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Meritrust HOME LOANS Meritrust Credit Union has been helping our members do more with their money since 1935. We offer 17 retail branches providing advisory experiences, complemented by online, mobile and eATM technology allowing members to bank on their time. Our team of lending experts brings simplicity to the home-buying process, and in-house payments, processing and servicing continue to provide members peace of mind into the future. Meritrust has the products, services, tools and education members need to achieve their financial goals with confidence, including flexible mortgage programs. For more information, visit meritrusthomeloans.com. Equal housing lender. Federally insured by NCUA.





- ... Bidding wars
- ... Recession fears
- ... Runaway inflation
- ... Interest rate spikes

This year it seems like there's a new surprise around every corner. As in the past, the Lawrence Housing Forecast is here to help you understand the local housing market as you find your way through the maze.

Dr. Stanley D. Longhofer

Director, WSU Center for Real Estate wichita.edu/realestate

We are especially grateful to Security 1st Title and Meritrust Credit Union for underwriting the cost of preparing this year's Lawrence Housing Forecast.

We are also grateful to the Lawrence Board of REALTORS®, the Kansas Association of REALTORS® and participating multiple listing services across Kansas for providing much of the data used to prepare this forecast.

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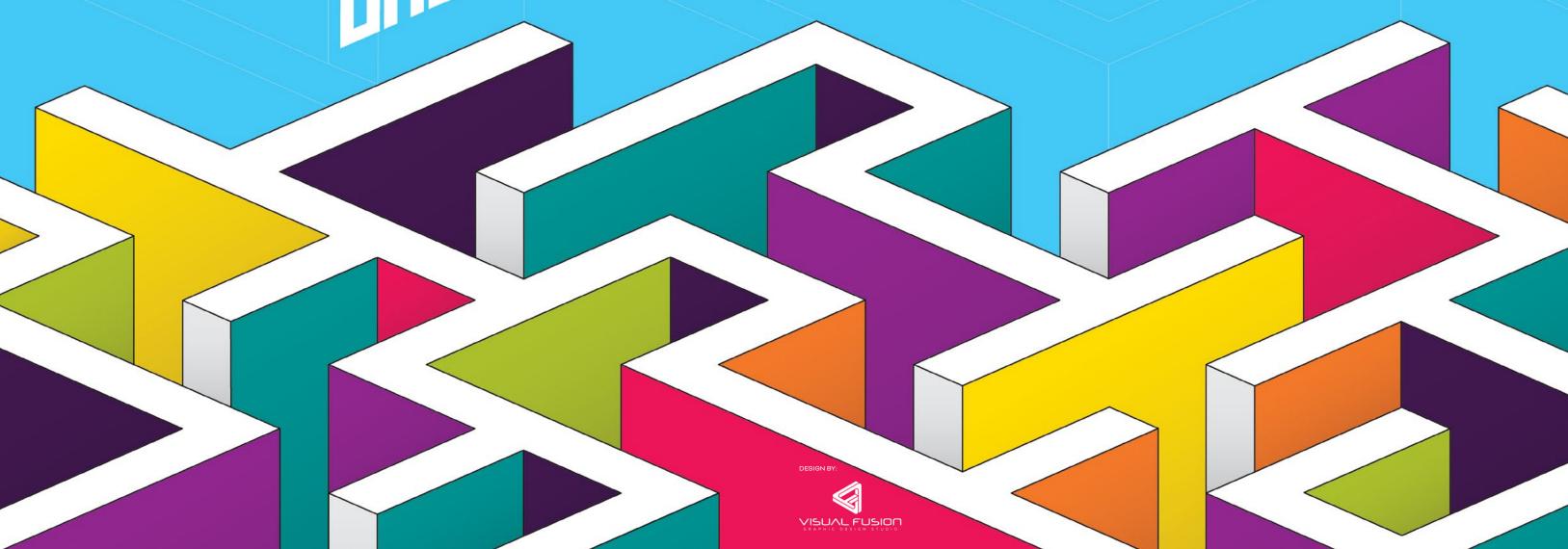
Mehrzad Saeedi | WSU Center for Real Estate

Participants in the 2022 Lawrence Real Estate Roundtable



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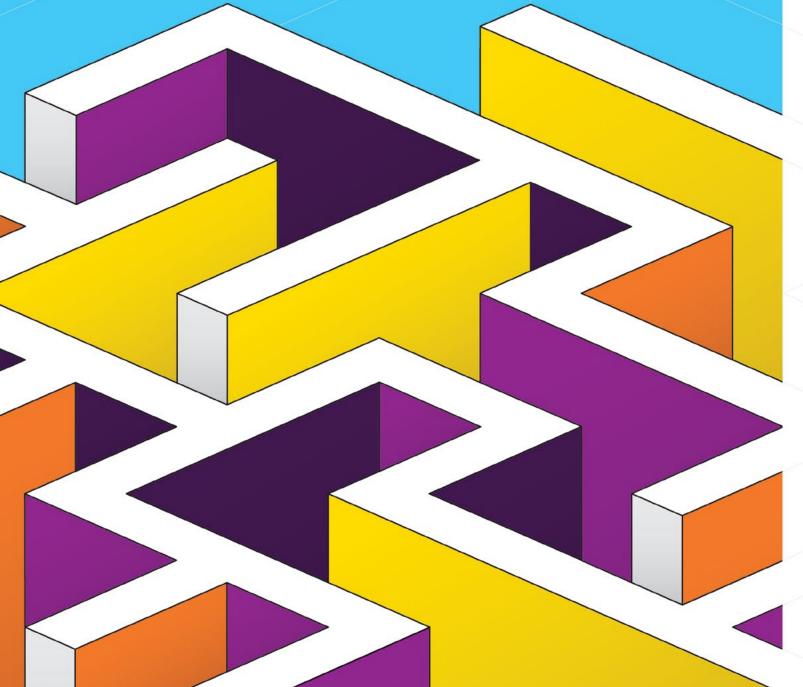


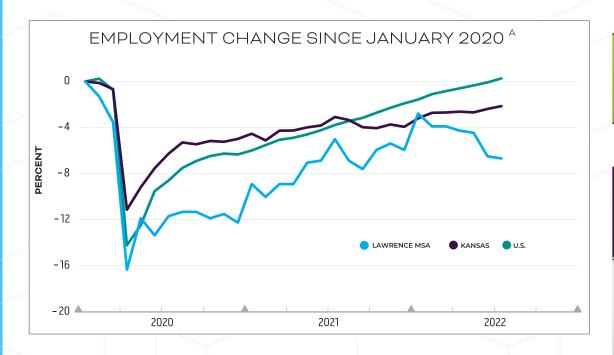


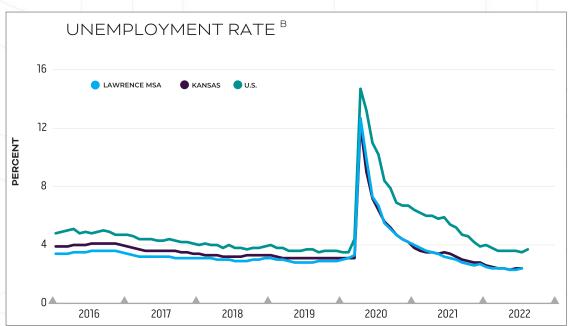
ECONOMIC OVERVIEW:

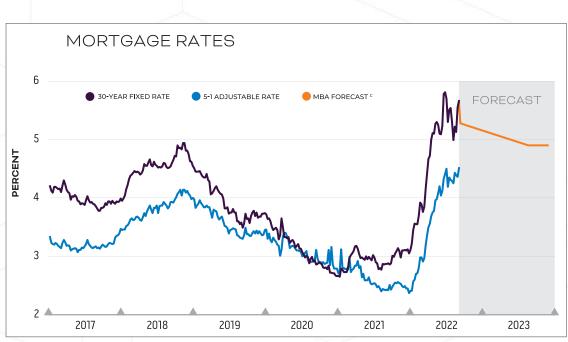
While Lawrence employment is still 6.7 percent lower than it was prior to the pandemic, the local labor market is extremely tight. In fact, the Lawrence unemployment rate bottomed out at 2.3 percent in June, the lowest figure ever recorded. Labor markets are equally tight in both Kansas City and Topeka. As a result, housing demand in the Lawrence area remains quite strong.

After rising sharply during the first half of the year, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate bounced between 5 and 5.5 percent this summer as markets struggled to assess how Fed policy will affect inflation and economic growth. The Mortgage Bankers Association, for one, appears to believe the Fed will navigate a soft landing. They forecast that mortgage rates will fall to 4.9 percent by the end of next year.

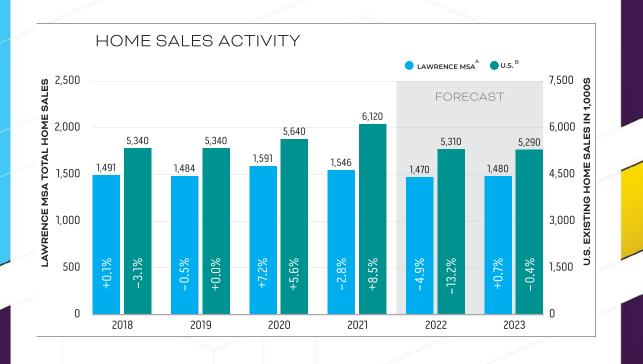


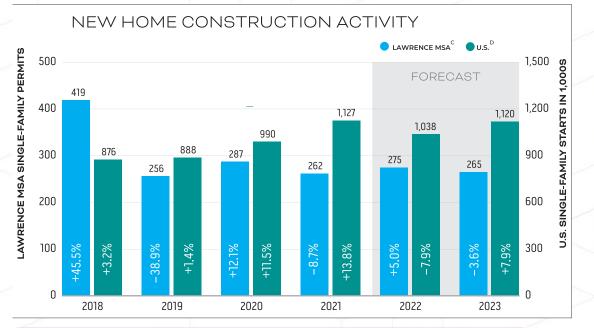






Rising mortgage rates have softened demand somewhat from earlier in the year. The real constraint on the market, however, is the lack of inventory. We expect that Lawrence-area home sales will end the year down 4.9 percent at 1,470 units. Sales will rebound slightly in 2023, ending the year up 0.7 percent at 1,480 units. Single-family permitting activity in the Lawrence area has stabilized at about 270 units annually in recent years. We expect this trend to continue for the foreseeable future. Lawrence should end the year with 275 new single-family permits, an increase of 5 percent. We expect a similar year in 2023, with a total of 265 new permits.





SOURCES:

Lawrence Multiple Listing Service
National Association of REALTORS®
U.S. Bureau of the Census
WSU Center for Real Estate

NOTES

- Total home sales in the Lawrence metropolitan area as reported by the Lawrence Multiple Listing Service
 - (B) U.S. existing home sales as reported by the National Association of REALTORS®; forecast is the August 2022 forecast by the National Association of REALTORS®
 - © Single-family building permits issued in the Lawrence metropolitan area as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census
 - © U.S. single-family housing starts as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; forecast is the August 2022 forecast by the National Association of REALTORS®

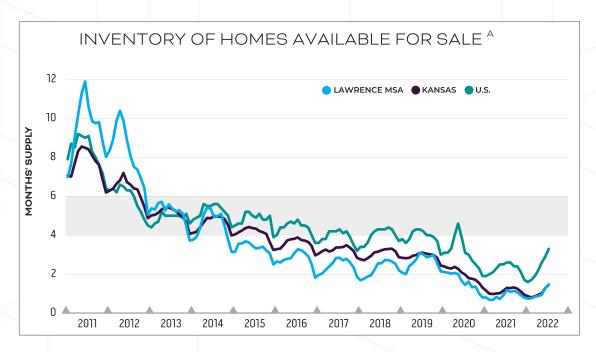


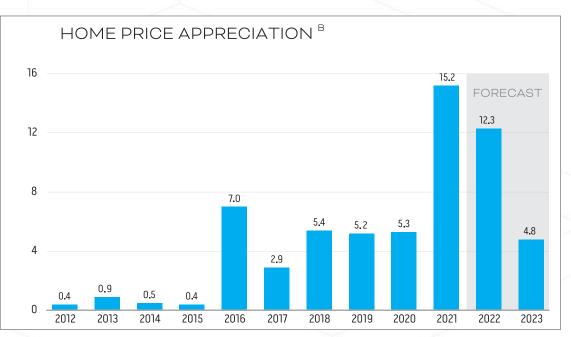
Although it may seem like the recent explosion in home prices was due to the pandemic, it has actually been the result of supply problems that have been building for years. In fact, there were less than half as many homes available for sale at the beginning of 2020 than there were back in 2011.

As a result, Lawrence has been in a sellers' market – with less than a 4 months' supply of homes available for sale – since at least 2014. Even if there is a significant softening in demand due to higher mortgage rates, it will take a long time for Lawrence to return to a balanced market.

The frenzied demand that characterized the market through the early part of this year appears to have eased. Nevertheless, extremely tight inventories will continue to put upward pressure on home prices. We project that Lawrence home values will end the year up 12.3 percent before slowing to a more-normal appreciation rate of 4.8 percent in 2023.







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DURCES:

Federal Housing Finance Agency Lawrence Multiple Listing Service WSU Center for Real Estate

NOTES:

Active listings divided by the 12-month trailing moving average of sales

 Year-over-year percentage change in the Federal Housing Finance Agency all-transactions housing price index for the Lawrence metropolitan area, as measured using 4th quarter values

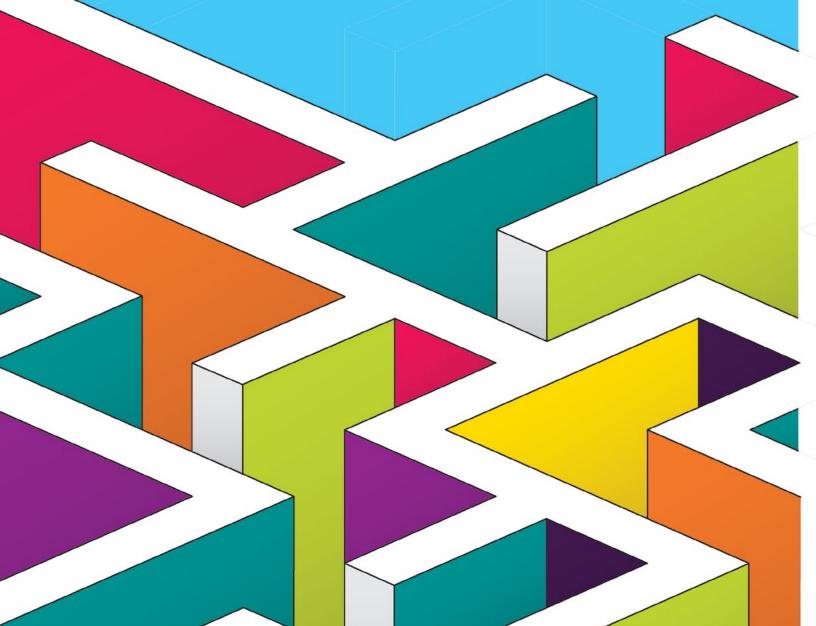


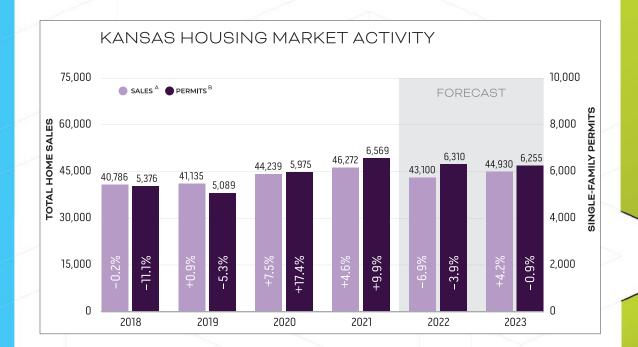
KANSAS FORECAST:

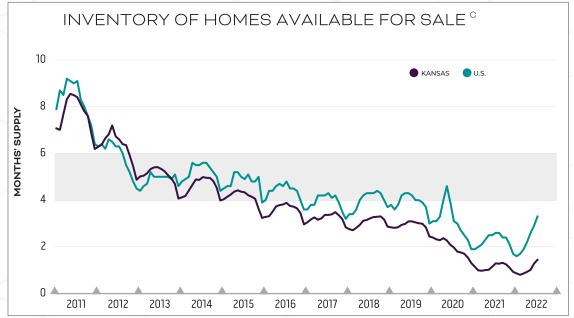
Home sales have declined this year across most of the state. This was true even before the recent rise in mortgage rates began to soften demand. As a result, we expect sales to end the year at 43,100 units, down 6.9 percent. Home sales should rebound to 44,930 units in 2023, largely due to gains in the Kansas City area.

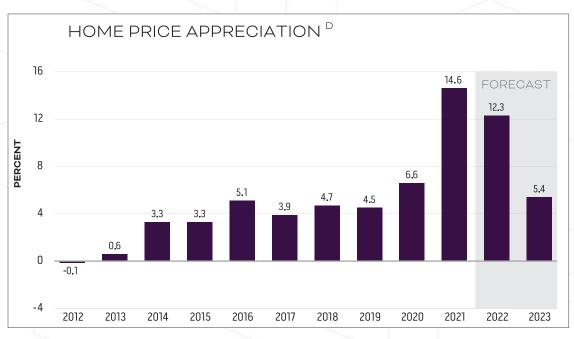
New single-family building permits in Kansas are expected to decline by 3.9 percent this year. This is largely due to softening in the Kansas City area, as permits are expected to rise in all of the state's other major markets. Construction activity should stabilize in 2023, dropping a modest 0.9 percent to 6,255 units.

Home prices across the state rose by a stunning 14.6 percent last year as surging demand ran headlong into supply constraints that have been building for years. While demand has eased with rising mortgage rates, we still project that Kansas home values will end the year up 12.3 percent. The pace of appreciation should slow next year, to a still-strong 5.4 percent.









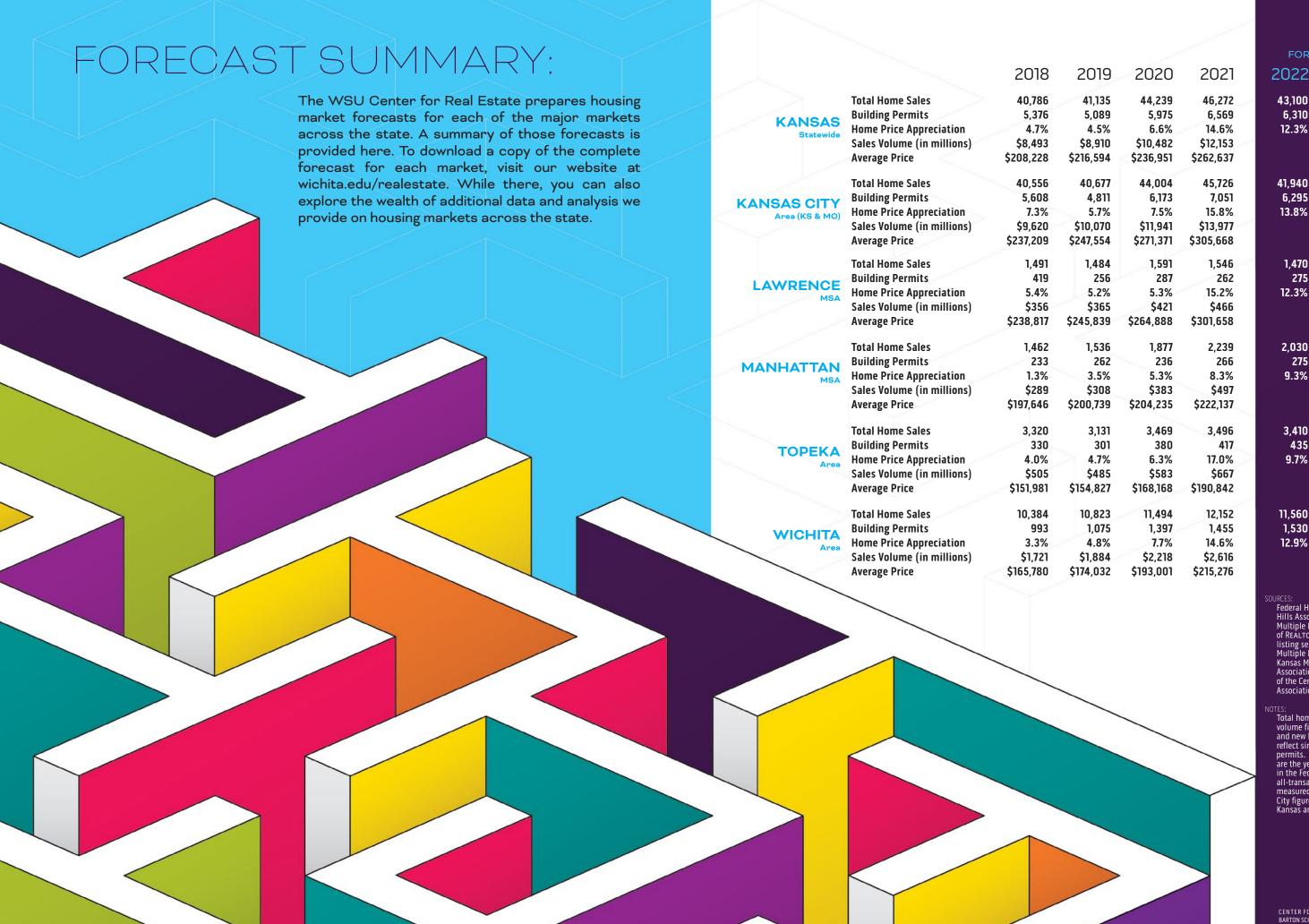
OLIRCES:

Federal Housing Finance Agency
Participating REALTOR® multiple listing
services across Kansas
U.S. Bureau of the Census
WSU Center for Real Estate

NOTES:

- Total home sales in Kansas as reported by participating REALTOR® multiple listing services across the state
- ® Single-family building permits issued in Kansas as reported by the U.S. Bureau of the Census
- © Active listings divided by the 12-month trailing moving average of sales, segmented by list price





FORECAST	
2022	2023
43,100	44,930
6,310	6,255
12.3%	5.4%
41,940	44,290
6,295	6,185
13.8%	6.5%
1,470	1,480
275	265
12.3%	4.8%
2,030	1,980
275	285
9.3%	4.2%
3,410	3,390
435	425
9.7%	3.3%
11,560	11,640

Federal Housing Finance Agency; Flint Hills Association of REALTORS®; Heartland Multiple Listing Service; Kansas Association of REALTORS® and participating multiple listing services across Kansas; Lawrence Multiple Listing Service; South Central Kansas Multiple Listing Service; Sunflower Association of REALTORS®; U.S. Bureau of the Census; Wichita Area Builders Association; WSU Center for Real Estate

4.7%

Total home sales, average price and sales volume figures include both existing and new home sales. Building permits reflect single-family residential building permits. Home price appreciation figures are the year-over-year percentage change in the Federal Housing Finance Agency all-transactions house price index, as measured using 4th quarter values. Kansas City figures include transactions from both Kansas and Missouri.



