



SALES DOWN AND VALUES UP IN DECEMBER:

In a press release to the media today, Maine home sales decreased -12.65% comparing December 2021 to December 2020. The median sales price (MSP) was \$303,000, a 12.22% increase in that same time period. NAR reports that existing home sales were down and prices up nationally and in the northeast, comparing December 2021 to December 2020.

SALES AND VALUES UP FOR 2021:

For calendar year 2021, Maine REALTORS® sold an historic high 20,401 homes, an increase of 2.41% over 2020. The statewide median sales price for calendar year 2021 increased 16.80% to an historic high of \$299,000. For more information, view the press release here: [Click Here](#)

DO YOU KNOW?

We are expecting around 350 legislative bills to be considered in the second session of the 130th Maine Legislature over the next three months. Some of the bills are carry-over bills (unfinished business) from last session and some are new. MAR's government affairs team reads each bill and works with the MAR Legislative Committee and MAR Board of Directors to 1) identify those bills that impact Maine's real estate industry, and 2) establish a monitor, support, or oppose priority position for each bill.

Those bills are added to MAR's "Legislative Bill Tracking Report" on a regular basis. As the session moves forward, we expect around 100 bills to be included on the tracker; potential laws that could impact your real estate business!

Check out the Advocacy tab on the [MAR website](#) for links to our [MAR Bill Tracking report](#) (password: codeofethics). The yellow shading indicates new information since the prior week. The green shading represents new bills since the prior week.

You can also find tools you can use to read the proposed legislation, know when a public hearing is taking place, listen and watch the hearings, read public testimony about the bills, and more. [Click here for more information](#)

The Public Policy Statement of the Maine Association of

Quick Links

[Maine Association of REALTORS®](#)

[National Association of REALTORS®](#)

[Maine Listings](#)

[Maine Real Estate Commission](#)

Board Portal Links

[Greater Bangor Association of REALTORS®](#)

[Greater Portland Board of REALTORS®](#)

[Kennebec Valley Board of REALTORS®](#)

[Maine Association of REALTORS®](#)

- Maine Commercial Association
- MAR Only Members
- York County Council

[Mid-Coast Board of REALTORS®](#)

- Acadia Council
- Mid-Coast Council
- Penobscot Bay Council

[Mountains to Shore Board of REALTORS®](#)

- Androscoggin Valley Council
- Lincoln County Council
- Merrymeeting Council
- Western Maine Council

REALTORS® guides our advocacy efforts: [Click Here](#)

For additional assistance: [Contact Suzanne](#)

FORMS UPDATE:
NON-DISCRIMINATION LANGUAGE:

By MAR Legal Counsel, Hannah McMullen

In 2021, the following Maine law changes required MAR to update the non-discrimination language on the 2022 Buyer Agreements and Listing Agreements:

1) **Public Law Chapter 366** (LD 1688): “*An Act To Improve Consistency in Terminology and within the Maine Human Rights Act*” – This law addressed inconsistencies in the protections provided in different areas of jurisdiction under the Maine Human Rights Act. Of particular note for MAR’s forms, the bill provides more inclusive protection by including adult family members dependent for care in the definition of “familial status” and adding gender identity to the list of protected classes.

2) **Public Law Chapter 476** (LD 1294): “*An Act To Prevent Discrimination Against Domestic Violence Victims*” – This law amended the Maine Human Rights Act to provide protections against discrimination in employment and housing against a person who has sought and received an order of protection after opportunity for hearing under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 4007. All remedies currently available under the Maine Human Rights Act, including a private right of action and attorney’s fees, are available for these persons.

The non-discrimination language in the MAR Buyer Agreements now states: “Properties shall be presented without regard to race, color, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, familial status, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin as defined in Maine state law or because the person sought and received an order of protection under Title 19-A, section 4007.”

The non-discrimination language in the MAR Listing Agreements now states: “Agency and Seller each agree that this property is to be offered without regard to race, color, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, familial status, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin as defined in Maine state law or because the person sought and received an order of protection under Title 19-A, section 4007.”

2022 FORMS NOW IN YOUR LIBRARY:

MAR's 2022 forms have loaded automatically into your Zipform library and are now live. To view the changes for 2022, marked up versions of the 2021 forms are filed in the REALTOR® Access Only section of the MAR website (password: codeofethics): [Click Here](#)

MAR Leadership

President

Madeleine Hill

President Elect

Carmen McPhail

First Vice President

Paul McKee

Treasurer

Sherri Dunbar

Chief Executive Officer

Suzanne Guild

Last Issue: January 12

Some content may be
commercial in nature.

For Technical Assistance for ZipForms :

Please contact zipLogix Support at 586-840-0140 or the Maine Association of REALTORS® 207-622-7501.

COPYRIGHT 2022:

All copyright dates in the forms' footers now read Copyright © 2022. The Revised dates indicate the last time that MAR amended that particular form.

ZIPFORMS: START WITH THE COVER SHEET :

For each new transaction in Zipforms, make a habit of first completing the Cover Sheet which is filed alphabetically in the list of forms. When you complete and save the Cover Sheet, many fields will auto-populate into other forms for your transaction which will save you time and data entry.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPTIONS:

Click here for 5-pages of information about CE course availability and distance educator contact information. Check back regularly for CE course availability updates: [Click Here](#)

MAINE LISTINGS NEWS:

Click on the following link to learn about:

- Meet the 2022 Maine Listings Officers!
- FREE Upcoming Flexmls Webinars
- FOREWARN – Agent Safety and More Webinar
- Property Panorama Webinar for Maine Listings Members
- Quality Assurance Tip of The Week
- Rules & Regulations Quick Refresher Series

[Find out More!](#)



Maine Association of REALTORS®

19 Community Dr | Augusta, ME 04330

Tel: (207) 622-7501 | Fax: (207) 623-3590

Email: info@mainerealtors.com

