

# OUSING NOW

## YOUR LINK TO THE HOUSING MARKET

# Off To A Fine Start in 2006

Metro Halifax's housing market began 2006 by demonstrating similar trends to those that characterized 2005. In January a high level of multiple unit housing starts boosted total residential construction activity. In the resale market, MLS sales and average price continued to grow smartly buoyed by low mortgage rates and high levels of employment.

With 206 total housing starts last month, residential construction activity was much higher than in January 2005 when there were 71 total housing starts. While single-detached starts were II per cent higher in January than one year earlier, multiple unit starts leaped to 139 units last month compared with only 8 units in January 2005. Unusually mild winter weather undoubtedly enabled additional homebuilding activity but most of the difference in housing starts between January 2005 and January 2006 can be attributed to footings being poured on a single apartment structure of 139 units last month and the absence of any apartment starts at all one year earlier.

With the start of this large apartment project, the total number of units under construction remained at a high level of 1,876 despite the completion of 112 condo units.

Sales of new single-detached homes fell to 44 units last month compared with 69 a year earlier, but over the same comparative period, average sale price climbed by more than \$50,000 to almost \$275,000. A change in the mix of homes sold accounted for this jump in comparative sale price as the share of homes sold under \$200,000 dropped to 14% last month from 43 per cent a year earlier while the share of homes sold for between \$250,000 and \$400,000 climbed to 45 per cent from 20 per cent a year in January 2005.

Although mortgage rates have been creeping up and employment has been edging down recently, both remain at levels that are very supportive of homeownership demand. These conditions continued to stimulate impressive action in the resale market in Metro Halifax last month. The 313 residential MLS sales in January were about 4 per cent higher than in January 2005 while average sale price climbed almost nine per cent to over \$196,000 last month. However, an expanding inventory of homes for sale has provided potential homebuyers with the luxury of more options and less pressure to make an offer and this has resulted in average time to sell rising to 105 days last month from 88 days one year earlier.

# Halifax

January 2006

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MLS® is a registered trademark of the Canadian Real Estate Association.







	TABLE I ACTIVITY SUMMARY BY INTENDED MARKET HALIFAX CMA January 2006	TABLE I MARY BY INTE HALIFAX CMA January 2006	ITENDED   MA 06	MARKET			
		SINGLE	FREEHOLD	ROW	CONDOMINIUM	RENTAL	GRAND
PENDING STARTS	- Current Month - Previous Year	74	4 4	0 0	0 0	177	255
STARTS	- Current Month - Previous Year Year-To-Date 2006 Year-To-Date 2005	61 55 61 55	0 4 V 4	0404	139 8 139 8 8	0000	206 71 206 71
UNDER CONSTRUCTION	- 2006	345 360	72	88 88	677 434	694	1876
COMPLETIONS	- Current Month - Previous Year Year-To-Date 2006 Year-To-Date 2005	42 64 42 64	0 4 9 4	6 O O O O	112 8 112 8	0 0 0	691 691 691
COMPLETED & NOT ABSORBED	- 2006 - 2005	24 24	10	0	52 66	196	282 129
TOTAL SUPPLY	- 2006 - 2005	369	82 50	88 102	729 500	890	2158
ABSORPTIONS	- Current Month - Previous Year Year-To-Date 2006	47 69 47	2 4 2	= 2 =	60 5 60	10 74 10	130
	Year-To-Date 2005 3-month Average 12-month Average	69 149 105	4 _ 0	5 5 5	5 28 22	74 52 32	157 255 184

ource: CMI

			HOUSING ACT	T, FIVITY BY AR HALI	TABLE 2 Y AREA AND BY HALIFAX CMA	TABLE 2 OUSING ACTIVITY BY AREA AND BY INTENDED MARKET HALIFAX CMA Ianuary 2006	ь					
		OWNERSHIP	HP					MO	OWNERSHIP			9
STARTS	SINGLE	SEMI ROW	W CONDOMINIUM	JIUM RENTAL	GRAND TOTAL	COMPLETIONS	SINGLE	SEMI	ROW	CONDOMINIUM	RENTAL	TOTAL
HALIFAX CITY												
- Current Month	m	2 0	139	0	4	- Current Month	Э	2	0	52	0	27
- Previous Year				0	13	- Previous Year	2	2	01	80	0	22
Year-To-Date 2006 Year-To-Date 2005	w w	0 0	139 8	00	₹ Ε	Year-To-Date 2006 Year-To-Date 2005	7 a	7 7	o <u>°</u>	52 8	00	22
DARTMOUTH CITY												
- Current Month	01	4		0	4	- Current Month	2	0	6	09	0	74
- Previous Year	12	0		0	12	- Previous Year	30	2	0	0	0	32
Year-To-Date 2006	2 0	4 0	00	00	<del>4</del> C	Year-To-Date 2006	30 %	0 0	Ф С	09	00	32
cor - Date zoo					7	real - 10-Date 2003	8	4				75
BEDFORD-HAMMONDS PLAINS												
- Current Month	21			0	21	- Current Month	6	0	0	0	0	6
- Previous Year				0	9 ;	- Previous Year	7	0	0	0	0	7
Year-To-Date 2006	7 5	0 0	0 0	0 0	21	Year-To-Date 2006	6 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	6 1
lear-10-Date 2003				0	0	Tear-10-Date 2003		>		>		
SACKVILLE						1						
- Current Month	2	0		0	2	- Current Month	2	0	0	0	0	5
- Previous Year				0	9	- Previous Year	4	7	0	0	0	9
Year-To-Date 2006		0	0	0	S	Year-To-Date 2006	2	0	0	0	0	2
Year-To-Date 2005	4	2 0		0	9	Year-To-Date 2005	4	2	٥	0	٥	9
EALL RIVER-BEAVERBANK												
- Current Month	4	0		0	4	- Current Month	0	0	0	0	0	01
- Previous Year	4			0	4	- Previous Year	7	0	0	0	0	7
Year-To-Date 2006	4	0	0	0	4	Year-To-Date 2006	0	0	0	0	0	0
Year-To-Date 2005				0	4	Year-To-Date 2005	7	0	0	0	0	7
HALIFAX COUNTY SOUTHWEST												
- Current Month	12	0	0	0	12	- Current Month	12	4	0	0	0	91
- Previous Year				0	13	- Previous Year	6	0	0	0	0	6
Year-To-Date 2006	12	0		0	12	Year-To-Date 2006	12	4	0	0	0	91
Year-To-Date 2005				0	13	Year-To-Date 2005	6	0	0	0	0	6
HALIFAX COUNTY EAST												
- Current Month	9	0		0	9	- Current Month	-	0	0	0	0	-
- Previous Year	7	0		0	7	- Previous Year	9	0	0	0	0	9
Year-To-Date 2006			0	0	9	Year-To-Date 2006	-	0	0	0	0	_
Year-To-Date 2005	7	0		0	7	Year-To-Date 2005	9	0	0	0	٥	9
Source: CMHC												

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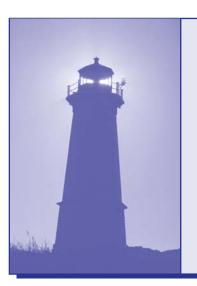
January 2006

#### TABLE 3 **UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY AREA** HALIFAX CMA January 2006 **OWNERSHIP FREEHOLD** SINGLE **SEMI** ROW CONDO RENTAL **GRAND TOTAL** HALIFAX CITY - Current Month - Previous Year DARTMOUTH CITY - Current Month - Previous Year BEDFORD-HAMMONDS PLAINS - Current Month - Previous Year SACKVILLE - Current Month - Previous Year FALL RIVER-BEAVERBANK - Current Month - Previous Year HALIFAX COUNTY SOUTHWEST - Current Month - Previous Year HALIFAX COUNTY EAST

Source: CMHC

- Current Month

- Previous Year



# Housing Now Atlantic Canada

Housing Information for the Atlantic Region in One Publication

Recently added to the Market Analysis suite of products is Housing Now Atlantic Canada. Included in this publication you will find information on new home construction activity, MLS® resale activity as well as financial and economic indicators for each of the Atlantic Provinces.

For more information or to subscribe to this product please call Mary-Jana Wege, Market Research & Client Service Specialist at (902) 426-4708.

SALI	ES AND PRICE OF	NEW SINGLE-D HALIFAX C January 200		BY TYPE
Туре	Current Month	Previous Year	Year-To-Date 2006	Year-To-Date 2005
Bungalow				
Sales	6	9	6	9
Average Price	\$238,300	\$197,811	\$238,300	\$197,811
Median Price	\$210,000	\$189,900	\$194,000	\$189,900
Split Level				
Sales	1	15	1	15
Average Price	\$235,000	\$234,027	\$235,000	\$234,027
Median Price	\$235,000	\$225,900	\$198,900	\$225,900
1.5 Storey				
Sales	0	1	0	l í
Average Price	\$0	\$199,900	\$0	\$199,900
Median Price	\$0	\$199,900	\$309,950	\$199,900
riedian rrice	φ0	\$177,700	\$307,730	\$177,700
2 Storey				
Sales	32	34	32	34
Average Price	\$295,997	\$242,691	\$295,997	\$242,691
Median Price	\$285,000	\$219,900	\$269,900	\$219,900
Other				
Sales	6	9	6	9
Average Price	\$214,167	\$158,033	\$214,167	\$158,033
Median Price	\$227,000	\$164,900	\$190,000	\$164,900
Unknown				
Sales	1	0	l i	0
Average Price	\$215,000	\$0	\$215,000	\$0
Median Price	\$215,000	\$0	\$213,000	\$0
riedian Price	φ213,000	Ψυ	φ224,300	φ0
Total		200		
Sales	46	68	46	68
Average Price	\$274,711	\$223,006	\$274,711	\$223,006
Median Price	\$254,950	\$209,950	\$235,900	\$209,950

**TABLE 4** 

Source: CMHC

# Find out more about what CMHC has to offer

Research is an important part of CMHC's commitment to help Canadians and the housing industry.

We conduct leading edge research to help address national housing issues, improve affordability, choice, housing and living conditions, and to support market competitiveness.

We conduct joint research with other organizations and provide grants and awards to foster innovation and the development of the external housing research community.

To discuss your research needs and to find out more on the types of research CMHC has to offer, contact **Kris Leaman** today at **(902) 426-4686** or go to our web site at **http://www.cmhc-schl.ca.** 

		TA	BLE 5	- MONTH	ILY NE			TACHED I	HOUS	E SALES I	BY PR	ICE RANG	E		
	<\$1	174,999	0000	75,000- 99,999	27,000	00,000- 49,999	\$2	50,000- 99,999	0.755	00,000- 99,999	>\$4	400,000			
Period	sales	per cent	sales	per cent	sales	per cent	sales	per cent	sales	per cent	sales	per cent	Total Sales	Average Price	Median Price
January 2005	13	18.8%	16	23.2%	26	37.7%	5	7.2%	9	13.0%	0	0.0%	69	\$223,006	\$209,950
February 2005	6	8.6%	18	25.7%	22	31.4%	17	24.3%	7	10.0%	0	0.0%	70	\$244,007	\$229,900
March 2005	14	18.4%	28	36.8%	13	17.1%	9	11.8%	10	13.2%	2	2.6%	76	\$241,332	\$198,900
April 2005	6	10.5%	17	29.8%	17	29.8%	8	14.0%	7	12.3%	2	3.5%	57	\$255,616	\$210,000
May 2005	14	20.3%	16	23.2%	15	21.7%	11	15.9%	LL	15.9%	2	2.9%	69	\$259,616	\$215,500
June 2005	11	12.5%	22	25.0%	26	29.5%	20	22.7%	7	8.0%	2	2.3%	88	\$256,430	\$230,900
July 2005	17	15.9%	17	15.9%	25	23.4%	29	27.1%	17	15.9%	2	1.9%	107	\$263,728	\$243,950
August 2005	3	2.7%	-11	9.9%	34	30.6%	33	29.7%	27	24.3%	3	2.7%	111	\$286,273	\$269,000
September 2005	10	8.4%	23	19.3%	29	24.4%	26	21.8%	25	21.0%	6	5.0%	119	\$307,495	\$257,475
October 2005	8	6.7%	14	11.7%	37	30.8%	36	30.0%	20	16.7%	5	4.2%	120	\$284,121	\$259,850
November 2005	4	3.1%	28	22.0%	43	33.9%	33	26.0%	17	13.4%	2	1.6%	127	\$256,652	\$235,900
December 2005	24	12.8%	47	25.1%	46	24.6%	47	25.1%	20	10.7%	3	1.6%	187	\$249,634	\$229,000
January 2006	3	6.8%	3	6.8%	17	38.6%	-11	25.0%	9	20.5%	1	2.3%	44	\$274,711	\$254,950

Source: CMHC

		TABLE	6 - MO	NTHLY N	IEW S			HED UNO	CCUP	IED HOU	SES B	Y PRICE R	ANGE		
	<\$1	74,999	12000	75,000- 99,999		00,000- 49,999		50,000- 99,999	- 49/33	00,000- 99,999	>\$4	400,000			
Period	units	per cent	units	per cent	units	per cent	units	per cent	units	per cent	units	per cent	Total Units	Average Price	Median Price
January 2005	3	12.5%	3	12.5%	7	29.2%	3	12.5%	7	29.2%	1	4.2%	24	\$276,850	\$226,000
February 2005	3	9.4%	3	9.4%	12	37.5%	3	9.4%	10	31.3%	1	3.1%	32	\$282,403	\$230,000
March 2005	2	5.6%	8	22.2%	-11	30.6%	5	13.9%	9	25.0%	3	2.8%	36	\$273,441	\$225,000
April 2005	4	10.3%	7	17.9%	13	33.3%	3	7.7%	-11	28.2%	1	2.6%	39	\$269,630	\$222,500
May 2005	0	0.0%	4	12.1%	16	48.5%	4	12.1%	8	24.2%	31	3.0%	33	\$269,185	\$222,500
June 2005	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	10	41.7%	6	25.0%	6	25.0%	1	4.2%	24	\$287,419	\$270,000
July 2005	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	-11	55.0%	2	10.0%	6	30.0%	- 1	5.0%	20	\$290,223	\$242,000
August 2005	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	43.8%	1	6.3%	7	43.8%	1	6.3%	16	\$311,150	\$302,500
September 2005	0	0.0%	3	20.0%	2	13.3%	3	20.0%	6	40.0%	1	6.7%	15	\$317,265	\$305,000
October 2005	0	0.0%	2	13.3%	4	26.7%	4	26.7%	4	26.7%	1	6.7%	15	\$302,100	\$280,000
November 2005	0	0.0%	4	25.0%	4	25.0%	3	18.8%	4	25.0%	- 1	6.3%	16	\$292,117	\$275,000
December 2005	2	7.4%	2	7.4%	7	25.9%	6	22.2%	9	33.3%	1	3.7%	27	\$301,976	\$289,000
January 2006	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	4	18.2%	7	31.8%	6	27.3%	- 1	4.5%	22	\$305,129	\$284,500

Source: CMHC

		Table	7: Resid	lential	MLS®	Sales A	ctivity b	y Area				
						Jar	nuary		_			
		20	005			20	006			Per Ce	nt Change	
SUBMARKET	Sales	Average List Price	Average Sale Price	Average Days on Market	Sales	Average List Price	Average Sale Price	Average Days on Market	Sales	Average List Price	Average Sale Price	Average Days on Market
Halifax City	76	\$ 226,787	\$220,083	110	78	\$ 246,799	\$233,967	120	2.6%	8.8%	6.3%	9.1%
Dartmouth City	89	\$ 160,500	\$156,462	72	90	\$ 171,142	\$166,926	79	1.1%	6.6%	6.7%	9.7%
Bedford-Hammonds Plains	29	\$ 229,238	\$224,787	92	32	\$ 251,811	\$245,763	118	10.3%	9.8%	9.3%	28.3%
Sackville	34	\$ 154,432	\$151,079	79	34	\$ 140,654	\$136,193	61	0.0%	-8.9%	-9.9%	-22.8%
Fall River-Beaverbank	23	\$ 189,402	\$176,323	86	29	\$ 247,897	\$240,133	129	26.1%	30.9%	36.2%	50.0%
Halifax County Southwest	29	\$ 168,047	\$163,764	98	32	\$ 211,237	\$205,373	135	10.3%	25.7%	25.4%	37.8%
Halifax County East	22	\$ 164,223	\$158,245	74	18	\$ 127,581	\$121,389	136	-18.2%	-22.3%	-23.3%	83.8%
TOTAL	302	\$ 186,296	\$180,771	88	313	\$ 203,637	\$196,449	105	3.6%	9.3%	8.7%	19.3%

						Year	to Date					
		20	005			20	006			Per Ce	nt Change	
SUBMARKET	Sales	Average List Price	Average Sale Price	Average Days on Market	Sales	Average List Price	Average Sale Price	Average Days on Market	Sales	Average List Price	Average Sale Price	Average Days on Market
Halifax City	76	\$ 226,787	\$220,083	110	78	\$ 246,799	\$233,967	120	2.6%	8.8%	6.3%	9.1%
Dartmouth City	89	\$ 160,500	\$156,462	72	90	\$ 171,142	\$166,926	79	1.1%	6.6%	6.7%	9.7%
Bedford-Hammonds Plains	29	\$ 229,238	\$224,787	92	32	\$ 251,811	\$245,763	118	10.3%	9.8%	9.3%	28.3%
Sackville	34	\$ 154,432	\$151,079	79	34	\$ 140,654	\$136,193	61	0.0%	-8.9%	-9.9%	-22.8%
Fall River-Beaverbank	23	\$ 189,402	\$176,323	86	29	\$ 247,897	\$240,133	129	26.1%	30.9%	36.2%	50.0%
Halifax County Southwest	29	\$ 168,047	\$163,764	98	32	\$ 211,237	\$205,373	135	10.3%	25.7%	25.4%	37.8%
Halifax County East	22	\$ 164,223	\$158,245	74	18	\$ 127,581	\$121,389	136	-18.2%	-22.3%	-23.3%	83.8%
TOTAL	302	\$ 186,296	\$180,771	88	313	\$ 203,637	\$196,449	105	3.6%	9.3%	8.7%	19.3%

Source: Nova Scotia Association of Realtors

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KEY ECO	NOMIC INDICA	TORS		
Indicator	Period	2006	2005	% Change
Metro Halifax Labour Force (000's)	January	210.4	215.8	-2.5%
Metro Halifax Employment (000's)	January	199.1	202.3	-1.6%
Metro Halifax Unemployment Rate	January	5.4%	6.3%	
Building Permits(\$ 000's) Residential	December 2005	14,759	20,891	-29.4%
Non-Residential		12,420	6,778	83.2%
Total		27,179	27,669	-1.8%
Metro Halifax Consumer Price Index	December 2005	114.8	114.0	0.7%
Metro Halifax New House Price Index Total	December 2005	129.7	121.8	6.5%
House		132.0	123.9	6.5%
Land		124.6	117.1	6.4%

Sources:

Statistics Canada - Labour Force Survey

Statistics Canada - Monthly Building Permits Survey

Statistics Canada - Condumer Price Index

Statistics Canada - New House Price Index

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