

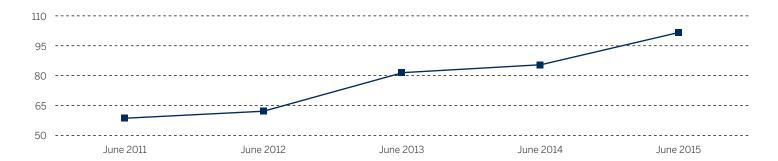
#### **Second Quarter In Review**



At the mid-point of 2015 our local real estate markets are performing well with strong, sustainable sales activity, good foot traffic and in most communities, transaction volume exceeding 2014 levels. Buyers remain actively engaged in all facets of the market. In addition, with the plethora of new listings this quarter our markets are growing relative to a year ago, and importantly, at a maintainable pace.

The critical underpinning to our local housing markets is the solid gain in consumer confidence. Following a modest increase in May, the June Consumer Confidence Index jumped to 101.4, matching the March level. After a soft start to the year confidence in the past quarter has boosted significantly, supported by both jobs as well as income growth, and now stands 19% higher than a year ago. Increasing consumer confidence has greatly improved foot traffic as buyers use broker open houses to actively explore the market. This optimism on the part of consumers should fuel continued housing growth throughout the remainder of 2015.

#### **Consumer Confidence**



In response to the growing optimism, new listing activity was the strongest in years, creating a highly competitive marketplace for sellers. With plentiful supply in most sectors, the value-driven buyer remained firmly in control of our market. These buyers are well qualified yet conservative in their approach to home buying while seeking to take



advantage of the historically low interest rates before they start to creep up later this year. The value proposition of both pricing and condition appears to be far more important than location in today's environment, with the exception of in-town and waterfront opportunities, which continue to garner favor and premium pricing. Despite the continually improving market conditions, buyers remain exceptionally discriminating, in large part because they can afford to be. The emotional component—buyers feeling they have to have a certain house—has been replaced with a more pragmatic approach as they decide whether a house meets their needs at an equitable price. With less emphasis on emotion, buyers are not afraid to move on if they cannot reach an agreement with a seller.

To date, 2015 sales performance has largely been "a tale of two price categories" while at the same time illustrating a shifting buyer focus. In the first quarter of the year, the entry category experienced strong sales growth while the higher priced categories remained relatively soft. In the second quarter, entry price homes continued their strong sales pace but did decline year over year, while the mid and upper ranges improved relative to a year ago. Despite the measurable improvement in sales activity, overall it has not been enough to fully absorb the number of new listings, resulting in continued downward pricing pressure.

There is a persistent buyer preference for turnkey homes. This is not a new trend, but it is a call out to sellers to take the time to make their homes market ready. In particular buyers are having a very difficult time justifying spending their money on systems and roofs instead of just decorating and enjoying living in the home they have purchased.

Financing has definitely loosened, with lenders more actively seeking well-qualified applicants. The threat of higher interest rates is a positive stimulus to home buying, particularly in the popular price categories, which are highly sensitive to interest rate movement.

We remain satisfied that the moderate sales growth we have experienced year-to-date represents a sustainable sales trajectory, and that sales will continue to strengthen, building on the growing consumer optimism as we move forward through the remainder of 2015. Overall, our markets are in an excellent position, with sales results signaling a strong 2015.

## **Westchester County**





#### **Westchester County**

#### 1 Westchester County home sales continue to grow steadily.

Overall in Westchester County, second quarter 2015 sales ramped up nicely with a 6% increase in unit sales and a 4% dollar volume improvement versus the second quarter of 2014. Year-to-date sales are flat versus the same period of 2014, and without significant quarterly fluctuations, they are proving to be strong and healthy.

### 2 Southern Westchester, after a first quarter sales decline, rebounded in the second quarter of 2015.

Unit sales rose by 3% while dollar volume increased by 8% reflecting the growth in the upper end. Northern Westchester County, after a robust first quarter, continued to strengthen.

### The under \$1,000,000 category is defying market trends and moving very quickly, constrained only by lack of quality inventory.

Inventory in this category is down by 3% while sales have risen by 5% versus a year ago, often resulting in bidding contests for prime properties. The median days on market is 69 days, making the selling pace the fastest in four years.

# The luxury sector is selling better than it has recently, but cannot keep pace with the rise in inventory.

In Southern Westchester County there has been a 41% rise in year-over-year inventory, reaching 194 on-market properties in the \$3,000,000 to \$4,999,999 segment. While sales have risen 100% from 11 to 22 units, there is currently more inventory than the market can effectively absorb. For the \$5,000,000+ sector, sales have risen 500% from 1 home in the second quarter of 2014 to 6 homes in the second quarter of 2015. However, there are currently 96 homes on the market in this sector, representing a 35% increase over last year.

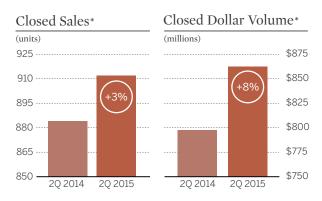
### The condominium sector has outperformed single family homes, growing 25% year-to-date.

While the single family home market is growing slowly but steadily, the condominium market has taken off in 2015, offering consumers moderate price points and ease of living.

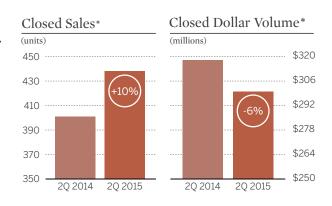
#### **6** Buyers continue to prefer turnkey properties.

If a home is not updated or is overpriced, buyers will pass. On the other hand, if a house is properly presented and strategically priced, it will typically sell very quickly.

#### Southern Westchester



#### Northern Westchester



<sup>\*</sup> Single Family Homes Only

	QUARTERLY UNIT SALES				YTD <b>UNIT SA</b>	LES	QUARTERLY YTD DOLLAR VOLUME VOLUME		MEDIA	QUARTERLY N SELLING PI	RICE	TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
SCHOOL DISTRICTS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	
WESTCHESTER COUNTY	1,266	1,338	6%	2,206	2,270	3%	4%	1%	\$655,000	\$660,000	1%	\$639,000	\$649,000	2%	
Southern Westchester	884	912	3%	1,537	1,548	1%	8%	2%	\$685,000	\$710,000	4%	\$685,000	\$710,000	4%	
Ardsley	27	24	-11%	45	45	0%	-10%	-12%	\$608,000	\$749,000	23%	\$633,000	\$635,000	0%	
Blind Brook	19	19	0%	32	36	13%	-28%	-4%	\$1,050,000	\$700,000	-33%	\$790,000	\$795,000	1%	
Briarcliff Manor	14	13	-7%	17	24	41%	-6%	31%	\$700,000	\$821,000	17%	\$775,000	\$803,000	4%	
Bronxville	24	22	-8%	36	32	-11%	20%	-1%	\$1,820,000	\$2,166,000	19%	\$1,845,000	\$1,715,000	-7%	
Dobbs Ferry	13	27	108%	26	43	65%	158%	92%	\$630,000	\$740,000	18%	\$640,000	\$755,000	18%	
Eastchester	28	28	0%	50	43	-14%	4%	-8%	\$701,000	\$728,000	4%	\$630,000	\$720,000	14%	
Edgemont	20	25	25%	36	48	33%	5%	26%	\$1,312,000	\$1,050,000	-20%	\$1,088,000	\$1,150,000	6%	
Elmsford	18	9	-50%	29	19	-35%	-30%	-11%	\$327,000	\$460,000	41%	\$377,000	\$425,000	13%	
Greenburgh	33	36	9%	64	60	-6%	8%	1%	\$504,000	\$478,000	-5%	\$480,000	\$460,000	-4%	
Harrison	42	37	-12%	67	69	3%	-15%	-2%	\$1,300,000	\$969,000	-26%	\$1,225,000	\$1,208,000	-1%	
Hartsdale (P.O)	29	27	-7%	46	45	-2%	-8%	-7%	\$540,000	\$510,000	-6%	\$543,000	\$525,000	-3%	
Hastings	18	16	-11%	31	24	-23%	-5%	-10%	\$678,000	\$718,000	6%	\$688,000	\$750,000	9%	
Irvington	15	13	-13%	31	24	-23%	-36%	-36%	\$1,300,000	\$965,000	-26%	\$883,000	\$965,000	9%	
Mamaroneck *	68	68	0%	114	114	0%	12%	7%	\$1,012,000	\$1,243,000	23%	\$1,043,000	\$1,088,000	4%	
Mount Pleasant	31	19	-39%	39	34	-13%	-23%	3%	\$483,000	\$660,000	37%	\$512,000	\$539,000	5%	
Mount Vernon	33	25	-24%	54	47	-13%	-27%	-13%	\$367,000	\$360,000	-2%	\$375,000	\$379,000	1%	
New Rochelle	73	70	-4%	125	128	2%	9%	3%	\$625,000	\$720,000	15%	\$619,000	\$641,000	4%	
Ossining	34	52	53%	62	82	32%	69%	33%	\$385,000	\$380,000	-1%	\$376,000	\$390,000	4%	
Pelham	34	50	47%	54	63	17%	62%	19%	\$863,000	\$887,000	3%	\$760,000	\$788,000	4%	
Pleasantville	20	13	-35%	32	24	-25%	-39%	-31%	\$763,000	\$600,000	-21%	\$603,000	\$555,000	-8%	
Pocantico Hills	1	1	0%	4	3	-25%	52%	7%	\$450,000	\$686,000	52%	\$595,000	\$668,000	12%	
Port Chester	23	25	9%	41	44	7%	25%	-16%	\$433,000	\$520,000	20%	\$409,000	\$435,000	6%	
Purchase (P.O.)	11	10	-9%	23	14	-39%	5%	-22%	\$1,365,000	\$1,225,000	-10%	\$1,209,000	\$1,481,000	22%	
Rye City	29	41	41%	59	65	10%	69%	27%	\$1,600,000	\$1,625,000	2%	\$1,608,000	\$1,793,000	12%	
Rye Neck	10	14	40%	17	28	65%	62%	53%	\$953,000	\$1,013,000	6%	\$810,000	\$855,000	6%	
Scarsdale	68	66	-3%	111	96	-14%	-3%	-9%	\$1,450,000	\$1,343,000	-7%	\$1,375,000	\$1,460,000	6%	
Tarrytown	25	23	-8%	44	36	-18%	-26%	-25%	\$615,000	\$580,000	-6%	\$575,000	\$562,000	-2%	
Tuckahoe	16	12	-25%	26	19	-27%	-22%	-22%	\$707,000	\$698,000	-1%	\$698,000	\$680,000	-3%	
Valhalla	10	25	150%	18	35	94%	145%	103%	\$519,000	\$489,000	-6%	\$499,000	\$500,000	0%	
White Plains	45	52	16%	90	91	1%	9%	9%	\$625,000	\$614,000	-2%	\$608,000	\$639,000	5%	
Yonkers	92	87	-5%	188	170	-10%	-14%	-17%	\$437,000	\$410,000	-6%	\$425,000	\$426,000	0%	

\*Mamaroneck School District includes Larchmont P.O.

	ı	QUARTI <b>JNIT S</b>		YTD UNIT SALES			QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME	YTD DOLLAR VOLUME	QUARTERLY MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
SCHOOL DISTRICTS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	
WESTCHESTER COUNTY	1,266	1,338	6%	2,206	2,270	3%	4%	1%	\$655,000	\$660,000	1%	\$639,000	\$649,000	2%	
Northern Westchester	401	438	10%	685	748	9%	-6%	-2%	\$580,000	\$550,000	-5%	\$536,000	\$541,000	1%	
Bedford	68	68	0%	116	91	-22%	-12%	-22%	\$975,000	\$880,000	-10%	\$762,000	\$842,000	10%	
Byram Hills	36	35	-3%	65	63	-3%	-30%	-33%	\$1,045,000	\$1,100,000	5%	\$1,040,000	\$1,025,000	-1%	
Chappaqua	41	63	54%	62	104	68%	42%	61%	\$995,000	\$885,000	-11%	\$905,000	\$887,000	-2%	
Croton-Harmon	20	26	30%	29	50	72%	9%	43%	\$560,000	\$558,000	0%	\$519,000	\$550,000	6%	
Hendrick Hudson	21	19	-10%	45	44	-2%	16%	3%	\$353,000	\$540,000	53%	\$392,000	\$425,000	8%	
Katonah- Lewisboro	53	48	-9%	92	89	-3%	-25%	-1%	\$630,000	\$574,000	-9%	\$630,000	\$619,000	-2%	
Lakeland	62	73	18%	100	132	32%	18%	38%	\$338,000	\$336,000	-1%	\$320,000	\$350,000	9%	
North Salem	19	9	-53%	31	23	-26%	-59%	-29%	\$520,000	\$440,000	-15%	\$520,000	\$528,000	2%	
Peekskill	17	22	29%	31	30	-3%	42%	-2%	\$236,000	\$260,000	10%	\$251,000	\$257,000	2%	
Somers	32	30	-6%	56	49	-13%	-21%	-18%	\$553,000	\$440,000	-20%	\$560,000	\$535,000	-4%	
Yorktown	31	45	41%	58	75	29%	13%	14%	\$475,000	\$394,000	-17%	\$426,000	\$415,000	-3%	



# **Fairfield County**





#### **Fairfield County**

#### 1 Sales growth exceeded 2014 levels for both the first and second quarters.

After a blistering first quarter, sales activity was more moderate in the second quarter of 2015, yet remained ahead of second quarter 2014 levels. Year-to-date dollar volume is 12% higher than a year ago, while unit sales are 9% ahead. This is a sustainable growth pace and should successfully restore predictability and confidence to our markets.

#### **2** Demand is uneven across price categories.

Market activity shifted in the second quarter from the entry price points to the mid-range categories. Contrary to the first quarter of 2015, where sales growth was most vibrant in the entry segments, the greatest year-over-year sales gains in the second quarter occurred in the \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000 sector. Here, broad selection and preferential pricing drew both trade-up and relocating buyers who recognized the strong value proposition. Sales in this segment were 29% higher than a year ago for the quarter and 16% higher year to date.

#### **3** A surge in new listings resulted in the highest inventory in three years.

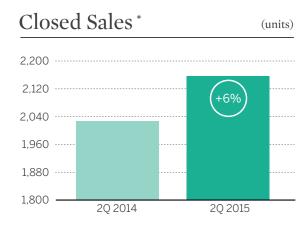
As predicted, supply has grown substantially this year in response to 2014's strong sales performance. The pace of new listing activity surged in the second quarter, with inventory growing by 12% versus a year ago and 58% versus the first quarter. New listings were particularly robust in the upper price categories, up 37% for the quarter and 25% for the year.

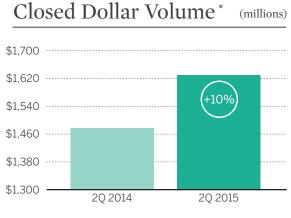
#### ▲ Supply outpaced demand.

While sales have improved versus a year ago, buyers held the upper hand in most price categories as demand was not commensurate with inventory levels.

### Median selling prices are stable except for the most thinly traded segments.

Selling prices have remained firm at the \$450,000 level for some time now. The notable difference this spring has been that an uneven supply-demand ratio has created situations in some towns where sellers have had to take lower than hoped for prices simply to move the property. The upper end, while improving, remains in an over-supply situation, which is causing further price erosion.





<sup>\*</sup> Single Family Homes Only

	QUARTERLY UNIT SALES			QUARTERLY YTD					QUARTERLY YTD QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME VOLUME MEDIAN SELLING PRICE					TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE				
TOWNS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE				
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15				
FAIRFIELD COUNTY	2,027	2,156	6%	3,166	3,446	9%	10%	12%	\$490,000	\$485,000	-1%	\$455,000	\$451,000	-1%				
Bethel	39	41	5%	68	77	13%	11%	11%	\$325,000	\$297,000	-9%	\$299,000	\$306,000	2%				
Brookfield	65	45	-31%	83	81	-2%	-32%	-10%	\$400,000	\$376,000	-6%	\$366,000	\$353,000	-4%				
Danbury	106	103	-3%	169	183	8%	-7%	2%	\$264,000	\$268,000	1%	\$257,000	\$258,000	0%				
Darien	83	89	7%	121	123	2%	18%	15%	\$1,325,000	\$1,595,000	20%	\$1,372,000	\$1,558,000	14%				
Easton	41	28	-32%	53	47	-11%	-38%	-15%	\$615,000	\$569,000	-8%	\$546,000	\$580,000	6%				
Fairfield	220	251	14%	322	365	14%	10%	13%	\$597,000	\$579,000	-3%	\$572,000	\$565,000	-1%				
Greenwich	182	208	14%	280	298	6%	-13%	-11%	\$1,700,000	\$1,900,000	12%	\$1,853,000	\$1,808,000	-2%				
Monroe	49	54	10%	76	93	22%	4%	19%	\$383,000	\$324,000	-15%	\$356,000	\$335,000	-6%				
New Canaan	72	85	18%	108	119	10%	14%	7%	\$1,725,000	\$1,735,000	1%	\$1,576,000	\$1,686,000	7%				
New Fairfield	43	35	-19%	69	73	6%	-12%	4%	\$300,000	\$415,000	38%	\$315,000	\$345,000	10%				
Newtown	88	112	27%	164	182	11%	27%	12%	\$360,000	\$375,000	4%	\$355,000	\$363,000	2%				
Norwalk	175	172	-2%	277	280	1%	-4%	4%	\$430,000	\$475,000	11%	\$422,000	\$450,000	6%				
Oxford*	19	27	42%	46	48	4%	39%	19%	\$410,000	\$365,000	-11%	\$348,000	\$344,000	-1%				
Redding	32	35	9%	45	59	31%	3%	29%	\$588,000	\$550,000	-6%	\$545,000	\$554,000	2%				
Ridgefield	105	90	-14%	150	138	-8%	-19%	-11%	\$695,000	\$680,000	-2%	\$701,000	\$639,000	-9%				
Rowayton	28	20	-29%	37	35	-5%	-31%	-9%	\$1,029,000	\$1,293,000	26%	\$936,000	\$1,239,000	32%				
Shelton	85	92	8%	120	153	28%	-2%	18%	\$328,000	\$300,000	-9%	\$316,000	\$298,000	-6%				
Sherman	15	12	-20%	25	20	-20%	-24%	-35%	\$420,000	\$405,000	-4%	\$398,000	\$410,000	3%				
Southbury*	42	49	17%	62	68	10%	33%	20%	\$370,000	\$393,000	6%	\$386,000	\$343,000	-11%				
Stamford	170	199	17%	263	321	22%	9%	15%	\$627,000	\$574,000	-8%	\$596,000	\$569,000	-5%				
Stratford	124	156	26%	214	256	20%	13%	19%	\$243,000	\$226,000	-7%	\$226,000	\$223,000	-1%				
Trumbull	107	111	4%	161	164	2%	5%	5%	\$370,000	\$354,000	-5%	\$358,000	\$355,000	-1%				
Weston	46	51	11%	63	72	14%	23%	17%	\$832,000	\$865,000	4%	\$764,000	\$786,000	3%				
Westport	110	97	-12%	173	158	-9%	8%	10%	\$1,388,000	\$1,450,000	5%	\$1,289,000	\$1,319,000	2%				
Wilton	75	69	-8%	109	98	-10%	-9%	-9%	\$825,000	\$855,000	4%	\$778,000	\$840,000	8%				

\*New Haven County

## The Shoreline





#### The Shoreline

### 1 Sales remain higher for the year, despite a slower pace of growth in the second quarter of 2015 relative to the first quarter.

After a very strong first quarter, the strongest in four years, sales in the second quarter rose by 6% relative to a year ago. For the year, both unit and dollar volumes are 10% higher than 2014.

#### 2 Activity is varied by price point.

While the majority of sectors were relatively flat in the second quarter, houses in the \$500,000 to \$700,000 range outperformed the rest of the market, with unit sales growing by 9% relative to a year ago.

#### 3 Supply outweighs demand in the \$1,000,000+ sector.

In Madison, Guilford and Branford there are 111 homes on the market in this bracket, while 9 have closed and 4 are under deposit. While the luxury market in general continues to slowly improve, waterfront, which comprises the bulk of this area's upper end, is still feeling the after-effects of Hurricane Sandy. It should be noted that the generous waterfront supply represents some outstanding buying opportunities.

#### **1** Price is the key incentive for buyers.

When analyzing the homes that have traded in 2015, a clear pattern emerges. Those that sell quickly, often with multiple offers, feature that magic combination of location, condition and price.

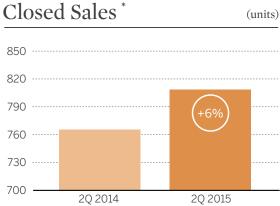
Closed Sales\*

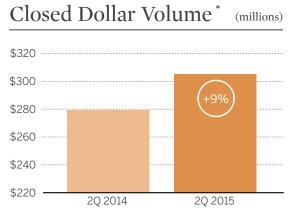
# Inventory levels grew by 35% compared to the first quarter and stand 10% higher than the three-year average.

Growing inventory is terrific for buyers because it provides choice and leverage. For sellers it creates a challenge. The increase in inventory this spring was overly magnified by the low inventory in the first quarter; nevertheless, the speed and number of new listings made it difficult for buyers to make decisions. It is a testament to the strength of this market that the new inventory was almost fully absorbed, with buyers using the opportunity to select the best properties for their needs.

#### 6 Median selling prices remain stable.

The median selling prices along the Shoreline have continued to trend in the \$300,000 range. Given the improving relationship between supply and demand, we expect this stability to continue.





<sup>\*</sup> Single Family Homes Only

	QUARTERLY UNIT SALES L			YTD <b>UNIT SALES</b>		QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME	YTD DOLLAR VOLUME	QUARTERLY MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
TOWNS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE		% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15
THE SHORELINE	765	808	6%	1,171	1,290	10%	9%	10%	\$302,000	\$310,000	3%	\$304,000	\$295,000	-3%
Branford	51	51	0%	76	96	26%	8%	31%	\$304,000	\$329,000	8%	\$312,000	\$330,000	6%
Chester	15	14	-7%	27	23	-15%	21%	12%	\$287,000	\$404,000	41%	\$302,000	\$313,000	4%
Clinton	45	44	-2%	58	82	41%	34%	59%	\$230,000	\$255,000	11%	\$255,000	\$251,000	-2%
Deep River	13	8	-39%	19	16	-16%	-21%	14%	\$250,000	\$255,000	2%	\$242,000	\$250,000	3%
East Lyme	52	52	0%	85	80	-6%	1%	3%	\$287,000	\$293,000	2%	\$280,000	\$284,000	1%
Essex*	22	20	-9%	44	40	-9%	-14%	-16%	\$396,000	\$389,000	-2%	\$458,000	\$389,000	-15%
Groton	89	73	-18%	143	119	-17%	-24%	-32%	\$210,000	\$242,000	15%	\$220,000	\$223,000	1%
Guilford	79	76	-4%	108	120	11%	-20%	-4%	\$385,000	\$354,000	-8%	\$366,000	\$369,000	1%
Killingworth	19	19	0%	35	31	-11%	37%	1%	\$350,000	\$342,500	-2%	\$352,000	\$347,000	-1%
Lyme	8	6	-25%	12	10	-17%	-14%	-11%	\$616,000	\$513,000	-17%	\$592,000	\$599,000	1%
Madison	74	75	1%	109	120	10%	-1%	5%	\$457,000	\$422,500	-8%	\$452,000	\$422,000	-7%
New London	33	47	42%	52	68	31%	20%	24%	\$139,000	\$129,000	-8%	\$129,000	\$149,000	16%
Old Lyme	31	32	3%	54	52	-4%	25%	7%	\$360,000	\$429,000	19%	\$373,000	\$377,000	1%
Old Saybrook	35	55	57%	60	77	28%	114%	80%	\$320,000	\$370,000	16%	\$314,000	\$351,000	12%
Stonington	59	70	19%	77	110	43%	26%	39%	\$275,000	\$311,000	13%	\$294,000	\$276,000	-6%
Waterford	60	67	12%	94	109	16%	-6%	3%	\$240,000	\$230,000	-4%	\$218,000	\$216,000	-1%
Westbrook	15	29	93%	28	36	29%	140%	30%	\$275,000	\$290,000	6%	\$346,000	\$289,000	-16%

 ${}^{\star}$  Includes Essex, Ivoryton and Centerbrook



# **Litchfield County**





#### **Litchfield County**

1 The spring market came early, resulting in year-over-year sales improvement.

Despite the long winter that mimicked last year, the Litchfield County real estate market took off in March, a full two months ahead of 2014, resulting in first quarter unit sales that were 7% higher than a year ago and second quarter sales that were 24% higher. The market is healthy and vibrant, with year-to-date unit and dollar sales growing at double-digit levels relative to 2014.

2 All market sectors have contributed to this year's sales growth.

Building on 19% year-over-year growth in the first quarter, homes valued under \$500,000 experienced a 26% increase in sales in the second quarter. Year-to-date, the entry segment stands 16% higher than the same period of 2014. The mid-range held its own with volume standing parallel with the same period a year ago despite an 11% increase in listings.

3 There was significant activity in the upper end during the second quarter.

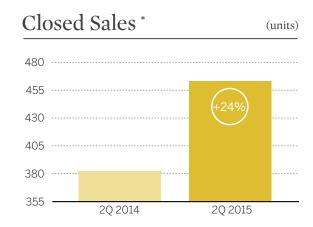
Both the \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 and \$2,000,000+ segments have been active all year. In the second quarter, aggregated sales for luxury properties were 19% higher than a year ago. Most of the big sales have been on or around Lake Waramaug in northwestern Litchfield County, although there has been a sprinkling of sales in other areas too. Buyer preference continues to favor turnkey properties with a reasonable maintenance history.

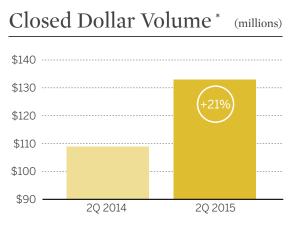
4 There is an abundance of inventory, requiring sellers to be highly strategic when positioning their home on the market.

Despite the improving sales figures, the actual number of transactions remains low relative to inventory levels, particularly in the upper end. This situation is putting a lot of pressure on sellers. To be successful in attracting and incentivizing buyers to act, a property has to really stand out – both in terms of presentation and value.

The median selling price is relatively consistent at \$210,000.

The median selling price has hovered in a similar range for the past three years despite the downward price pressure on certain property types.





<sup>\*</sup> Single Family Homes Only

	QUARTERLY UNIT SALES			YTD UNIT SALES			QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME	YTD DOLLAR VOLUME	QUARTERLY MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
TOWNS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	
LITCHFIELD COUNTY	326	405	24%	672	780	16%	21%	15%	\$215,000	\$210,000	-3%	\$218,000	\$209,000	-4%	
Barkhamsted	10	13	30%	14	20	43%	33%	54%	\$277,000	\$235,000	-15%	\$222,000	\$232,000	5%	
Bethlehem	5	10	100%	13	18	39%	76%	36%	\$290,000	\$251,000	-13%	\$262,000	\$297,000	13%	
Bridgewater	4	6	50%	8	9	13%	189%	26%	\$276,000	\$491,000	78%	\$366,000	\$505,000	38%	
Canaan	5	7	40%	5	14	180%	3%	192%	\$173,000	\$94,000	-46%	\$192,000	\$160,000	-17%	
Colebrook	3	4	33%	4	5	25%	-19%	-10%	\$249,000	\$144,000	-42%	\$228,000	\$189,000	-17%	
Cornwall*	6	1	-83%	10	3	-70%	-94%	-89%	\$355,000	\$150,000	-58%	\$452,000	\$269,000	-40%	
Goshen	10	16	60%	18	28	56%	68%	24%	\$300,000	\$290,000	-3%	\$356,000	\$309,000	-13%	
Harwinton	15	12	-20%	29	27	-7%	-1%	0%	\$220,000	\$305,000	39%	\$231,000	\$229,000	-1%	
Kent, South Kent	4	8	100%	11	17	55%	-31%	-3%	\$391,000	\$259,000	-34%	\$382,000	\$360,000	-6%	
Litchfield**	20	24	20%	35	39	11%	29%	-16%	\$302,000	\$330,000	9%	\$318,000	\$341,000	7%	
Morris	7	5	-29%	10	13	30%	-50%	-14%	\$186,000	\$128,000	-31%	\$388,000	\$234,000	-40%	
New Hartford	18	19	6%	27	31	15%	6%	2%	\$323,000	\$298,000	-8%	\$253,000	\$248,000	-2%	
New Milford	30	27	-10%	56	49	-13%	-2%	-10%	\$249,000	\$326,000	31%	\$264,000	\$293,000	11%	
Norfolk	3	2	-33%	6	3	-50%	-51%	-78%	\$420,000	\$260,000	-38%	\$378,000	\$192,000	-49%	
Plymouth	28	25	-11%	57	48	-16%	0%	-11%	\$145,000	\$161,000	11%	\$159,000	\$163,000	3%	
Roxbury	8	9	13%	16	15	-6%	-24%	-30%	\$730,000	\$350,000	-52%	\$682,000	\$576,000	-16%	
Salisbury	12	12	0%	22	21	-5%	26%	44%	\$445,000	\$675,000	52%	\$465,000	\$488,000	5%	
Sharon	10	22	120%	18	31	72%	130%	112%	\$493,000	\$280,000	-43%	\$469,000	\$474,000	1%	
Thomaston	8	18	125%	23	35	52%	147%	43%	\$180,000	\$165,000	-8%	\$181,000	\$177,000	-2%	
Torrington	74	78	5%	128	122	5%	-19%	-13%	\$149,000	\$121,000	-19%	\$141,000	\$125,000	-11%	
Warren	4	1	-75%	5	3	-40%	-88%	-78%	\$448,000	\$245,000	-45%	\$704,000	\$437,000	-38%	
Washington***	8	14	75%	14	20	43%	94%	130%	\$440,000	\$426,000	-3%	\$475,000	\$918,000	93%	
Winchester	19	26	37%	32	42	31%	54%	41%	\$125,000	\$127,000	2%	\$130,000	\$122,000	-6%	
Woodbury	22	26	18%	32	42	31%	4%	30%	\$340,000	\$314,000	-8%	\$351,000	\$299,000	-15%	

\*Includes Cornwall, West Cornwall and Cornwall Bridge \*\*Includes Litchfield and Milton \*\*\*Includes Washington, Washington Depot and New Preston

## **Berkshire County**





#### **Berkshire County**

#### 1 The Southern Berkshires bounced back strongly in the second quarter.

Recovering from a 33% decline in unit sales and a 54% decline in dollar volume in the first quarter, largely resulting from the winter weather. The second quarter came back nicely with a 19% unit gain and 38% dollar volume gain versus a year ago. Year-to-date, the market is still down by 9%, but it is catching up quickly. The pending sales activity and continuing vibrancy of the market indicates that the year will end at or close to 2014 levels.

### The entire market has shared in the sales gains, but activity is concentrated in the \$300,000 to \$600,000 range.

Appealing to a broad swath of buyers, this mid-range category has experienced a 19% increase in both dollar volume and unit sales year-to-date.

#### 3 Inventory levels are up slightly, creating heightened competition among sellers.

In addition to excellent property condition, the competitive framework is requiring aggressive pricing to successfully sell a home. Buyers are cautious, and there is a discernible lack of urgency on their part. Price is the single most important motivator in these market conditions.

#### 4 Median selling prices are stable.

The median selling price rose by 30% in the second quarter of 2015 versus the second quarter of 2014, but that percentage was distorted by this quarter's higher number of more expensive homes sold. On a twelve-month basis the median selling price is a slight 3% lower.

# In a trend that is consistent with other markets, buyers prefer new or completely renovated homes.

The traditional Berkshires summer cottage is still in favor, but buyers do not want to spend the time or money to bring them up to 2015 standards.

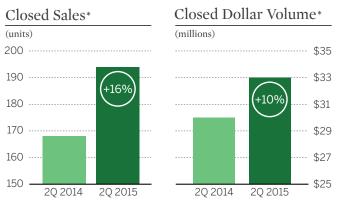
# Nine homes have sold above \$1,000,000 in the second quarter, and 12 year-to-date.

Year-to-date luxury sales are now close to 2014 levels in the Southern Berkshires, with 14 units having sold in 2014 versus 12 this year. Yet they are significantly lower across Berkshire County as a whole, with 17 units having sold in 2014 versus 12 in 2015.

#### Southern Berkshires



#### Northern Berkshires



<sup>\*</sup> Single Family Homes Only

	QUARTERLY UNIT SALES					) ALES	QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME	YTD DOLLAR VOLUME	MEDIA	QUARTERLY N SELLING P	RICE	TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
TOWNS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	
BERKSHIRE COUNTY	264	310	17%	458	478	4%	26%	-6%	\$173,000	\$183,000	6%	\$186,000	\$183,000	-2%	
Southern Berkshire County	91	108	19%	159	174	9%	38%	-15%	\$264,000	\$343,000	30%	\$295,000	\$287,000	-3%	
Alford	2	3	50%	5	5	0%	2%	21%	\$2,651,000	\$1,523,000	-43%	\$1,045,000	\$1,116,000	7%	
Becket	12	11	-8%	17	16	-6%	-19%	-18%	\$233,000	\$215,000	-8%	\$203,000	\$212,000	4%	
Egremont	4	9	125%	13	11	-15%	204%	-20%	\$463,000	\$435,000	-6%	\$569,000	\$352,000	-38%	
Gt. Barrington	15	17	13%	26	28	8%	69%	39%	\$235,000	\$290,000	23%	\$301,000	\$276,000	-8%	
Lee	8	9	13%	20	13	-35%	27%	-41%	\$235,000	\$201,000	-14%	\$236,000	\$227,000	-4%	
Lenox	7	15	114%	17	22	29%	105%	-6%	\$230,000	\$373,000	62%	\$340,000	\$314,000	-8%	
Monterey	3	4	33%	8	5	-38%	33%	-44%	\$342,000	\$344,000	0%	\$486,000	\$562,000	16%	
Mt. Washington	0	0	0%	0	1	N/A	0%	N/A	NO SALES	NO SALES	0%	\$98,000	\$232,000	137%	
New Marlborough	4	6	50%	7	12	71%	41%	-8%	\$318,000	\$362,000	14%	\$340,000	\$354,000	4%	
Otis	9	6	-33%	14	8	-43%	3%	-37%	\$195,000	\$351,000	80%	\$242,000	\$259,000	7%	
Richmond	2	9	350%	7	9	29%	345%	-14%	\$389,000	\$360,000	-7%	\$433,000	\$308,000	-29%	
Sandisfield	1	6	500%	5	7	40%	610%	-48%	\$290,000	\$339,000	17%	\$269,000	\$267,000	-1%	
Sheffield	13	6	-54%	17	11	-35%	-40%	-17%	\$275,000	\$353,000	28%	\$278,000	\$304,000	9%	
Stockbridge	10	9	-10%	14	18	-22%	17%	-34%	\$292,000	\$400,000	37%	\$428,000	\$359,000	-16%	
Tyringham	0	1	N/A	0	1	0%	0%	N/A	NO SALES	\$523,000	N/A	\$628,000	\$428,000	-32%	
West Stockbridge	5	3	-40%	6	5	-17%	-46%	-35%	\$562,000	\$315,000	-44%	\$498,000	\$357,000	-28%	

		QUARTI UNIT S		YTD UNIT SALES			QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME	YTD DOLLAR VOLUME	QUARTERLY MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
TOWNS			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	
BERKSHIRE COUNTY	264	310	17%	458	478	4%	26%	-6%	\$173,000	\$183,000	6%	\$186,000	\$183,000	-2%	
Northern Berkshire County	168	194	16%	277	307	11%	10%	6%	\$154,000	\$149,000	-3%	\$152,000	\$147,000	-3%	
Adams	15	13	-13%	28	24	-14%	-10%	1%	\$144,000	\$112,000	-22%	\$115,000	\$127,000	10%	
Cheshire	3	5	67%	6	9	50%	32%	3%	\$185,000	\$165,000	-11%	\$170,000	\$132,000	-22%	
Clarksburg	3	2	-33%	5	3	-40%	-24%	-29%	\$120,000	\$144,000	20%	\$124,000	\$118,000	-5%	
Dalton	20	12	-40%	29	24	-17%	-66%	-40%	\$174,000	\$125,000	-29%	\$164,000	\$150,000	-9%	
Florida	0	0	0%	1	1	0%	N/A	-62%	NO SALES	NO SALES	0%	\$162,000	\$111,000	-31%	
Hancock	1	0	N/A	2	2	0%	N/A	-44%	\$290,000	NO SALES	N/A	\$295,000	\$175,000	-41%	
Hinsdale	3	3	0%	5	4	-20%	-11%	-44%	\$120,000	\$133,000	11%	\$220,000	\$149,000	-32%	
Lanesboro	9	8	-11%	16	14	-13%	-1%	-10%	\$190,000	\$157,000	-17%	\$190,000	\$182,000	-4%	
New Ashford	0	1	N/A	0	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO SALES	\$180,000	N/A	\$335,000	\$265,000	-21%	
North Adams	18	22	22%	30	31	3%	-4%	-12%	\$136,000	\$124,000	-9%	\$119,000	\$113,000	-5%	
Peru	3	2	-33%	3	2	-33%	-44%	-44%	\$181,000	\$163,000	-10%	\$185,000	\$145,000	-22%	
Pittsfield	84	110	31%	135	164	22%	28%	17%	\$151,000	\$150,000	0%	\$152,000	\$147,000	-3%	
Savoy	0	4	N/A	0	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO SALES	\$136,000	N/A	\$140,000	\$145,000	4%	
Williamstown	9	12	33%	14	22	57%	89%	71%	\$154,000	\$323,000	110%	\$270,000	\$298,000	10%	



## **Condominiums and Cooperatives**



#### **Condominiums and Cooperatives**

1 Similar to the first quarter of 2015, Westchester County condominium and cooperative sales outpaced single family home sales growth.

Together condominiums and co-ops grew by 9% in the second quarter of 2015 relative to the second quarter of 2014. The condominium segment drove this growth, with sales increasing by 13% for the second quarter and 23% for the first six months of the year, compared to the same periods of 2014. A key factor inhibiting the co-op market is the reduced inventory. With few new listings coming on the market, inventory declined by 14%.

**2** Fairfield County condominium sales steadied in the second quarter.

Coming off a 10% sales increase in the first quarter, condominium sales slowed in the second quarter, declining a slight 2% relative to the same period in 2014. Both the quarterly and twelve-month median selling prices are stable. The strength of this market is reflected in the Months Supply of Inventory (MSI) figure, which is 6.8 months, the lowest since July 2013. Six month is considered equilibrium.

**3** Condominium sales continue to improve in the Shoreline.

Despite a flattening of the single family home market this quarter, condominiums along the Connecticut Shoreline accelerated their pace of year-over-year growth, resulting in a 22% improvement over a year ago. Inventory levels were slightly lower, with a 12% decline in new listings. Both the second quarter 2015 and the twelve-month median selling prices were stable in the \$160,000 range.

The Litchfield County condominium market reversed course in the second quarter, declining 28% versus a year ago.

The condominium market is small in Litchfield County, but it slowed substantially this quarter on all metrics. Inventory levels declined, new listings were flat, days on market increased and the quarterly median selling prices declined by 35%.

5 The Berkshires rebounded in the second quarter to surpass 2014 sales levels.

Second quarter 2015 sales grew by 100% versus the second quarter of 2014, recouping all the first quarter 2015 losses and moving this category firmly into positive territory. The sales growth coupled with the declining inventory and new listing activity has moved this segment of the market into greater equilibrium. As evidenced by the 13% decline in median selling price, sales activity was focused in the lower price points.

	1	QUARTI UNIT S		YTD UNIT SALES			QUARTERLY DOLLAR VOLUME	YTD DOLLAR VOLUME	QUARTERLY MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			TWELVE MONTH MEDIAN SELLING PRICE			
COUNTIES			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	% CHANGE	% CHANGE			% CHANGE			% CHANGE	
	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014	YTD 2015	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14 VS 2Q15	YTD 2014 VS YTD 2015	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	2Q14	2Q15	2Q14 VS 2Q15	
Southern Westchester Condominiums	182	199	9%	289	365	26%	19%	31%	\$397,000	\$401,000	1%	\$377,000	\$372,000	-1%	
Southern Westchester Cooperatives	366	402	10%	693	727	5%	11%	5%	\$155,000	\$151,000	-3%	\$152,000	\$150,000	-1%	
Northern Westchester Condominiums	93	112	20%	163	192	18%	13%	21%	\$329,000	\$300,000	-9%	\$305,000	\$320,000	5%	
Northern Westchester Cooperatives	30	19	-37%	49	42	-14%	-30%	-16%	\$86,000	\$75,000	-13%	\$84,000	\$86,000	2%	
Fairfield County	696	681	-2%	1,183	1,134	-4%	3%	1%	\$250,000	\$258,000	3%	\$246,000	\$249,000	1%	
The Shoreline	200	243	22%	321	377	17%	17%	22%	\$160,000	\$159,000	-1%	\$152,000	\$154,000	1%	
Litchfield County	68	44	-28%	103	99	-4%	-45%	-22%	\$141,000	\$92,000	-35%	\$117,000	\$102,000	-13%	
Berkshire County	17	34	100%	33	45	36%	113%	19%	\$190,000	\$165,000	-13%	\$209,000	\$185,000	-11%	



#### Where We Are Headed



The threat of rising interest rates and the enhanced consumer confidence levels are anticipated to energize our markets through the remainder of 2015. Based on the agent-reported strong showing activity, we expect sales levels to continue to grow modestly through the summer months and into the back half of the year. Sales at the entry price points are poised to outperform the market, but only if appropriately positioned inventory is made available.

Coming off the 2009 to 2012 downturn in sales, we believe that buyers will continue to be investment driven, buying homes for the long term and taking the emotion out of the purchase. For sellers this means that crisp pricing and turnkey presentation are the keys to a successful sale.

While luxury sales continue to improve, this sector remains challenged by high levels of inventory and a lack of buyer urgency. Each of these homes is unique and beautiful, and the standouts will be those where buyers are presented with an exceptionally strong value proposition, making it impossible to walk away from a purchase.

An interesting dynamic this year is the return of the public open house as an important way to attract buyers to a home. We are experiencing serious buyers visiting public open houses. After their internet search, consumers find that the public open house allows them to explore before committing to an area.

We at William Pitt and Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty are highly enthusiastic about the remainder of this year. We also believe that our marketing analysis, presentation and reach is the best in the business, allowing us to successfully market and sell even the most challenging home. We welcome the opportunity to serve you.

Information Sources: Case-Schiller reports, Various MLS services, National Association of Realtors, Connecticut Economic Digest, local mortgage brokers, Realty Trac., HGMLS, CT-MLS, NCMLS, DARMLS, Greenwich MLS, BCBOR. While information is believed true, no guarantee is made for accuracy.