



# MARCH 2017 Harrisonburg & Rockingham County Real Estate Market Report



*An analysis of real estate activity through February 28, 2017.  
provided courtesy of Scott P. Rogers, Funkhouser Real Estate Group*



Immaculate Four Bedroom Brick Colonial in Crossroads Farm ..... 135YorkPlace.com

# HOME SALES REPORT

Harrisonburg & Rockingham County

March 13, 2017

# Home Sales	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change ('16 - '17)
February	52	68	68	69	1.47%
Year-To-Date (Jan-Feb)	107	117	135	137	1.48%
Last 12 Months (Mar-Feb)	1,054	1,091	1,144	1,314	14.86%

Median Sales Price	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change ('16 - '17)
February	\$172,500	\$167,000	\$193,000	\$189,000	-2.07%
Year-To-Date (Jan-Feb)	\$165,000	\$176,750	\$194,000	\$189,000	-2.58%
Last 12 Months (Mar-Feb)	\$175,000	\$179,900	\$186,000	\$192,000	3.23%

Median Days on Market	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Change ('16 - '17)
February	126	88	67	63	-5.97%
Year-To-Date (Jan-Feb)	68	83	72	54	-25.00%
Last 12 Months (Mar-Feb)	61	68	54	49	-9.26%

Last month marked the highest number of home sales in any recent February with a total of 69 sales -- though only an increase of one sale over last February. The rolling 12-month median is now showing a 14.86% year-over-year increase in the pace of home sales in this area, and a 3.23% increase in the median sales price

of those homes. While the February and YTD median sales prices have dipped a bit compared to last year, the rolling 12-month median sales price is likely more instructive at this point. Homes are selling 9.26% faster now than they were a year ago when examining the rolling 12-month median of days on the market.

# HOME SALES REPORT :: BY AREA

# Home Sales	City of Harrisonburg			Rockingham County		
	2016	2017	% Change	2016	2017	% Change
February	24	22	-8.33%	44	47	6.82%
<b>Last 12 Months (Mar-Feb)</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>12.53%</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>16.07%</b>

Median Sales Price	City of Harrisonburg			Rockingham County		
	2016	2017	% Change	2016	2017	% Change
February	\$180,550	\$163,500	-9.44%	\$197,250	\$192,000	-2.66%
<b>Last 12 Months (Mar-Feb)</b>	<b>\$168,000</b>	<b>\$165,000</b>	<b>-1.79%</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>2.56%</b>

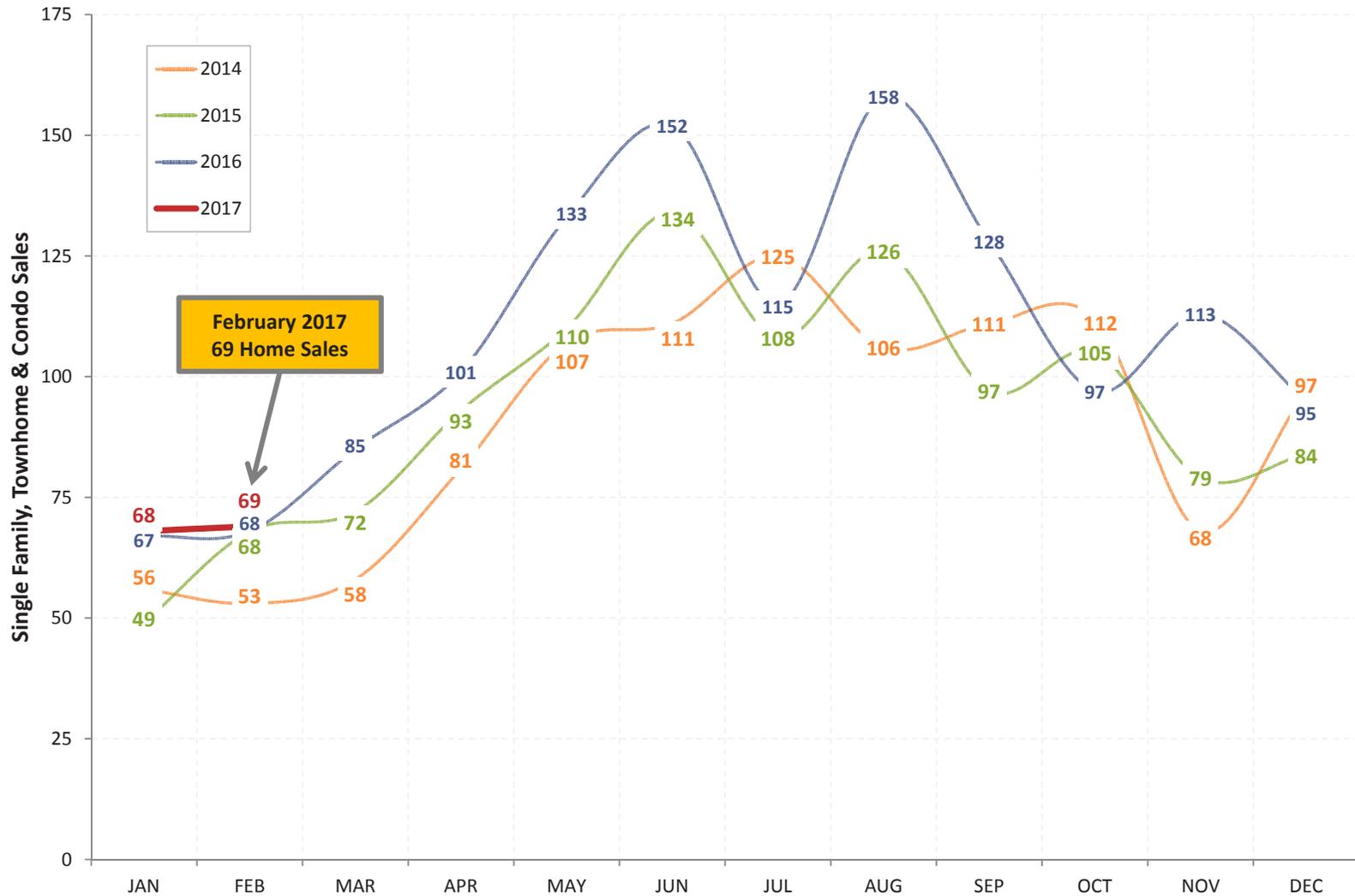
  

Median Days on Market	City of Harrisonburg			Rockingham County		
	2016	2017	% Change	2016	2017	% Change
February	44	33	-25.00%	72	63	-12.50%
<b>Last 12 Months (Mar-Feb)</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>-39.62%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5.45%</b>

Nearly twice as many homes sell in Rockingham County each year as compared to the City of Harrisonburg -- but the pace of home sales is increasing in both areas, with a 12.53% year-over-year increase in City home sales and a 16.07% year-over-year increase in County home sales. That said, while the median sales price has

increased 2.56% over the past year in the County, it has decreased by 1.79% in the City during the same time frame. Of note City homes tend to sell much more quickly, with a median of 32 days on the market, as compared to 58 days on the market in Rockingham County.

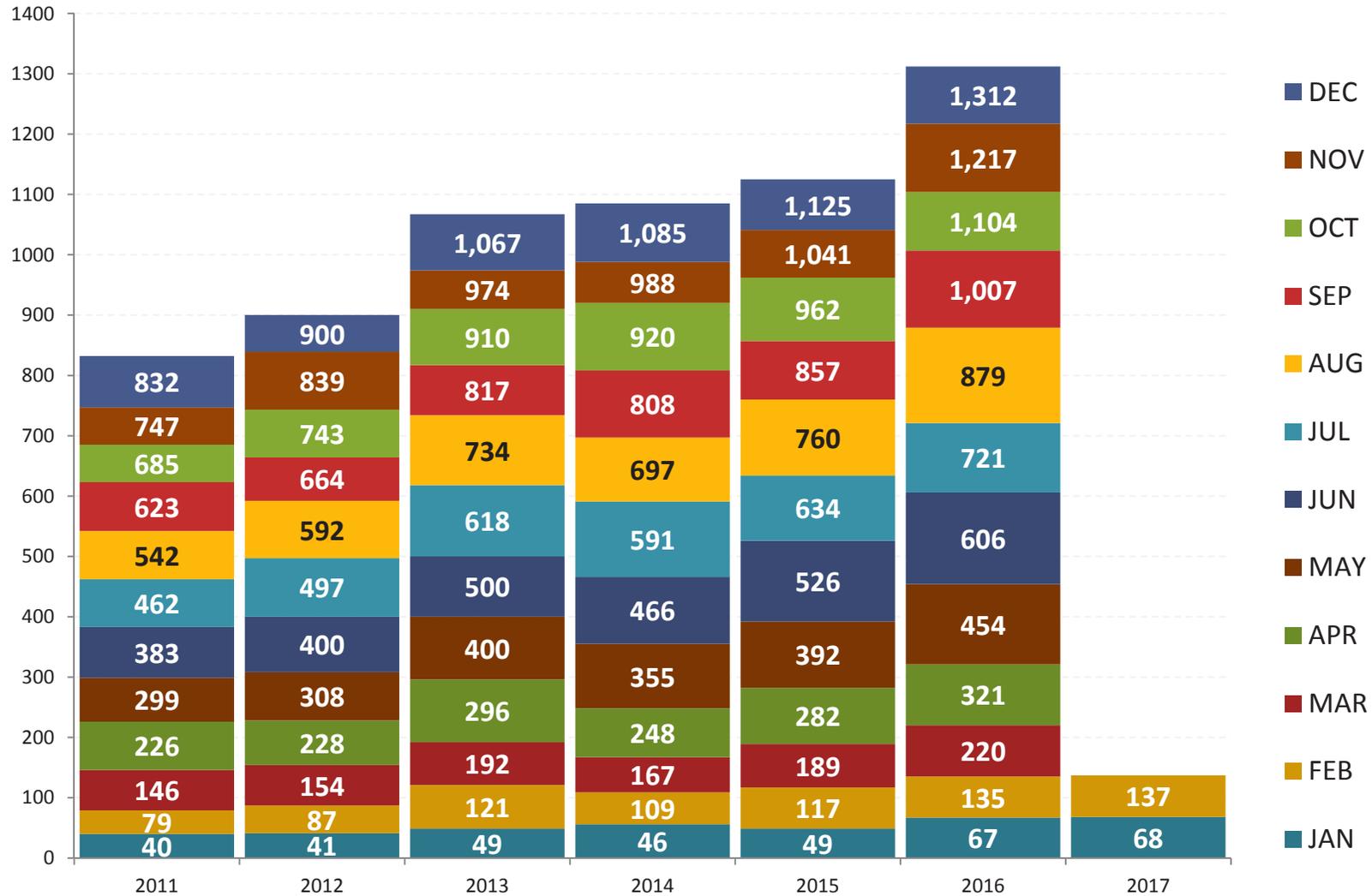
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Month-By-Month Home Sales History**



Last year was an extraordinarily strong year of home sales in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. As shown above with a blue line, many months of home sales were well above any previously recorded level seen during that same month. Thus far in 2017, January and February home sales have barely squeaked by in exceeding

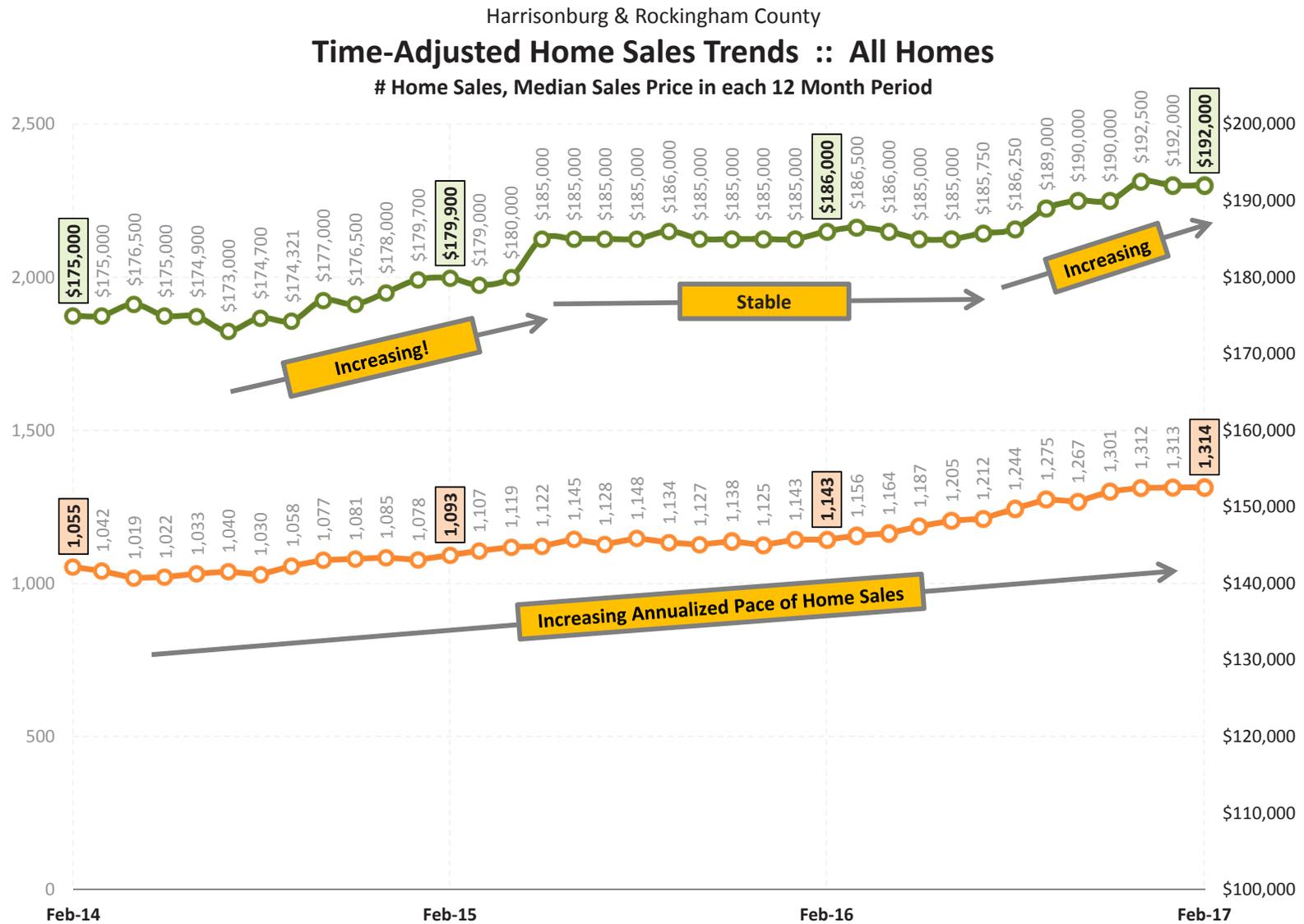
January and February 2016 home sales levels. It seems quite likely that we could stay on track with last year through March and April based on recent contract activity -- but the true test will likely come into play in May and June as that is when home sales really started to spike last year.

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 shown above, our local housing market experienced small incremental growth between 2013 and 2015 before seeing a sharp uptick in home sales last year in 2016. Thus

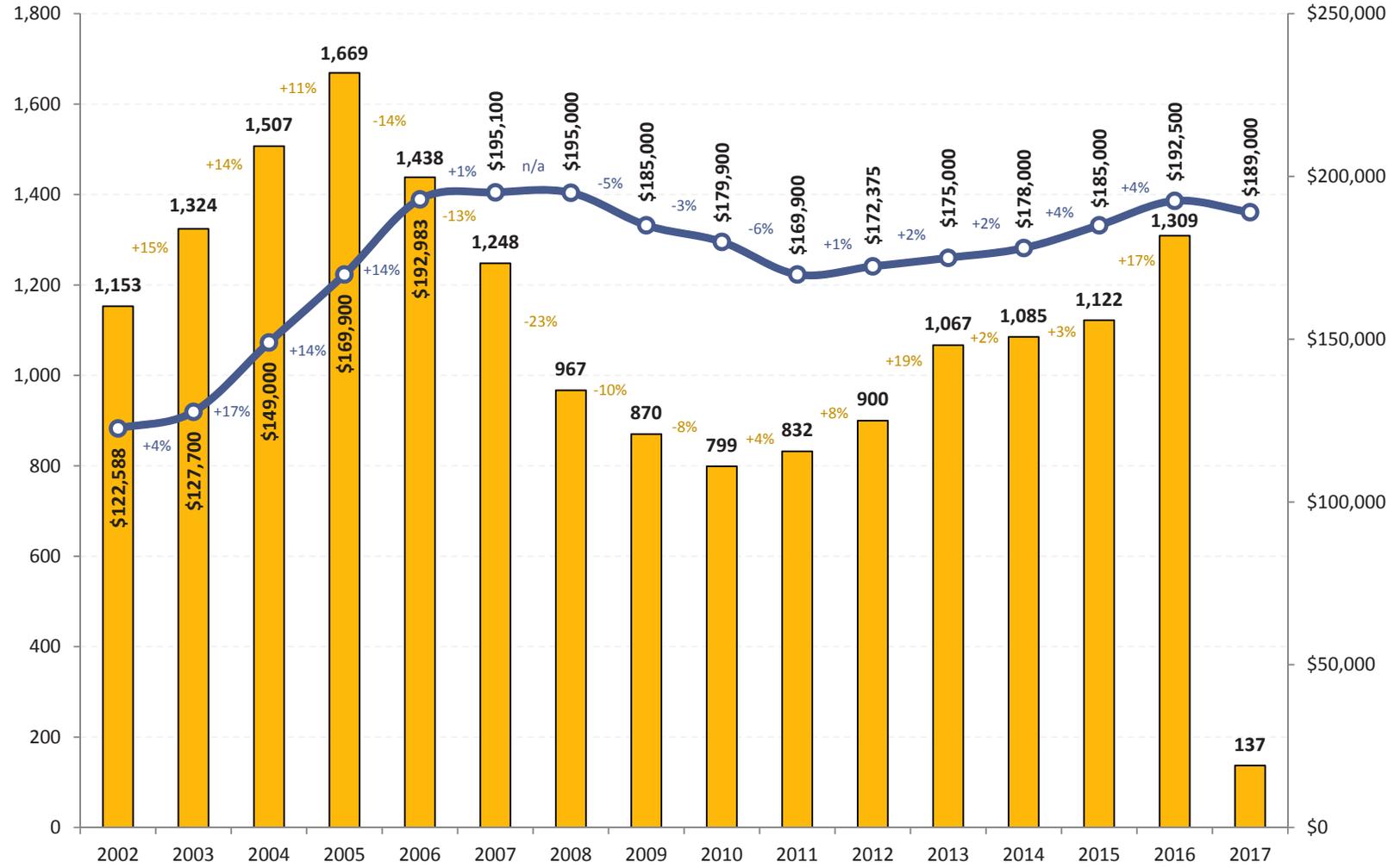
far, even with just two months of data to work with, it appears we could have a similar year in store for our local housing market. We will know quite a bit more as we move through March and April, to see if we are keeping on pace with the robust sales seen last year.



This graph shows a rolling 12 month trend line 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 three years we have seen relatively consistent increases in the annual pace of home sales, which has now risen to more than 1,300 sales/year -- and the median sales price has finally started to increase from the \$185K range over the past six months and has now exceeded \$190,000.

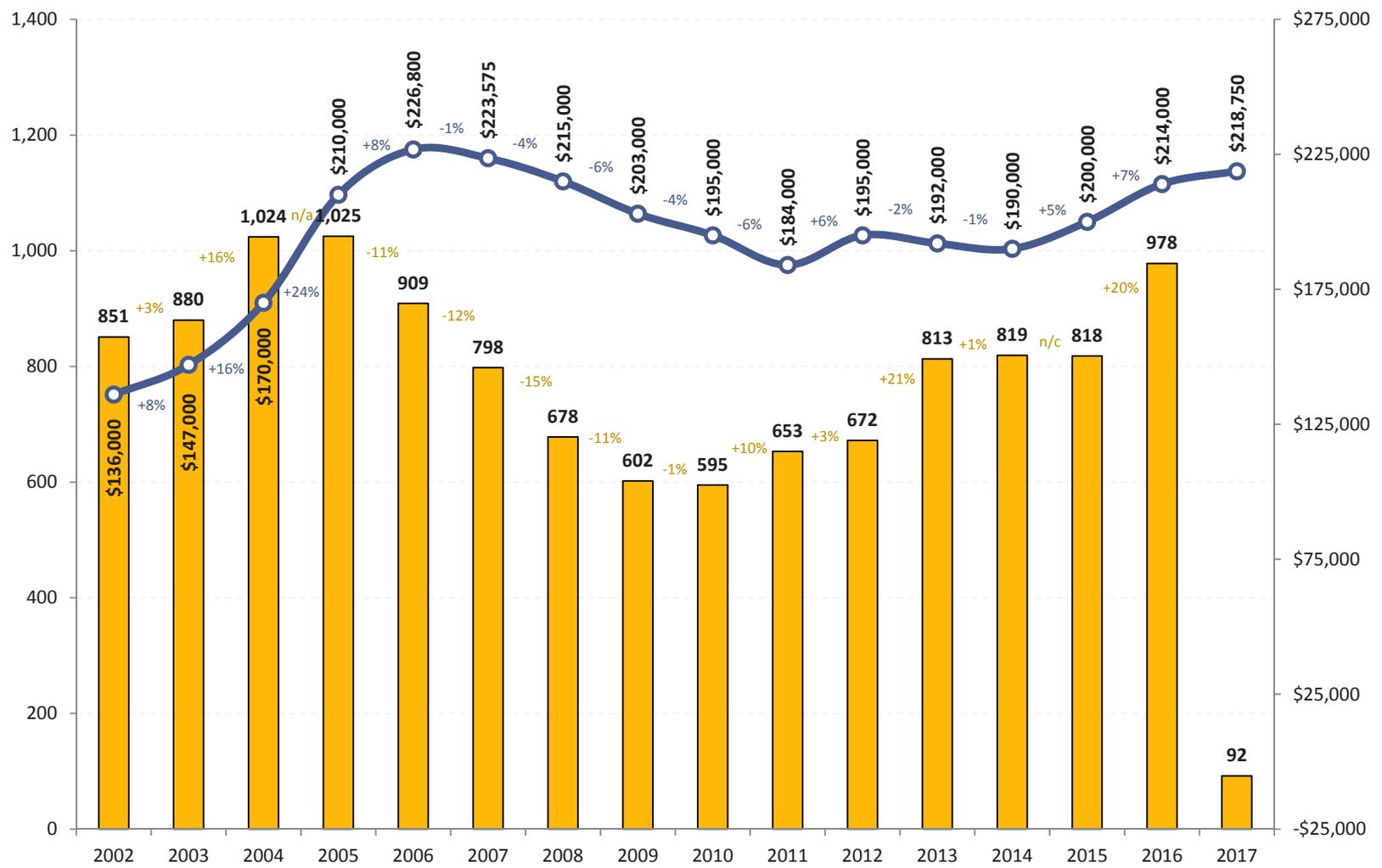
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales & Price Trends**  
 Single Family Homes & Townhomes



This graph provides an overall indicator of the state of our housing market, showing both the number of homes being sold each year since 2002 (yellow bars) as well as changes in the median sales price during the same time period (blue line). This past year (2016) marks the sixth (!) year in a row when we have seen an increase

(+17%) in the pace of sales in our local market, which was also accompanied by a 4% increase in the median sales price. This 17% increase in the pace of sales far exceeded the increases seen in the prior two years (2%, 3%) and likely contributed to the additional 4% increase in the median sales price.

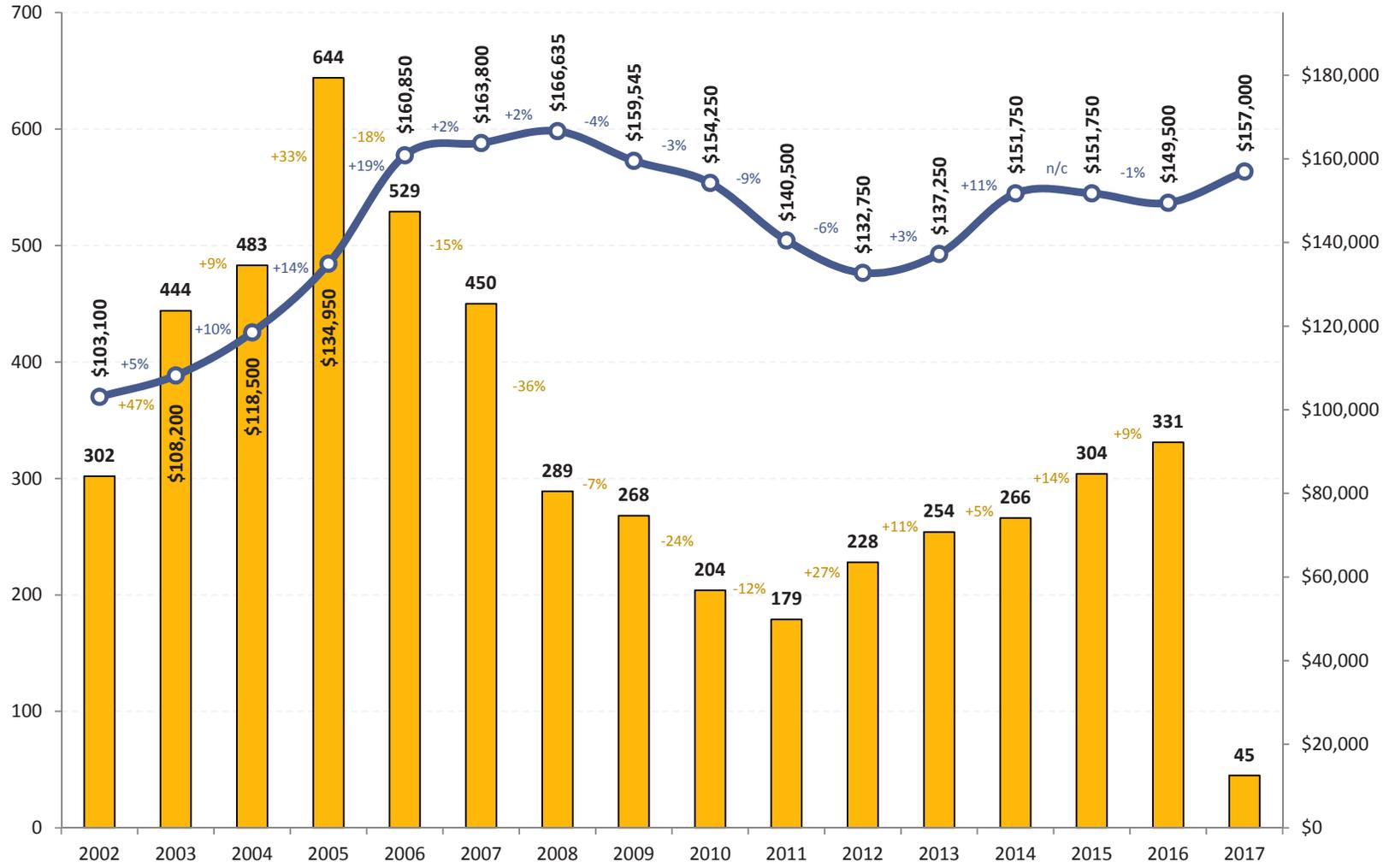
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales & Price Trends**  
 Single Family Homes



The single family home market in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County improved significantly between 2015 and 2016. After three years of relatively little change in the number of single family home sales (813, 819, 818) we saw a sudden and dramatic increase to 978 home sales. Looking back, there have only been two

years (2004, 2005) when more single family homes were sold in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. This 20% increase in the pace of single family home sales was accompanied by a 7% increase in the median sales price. Thus far in 2017, the median sales price is staying at or above last year's levels.

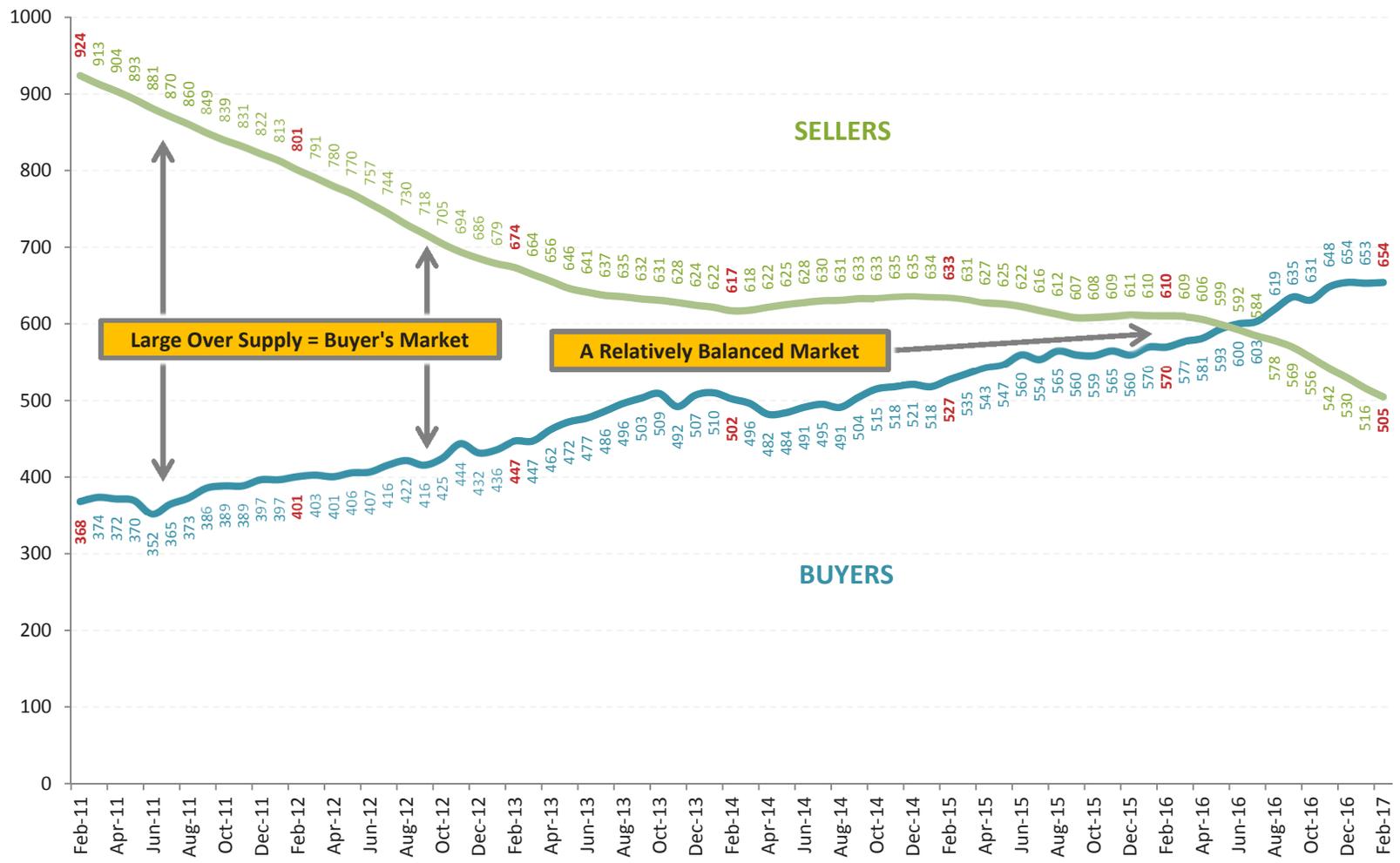
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales & Price Trends**  
 Duplexes, Townhomes & Condos



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 331 sales seen in 2016 marked the highest level of sales seen anytime between 2008 and 2016. 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, and in fact, the median sales price of these properties dropped slightly to \$149,500 -- down 1% from the median sales price of \$151,750 in both 2014 and 2015.

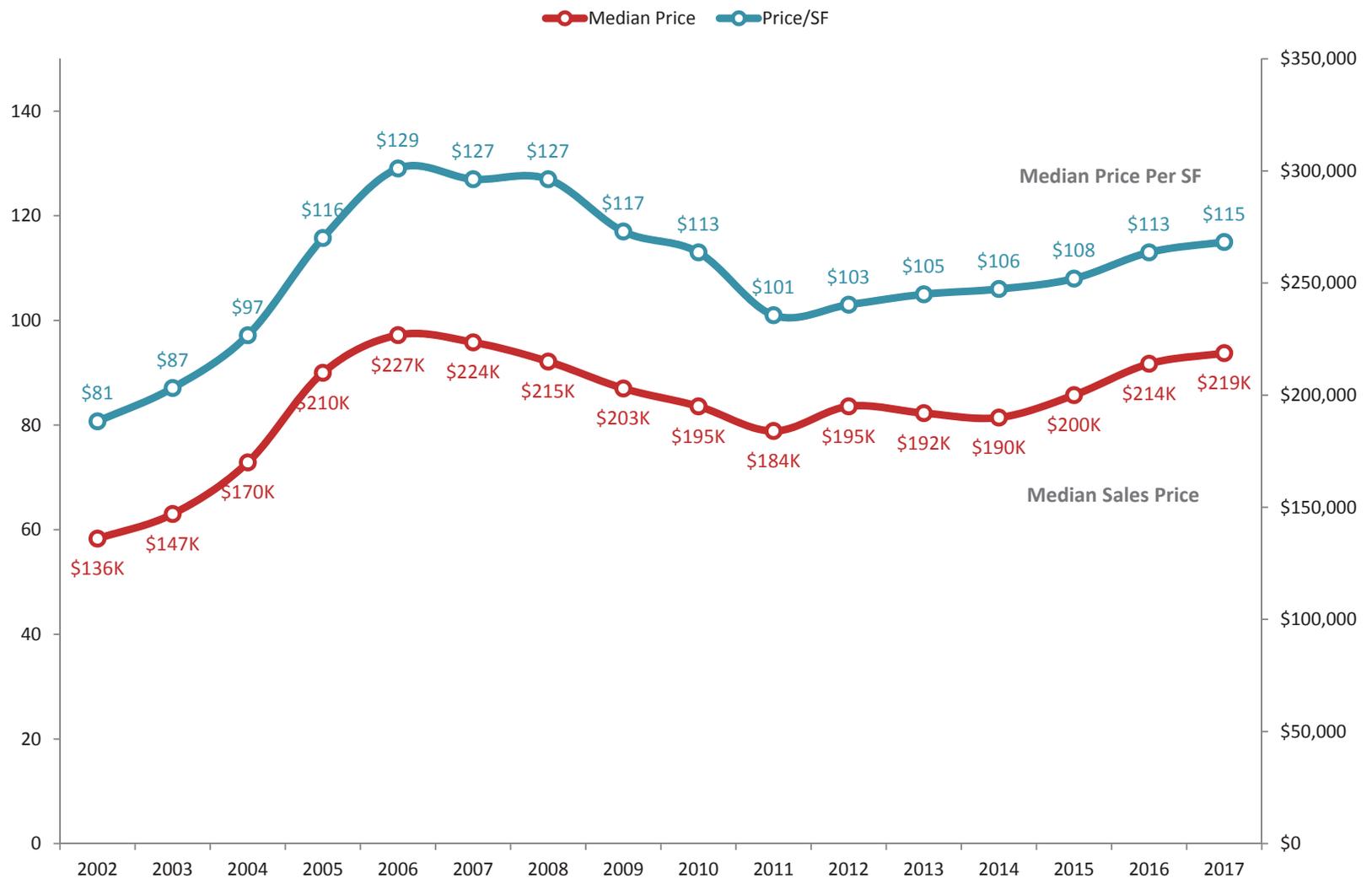
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Market Balance between Buyers and Sellers**  
 Assuming Six Months of Housing Supply is a Balanced Market



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!

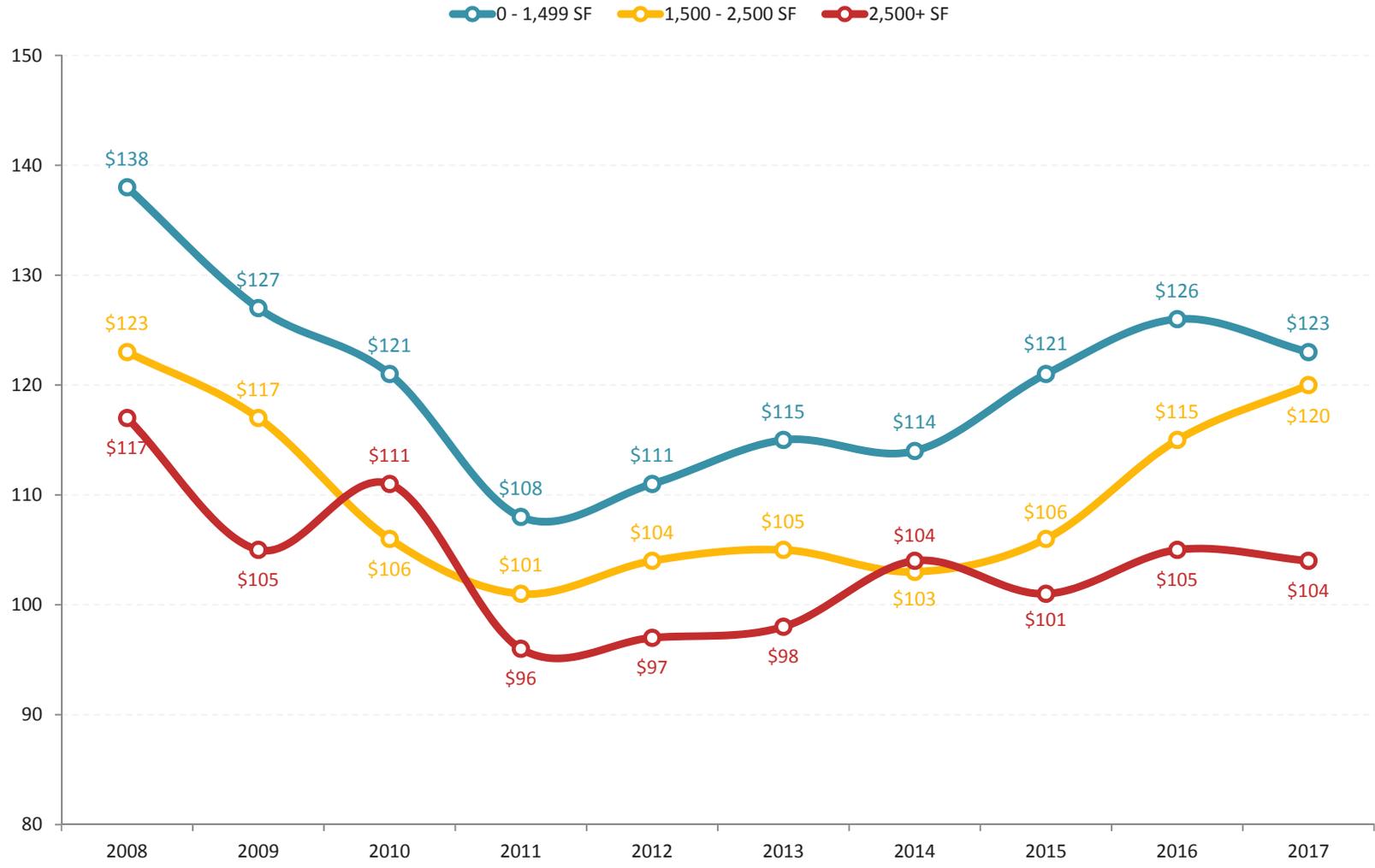
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Median Price vs. Price Per SF (Single Family Homes)**



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 (2015 to 2016) we have seen increases in both the median sales price as well as the median price per square foot of single family homes.

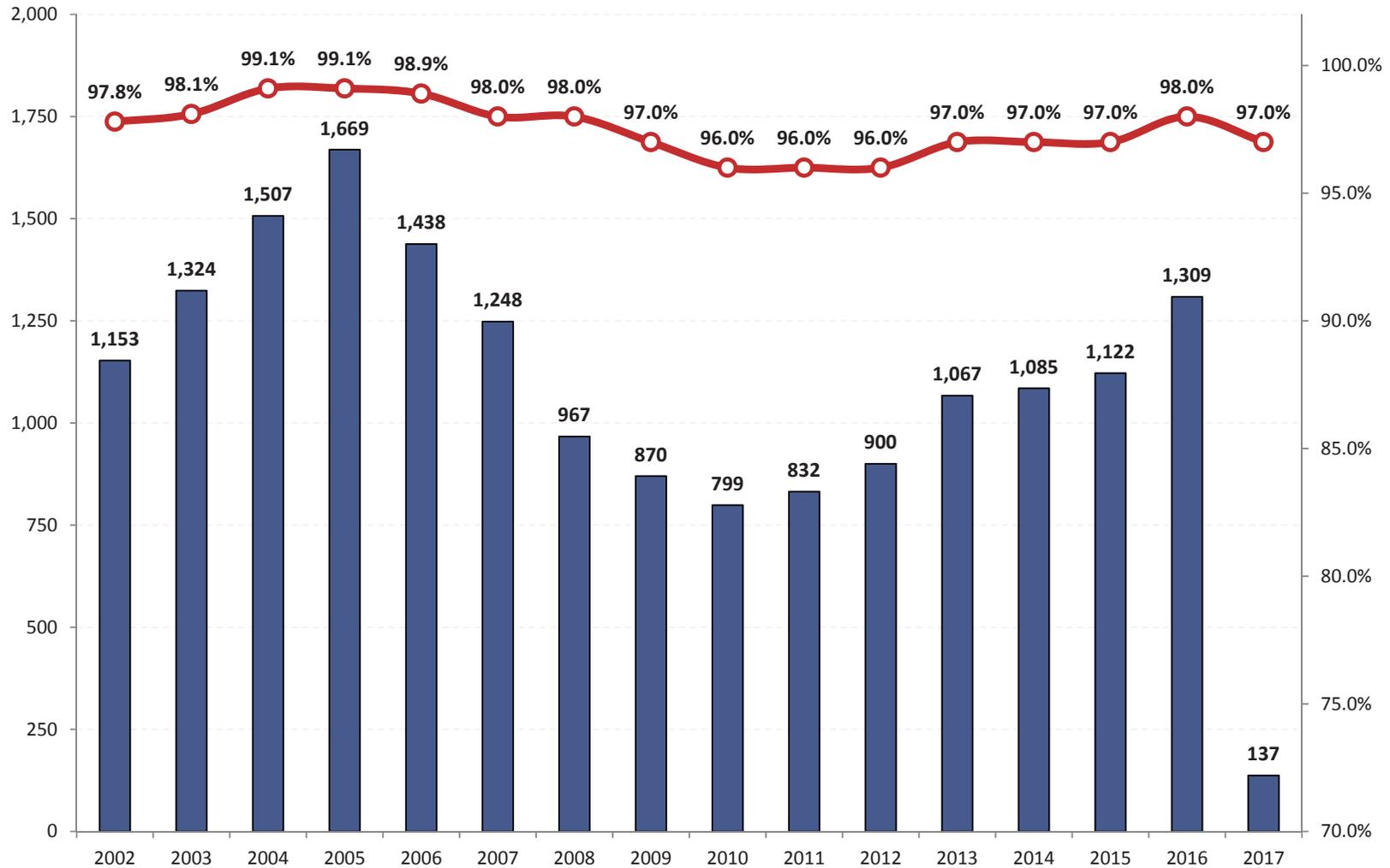
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Median Price Per Square Foot by Home Size**  
Single Family Homes



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 (\$104/SF) than that of homes with less than 1500 SF (\$123/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.

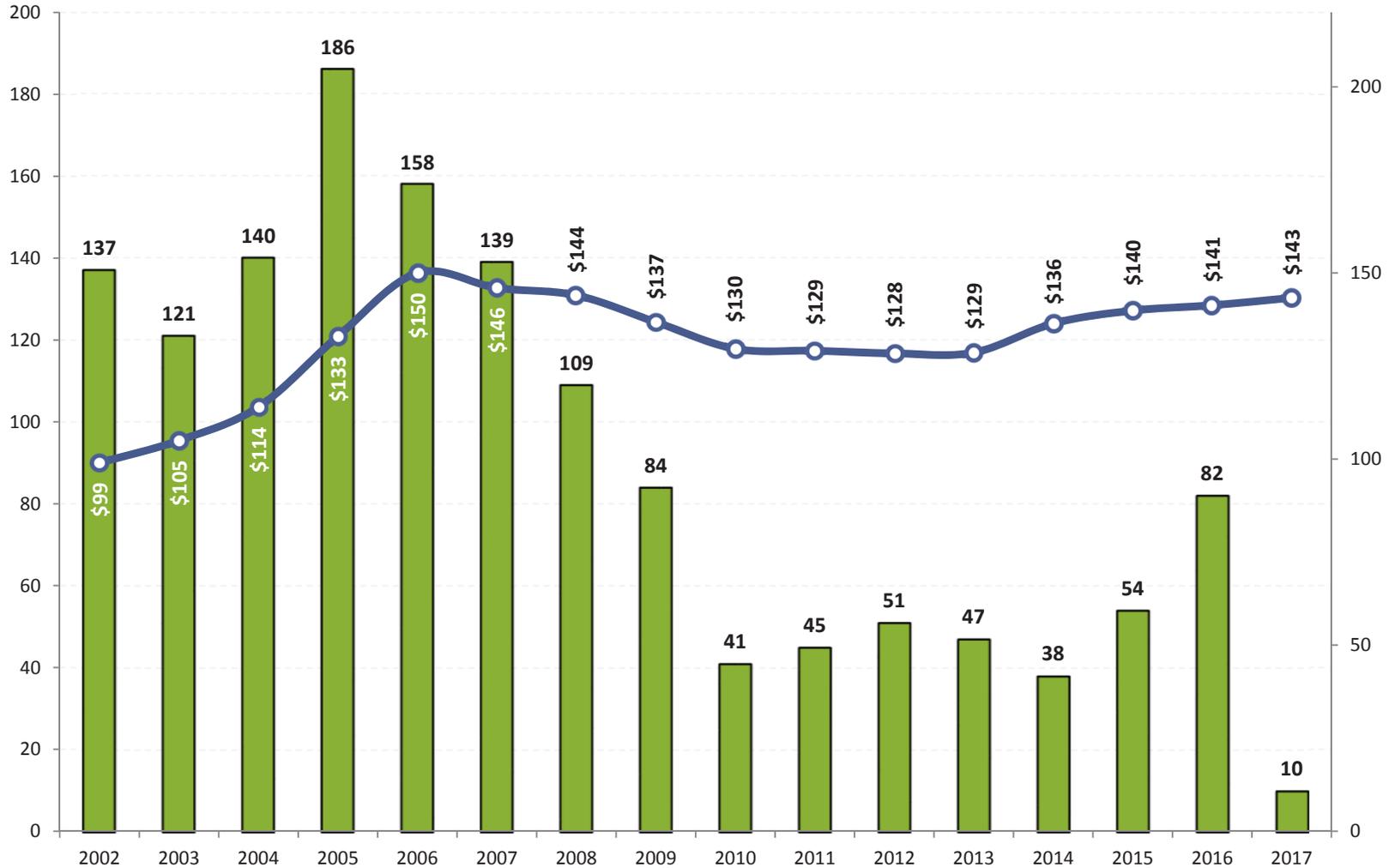
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Median List Price to Sales Price Ratio**  
 within the context of Home Sales Pace



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. Then, when the pace of home sales slowed (through 2010) we saw a decline in this metric to 96%, where we stayed for three years (2010, 2011, 2012). Sellers started selling for slightly more in 2013-2015 when they could obtain 97% of their list price. This increased to 98% in 2016 but is now back down to 97% in 2017.

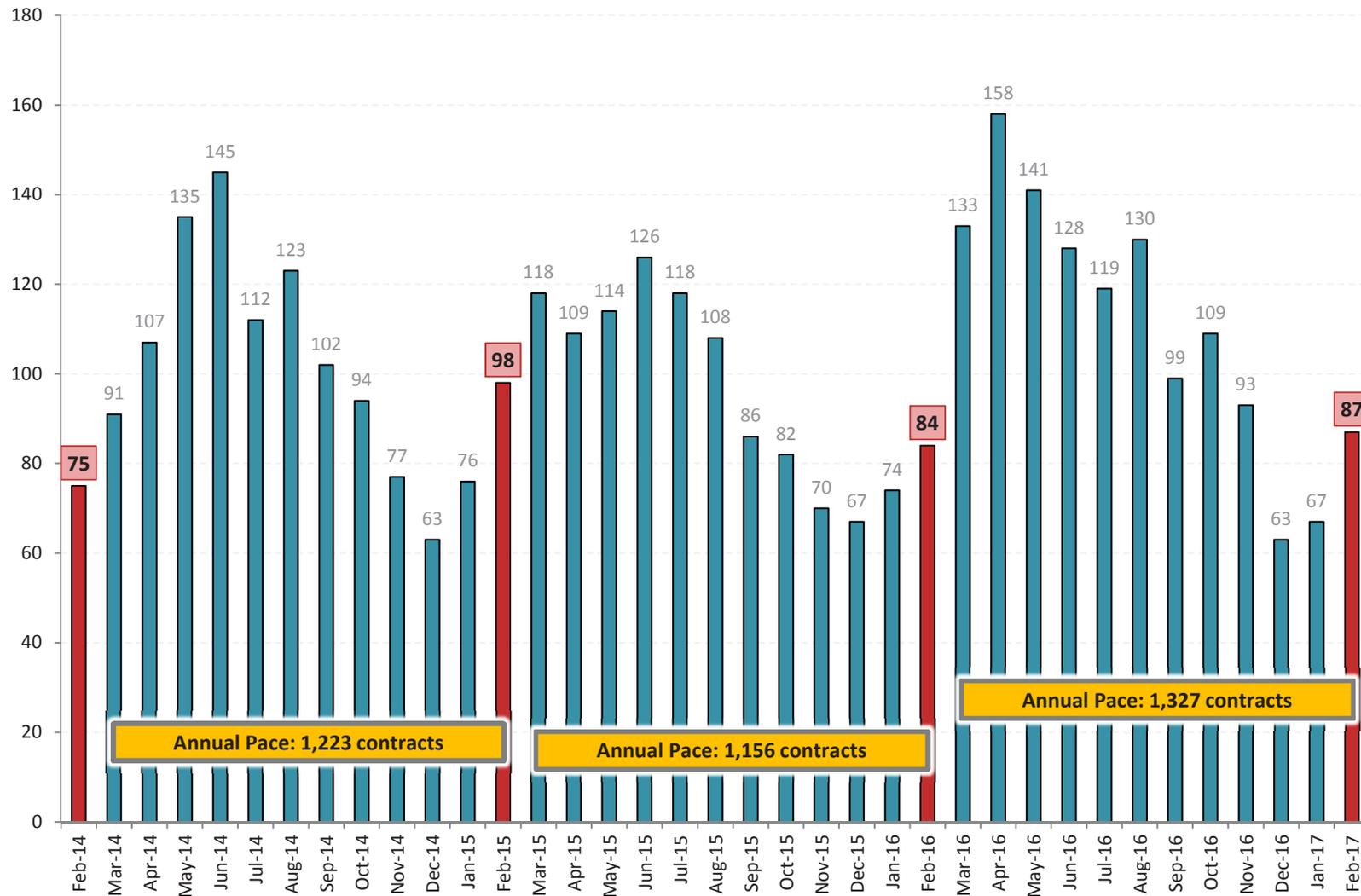
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**New Construction Single Family Home Sales Trends**  
 Number of Sales, Median Price Per Square Foot



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 past year, however, was QUITE different. There were a total of 82 new home sales last year, exceeding the full year of sale seen for each of the past six years -- a welcome sign for new home builders!

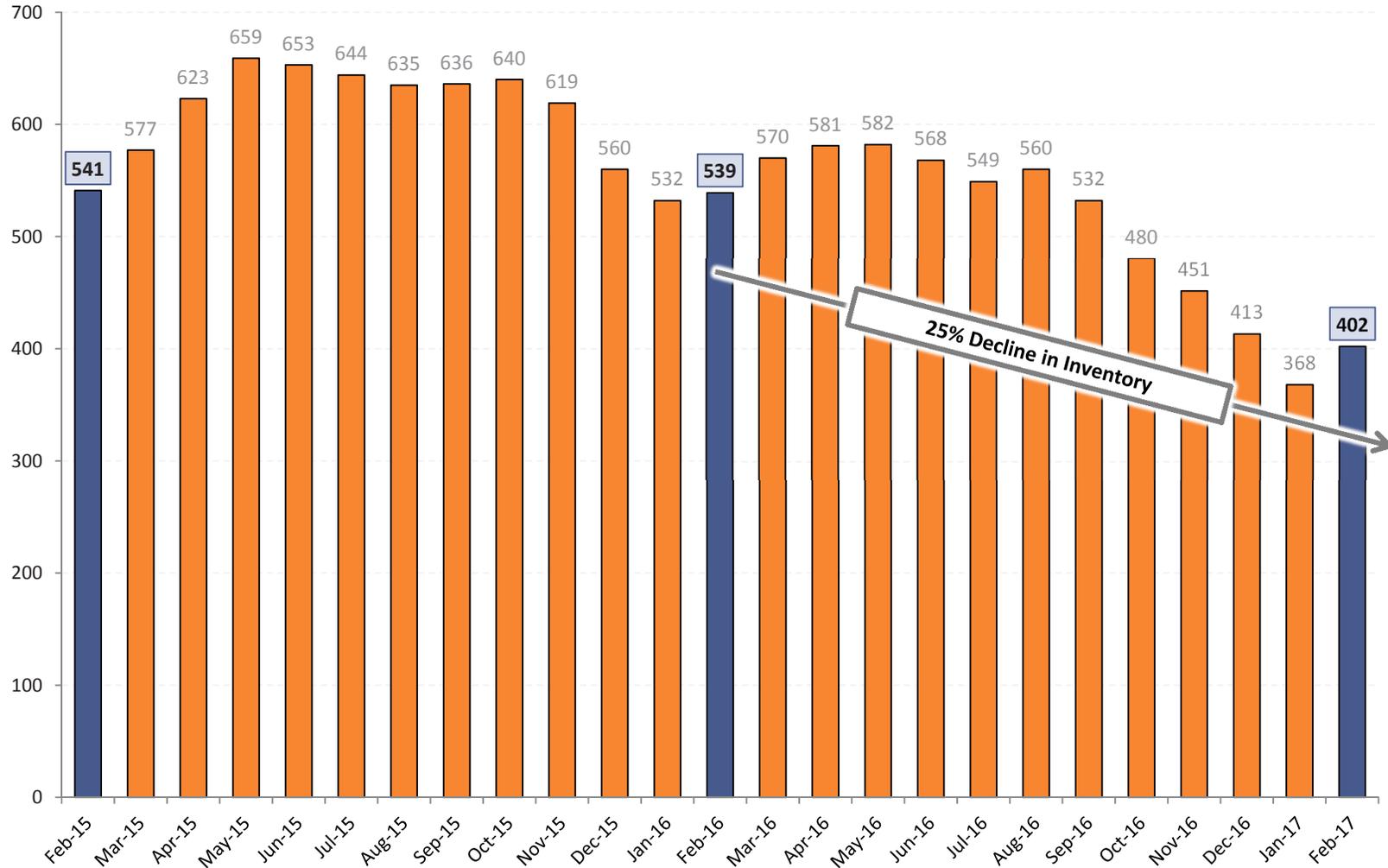
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Buyers Per Month Committing to Buy Properties**



This graph clearly illustrates what a busy buying season it has been over the past year. We have seen an average of 111 contracts per month over the past year -- as compared to an average of only 96 contracts per month during the same timeframe in the previous 12 months. As we continue through 2017, it will be instructive to

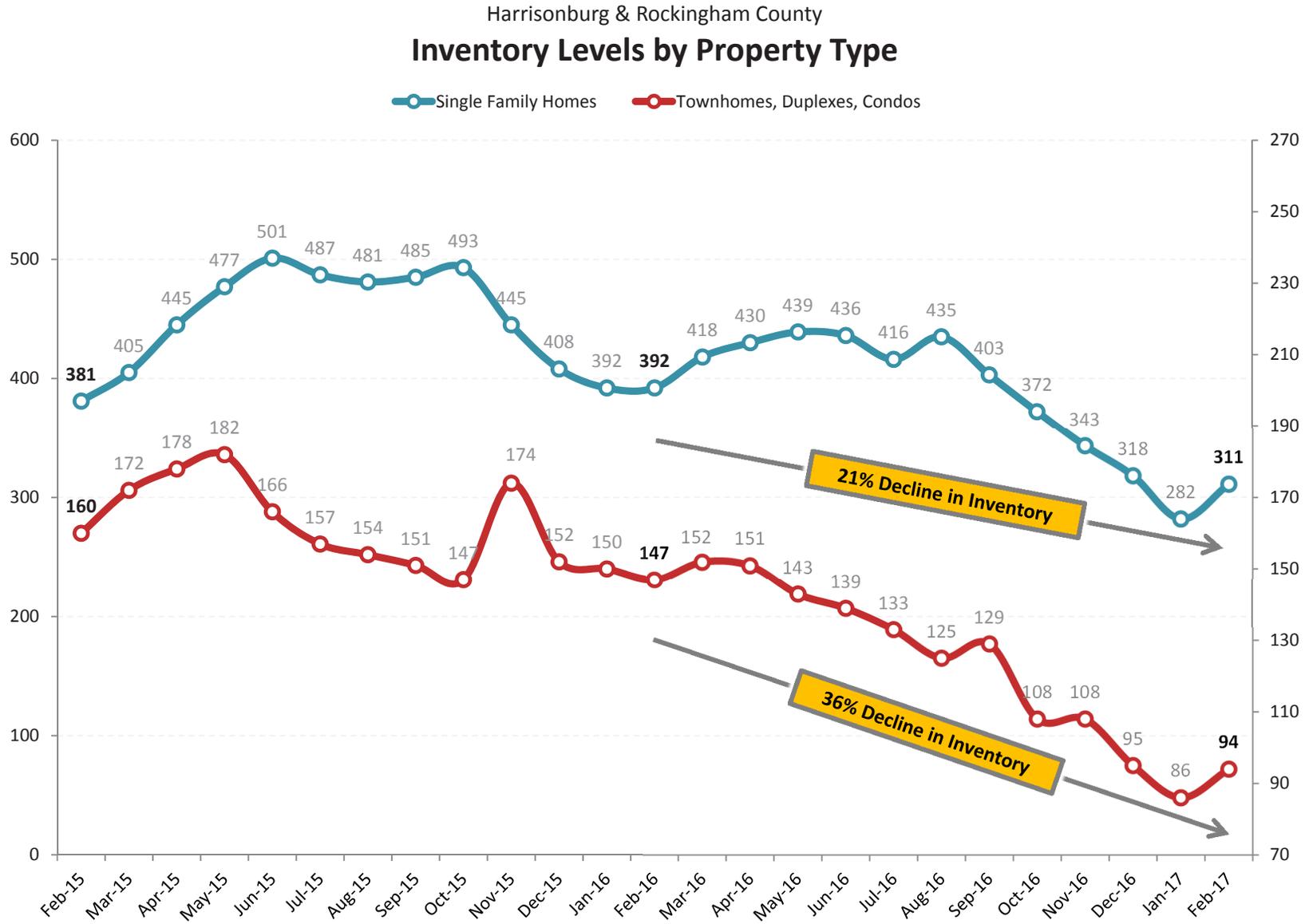
watch these contract figures to have an early look at what we might see in the way of home sales. Inventory levels are very low in several price ranges, which could limit the amount of contract activity we see in 2017. Thus far this year, January was a slower than expected month, and February slightly stronger than expected.

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 effect of many homeowners deciding to list their home for sale -- which may be a significant decision, but it is not

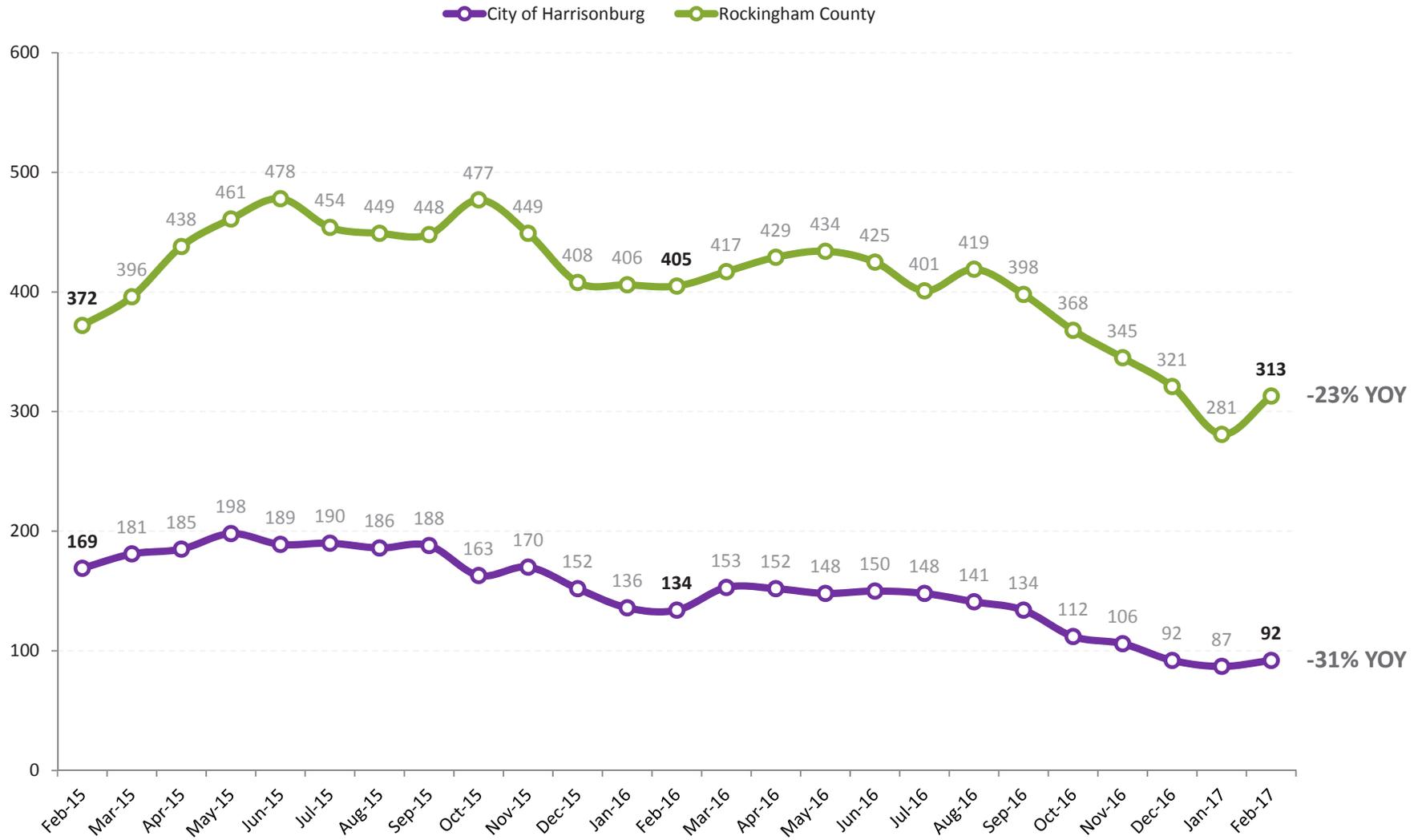
always so. Some homes that are on the market have been listed for sale by sellers who are "testing the market" and as a result, inventory levels can shift more quickly than home sales trends. Inventory levels have been declining drastically over the past year -- and are now 25% lower than they were one year ago.



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 single family homes for sale has decreased by 21% over the past year, while the number of townhouses, duplexes and condos for sale has

decreased by 36% over the past year. All we can hope is that these inventory levels will start to climb again as we enter the Spring market, as there are many buyers in our local market who are anxious to buy, but not finding many properties that they would like to purchase.

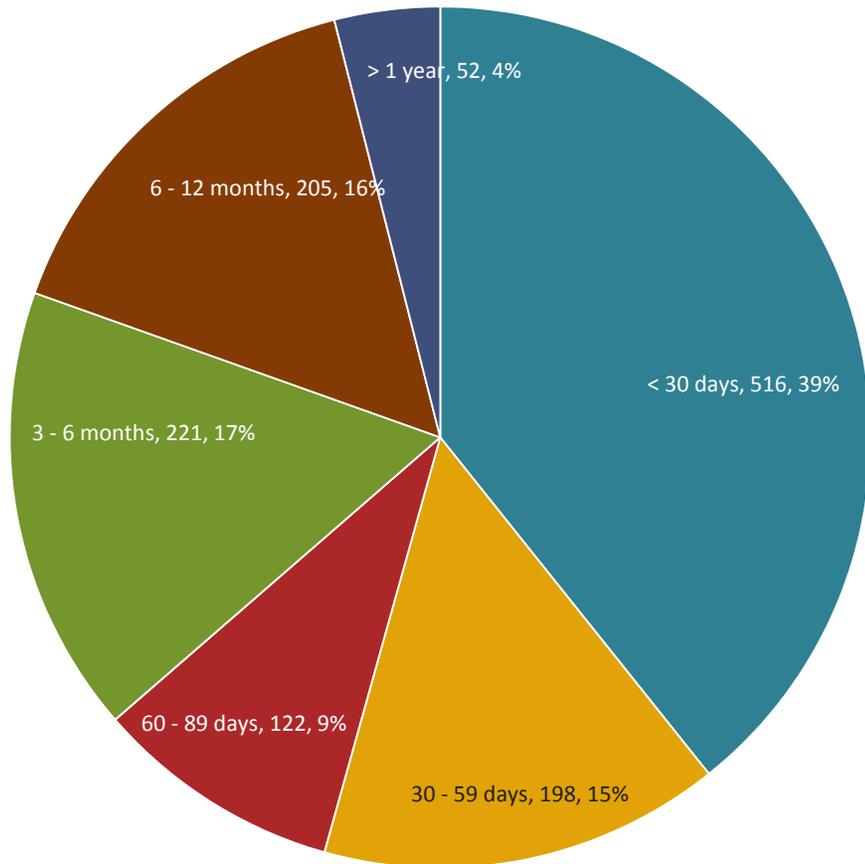
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Inventory Levels by Property Location**



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 (-31%) over the last year in the number of properties for sale, while in the County, there has been a slightly smaller

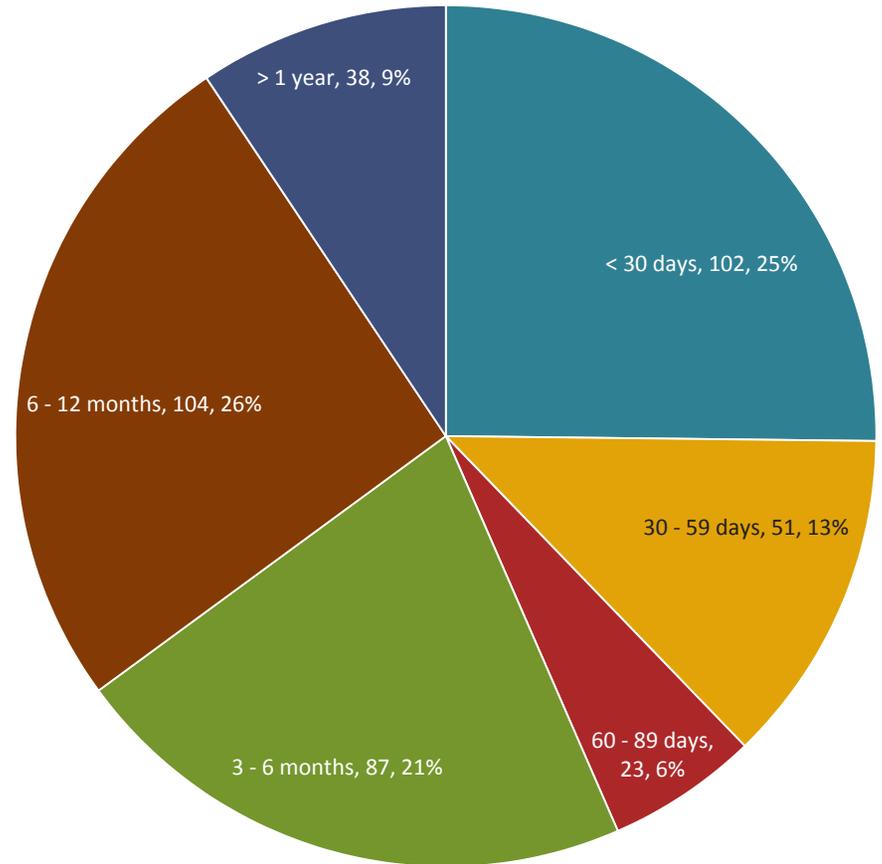
decline in the number of homes for sale. Despite relatively similar comparative changes in inventory levels in the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County over the past year, inventory levels in the County seem much more turbulent through the year than they are in the City.

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



**Median Days On Market: 49**

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

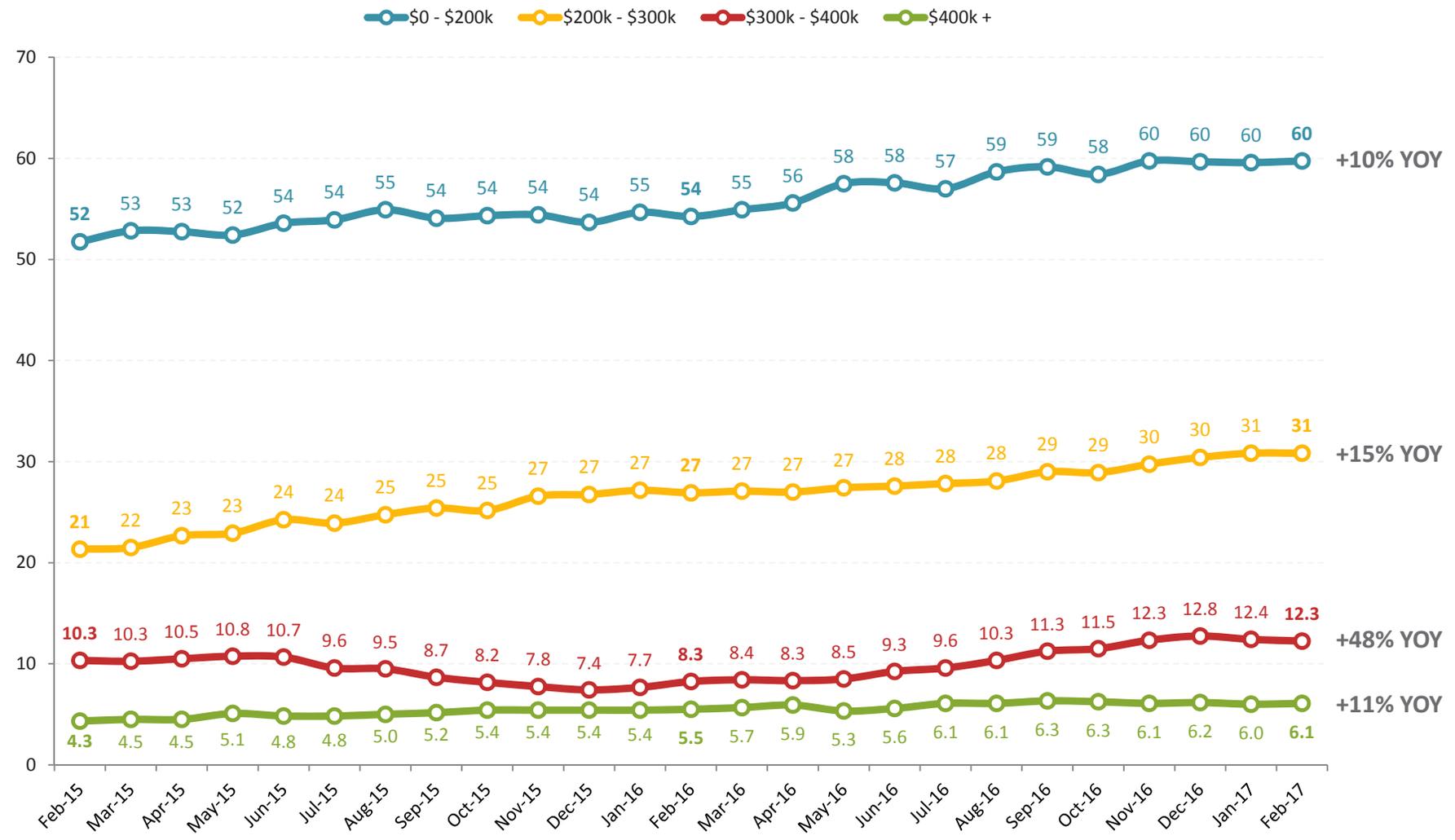


**Median Days On Market: 118**

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 49 days for homes that have sold in the past year. Remarkably, 39% 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 54% 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.

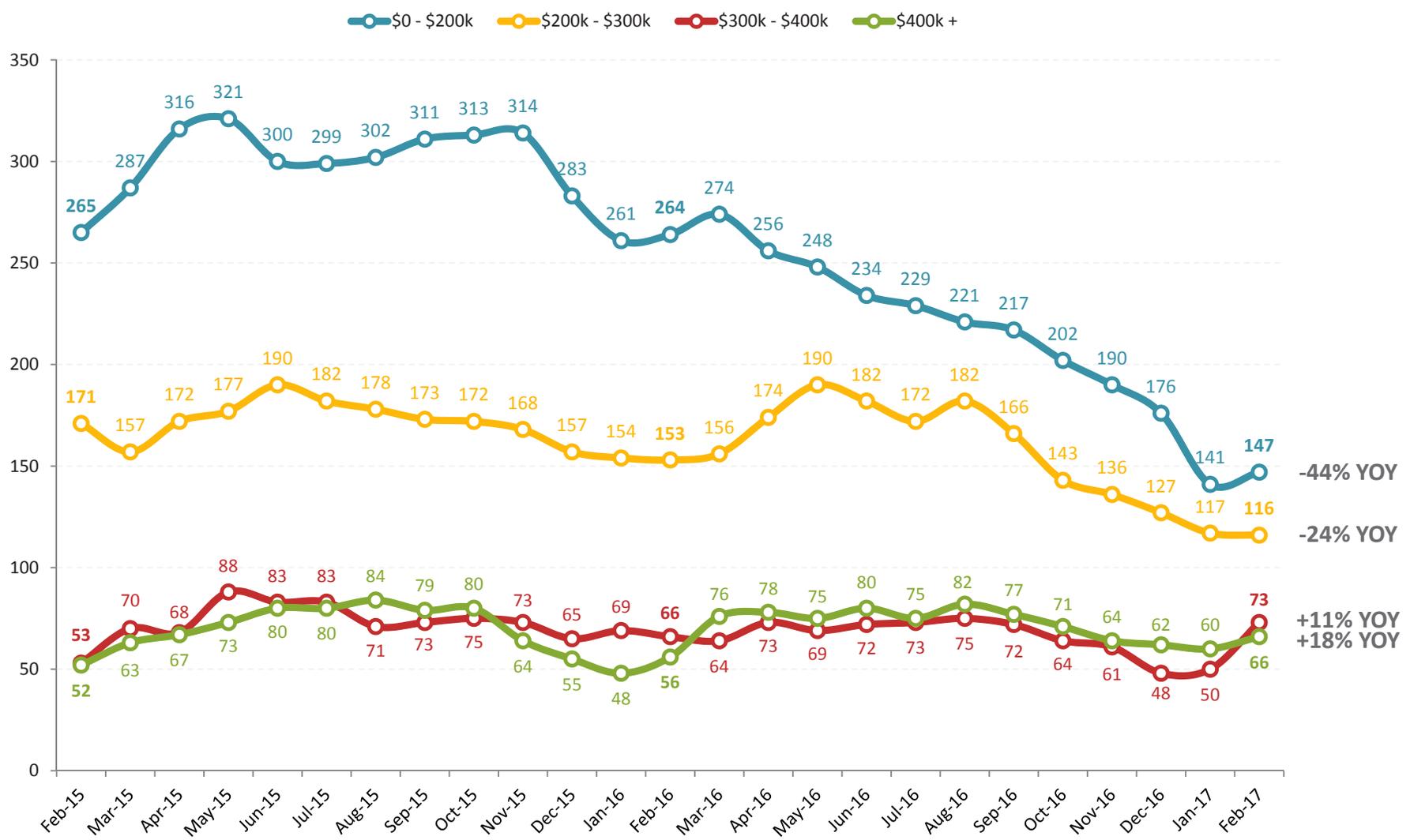
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Home Sales by Price Range**  
 (Average of Past 12 Months)



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 (drastic!) increase being in the \$300K - \$400K price range (+48% year-over-year) with the other three price ranges (under \$200K, \$200K - \$300K, \$400K+) each seeing between a 10% and 15% year-over-year increase.

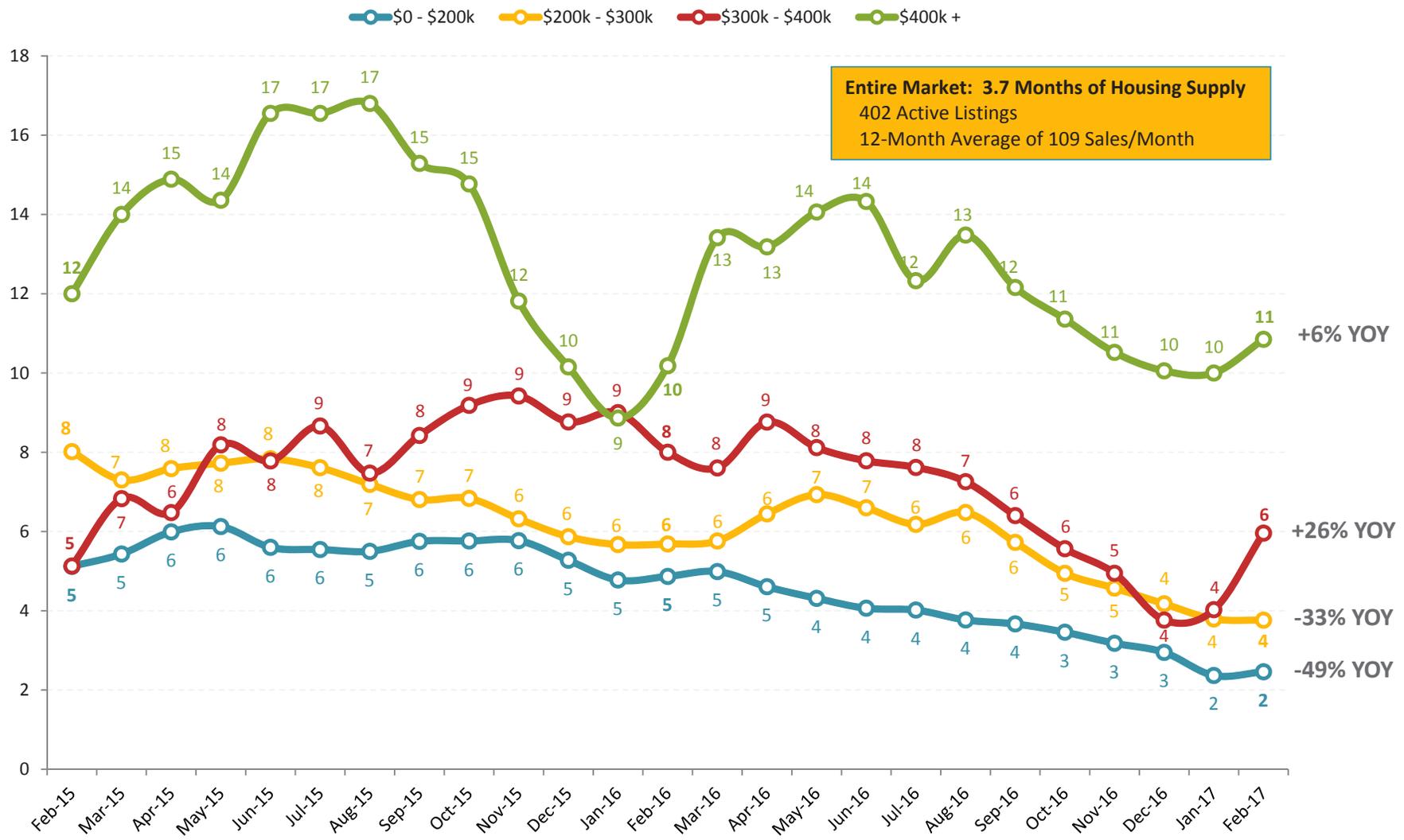
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
Inventory Levels by Price Range



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 (-44%) in inventory levels over the past year -- with buyers in that price range now only having 147

options as compared to 264 one year ago. The \$200K - \$300K price range has seen a 24% decline in inventory, and both the \$300K-\$400K and \$400K+ price ranges have seen increase (+11%, +18%) in inventory levels over the past year.

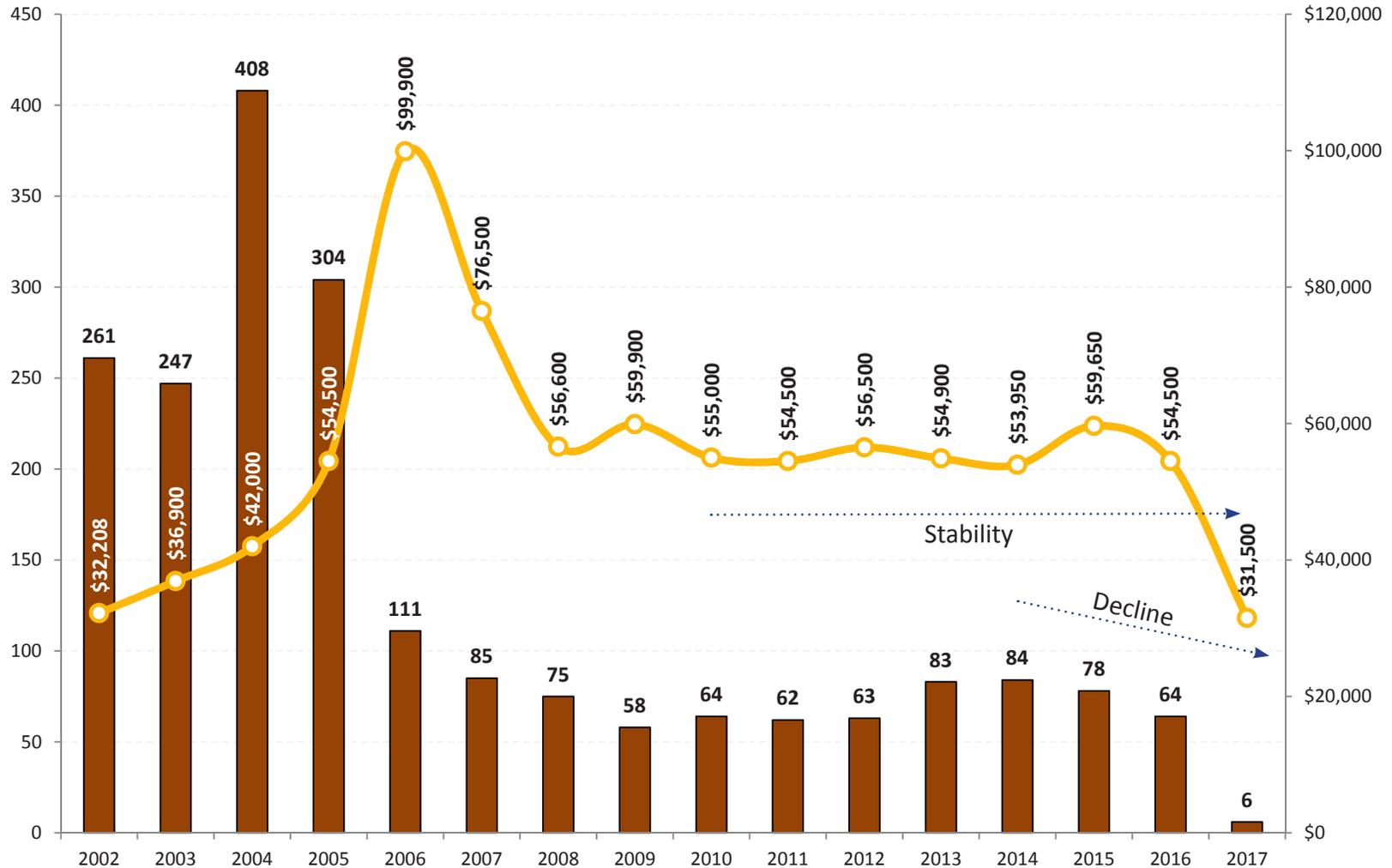
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Months of Housing Supply by Price Range**



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 our local real estate market. The graph above illustrates that while it would take 11 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 -- 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, and we are now seeing less than that in two of the four price ranges illustrated above.

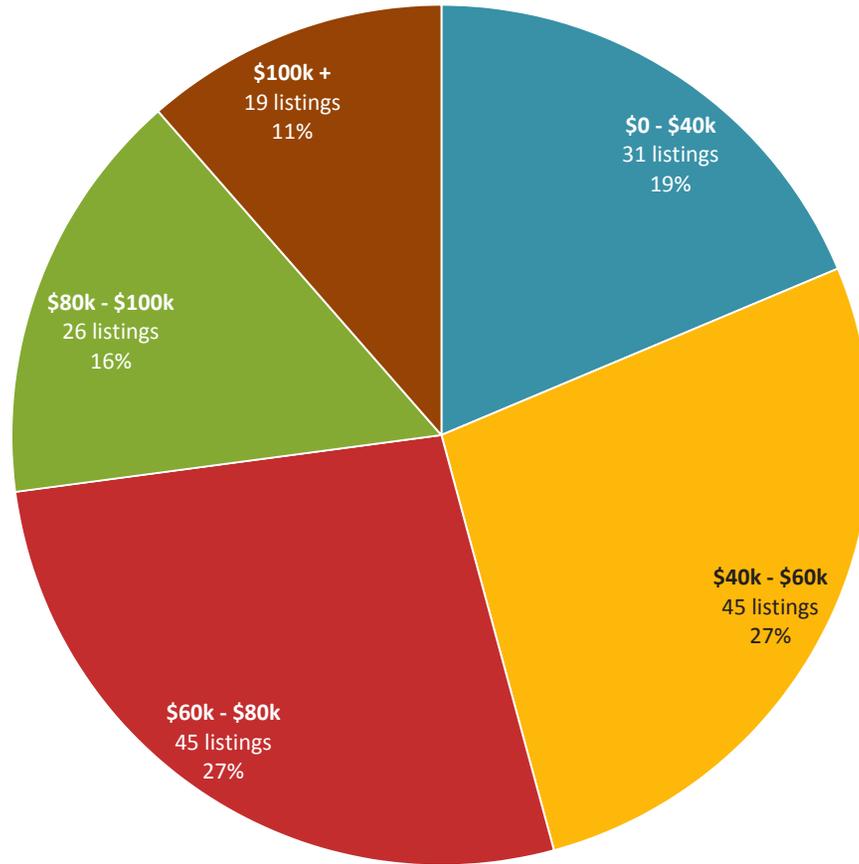
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Lot Sales & Median Prices**  
 less than 1 acre



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 2016 (64) as compared to 2015 (78) and 2014 (84). That slowing pace of lot sales did not stop sellers in 2015 from being able to obtain higher prices for their building lots with a median sales price

of \$59,650 -- but that median price then declined during 2016 to only \$54,500. Despite the lack of increase in lot sales, we are seeing quite a bit of stability in the median sales price, which has bounced around between \$54,000 and \$60,000 since 2008 and continuing through 2016.

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

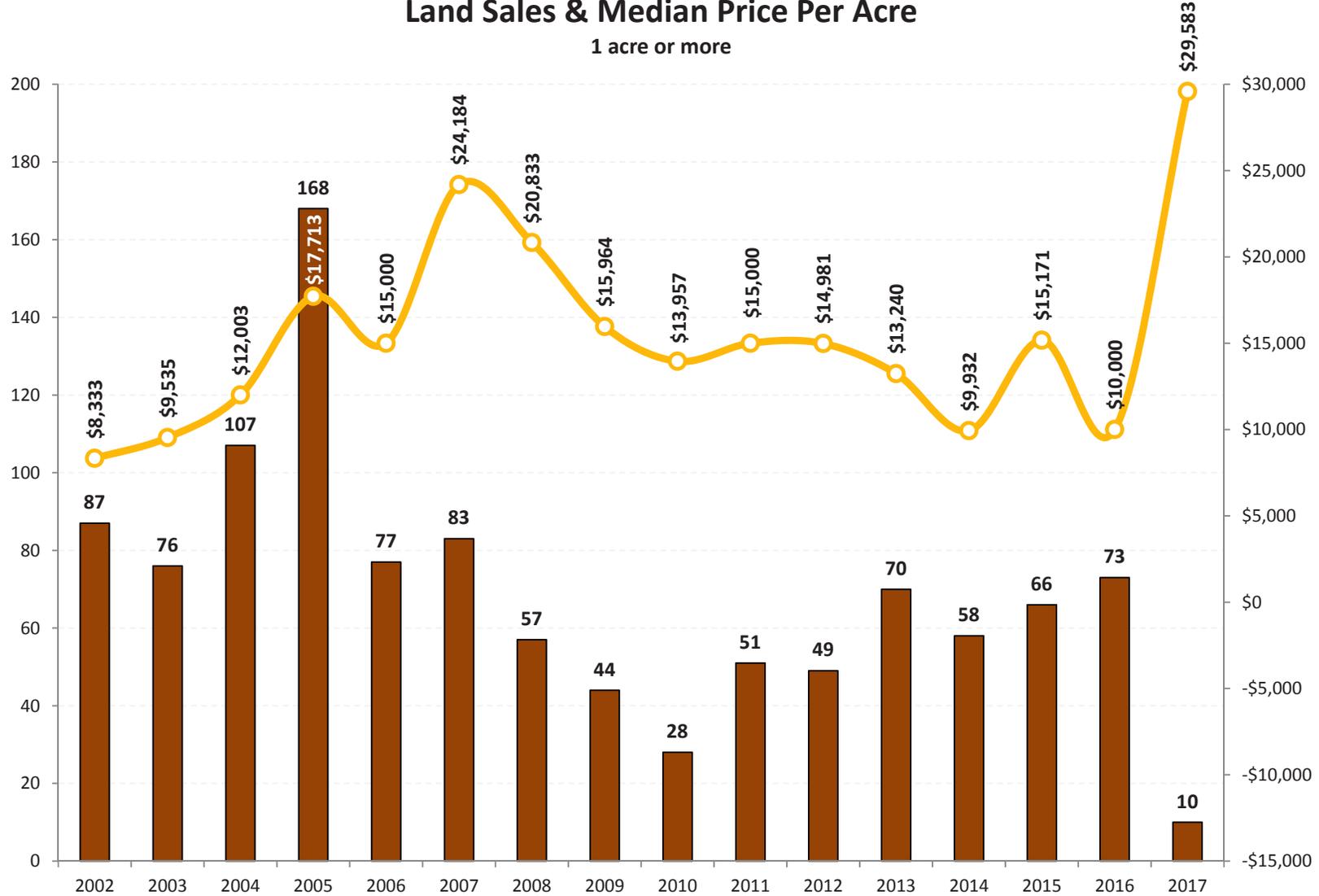


**166 Active Lot Listings; Median List Price: \$66,000**

Despite the fact that only 64 lots (of less than an acre) sold in all of 2015, there are a remarkable 166 lots currently for sale. Some sanity exists in this listing market, however, as the median list price of lots for sale (\$60,800) is not too much higher than the 2016 median sales price of \$54,500. Given last year's 64 lot sales, if no

other lots were listed for sale, it would take 2.6 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 (2011-2016) median sales prices.

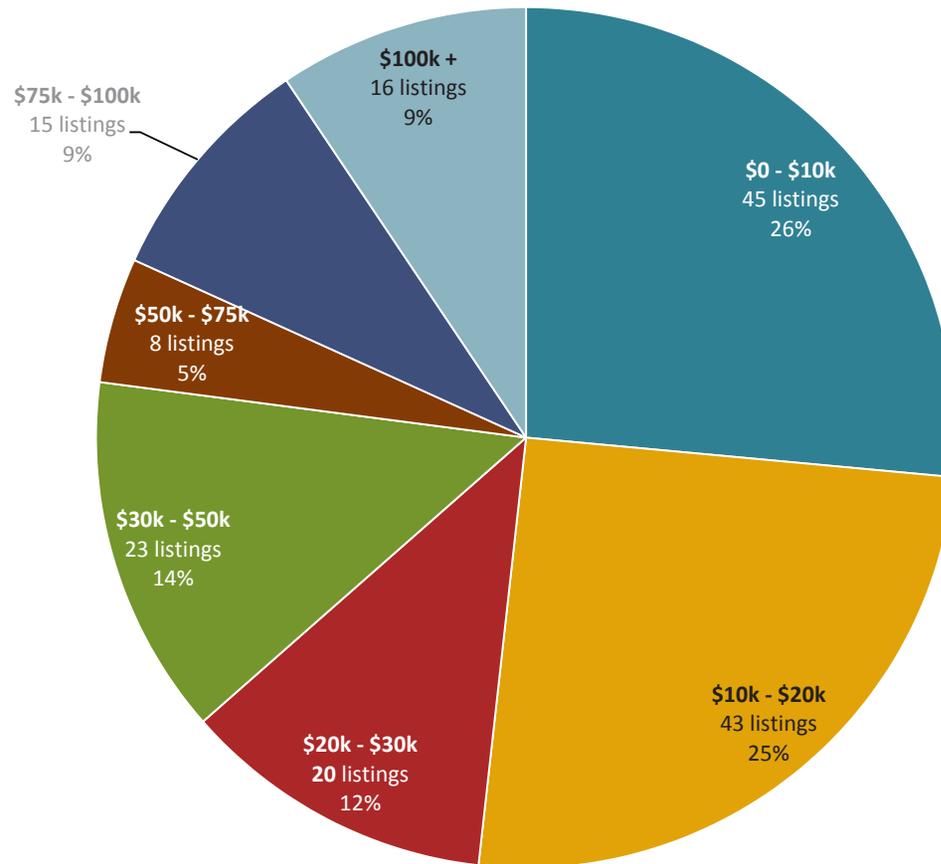
Harrisonburg & Rockingham County  
**Land Sales & Median Price Per Acre**  
 1 acre or more



Parcels of land larger than one acre in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County increased in pace during 2016 to 73 land sales -- marking the highest year of sales since 2007. That said, during that same timeframe, the median price per acre has fallen from \$24,184 (in 2007) down to \$10,000 (in 2016). Some aspects of this "median price

per acre" calculation are affected by which parcels actually sell in a given year, but it is clear that land prices have been trending slowly down over the past five or so years. We will likely need to see more buyer activity (demand) before we will see any meaningful increases in the median price per acre.

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

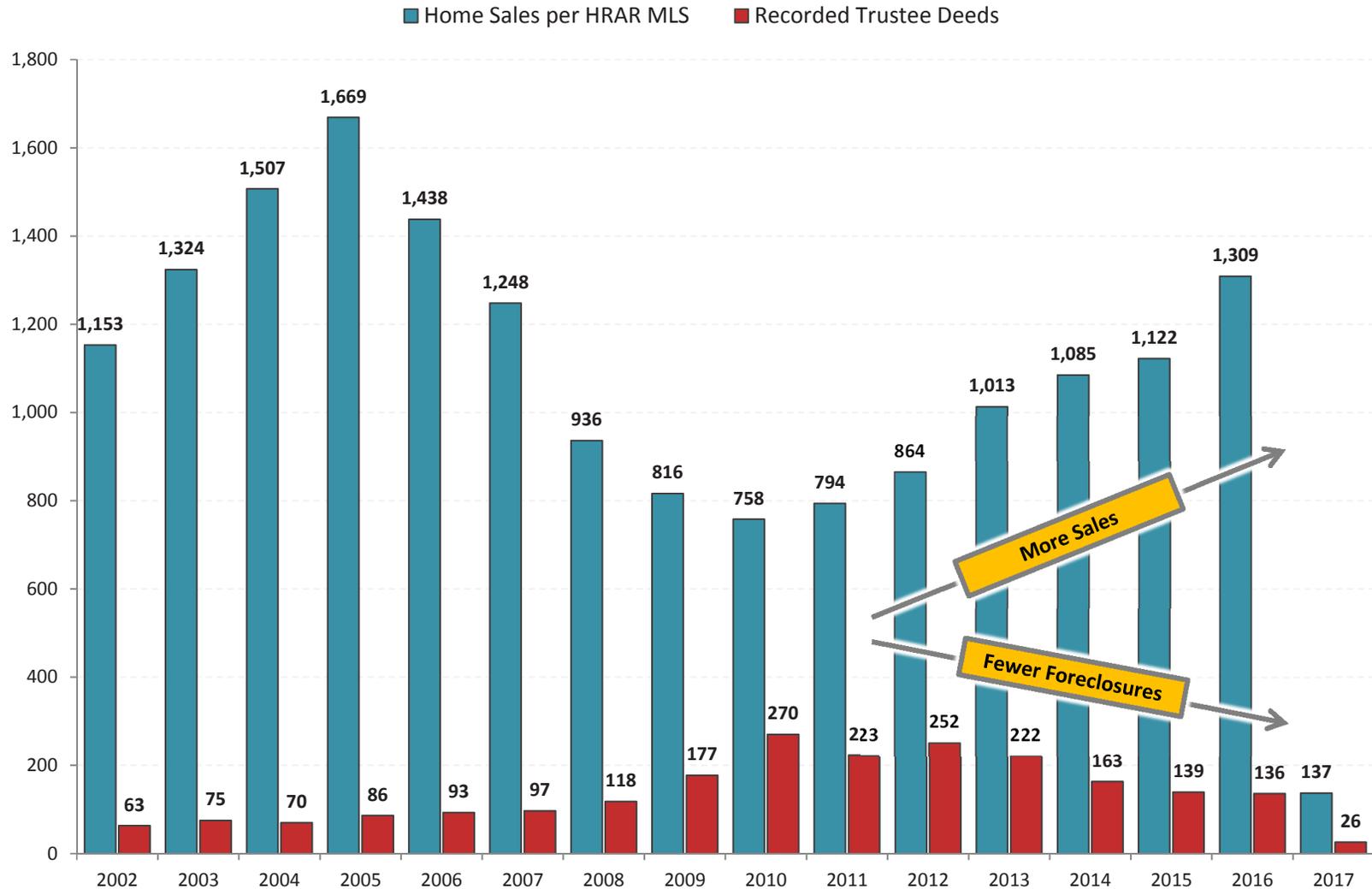


**170 Active Land Listing; Median List Price: \$19,270 / Acre**

Despite the fact that only 73 parcels of land (of one acre or more) sold in all of 2016, there are a remarkable 170 parcels of land currently for sale. Furthermore, despite the fact that the median sales price of land is hovering around \$10,000 per acre, the median list price of the 163 parcels for sale is currently \$19,172 per acre. Given

last year's 73 land sales, if no other land is listed for sale, it would take 2.3 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

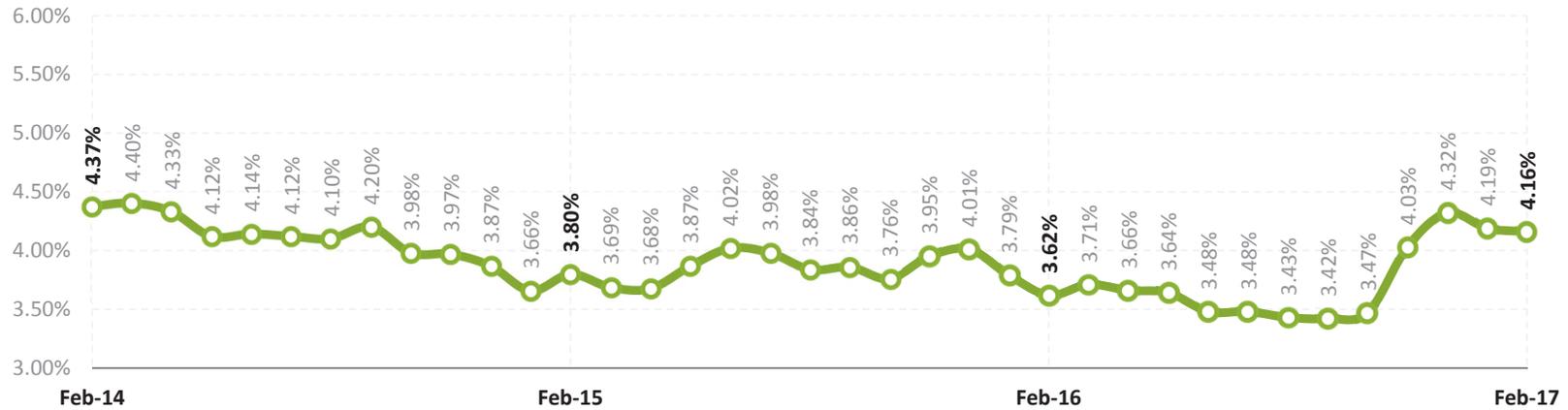


The graph above is a comparison of two imprecise measures -- but the comparison can still be helpful. The blue bars show the number of home sales recorded in the HRAR MLS -- this does not include private sales that did not involve a Realtor, nor new home sales directly from a builder. The red bars show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

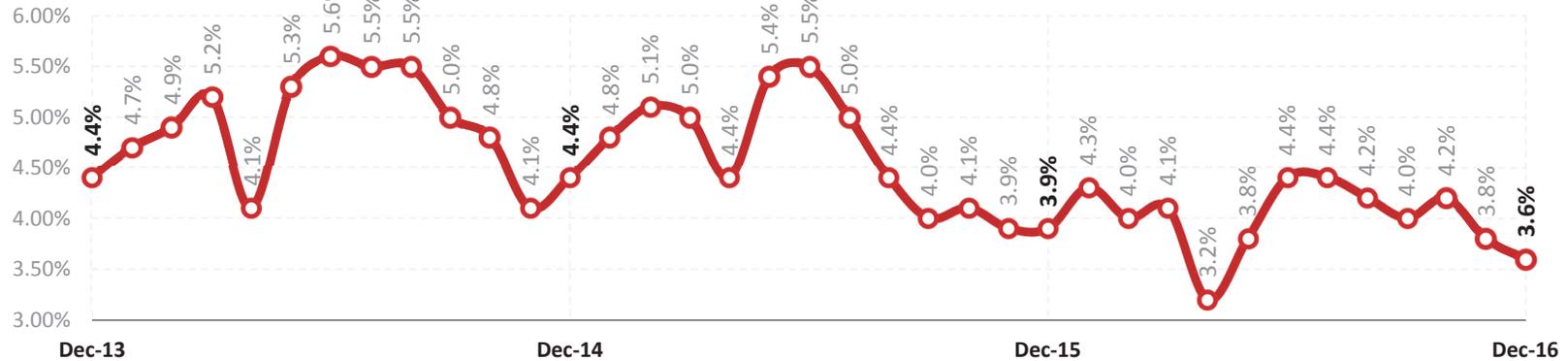
Trustee Deeds. Some foreclosed properties then show up again as REO properties. The foreclosure rate in our local market area is definitely trending downward, as there were 6.7 times as many home sales as foreclosures in 2014, 8.1 times as many home sales as foreclosures in 2015 and 9.6 times as many in 2016.

### 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, for most of the past two years, home buyers have seen tremendously low interest rates -- almost always under 4%. With average mortgage rates now starting to increase, it seems unlikely (though not impossible) that we will see rates in the 3.X% range again anytime soon. The second graph

above illustrates trends in the local unemployment rate -- which has shown a general downward trend over the past several years. A low local unemployment rate and relatively low mortgage interest rates continue to help our local housing market remain stable and start to grow in recent years.

## 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. 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.

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, HarrisonburgRealEstateResources.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, is the co-founder of TakeThemAMeal.com and PerfectPotluck.com, serves as a Trustee for Asbury United Methodist Church and coaches middle school volleyball. 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, playing volleyball and attending JMU sporting events.

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

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## 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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