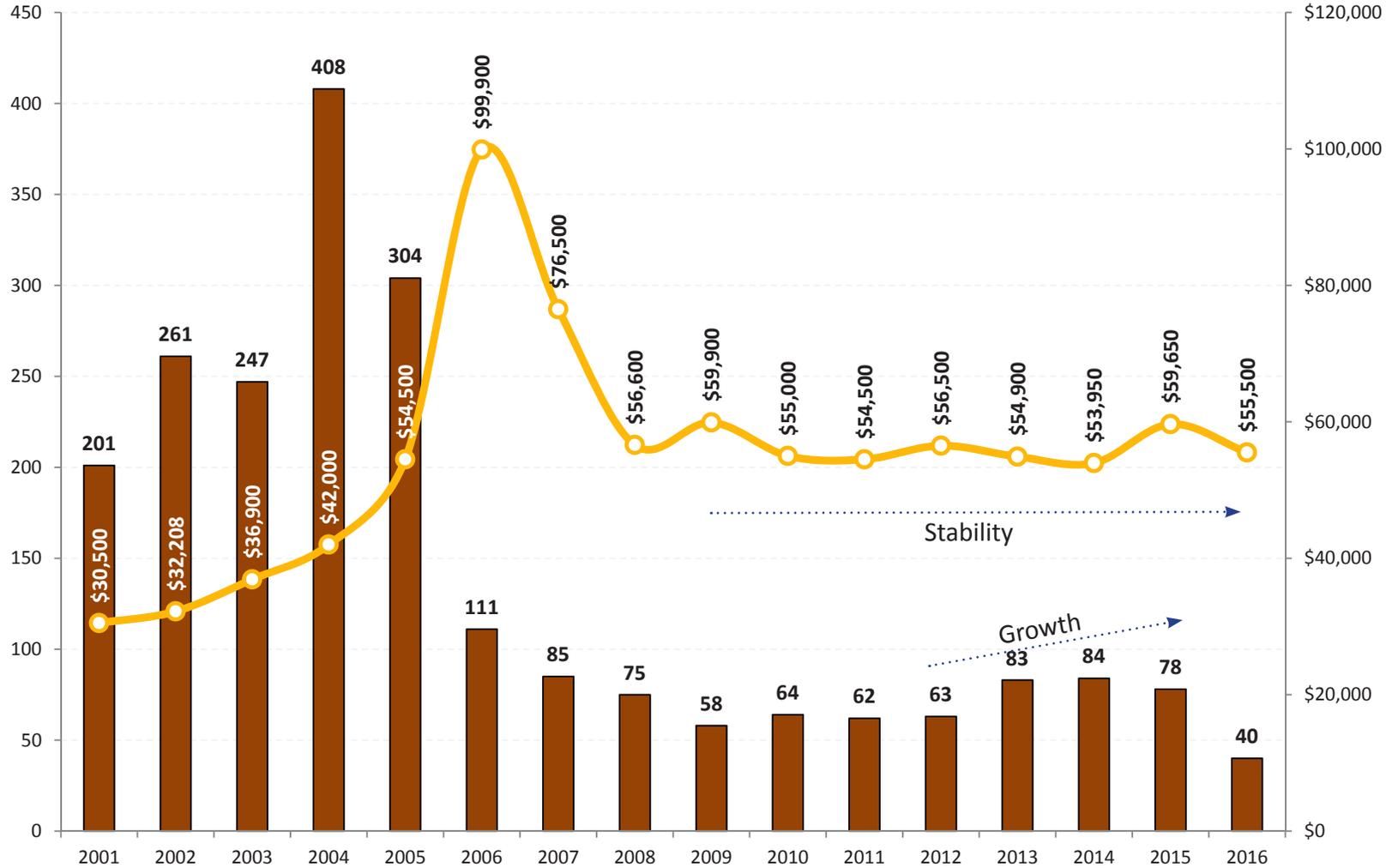


With so many homes on the market (lots of sellers) and so few home sales (not so many buyers), there are very high levels of supply in most price ranges our local real estate market. The graph above illustrates that it would take 13 months to sell all of the homes currently for sale over \$400K if the same number of buyers bought each

month as have been buying (on average) over the past 12 months. Many consider a six month supply to be a balance between buyers and sellers, and in the past 12 months we have only consistently seen that balance in the under \$200K price range, where we are now seeing only a four month supply of homes for sale!

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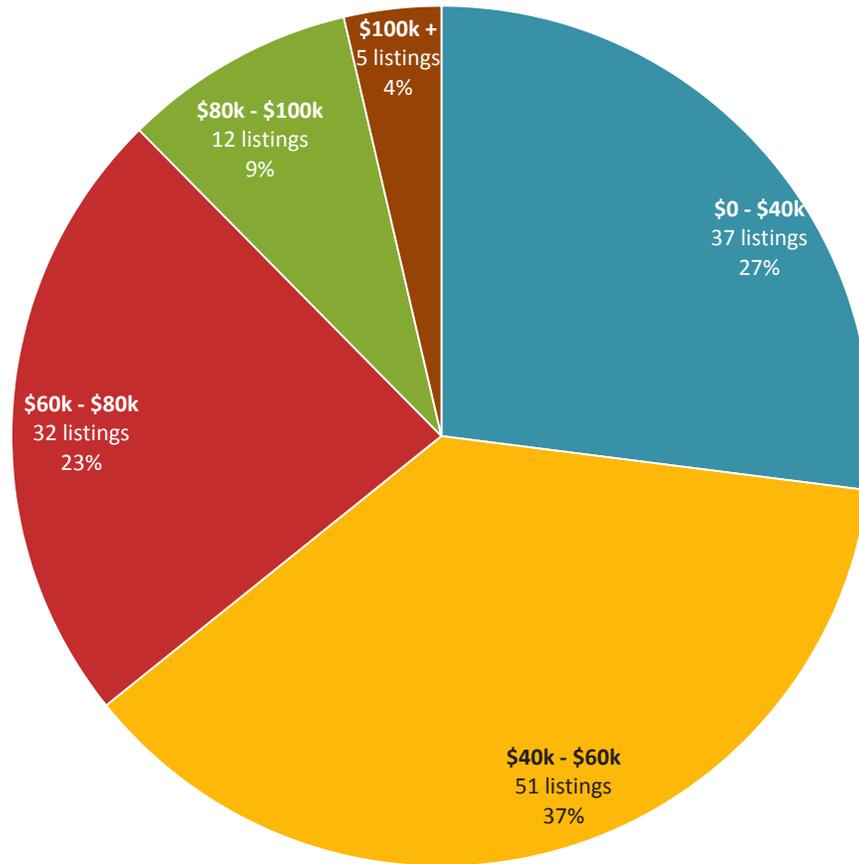
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Lot Sales & Median Prices**  
 less than 1 acre



After some modest recovery in the pace of sales of lots of less than an acre over the past few years, there were fewer of these sales in 2015 (78) as compared to 2014 (84). That slower pace of lot sales did not stop sellers from being able to obtain higher prices for their building lots, as the median sales price increased from

\$53,950 to \$59,650. This is nearly tied for the highest median sales price seen anytime since 2008. While we are unlikely to return to seeing 250 or more lot sales in a single year, hopefully we will see increases to 100+ sales per year in the coming years. Of note, the pace of these sales thus far this year is not looking promising.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Price Distribution of Active Lot Inventory**  
less than 1 acre

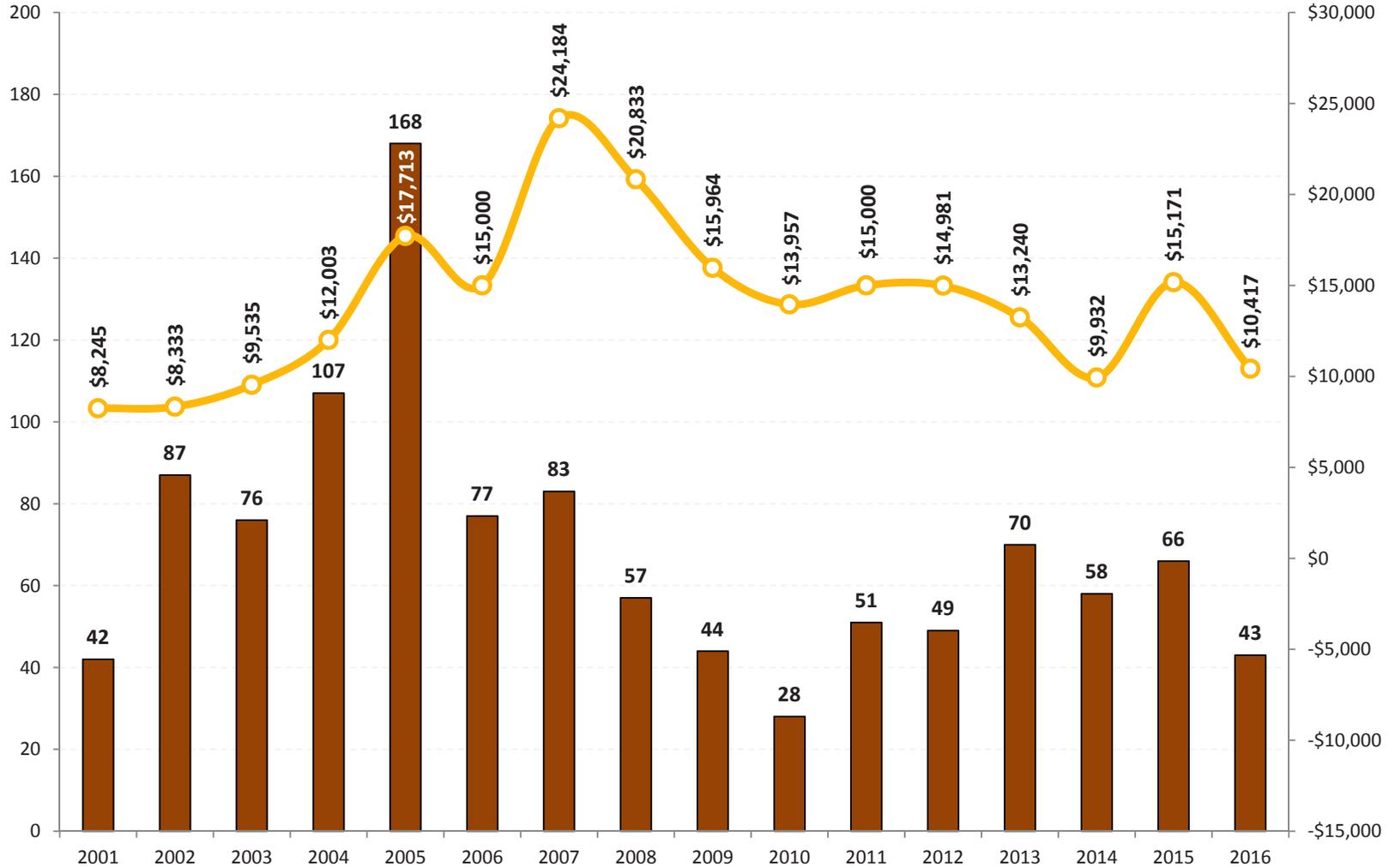


**137 Active Lot Listings; Median List Price: \$54,900**

Despite the fact that only 78 lots (of less than an acre) sold in all of 2015, there are a remarkable 137 lots currently for sale. Some sanity exists in this listing market, however, as the median list price of lots for sale (\$54,900) is actually a bit lower than the 2015 median sales price of \$59,650. Given last year's 78 lot sales, if no

other lots were listed for sale, it would take 1.8 years to sell all of the lots currently listed for sale. As you can see above, a significant portion of the lots currently listed for sale are priced above \$60,000 --- thus many sellers have offering prices higher than recent (2011-2015) median sales prices.

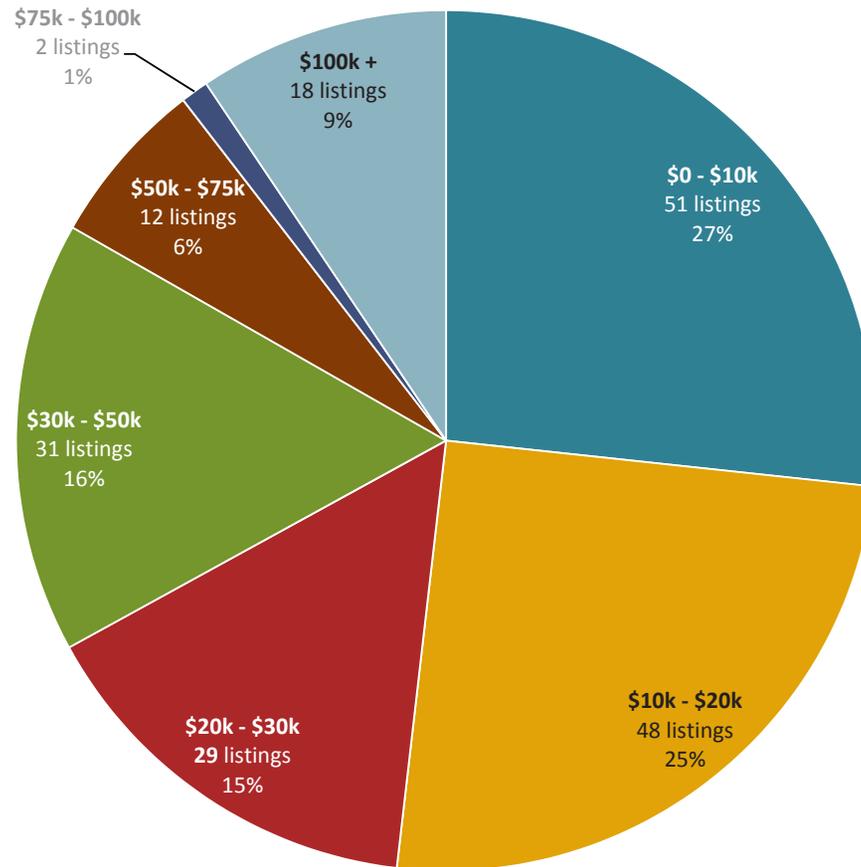
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Land Sales & Median Price Per Acre**  
 1 acre or more



Parcels of land larger than one acre in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County peaked in 2013 at 70 sales, declined in 2014 to only 58 sales, but popped back up to 66 sales during 2015. The median price per acre of these lots with over 1 acre also jumped back up in 2015 to \$15,171. This is the highest price per acre for land of

over one acre seen anytime in the past six years. At this point, we seem poised to see a similar (or slightly smaller) number of these sales in 2016, and median price per acre is likely to drop back down again to the \$10K - \$12K range.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Price/Acre Distribution of Active Land Inventory**  
 1 acre or more

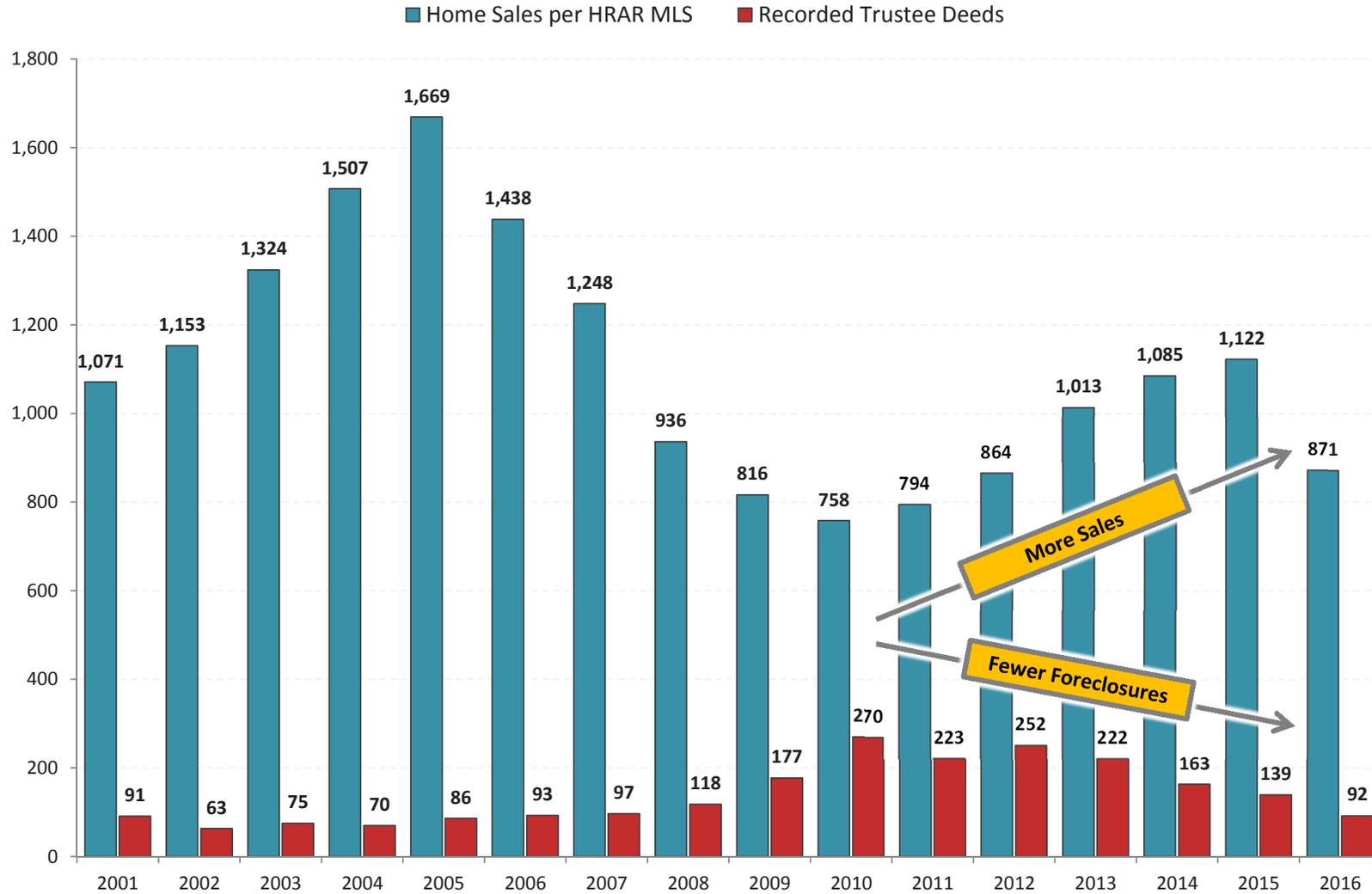


**191 Active Land Listing; Median List Price: \$18,790 / Acre**

Despite the fact that only 66 parcels of land (of one acre or more) sold in all of 2015, there are a remarkable 191 parcels of land currently for sale. Furthermore, despite the fact that the median sales price of land is hovering around \$15,000 per acre, the median list price of the 196 parcels for sale is currently \$18,790 per acre. Given

last year's 66 land sales, if no other land is listed for sale, it would take 2.9 years to sell all of the parcels of land currently listed for sale. As you can see above, the vast majority of land listed for sale is listed at median prices per acre well above the median sales price per acre.

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
Home Sales vs. Trustee Sales

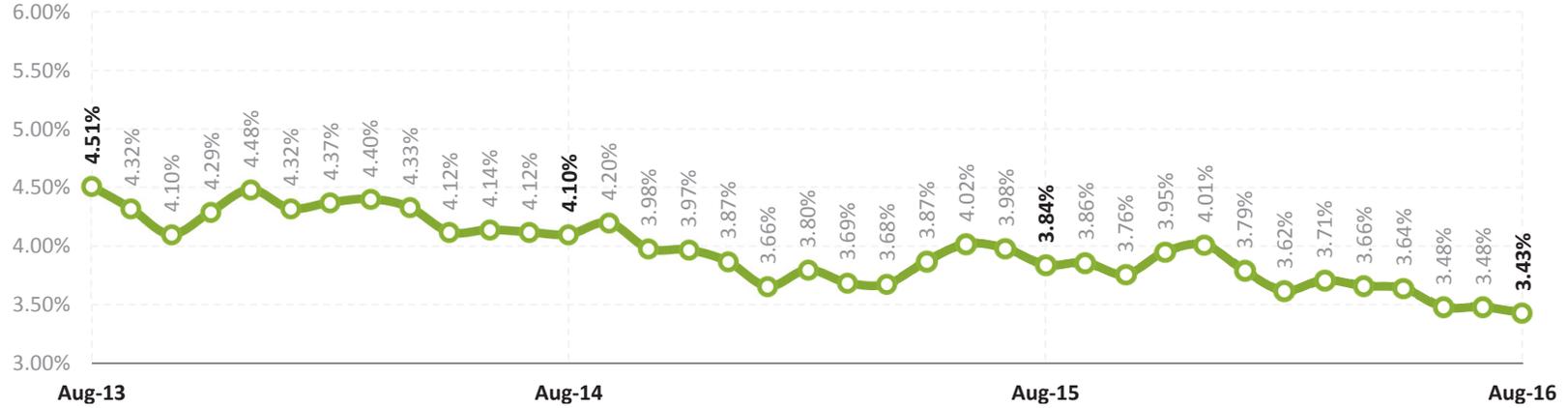


The graph above is a comparison of two imprecise measures -- but the comparison can still be helpful. The blue bars show the number of home sales recorded in the HRAR MLS -- this does not include private sales (without a Realtor), nor new home sales directly from a builder. The red bars show the number of recorded Trustee

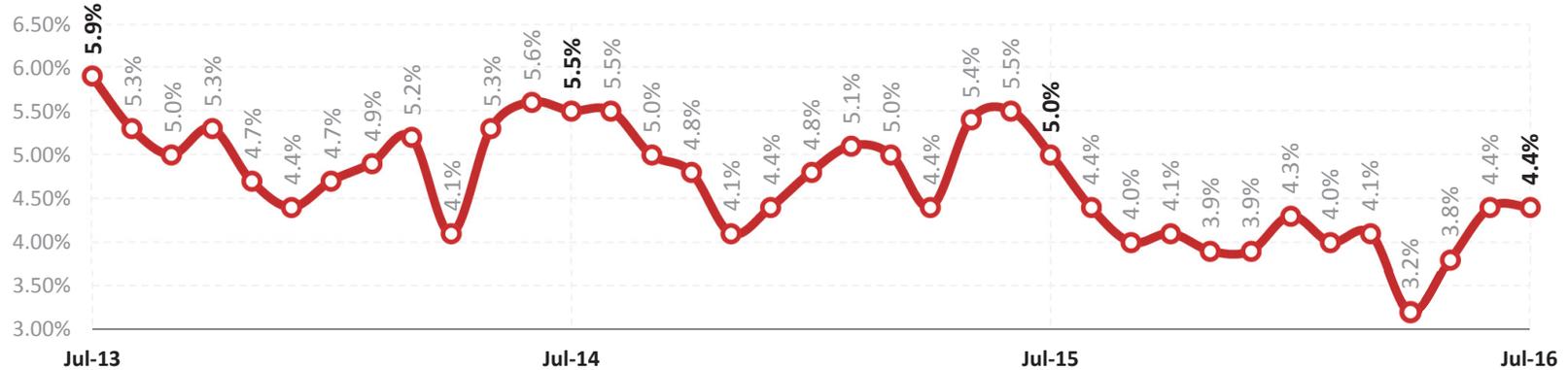
Deeds. Some foreclosed properties then show up again as REO properties. The foreclosure rate in our local market area is definitely trending downward, as there were 4.6 times as many home sales as foreclosures during 2013, 6.7 times as many home sales as foreclosures in 2014, and 8.1 times as many in 2015.

### Average 30-Year Fixed Mortgage Interest Rate

Source: Freddie Mac



### Harrisonburg-Rockingham MSA Unemployment Rate Not Seasonally Adjusted



As shown in the top graph above, home buyers have seen steadily (though slowly) declining mortgage interest rates over the past several years to current levels that are amongst the lowest we have ever seen. The second graph above illustrates trends in the local unemployment rate -- which has shown a general downward

trend over the past several years, and dropped to its lowest level (3.2%) in April 2016 that we have seen in many years. A low local unemployment rate and low mortgage interest rates continue to help our local housing market remain stable.

## Scott P. Rogers, Associate Broker



Scott P. Rogers, an 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. Scott provides detailed, professional and responsive service to all of his clients, whether they are buying their first home or have been through many housing transitions. 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.

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, elevated photography equipment, property websites for each of his listings and Matterport 3D Showcase. 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, HarrisonburgApps.com, HarrisonburgAssessments.com, HarrisonburgPropertyTransfers.com, HarrisonburgTownhouses.com, BestDealsInHarrisonburg.com and many others.

Scott is a member of the Shenandoah Valley Builders Association, serves on the Board of Directors for the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir and East Rockingham Recreation Association, and is the co-founder of TakeThemAMeal.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, camping, playing volleyball and attending JMU sporting events.

### Questions? Contact Scott anytime....

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scott@HarrisonburgHousingToday.com



## Local Online Real Estate Resources

**Everything You Need To Know About the Home Buying Process**  
[BuyingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com](#)

**Marketing Strategies for Successing Selling Your Home**  
[SellingAHomeInHarrisonburg.com](#)

**Central Shenandoah Valley Property Search**  
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