

## **HUDSON GATEWAY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®, INC.**

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## 2015 SECOND QUARTER RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE SALES REPORT Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange Counties, New York

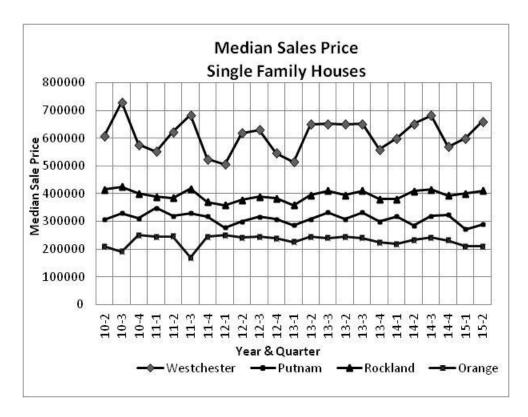
Real estate sales surged in the second quarter of 2015, eclipsing last year's second quarter sales by 14.8%. Realtors participating in the Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service, Inc., a subsidiary of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, Inc., reported a grand total of 3,669 closed residential transactions in the MLS's four-county service territory, 474 more than last year. The transactions included single-family houses, condominiums, cooperatives, and 2-4 unit multi-family houses, and generally reflected listing and marketing activity that took place during the opening months of the year.

The strong second quarter performance built on the first quarter's results, which itself had posted a gain of 12.1% over 2014's level. On a year-to-date basis there were 6,460 sales constituting an increase of 12.4% over last year's half-year results.

By far the largest gain in sales activity occurred in Orange County, where total sales of 742 units – mostly houses and condominiums - surpassed last year's second quarter by 30.4%. Orange County's market has been powered in the last several years by an abundance of very moderately priced properties. The second quarter median sale price<sup>1</sup> of a single family house



was \$209,950, nearly 10% less than last year's median. The condominium median was \$151,625, about 8.0% below last year's level. Inventory in Orange has stayed in rough proportion to the rate of sales, indicating a balanced market with ample choices for prospective purchasers.



In Rockland County, second quarter sales were 11.2% higher than in 2014. The median sale price of a single family house was \$410,000, just a third of a percentage point higher than in 2014. Putnam County followed the same pattern with a 12.3% gain in sales volume and a moderate 1.6% increase in its median-priced house, to \$289,500.

The main engine for sales volume in the Hudson Gateway region is Westchester County. During the second quarter the county accounted for 2,183 sales or about 60% of the region's total. All four property types tracked by the MLS showed healthy sales increases ranging from 8.4% for single family houses to 59% for multi-family properties. The median sale price of a single family house was \$660,500, just 1.4% more than last year. The mean¹ sale price of a house was \$866,707, also barely increased from last year. The two measures together strongly suggest that the Westchester market was in balance as to a smooth distribution across the pricing spectrum.

The sales data from these four counties indicate a region that has achieved a good level of sustainability in its real estate market. Sales volumes are strong. Notwithstanding field reports of bidding wars and other indicators of overheated markets, the fact from the data is there is ample choice at most price points and that price increases have been more or less in line with inflation. Also, the inventory situation, while different in each county, is not so difficult in any of them as to suppress the market or drive up prices.

Outside factors could spoil the market, but there is no immediate threat from any of them. For example, unemployment, which can discourage prospective purchasers from even thinking of buying a property, has steadily decreased in all four counties. In May, in Westchester, the unemployment rate was 4.6%; last year it was 5.0% and in 2013 it was 6.2%. The other counties have followed a similar pattern.

Steadiness with mortgage interest rates has also contributed to healthy sales activity, both in our region and across the country. The average rate on a 30-year conventional loan seems nailed to a plank at 4.0% and near vicinity. Action to increase the Federal Reserve rate later this year may – or may not – drive up mortgage rates as well. There is no necessary linkage between the two, but even should there be an increase, if it is small and carefully phased in, the real estate market in our area as it is today can handle it. Sustainability is what we have.

# # #

The Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service, Inc. (HGMLS) is a subsidiary of the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors, Inc. (HGAR). The MLS's principal service territory consists of Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange Counties. It also provides services to Realtors operating in Bronx, Dutchess, Sullivan and Ulster Counties. The reported transactions do not include all real estate sales in the area or all sales assisted by the participating offices but they are fairly reflective of general market conditions. HGMLS does not provide data on sub-county geographic areas. Persons desiring sub-county data are invited to contact participating real estate offices in the desired areas. Any text or data from this report may be reprinted with attribution to Hudson Gateway Multiple Listing Service, Inc. as the source. Prior reports dating back to 1981 are available on the Realtor Association's website, <a href="www.hgar.com">www.hgar.com</a>; click on Market Statistics. A membership directory searchable by municipality is also available on that site.

Four tables follow, one each for Westchester, Putnam, Rockland and Orange Counties

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The median sale price is the mid-point of all reported sales, i.e., half of the properties sold for more than the median price and half for less. The median is relatively unaffected by unusually low or high sale prices. The mean sale price is the arithmetic average, i.e., the sum of all sales prices divided by the number of sales. The mean does reflect the influence of sales at unusually low or high prices.

	WESTC	HESTER	COUNTY	•	
WE	STCHESTER	- Second Qua	rters 2012-20	15	% Change
Property Type	2012 Q2	2013 Q2	2014 Q2	2015 Q2	2014-2015
	NUMBE	R OF SALES	, 2ND QUART	ΓER	
Single Family Houses	1,151	1,425	1,232	1,336	8.4%
Condominiums	247	296	266	311	16.9%
Cooperatives	306	391	388	420	8.2%
2-4 Family	84	113	<u>73</u>	<u>116</u>	58.9%
Total	1,788	2,225	1,959	2,183	11.4%
	NUMBER	R OF SALES	YEAR TO DA	ATE (6/30)	,
Single Family Houses	1,881	2,202	2,157	2,253	4.5%
Condominiums	435	508	444	553	24.5%
Cooperatives	566	674	728	762	4.7%
2-4 Family	157	191	<u>156</u>	235	50.6%
Total	3,039	3,575	3,485	3,803	9.1%
	ME	EDIAN SAL	E PRICE		•
Single Family Houses	619,000	650,000	651,250	660,500	1.4%
Condominiums	338,000	344,750	363,750	362,000	-0.5%
Cooperatives	156,250	154,000	149,950	145,000	-3.3%
2-4 Family	321,750	350,000	421,000	377,500	-10.3%
	M	EAN SALE	PRICE		
Single Family Houses	852,636	859,861	874,026	866,707	-0.8%
Condominiums	387,071	424,403	433,874	449,215	3.5%
Cooperatives	184,131	190,612	177,028	182,389	3.0%
2-4 Family	336,271	354,491	419,947	381,369	-9.2%
END OF QUARTER INVENTORY					
Single Family Houses	4,120	3,702	3,913	3,870	-1.1%
Condominiums	779	549	582	607	4.3%
Cooperatives	1,626	1,485	1,384	1,126	-18.6%
2-4 Family	<u>556</u>	420	<u>463</u>	447	-3.5%
Total	7,081	6,156	6,342	6,050	-4.6%

	PUTNAM COUNTY					
	PUTNAM -	Second Q	uarters 201	2 - 2015	% Change	
Property Type	2012 Q2	2013 Q2	2014 Q2	2015 Q2	2014-2015	
			S, 2ND QUAI		ı	
Single Family Houses	162	182	170	190	11.8%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	16	27	26	33	26.9%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	1	-	2	3	0.0%	
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	1	1	6	3	-50.0%	
Total	180	210	204	229	12.3%	
o:			- YEAR TO D		1	
Single Family Houses	274	297	298	352	18.1%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	35	46	45	61	35.6%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	4	-	2	4	100.0%	
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	2	2	10	8	-20.0%	
Total	315	345	355	355	0.0%	
		EDIAN SALE	PRICE		,	
Single Family Houses	299,500	310,500	285,000	289,500	1.6%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	217,500	203,000	226,500	240,000	6.0%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	5,000	0	53,950	42,000	0.0%	
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	447,000	160,000	176,000	175,000	-0.6%	
		1EAN SALE	PRICE			
Single Family Houses	357,820	345,591	341,255	356,100	4.4%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	250,067	220,179	264,216	280,328	6.1%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	5,000	0	53,950	38,167	0.0%	
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	447,000	160,000	164,333	175,000	6.5%	
END OF QUARTER (6/30) INVENTORY						
Single Family Houses	796	894	956	955	-0.1%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	116	78	77	105	36.4%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	na	8	18	9	-50.0%	
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	na	38	30	33	10.0%	
Total	912	1,018	1,081	1,102	1.9%	
1						

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Condominiums & Cooperatives were counted together prior to 2014. The number of co-op sales was and is very slight and does not significantly affect totals or percentages.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 2-4 Family House end of quarter inventory in Putnam was not compiled prior to 2013.

	ROCKLAN				
		- Second C			
Property Type	2012 Q2	2013 Q2	2014 Q2	2015 Q2	2014-20
			ER OF SALES		1
Single Family Houses	307	333	347	386	11.2
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	68	69	81	100	23.5
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	16	24	23	19	-17.4
2-4 Family	14	10	12	10	-16.7
Total	405	436	463	515	11.2
C:		OF SALES - \		` ,	l
Single Family Houses	538	587	609	694	14.0
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	160	156	155	179	15.5
Cooperatives	16	24	44	39	-11.4
2-4 Family	21	18	31	30	-3.2
Total	735	785	839	942	12.3
C:	074 000		ALE PRICE	440.000	l .
Single Family Houses	374,900	390,000	408,750	410,000	0.3
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	229,000	215,000	222,500	218,150	-2.0
Cooperatives	80,000	103,250	72,000	65,000	-9.7
2-4 Family	270,000	261,500	325,000	325,000	0.0
			ALE PRICE		I
Single Family Houses	425,121	402,398	432,894	423,171	-2.2
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	249,444	253,917	246,894	248,874	0.8
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	107,025	118,510	89,404	82,000	-8.3
2-4 Family	260,993	281,720	290,167	349,000	20.3
		END OF QU	ARTER INVE	NTORY	ı
Single Family Houses	1,206	1,034	1,027	1,379	34.3
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	464	348	264	315	19.3
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	na	na	76	58	-23.7
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	na	na	67	84	25.4
Total	1,670	1,382	1,434	1,836	28.0

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Condominiums & Cooperatives were counted together prior to 2014. The number of co-op sales was and is very slight and does not significantly affect totals or percentages.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  2-4 Family House end of quarter inventory in Rockland was not compiled prior to 2014.

	ORANGE	COUNTY				
	ORANGE -	Second Qua	rters 2012 -	2015	% Change	
<b>Property Type</b>	2012 Q2	2013 Q2	2014 Q2	2015 Q2	2014-2015	
		NUMBER	OF SALES			
Single Family Houses	444	552	485	610	25.8%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	56	69	52	88	69.2%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	1	-	1	2	na	
2-4 Family	37	27	31	42	35.5%	
Total	538	648	569	742	30.4%	
	NUMBER	OF SALES - Y	EAR TO DAT	E (6/30)	1	
Single Family Houses	772	928	897	1,123	25.2%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	113	140	112	146	30.4%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	1	-	4	5	no	
2-4 Family	54	59	55	86	56.4%	
Total	940	1,127	1,068	1,360	27.3%	
		MEDIAN S	ALE PRICE		,	
Single Family Houses	234,500	239,750	232,500	209,950	-9.7%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	155,500	170,000	164,750	151,625	-8.0%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	68,000	na	38,500	41,250	no	
2-4 Family	80,000	80,000	125,000	129,000	3.2%	
	,	MEAN SAL	E PRICE		,	
Single Family Houses	257,254	257,328	259,375	237,740	-8.3%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	172,077	183,095	171,003	161,828	-5.4%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	68,000	na	38,500	41,250	no	
2-4 Family	110,941	104,343	118,868	154,102	29.6%	
END OF QUARTER INVENTORY						
Single Family Houses	2,633	2,552	3,023	2,941	-2.7%	
Condominiums <sup>1</sup>	370	300	273	240	-12.1%	
Cooperatives <sup>1</sup>	na	na	na	11	no	
2-4 Family <sup>2</sup>	na	na	na	220	no	
Total	3,003	2,852	3,296	3,412	3.5%	

Condominiums & Cooperatives were counted together prior to 2014. The number of co-op sales was and is very slight and does not significantly affect totals or percentages.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  2-4 Family House end of quarter inventory in Orange was not compiled prior to 2014.