

MARCO ISLAND AREA: SALES REMAIN STRONG

The Marco Island Area Assoc. of Realtors® reported that March 2021 compared to March 2020 showed the following: Total inventory (375 properties) was down by 75.36 percent and closed sales (382 properties) were up by 61.18 percent with a dollar volume (\$285,568,568) that was 74.161 percent higher. The March median sales price was \$515,000, which is 5.34 percent higher than March 2020.

BONITA / ESTERO: HIGH BUYER DEMAND

Comparing February 2021 with February 2020: Buyer interest was robust, leading to multiple offer situations. Sales in the \$2 million+ price segment had the strongest increase of 122.2 percent. Sales of singlefamily homes with 4 or more bedrooms increased by 38.9 percent. Inventory shortages continued with a 76.7 percent drop in available properties. In February there were only 200 properties on the market representing one month's supply. New listings were down by more than 30 percent. The median closed sales price was \$519,000, 14 percent more than a year ago.

FLORIDA: STRONG SELLER'S MARKET

Florida's housing market in February reported more closed sales, higher median prices, more new pending sales and increased pending inventory in February 2021 compared to a year ago. Closed sales of singlefamily homes statewide in February totaled 23,947, up 15.7 percent year-over-year, while existing condotownhouse sales totaled 11,379, up 28.7 percent. The statewide median sales price for single-family existing homes was \$314,900, and for condo-townhouse units was \$233,240, with both median prices up 16.6 percent over the year-ago figure. Inventory remained constrained in February. Single-family existing homes were at a very restricted 1.3-months' supply while condo-townhouse inventory was at a 3.4-months' supply. The rate for a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 2.81 percent in February 2021, significantly lower than the 3.47 percent averaged last February.

USA: EXISTING HOME SALES DECREASE

Although existing-home sales fell 6.6 percent in February, sales are still 9.1 percent higher than last year. The median existing-home sales price rose to \$313,000, 15.8 percent higher from one year ago. Total housing inventory at the end of February amounted to 1.03 million units, equal to January's inventory and down 29.5 percent from one year ago. Properties typically remained on the market for 20 days in February. Also in February: First-time buyers were responsible for 31 percent of the sales; individual investors or secondhome buyers, who account for many cash sales, were responsible for 17 percent of the sales; and foreclosures and short sales represented less than 1 percent of the sales. NAR's chief economist, Lawrence Yun said, "Home affordability is weakening. Various stimulus packages are expected and they will indeed help, but an increase in inventory is the best way to address surging