



MONTHLY STATISTICS PACKAGE

DECEMBER 2023



VIREB

MEDIA RELEASE

JANUARY 3, 2024

LACKLUSTRE DECEMBER CLOSES OUT 2023

NANAIMO, BC – The Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) recorded 7,297 unit sales in 2023 compared to 11,045 in 2021 and 7,810 in 2022. High interest rates are primarily to blame for the weaker sales, as there was significant demand, but many buyers opted to wait for an anticipated 2024 rate cut.

Last month, there were 151 sales of single-family homes in the VIREB area, down 23 per cent from last December and 36 per cent from November. Sales of condo apartments in December came in at 39, increasing by 11 per cent year over year but down 30 per cent from November. In the row/townhouse category, 39 units changed hands last month, an increase of 50 per cent from one year ago and down 22 per cent from November 2023.

Active listings of single-family homes dropped to 796 in December from 895 one year ago and 1,040 in November. VIREB's inventory of condo apartments was 257 last month, up from 248 in December 2022 but down from November's 285 listings. There were 244 row/townhouses for sale last month compared to 229 one year ago and 282 in November.

“Based on conversations REALTORS® are having with clients, there is certainly demand out there, so we're expecting a fairly busy spring,” says Kelly O'Dwyer, 2023 Chair. “However, there are policy changes coming in 2024 that could impact the real estate market, such as new rules surrounding short-term rentals that take effect on May 1.”

Another potentially significant policy change that could impact sales is the B.C. government's decision to expand the speculation tax to Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland. Residents in those communities must declare for the first time in January 2025 based on how they use their property in 2024.

The board-wide benchmark price (MLS® Home Price Index) of a single-family home was \$753,000 in December 2023, up five per cent from one year ago and down one per cent from November. In the apartment category, the benchmark price was \$384,500 last month, a year-over-year increase of three per cent and a one per cent decrease from November 2023. The benchmark price of a townhouse last month was \$544,200, up two per cent from December 2022 and down two per cent from November.

In Campbell River, the benchmark price of a single-family home was \$653,100 last month, up seven per cent from the previous year. The Comox Valley's year-over-year benchmark price rose seven per cent to \$820,600. In the Cowichan Valley, the benchmark price was \$763,400, a four per cent increase from December 2022. Nanaimo's year-over-year benchmark price rose by five per cent to \$781,900, while the Parksville-Qualicum area saw its benchmark price increase by two per cent to \$845,200. The cost of a benchmark single-family home in Port Alberni was \$530,700, up three per cent from the previous year. For the North Island, the benchmark price of a single-family home dropped slightly to \$426,300. However, prices of single-family homes, condo apartments, and row/townhouses dipped from November to December in most zones.

Please note: The Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) transitioned to a new MLS® System in July 2020 and now uses a significantly different data model, which has affected our categories and terminology. For the board-supplied graphs, single-family is now referred to as single-family detached, apartment as condo apartment, and townhouse as row/townhouse, which now includes patio homes. However, when reporting HPI numbers, VIREB still refers to single-family, apartment, and townhouse in the media release.

ABOUT VIREB

VIREB represents over 1,100 REALTORS® in nearly 90 member offices on Vancouver Island, from the Malahat in the south to the northern tip.

VIREB cautions that average price information can be useful in establishing trends over time but does not indicate the actual prices in centres comprised of widely divergent neighbourhoods or account for price differential between geographic areas.

Trademarks are owned or controlled by The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) and identify real estate professionals who are members of CREA (REALTOR®) and/or the quality of services they provide (MLS®).

Visit our website for updated information at www.vireb.com.

HPI Note: Areas with insufficient data do not generate statistics and are not included in the HPI graphs.

CONTACTS

Kelly O'Dwyer, Chair: 250.741.6615

Dave Procter, Chair-Elect: 250.339.2021

Erica Kavanaugh, Past Chair: 250.667.4767

For localized commentary, please contact:

Campbell River

Joanne Millar: 250.286.3293

Comox Valley

Tracy Hopkins: 250.897.2776

Cowichan Valley

Debbie Simmonds: 250.324.9150

Nanaimo

Deana Baumel: 250.751.1223

Kelly O'Dwyer: 250.741.6615

Parksville-Qualicum

Erica Kavanaugh: 250.667.4767

Port Alberni-West Coast

Olivier Naud: 250.723.5666

Directors-at-Large

Janet Scotland: 250.287.6985

David Procter: 250.339.2021

Ian Mackay: 250.248.4321

MLS® HPI Media Contact

Communications Department

Vancouver Island Real Estate Board

communications@vireb.com

250.390.4212



ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MLS[®] HOME PRICE INDEX (HPI)

In line with best statistical practices, the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) reviews the MLS[®] Home Price Index (HPI) annually. Coverage may be revised when results from the annual review are implemented each June.

For example, MLS[®] HPI coverage may now extend to areas within markets where sales volumes were previously too low but have picked up enough to support benchmark price tracking. On the other hand, MLS[®] HPI coverage may have been discontinued for areas where sales have become too sparse to support benchmark price calculations.

To ensure that MLS[®] HPI coverage is consistent and comparable, CREA must sometimes recalculate historical aggregate and composite data. As a result, historical benchmark prices reported in this statistics package may differ from those distributed previously.

HOME PRICE INDEX - BACKGROUNDER

ABOUT THE MLS® HOME PRICE INDEX

On November 1, 2012, VIREB adopted the MLS® Home Price Index (MLS® HPI) as a new method of reporting market price trends. The MLS® HPI determines the value for a typical “benchmark” home, which is a notional dwelling that shares a specific set of qualitative and quantitative attributes. Benchmark prices tend to be slightly lower than corresponding medians and averages

The MLS® HPI, based on the information entered into the MLS® System at the time of sale, is the best and purest way of determining price trends in the housing market. It was pioneered by six founding partners: the real estate boards of Calgary, Fraser Valley, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, and the Canadian Real Estate Association. In 2009, the partners contracted with Altus Group to develop the MLS® HPI, which subsequently launched in January 2012.

WHY AN MLS® HOME PRICE INDEX?

The MLS® HPI captures and analyzes Canadian home prices based on both quantitative and qualitative housing features.

Quantitative features captured by the index are, for example, number of rooms and bathrooms, living area above ground, and the age of the home. Qualitative features include finished basement, if the home is new or resale, and the home’s proximity to shopping, schools, transportation, hospitals, and so on.

The MLS® HPI gauges Vancouver Island tracks price trends for the following benchmark housing types.

- Single-family homes
- One-storey
- Two-storey
- Condominium apartments
- Townhouses

The complete methodology is available at http://homepriceindex.ca/hpi_resources_en.html.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Average and median home prices are often misinterpreted, are affected by change in the mix of homes sold, and can swing dramatically from month to month (based on the types and prices of properties that sold in a given month). The MLS® HPI overcomes these shortcomings.

Compared to all other Canadian home price measures, the MLS® HPI identifies turning points sooner, is the most current, and is the most detailed and accurate gauge for Canadian home prices.

HOW TO READ THE TABLES

Benchmark Price: Estimated sale price of a benchmark property. Benchmarks represent a typical property in each market.

Price Index: Index numbers estimate the percentage change in price on typical and constant quality properties over time. All figures are based on past sales.

Month/Year Change Percentage: Percentage change of index over a period of (x) month(s) year.

SINGLE-FAMILY BENCHMARK PRICE AND HPI

MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

HPI or Benchmark Price

- HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

- Value
 Percent change

1. Area Group

Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type

– Single Family

3. Area/Property Type Selection

Multiple values

Benchmark Price by Timeframe and Property Type							
	December 2023	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
Vancouver Island – Single Family	\$753,000	\$760,100	\$776,200	\$759,900	\$718,500	\$560,200	\$475,600
Zone 1- Campbell River – Single Family	\$653,100	\$656,900	\$668,600	\$652,500	\$607,900	\$496,300	\$419,100
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Single Family	\$820,600	\$832,800	\$842,000	\$805,300	\$770,500	\$607,100	\$492,900
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley – Single Family	\$763,400	\$769,800	\$788,600	\$771,200	\$732,400	\$565,500	\$481,700
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Single Family	\$781,900	\$793,100	\$802,000	\$792,200	\$742,200	\$582,900	\$503,100
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Single Family	\$845,200	\$861,300	\$891,800	\$880,400	\$825,600	\$646,200	\$561,600
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Single Family	\$530,700	\$507,300	\$538,000	\$532,600	\$514,200	\$372,900	\$298,300
Zone 7- North Island – Single Family	\$426,300	\$413,400	\$438,300	\$431,100	\$427,600	\$293,100	\$231,400

MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

1. Area Group

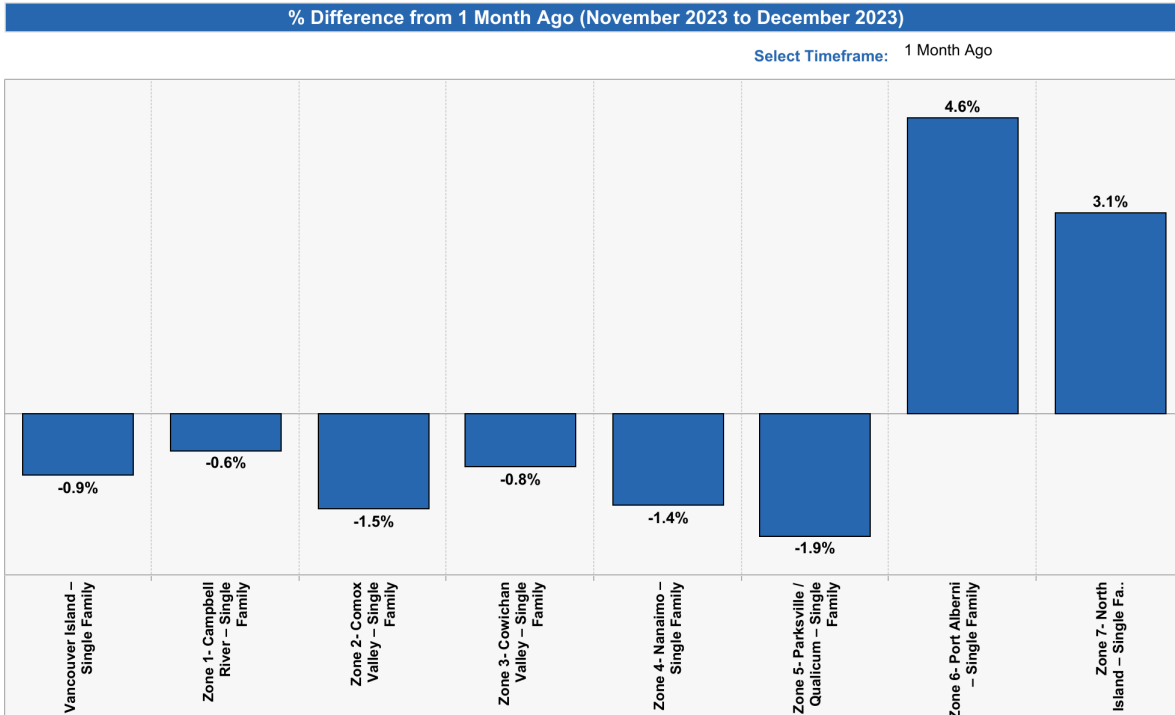
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type

– Single Family

3. Area/Property Type Selection

Multiple values



NOTE: VIREB's HPI benchmark prices were recalculated to adjust for changes to new MLS® System software implemented in July 2020. This has resulted in changes to some of our historical benchmark prices, many of which have increased. Benchmark prices reported beginning in January 2021 are correct as of this writing.

SINGLE-FAMILY BENCHMARK PRICE AND HPI

MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

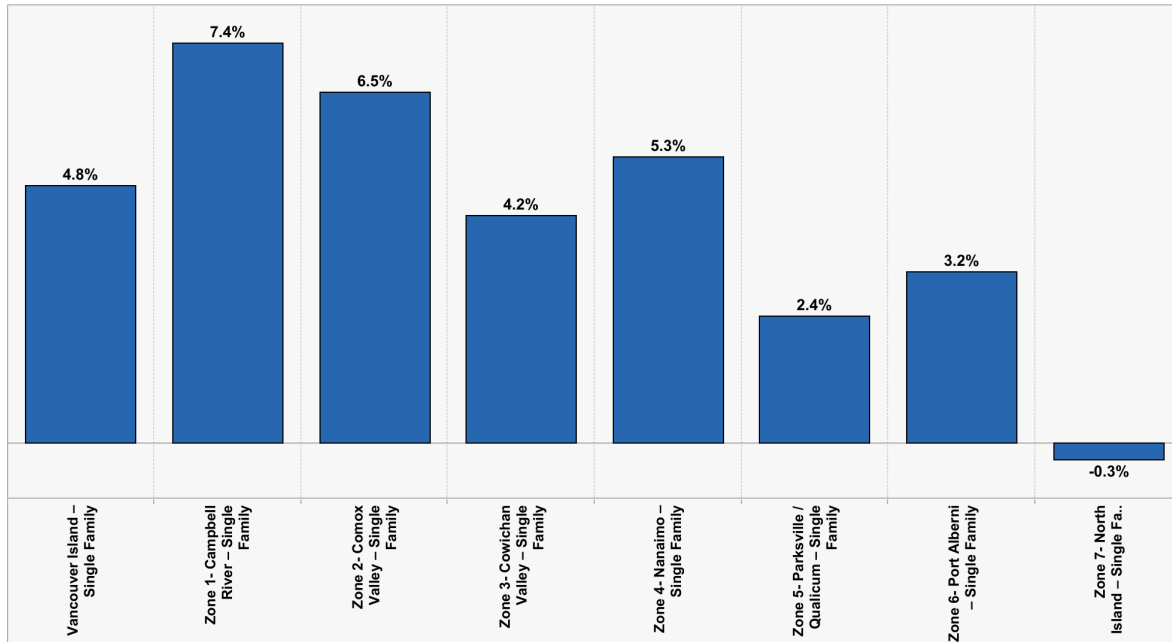
1. Area Group
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type
– Single Family

3. Area/Property Type Selection
Multiple values

% Difference from 12 Months Ago (December 2022 to December 2023)

Select Timeframe: 12 Months Ago



MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

HPI or Benchmark Price

- HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

- Value
 Percent change

1. Area Group
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type
– Single Family

3. Area/Property Type Selection
Multiple values

HPI by Timeframe and Property Type

	December 2023	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
Vancouver Island – Single Family	356.0	359.4	367.0	359.3	339.7	264.9	224.9
Zone 1- Campbell River – Single Family	368.8	370.9	377.5	368.4	343.3	280.2	236.6
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Single Family	395.3	401.2	405.6	387.9	371.1	292.4	237.4
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley – Single Family	327.5	330.2	338.3	330.8	314.2	242.6	206.6
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Single Family	355.7	360.8	364.9	360.4	337.7	265.2	228.9
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Single Family	342.0	348.6	360.9	356.3	334.1	261.5	227.3
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Single Family	455.5	435.5	461.8	457.2	441.4	320.1	256.1
Zone 7- North Island – Single Family	435.9	422.7	448.2	440.8	437.2	299.7	236.6

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APARTMENT BENCHMARK PRICE AND HPI

MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

HPI or Benchmark Price

- HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

- Value
 Percent change

1. Area Group

Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type

– Apartment

3. Area/Property Type Selection

All

Benchmark Price by Timeframe and Property Type							
	December 2023	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
Vancouver Island – Apartment	\$384,500	\$388,300	\$399,100	\$395,000	\$375,000	\$276,900	\$247,200
Zone 1- Campbell River – Apartment	\$322,000	\$334,300	\$343,700	\$335,200	\$322,600	\$243,300	\$206,600
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Apartment	\$348,400	\$359,200	\$377,900	\$369,400	\$359,600	\$277,700	\$240,200
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley – Apartment	\$316,900	\$323,600	\$327,600	\$322,500	\$324,200	\$229,100	\$191,500
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Apartment	\$392,700	\$395,500	\$402,600	\$402,800	\$377,500	\$281,300	\$262,000
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Apartment	\$508,900	\$500,400	\$517,200	\$505,700	\$465,800	\$343,500	\$316,800
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Apartment	\$372,600	\$379,500	\$399,200	\$402,800	\$373,600	\$270,500	\$236,700

MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

1. Area Group

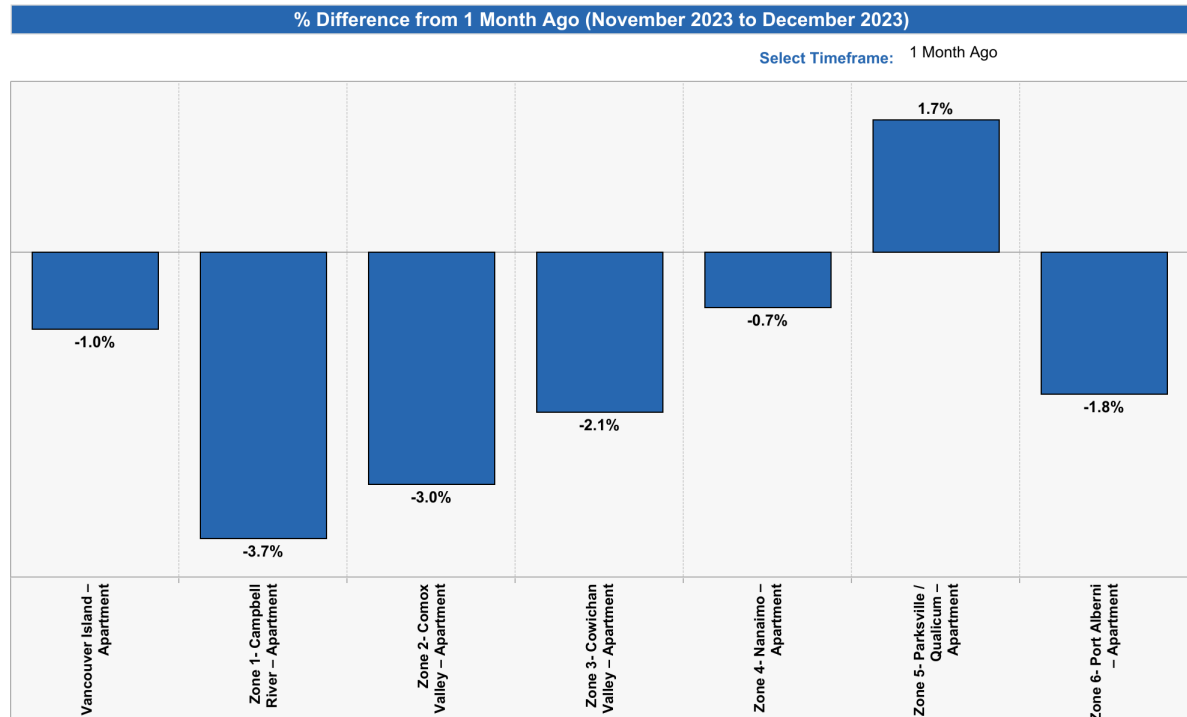
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type

– Apartment

3. Area/Property Type Selection

All



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APARTMENT BENCHMARK PRICE AND HPI

MLS® Home Price Index

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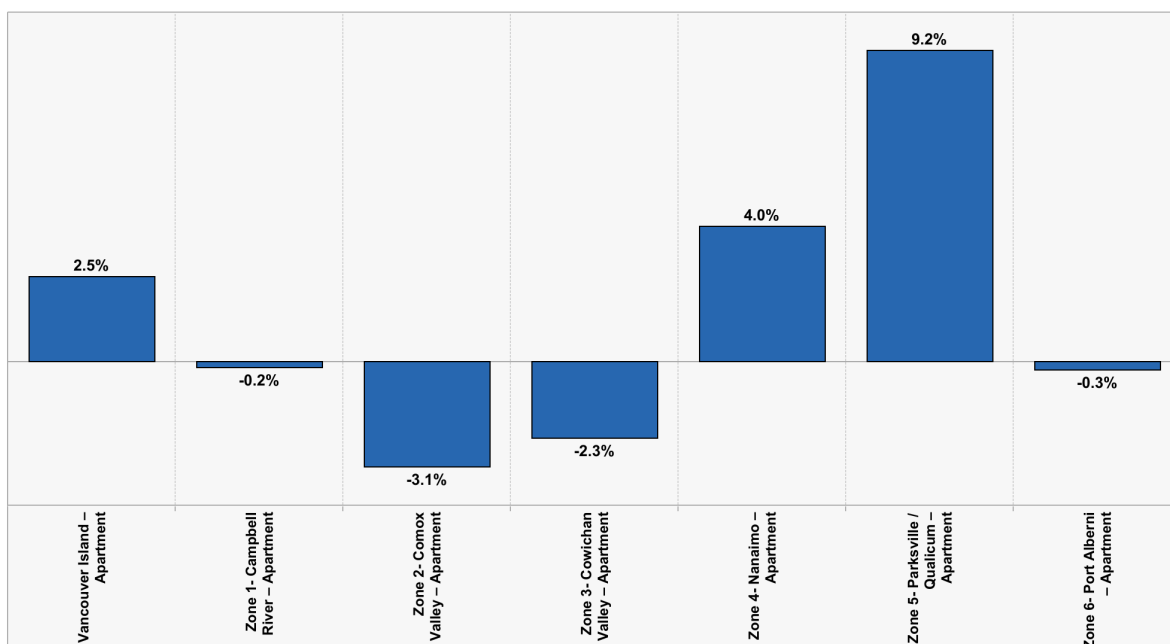
1. Area Group
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type
– Apartment

3. Area/Property Type Selection
All

% Difference from 12 Months Ago (December 2022 to December 2023)

Select Timeframe: 12 Months Ago



MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

HPI or Benchmark Price

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 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

- Value
 Percent change

1. Area Group
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type
– Apartment

3. Area/Property Type Selection
All

HPI by Timeframe and Property Type

	December 2023	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
Vancouver Island – Apartment	398.0	402.0	413.1	408.9	388.2	286.6	255.9
Zone 1- Campbell River – Apartment	378.8	393.3	404.4	394.4	379.5	286.2	243.1
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Apartment	378.7	390.4	410.8	401.5	390.9	301.8	261.1
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley – Apartment	425.9	434.9	440.3	433.5	435.8	307.9	257.4
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Apartment	388.4	391.2	398.2	398.4	373.4	278.2	259.1
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Apartment	401.3	394.6	407.9	398.8	367.4	270.9	249.8
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Apartment	305.9	311.6	327.8	330.7	306.7	222.1	194.3

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TOWNHOUSE BENCHMARK PRICE AND HPI

MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

HPI or Benchmark Price

- HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

- Value
 Percent change

1. Area Group

Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type

– Townhouse

3. Area/Property Type Selection

All

Benchmark Price by Timeframe and Property Type							
	December 2023	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
Vancouver Island – Townhouse	\$544,200	\$555,000	\$556,400	\$558,600	\$534,300	\$395,700	\$348,300
Zone 1- Campbell River – Townhouse	\$529,300	\$538,600	\$536,600	\$539,000	\$516,500	\$366,800	\$309,100
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Townhouse	\$555,500	\$563,300	\$557,500	\$560,600	\$543,900	\$412,900	\$345,000
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley – Townhouse	\$518,900	\$525,900	\$526,900	\$541,500	\$539,800	\$384,000	\$328,000
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Townhouse	\$540,200	\$553,500	\$553,300	\$548,700	\$530,900	\$389,100	\$374,800
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Townhouse	\$622,900	\$642,000	\$655,900	\$651,500	\$583,700	\$457,200	\$385,500
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Townhouse	\$425,800	\$431,400	\$445,000	\$441,300	\$403,600	\$292,700	\$255,500
Zone 7- North Island – Townhouse	\$236,400	\$241,600	\$242,800	\$242,400	\$208,300	\$138,400	\$123,400

MLS® Home Price Index

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1. Area Group

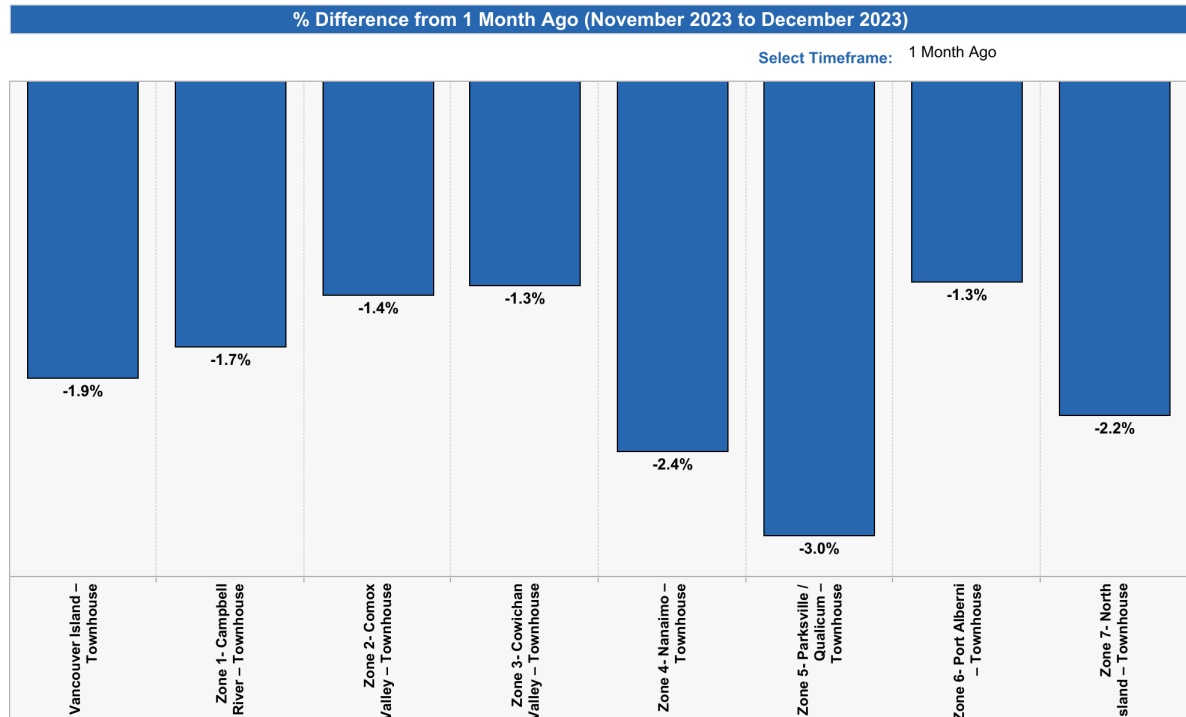
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type

– Townhouse

3. Area/Property Type Selection

All



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TOWNHOUSE BENCHMARK PRICE AND HPI

MLS® Home Price Index

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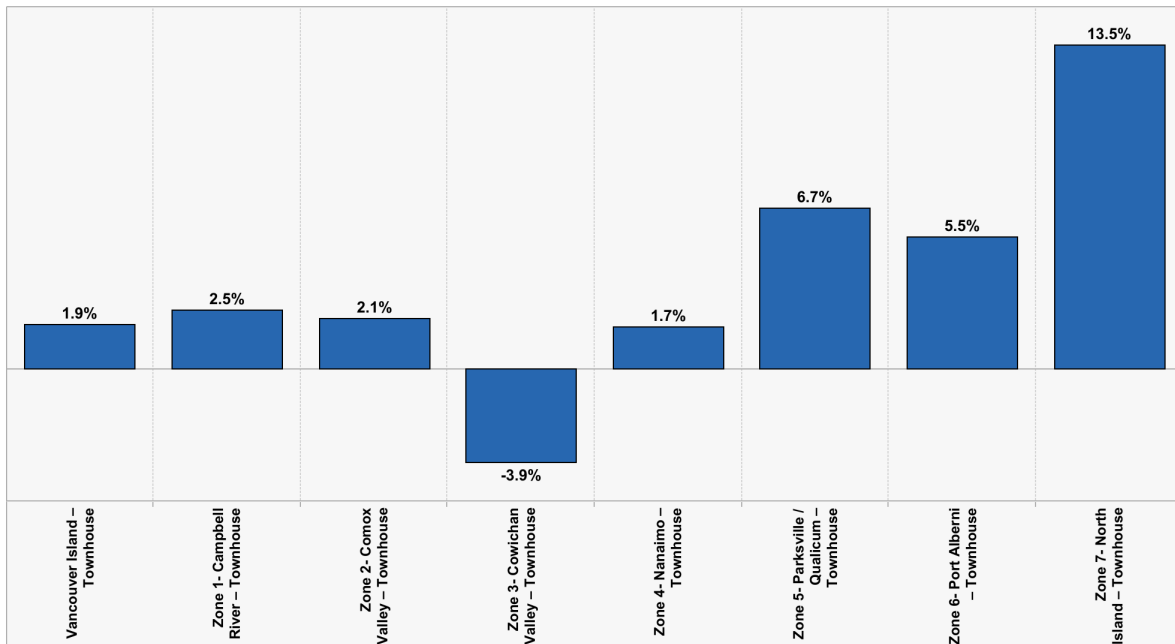
1. Area Group
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type
– Townhouse

3. Area/Property Type Selection
All

% Difference from 12 Months Ago (December 2022 to December 2023)

Select Timeframe: 12 Months Ago



MLS® Home Price Index

[Click here to learn more](#)

HPI or Benchmark Price

- HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

- Value
 Percent change

1. Area Group
Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type
– Townhouse

3. Area/Property Type Selection
All

HPI by Timeframe and Property Type

	December 2023	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago
Vancouver Island – Townhouse	395.5	403.3	404.4	406.0	388.3	287.6	253.1
Zone 1- Campbell River – Townhouse	487.8	496.4	494.6	496.8	476.0	338.1	284.9
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Townhouse	439.1	445.3	440.7	443.2	430.0	326.4	272.7
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley – Townhouse	379.0	384.1	384.9	395.5	394.3	280.5	239.6
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Townhouse	372.8	382.0	381.8	378.7	366.4	268.5	258.7
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Townhouse	396.8	408.9	417.8	415.0	371.8	291.2	245.5
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Townhouse	550.1	557.4	574.9	570.2	521.4	378.2	330.1
Zone 7- North Island – Townhouse	306.2	313.0	314.5	314.0	269.8	179.3	159.8

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MLS[®] SALES SUMMARY - DECEMBER 2023

Presented in chart form below are the single-family residential unit sales, average sale prices, and median price information for all zones within the board area.

Zone	UNIT SALES				AVERAGE SALE PRICE				Median
	Dec 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2022	% Change	Dec 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2022	% Change	
Zone 1 - Campbell River	26	30	18	44.44%	\$707,567	\$735,144	\$705,722	0.26%	\$697,500
Zone 2 - Comox Valley	23	30	30	-23.33%	\$824,463	\$894,387	\$785,897	4.91%	\$714,000
Zone 3 - Cowichan Valley	26	42	29	-10.34%	\$772,611	\$788,506	\$738,207	4.66%	\$781,500
Zone 4 - Nanaimo	45	62	64	-29.69%	\$892,811	\$808,725	\$773,795	15.38%	\$830,000
Zone 5 - Parksville-Qualicum	18	35	26	-30.77%	\$940,128	\$1,013,740	\$838,546	12.11%	\$817,500
Zone 6 - Port Alberni-West Coast	9	25	20	-55.00%	\$679,111	\$568,526	\$610,894	11.17%	\$770,000
BOARD TOTALS	151	235	197	-23.35%	\$814,755	\$797,017	\$735,324	10.80%	\$765,000

Source: Multiple Listing Service[®] (MLS[®]) sales data from the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB). Please note that single-family detached figures in this report exclude acreage and waterfront properties. The board totals include Zone 7 - North Island, Zone 9 - Out-of-Board Properties, and Zone 10 - Islands figures, which are not listed separately in this table.

VIREB is an association of REALTORS[®] committed to providing its members with the structure and services to ensure a high standard of business practice and ethics, and to serve the real estate needs of the community effectively. Find properties online at REALTOR.ca.

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2023 ANNUAL MLS® SALES SUMMARY

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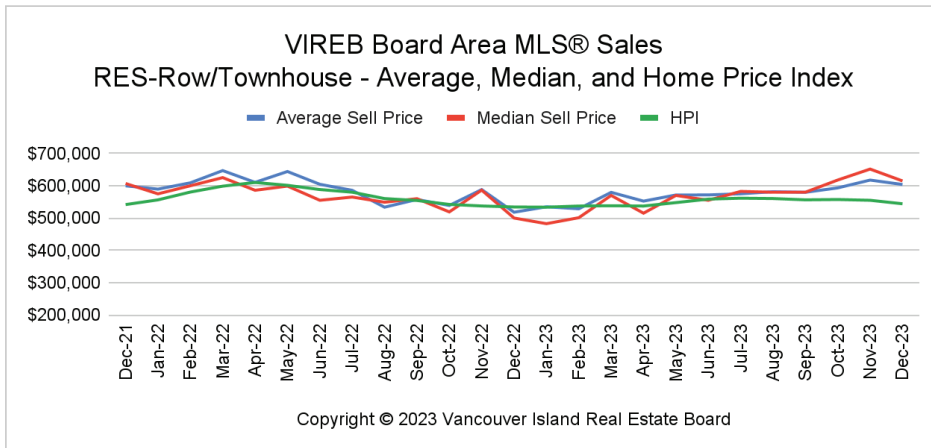
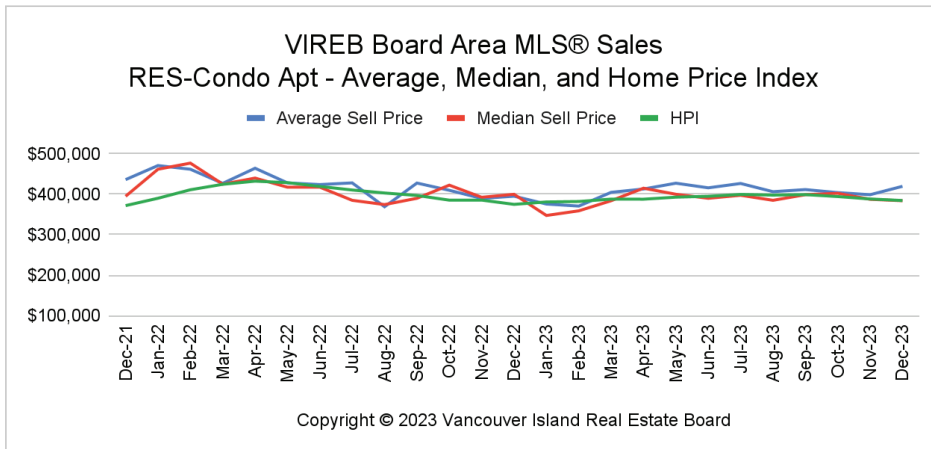
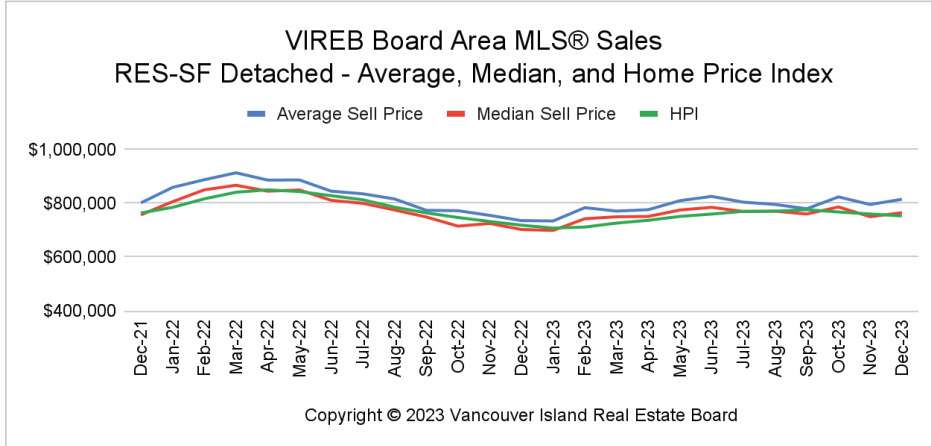
Zone	UNIT SALES			AVERAGE SALE PRICE			Median
	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	% Change	Dec 2023	Dec 2022	% Change	
Zone 1 - Campbell River	436	392	11.22%	\$709,194	\$751,911	-5.68%	\$685,750
Zone 2 - Comox Valley	635	674	-5.79%	\$848,672	\$889,663	-4.61%	\$795,000
Zone 3 - Cowichan Valley	673	711	-5.34%	\$786,935	\$833,115	-5.54%	\$770,000
Zone 4 - Nanaimo	978	1,101	-11.17%	\$827,617	\$892,062	-7.22%	\$787,750
Zone 5 - Parksville-Qualicum	517	582	-11.17%	\$933,603	\$976,911	-4.43%	\$865,000
Zone 6 - Port Alberni-West Coast	280	325	-13.85%	\$584,623	\$648,195	-9.81%	\$535,000
BOARD TOTALS	3,653	3,956	-7.66%	\$796,146	\$844,809	-5.76%	\$765,000

Source: Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) sales data from the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB). Please note that single-family detached figures in this report exclude acreage and waterfront properties. The board totals include Zone 7 - North Island, Zone 9 - Out-of-Board Properties, and Zone 10 - Islands figures, which are not listed separately in this table.

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AVERAGE, MEDIAN, AND BENCHMARK PRICE (HPI) COMPARISONS



RESIDENTIAL - SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED ACTIVE MLS® LISTINGS/SALES

