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Otteau Group is a multi-discipline real estate appraisal and advisory firm providing services to a wide range of public and private clients. Our mission is to assist our clients in keeping pace with emerging trends in real estate through insightful analysis and cutting-edge pricing skills.

Appraisal Services are provided to financial \& lending institutions, developers \& builders, attorneys, investors, relocation management service companies, governmental agencies, corporations and the public. Our Consulting Group provides a wide array of services with respect to market analysis, project feasibility, demographic trends, project valuation and municipal entitlement proceedings. Litigation support is provided for matters requiring the valuation and corresponding expert testimony for eminent domain proceedings, contractual disputes, bankruptcy, tax appeals, equitable distribution, estate valuation and stigma related issues. OTTEAU.com offers a wide range of informational content and analysis of real estate trends including published and live session formats.

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## Economic Update

The US unemployment rate rose nominally, up to 6.1\%, but still less than half the cyclical high of $14.8 \%$ in April. The economy has had positive job gains in the 1st quarter, with April adding another 266,000 jobs. The economy has gained over 14.1-Million jobs from May 2020 through April 2021. Continuing unemployment claims in the US have declined by 21.3-Million since peaking in May 2020. Initial weekly unemployment claims show a week-on-week decline of $7 \%$ down to 473,000, which is the lowest claims have been since early March 2020.


NJ's unemployment rate dropped slightly in March down to 7.7\%, remaining well below the peak of $16.6 \%$ in April. The state's economy saw the addition of an impressive 20,800 jobs in March, ending the 1st quarter with a gain of 32,400 overall. Continuing unemployment claims in NJ have declined by 600,000 in early May 2021 compared to its peak in early May 2020. NJ's initial unemployment claims are on the decline again down by $9 \%$ week-onweek.

## NJ Housing Market

The pandemic had taken a strong hold on real estate in April 2020, so it is no surprise that YOY April 2021 is showing a $114 \%$ increase. A better indicator of how the 2021 spring market is faring would be a comparison to April 2019, in which case we are seeing only a modest $3 \%$ increase. YTD, this is an $8 \%$ increase compared to the same period in 2019. Unsold inventory is down YOY by $37 \%$, however month-on-month inventory has increased for 2 months in a row.


## NJ SALES INCREASE

YOY in 2021 sales for April have increased by 114\%

New Jersey Home Purchase Contracts
Monthly Change vs. 2019 Base Year


YTD April 2021, contract sales have seen an increase in all price tiers. Homes priced $\$ 1.0-\mathrm{Mil}+-\$ 2.5-\mathrm{Mil}$ are seeing the highest percent increase at 137\% compared to last year, while sales in the $<\$ 400,000$ range are showing the smallest increase at just $3 \%$. The lowest price tier continues to see the largest declines in inventory, restricting buyers' options in this market. What remains to be seen is whether this decline is attributable solely to low inventory levels or is part of a larger shift in demand. Only time will tell as we continue to monitor this going forward.

## YOY HOMES

Sales in the <\$400,000 range, showed the smallest increase at 3\%


## NJ Housing Market (continued)

Unsold Inventory remains restricted across NJ with an overall decline year-on-year of $37 \%$. April of last year saw approximately 27,000 homes on the market, compared to only 17,000 this year. The largest percent decline occurred in the lowest price tier, down by $45 \%$. As previously mentioned, a small shift is occurring in month-on-month stats for unsold inventory with increases 2 months in a row. Inventory is likely to continue to increase modestly in the coming months as vaccine rollout expands, creating a greater sense of safety for existing homeowners to trade up to more expensive houses.



Demand remained strong through the latter portion of 2020, with the number of home sales having increased by $11 \%$ for the year. This increase in demand coupled with low supply drove home prices up by $11.6 \%$ in 2020. Supply remains restricted, and while early in 2021 contract sales had slowed dramatically, they have once again picked up in the spring season. Based upon these trends we expect New Jersey home prices to increase by an additional 12\% in 2022.


## HOME PRICES

Based upon these trends we expect NJ
home prices to increase in 2022 by
12\%

## HousingTRAC

## EXPLANATION OF DATA POINTS

The following data points are included in the MarketTRAC Monthly analysis of market trends:

## NEW OFFERINGS <br> CONTRACT SALES

DEMAND RATIO

UNSOLD INVENTORY BUYER:SELLER RATIO

## SELLER:BUYER RATIO

## MONTHS SUPPLY

Number of home offerings which first became available for-sale within the specified market area in each of the time periods indicated. This statistic includes expired listings which have been re-listed for sale.
Number of homes which were contracted for-sale within the market area in each month. Contract-Sales provide a more timely indication of market activity than Closed-Sales due to the time lag between contract" and "closing", and therefore provide a more reliable indicator of market depth and demand. Also known as Pending Sales.

The relationship between "New Offerings" and "Sales" activity expressed as a percentage ratio. Changes in this ratio can often be an early indicator of a shift in market conditions. A rising ratio is indicative of improving market conditions, while a declining ratio suggests weakening market conditions.
Total number of homes being offered for sale within the market area at the end of the indicated period.
The ratio relationship between the number of home buyers who have contracted to purchase a home during a given month per every 100 home sellers with an unsold home still on the market. So, a ratio of 50/100 would indicate that there only half as many buyers (50) as sellers (100). Similarly, a ratio of $10 / 100$ would indicate ten times as many sellers (100) as buyers(10). Significant changes in this ratio typically signify a shift in market conditions with a rising ratio indicating market improvement and a declining ration indicating market weakening.

The ratio relationship between the number of home sellers with a home to sell compared to the number of buyers who have contracted to purchase a home during a given month. So, a ratio of 10:1 would indicate there to be 10 sellers for every 1 home buyers, thus indicating an oversupplied market condition. Conversely, a ratio of $1: 1$ would indicate a buyer for every home on the market, thus indicating strong market demand, quick marketing times and declining unsold inventory. Significant changes in this ratio typically provide an early warning of changing market conditions.

A projection of how many months it will take for the local housing market to absorb the inventory of unsold homes (Unsold Inventory) within each market area. This is a more meaningful measure of market absorption than the traditional days-on-market calculation as it is not affected by re-listing unsold inventory nor it is skewed by exaggerated exposure times attributable to overpriced marketing strategies. MarketTRAC Monthly includes a Mos Supply (Month) which is based on only the most current month's contract sales, as well as a Mos Supply (QTD) which is based on a rolling average of the contract sales for that quarter.

HousingTRAC Monthly
MONTHLY TRACKING PERFORMANCE


## HousingTRAC Monthly <br> MONTHLY TRACKING PERFORMANCE



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EAST BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP



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## OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP



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