

# VIREB MARKET STATISTICS MARCH 2020





## MONTHLY STATISTICS PACKAGE

MARCH 2020



## MEDIARELEASE

#### **APRIL 1, 2020**

#### **DEMANDING TIMES BUT REALTORS® ARE UP TO THE TASK**

**NANAIMO, BC** - The COVID-19 health crisis will undoubtedly dampen the provincial housing market, but the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) reports that the virus had little impact on March sales.

Last month, 333 single-family homes sold on the Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) System compared to 259 in February 2020 and 308 in March 2019. Apartment sales in March did drop by 44 per cent year over year, but there was a 40 per cent increase in townhouse sales from one year ago.

Inventory of single-family homes last month was slightly higher than one year ago (1,174 to 1,181). Active listings of apartments rose by 41 per cent (284 to 400) year over year, while townhouse inventory dropped by 18 per cent (181 to 147).

The benchmark price of a single-family home board-wide was \$521,400 in March, a four per cent increase from one year ago and marginally higher than in February. (Benchmark pricing tracks the value of a typical home in the reported area.) In the apartment category, the year-over-year benchmark price rose by seven per cent, hitting \$314,700, which is around one per cent higher than the previous month. The benchmark price of a townhouse in March rose by four per cent year over year and was two per cent higher than in February, climbing to \$417,900.

Regionally, the benchmark price of a single-family home in the Campbell River area last month was \$441,300, an increase of five per cent over last year. In the Comox Valley, the benchmark price reached \$516,800, up by two per cent from one year ago. Duncan reported a benchmark price of \$478,700, a two per cent increase from March 2019. Nanaimo's benchmark price rose by two per cent to \$564,500 in March, while the Parksville-Qualicum area saw its benchmark price increase by four per cent to \$590,700. The cost of a benchmark single-family home in Port Alberni reached \$328,300 in March, a 12 per cent increase from one year ago.

In its most recent *Market Intelligence Report*, the British Columbia Real Estate Association (BCREA) states that no one knows how the unfolding COVID-19 outbreak will impact the economy in the long-term. However, B.C. is facing a sudden stop in economic activity with little sense of when things may return to normal. Based on BCREA's scenario analysis, B.C. home sales and prices will likely face declines in the spring and early summer but should recover along with the broader economy in the second half of the year, contingent on the outbreak resolving.

Although it is certainly not business as usual, real estate has been declared an essential service by the provincial government as long as licensees comply with health and safety guidelines, which VIREB members are doing.

"The reality is that there are always clients who, for various reasons, must buy or sell now, and REALTORS® are uniquely poised to help those individuals do so safely," says 2019 president Kevin Reid. "The real estate industry's embrace of technology, such as virtual tours and electronic document signing, makes it possible to conduct a large part of the real estate transaction without face-to-face interaction."

#### **ABOUT VIREB**

VIREB represents over 1,000 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.

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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.

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## **Backgrounder**

#### **About the MLS® Home Price Index**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, VIREB adopted the MLS® Home Price Index (MLS® HPI) as a new method of reporting price trends in the market. 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. Others have since joined the program, with 10 partners and growing.

#### 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 prices relative to January 2005, and tracks price trends for **benchmark** housing types:

- Single-family homes
  - One-storey
  - Two-storey
- Townhouses
- Condominium apartments
- 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. In January 2005, all indices are set to 100

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

## **Single-Family Home Benchmark Price**



HPI or Benchmark Price
 HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change Value
 Percent change

Click here to learn more

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type Single Family

3. Area/Property Type Selection

	Benchmark Price by Timeframe and Property Type											
	March 2020	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago					
Vancouver Island – Single Family	\$521,400	\$516,500	\$518,000	\$523,100	\$503,100	\$404,200	\$322,300					
Zone 1- Campbell River – Single Family	\$441,300	\$442,000	\$423,900	\$451,400	\$421,500	\$328,300	\$270,900					
Zone 10- Islands – Single Family	\$457,400	\$450,800	\$445,800	\$450,600	\$454,100	\$327,600	\$265,900					
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Single Family	\$516,800	\$517,600	\$528,600	\$523,900	\$507,700	\$406,800	\$317,200					
Zone 3- Duncan – Single Family	\$478,700	\$479,300	\$484,700	\$482,100	\$471,400	\$374,300	\$311,000					
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Single Family	\$564,500	\$564,700	\$562,000	\$569,200	\$555,900	\$460,200	\$351,400					
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Single Family	\$590,700	\$578,300	\$583,400	\$591,700	\$570,700	\$462,500	\$360,200					
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Single Family	\$328,300	\$321,100	\$324,500	\$327,400	\$293,200	\$220,400	\$190,400					
Zone 7- North Island – Single Family	\$210,300	\$206,100	\$201,600	\$202,000	\$214,100	\$173,600	\$158,200					

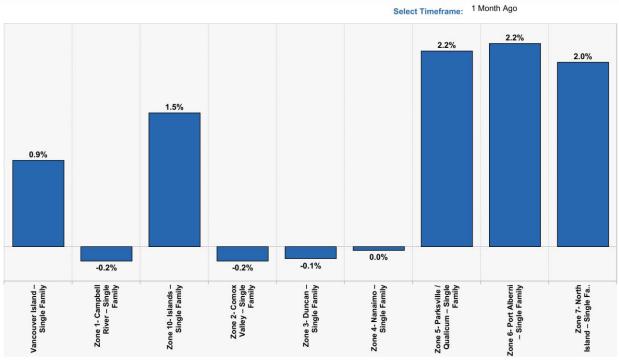
#### MLS® Home Price Index >

Click here to learn more

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Single Family

3. Area/Property Type Selection All

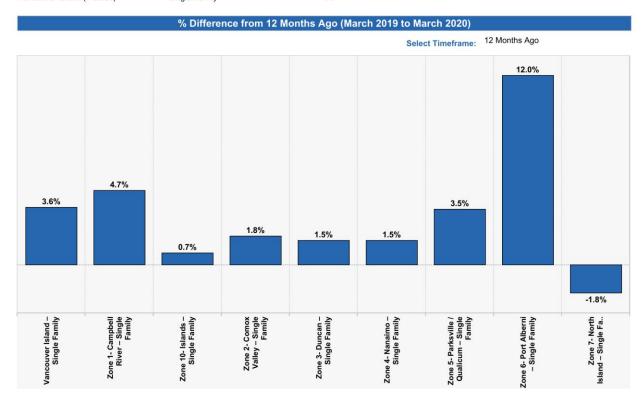
#### % Difference from 1 Month Ago (February 2020 to March 2020)





1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type Single Family



## **Apartment Benchmark Price**



HPI or Benchmark Price
 HPI
 Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

Value
Percent change

Click here to learn more

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Apartment

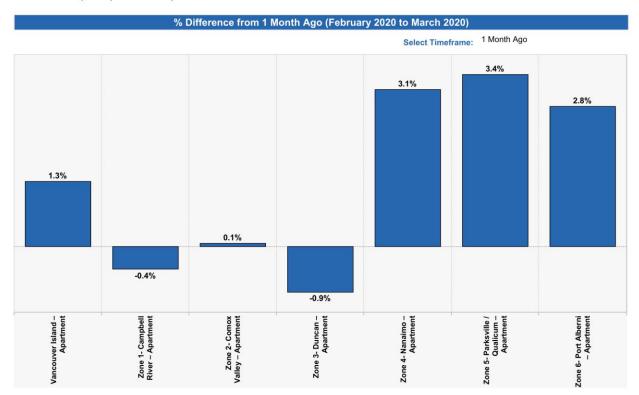
3. Area/Property Type Selection All

Benchmark Price by Timeframe and Property Type											
	March 2020	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago				
Vancouver Island – Apartment	\$314,700	\$310,800	\$304,600	\$298,900	\$294,500	\$225,200	\$165,500				
Zone 1- Campbell River – Apartment	\$280,000	\$281,200	\$274,500	\$253,200	\$265,000	\$193,500	\$130,100				
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Apartment	\$335,800	\$335,600	\$327,300	\$305,700	\$312,100	\$228,200	\$158,600				
Zone 3- Duncan – Apartment	\$238,300	\$240,400	\$232,000	\$232,400	\$214,700	\$152,300	\$118,800				
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Apartment	\$327,500	\$317,700	\$310,700	\$323,000	\$311,400	\$251,700	\$188,800				
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Apartment	\$355,200	\$343,600	\$353,900	\$339,000	\$336,700	\$276,200	\$209,600				
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Apartment	\$181,700	\$176,900	\$178,200	\$170,200	\$165,800	\$138,200	\$121,800				



Click here to learn more

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Apartment

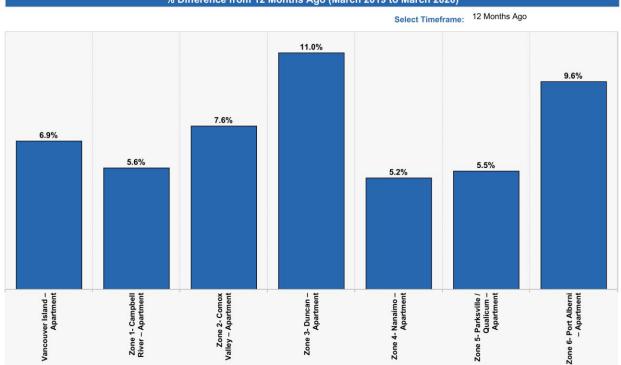




1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type Apartment





#### **Townhouse Benchmark Price**



HPI or Benchmark Price
HPI
Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

Value
Percent change

Click here to learn more

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Townhouse

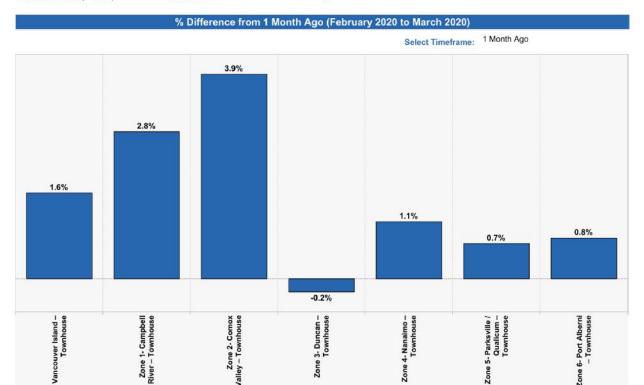
3. Area/Property Type Selection

Benchmark Price by Timeframe and Property Type											
	March 2020	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago				
Vancouver Island – Townhouse	\$417,900	\$411,200	\$408,500	\$411,100	\$402,900	\$315,500	\$246,100				
Zone 1- Campbell River – Townhouse	\$355,700	\$346,000	\$336,200	\$349,400	\$342,500	\$249,200	\$201,300				
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Townhouse	\$457,500	\$440,400	\$431,300	\$447,600	\$437,800	\$323,000	\$258,400				
Zone 3- Duncan – Townhouse	\$343,900	\$344,700	\$338,600	\$348,200	\$329,700	\$280,500	\$216,700				
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Townhouse	\$369,700	\$365,700	\$369,700	\$358,600	\$350,600	\$282,000	\$219,200				
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Townhouse	\$529,900	\$526,400	\$533,600	\$523,900	\$535,800	\$409,300	\$307,600				
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Townhouse	\$198,000	\$196,500	\$193,700	\$189,400	\$193,300	\$150,700	\$130,700				



Click here to learn more

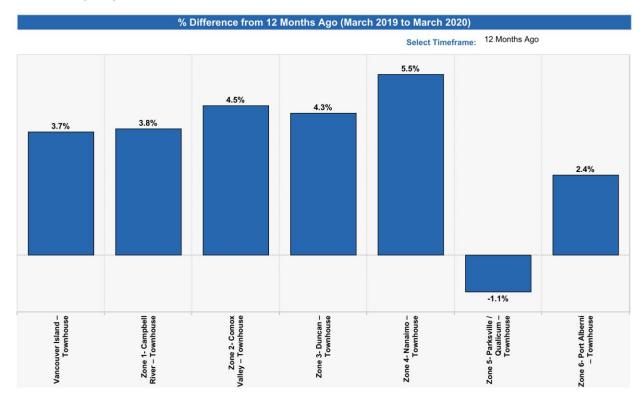
1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Townhouse





1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type Townhouse



#### **HPI Data**



HPI or Benchmark Price

HPI

Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

Value
Percent change

Click here to learn more

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Single Family 3. Area/Property Type Selection All

	HPI by Timeframe and Property Type											
	March 2020	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago					
Vancouver Island – Single Family	244.6	242.3	243.0	245.4	236.0	189.6	151.2					
Zone 1- Campbell River – Single Family	253.8	254.2	243.8	259.6	242.4	188.8	155.8					
Zone 10- Islands – Single Family	220.2	217.0	214.6	216.9	218.6	157.7	128.0					
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Single Family	254.2	254.6	260.0	257.7	249.7	200.1	156.0					
Zone 3- Duncan – Single Family	222.9	223.2	225.7	224.5	219.5	174.3	144.8					
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Single Family	250.1	250.2	249.0	252.2	246.3	203.9	155.7					
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Single Family	241.4	236.3	238.4	241.8	233.2	189.0	147.2					
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Single Family	279.0	272.9	275.8	278.2	249.2	187.3	161.8					
Zone 7- North Island – Single Family	211.1	206.9	202.4	202.8	214.9	174.2	158.8					

Home Price Index

HPI or Benchmark Price

HPI

Benchmark Price

Value or percent change

Value
Percent change

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas) 2. Property Type Apartment

HPI by Timeframe and Property Type											
	March 2020	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago				
Vancouver Island – Apartment	293.4	289.7	283.9	278.6	274.5	209.9	154.3				
Zone 1- Campbell River – Apartment	296.5	297.8	290.7	268.1	280.7	204.9	137.8				
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Apartment	326.5	326.3	318.2	297.2	303.5	221.9	154.2				
Zone 3- Duncan – Apartment	291.0	293.6	283.3	283.8	262.2	186.0	145.1				
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Apartment	284.7	276.2	270.1	280.8	270.7	218.8	164.1				
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Apartment	248.4	240.3	247.5	237.1	235.5	193.2	146.6				
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Apartment	227.6	221.5	223.2	213.2	207.6	173.1	152.5				



HPI or Benchmark Price

HPI

Benchmark Price

1. Area Group Vancouver Island (+ areas)

2. Property Type Townhouse

HPI by Timeframe and Property Type											
	March 2020	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	6 Months Ago	12 Months Ago	3 Years Ago	5 Years Ago				
Vancouver Island – Townhouse	255.9	251.8	250.1	251.7	246.7	193.2	150.7				
Zone 1- Campbell River – Townhouse	268.6	261.3	253.9	263.9	258.7	188.2	152.0				
Zone 2- Comox Valley – Townhouse	280.5	270.0	264.4	274.4	268.4	198.0	158.4				
Zone 3- Duncan – Townhouse	245.8	246.4	242.0	248.9	235.7	200.5	154.9				
Zone 4- Nanaimo – Townhouse	251.3	248.6	251.3	243.8	238.3	191.7	149.0				
Zone 5- Parksville / Qualicum – Townhouse	241.3	239.7	243.0	238.6	244.0	186.4	140.1				
Zone 6- Port Alberni – Townhouse	245.8	243.9	240.5	235.1	240.0	187.1	162.2				

### MLS® Sales Summary

## March 2020 MLS® Sales Summary

NANAIMO, April 1, 2020. Presented in chart form below, are the single-family residential units sales, average sale prices and median price information for all zones within the Board.

	U	Unit Sales			Ave	rage Sale P	%		
Zone	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Change	Mar 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2019	Change	Median
Zone 1- Campbell River	51	25	40	28%	\$485,201	\$517,543	\$470,108	3%	\$448,000
Zone 2- Comox Valley	57	39	37	54%	\$624,577	\$586,508	\$576,522	8%	\$587,500
Zone 3- Cowichan Valley	51	50	53	-4%	\$563,594	\$533,118	\$522,122	8%	\$566,895
Zone 4- Nanaimo	90	66	94	-4%	\$592,262	\$600,648	\$544,705	9%	\$565,000
Zone 5- Parksville/Qualicum	56	41	47	19%	\$622,137	\$660,216	\$590,299	5%	\$600,000
Zone 6- Port Alberni/West Coast	19	26	26	-27%	\$361,842	\$441,985	\$316,627	14%	\$326,000
Board Totals	333	259	308	8%	\$562,621	\$557,036	\$519,088	8%	\$560,000

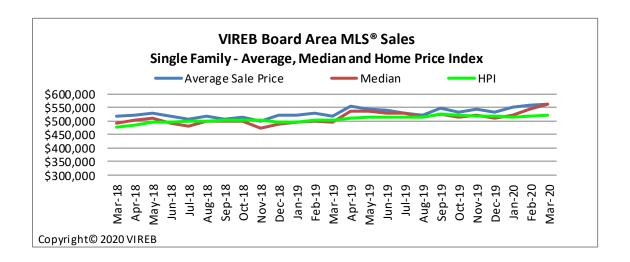
Source: Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) sales data from the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board.

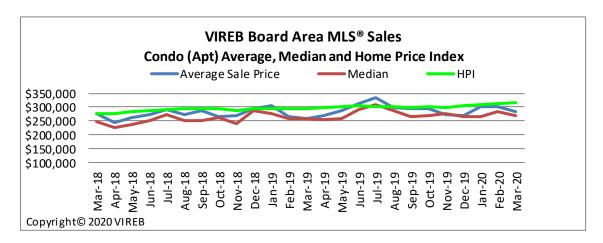
Median Price: An actual sale at or immediately adjacent to the midpoint in a price group. In the case of an even number of sales, the median is the highest price in the lower half of that price group. If the total number of sales is an odd amount, the midpoint sale is taken to be the median (i.e. 9 sales, sale no. 5 represents the median).

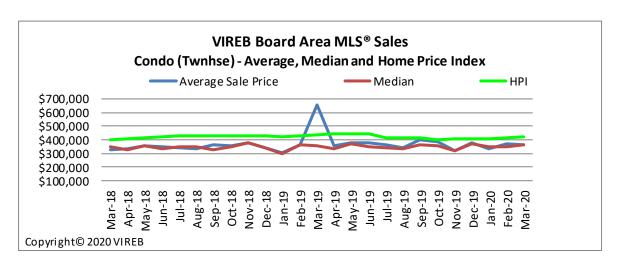
Please note: The Board Totals figures also include: Zone 7-North Island, Zone 9-Out of Board Properties, and Zone 10-Islands figures which are not listed separately in this table.

Copies of archived Statistics are available at our website. Go to <a href="www.vireb.com">www.vireb.com</a> and under Resources in the top menu, choose Market Statistics. You are encouraged to contact any of the Directors of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board to obtain local comments.

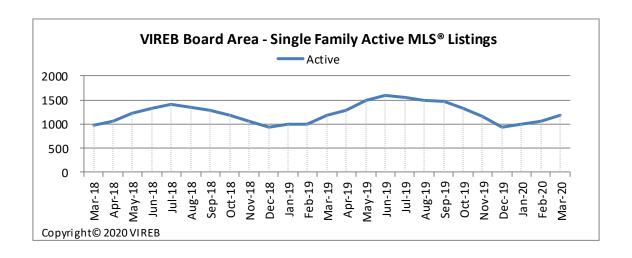
### Average, Median, and Benchmark Price (HPI) Comparisons

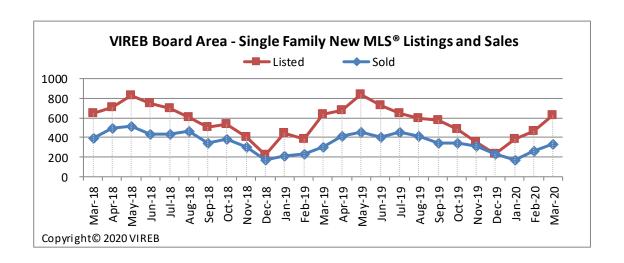






## Single-Family Active Listings / Listings and Sales







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