

MULTIFAMILY REPORT

Pittsburgh Preps To Reforge

Spring 2021

Rent Growth Overperforms

Tech Sector Supports Economy

Downtown Remains Priciest Submarket

PITTSBURGH MULTIFAMILY



Ready for a Comeback

Pittsburgh's multifamily market continues to face its share of challenges, though the metro is showing some signs of recovery. Rents were up 0.3% on a trailing three-month basis through February, exceeding national growth. Working-class Renter-by-Necessity rents expanded by 0.3%, as demand continued to grow for lower-cost units across the metro.

The metro's economy took a significant hit over the past year, with job losses totaling 86,300 in the 12 months ending in December. Unemployment stood at 6.6% in December, slightly leading the national rate of 6.7%. Pittsburgh's diversifying economy could prove to be a driver of long-term growth, however technology firms raised nearly \$1 billion in the metro last year, according to an Ernst & Young and Innovation Works report.

While multifamily transactions in the first two months of 2021 totaled only \$15 million, last year's volume of \$245 million was a nearly 5% increase from 2019, despite challenges brought about by the pandemic. Pittsburgh's low price points may drive additional investment due to growing renter demand for lower-cost units. Some 3,000 units were under construction in February, with more than one-third breaking ground in 2020. Though deliveries slowed last year, we expect an uptick in 2021 with more than 1,000 units slated to come online by the end of summer.

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Recent Pittsburgh Transactions

Lindenbrooke



City: Pittsburgh Buyer: Berger Rental Communities Purchase Price: \$44 MM Price per Unit: \$120,254

Morgan at North Shore



City: Pittsburgh Buyer: Coastal Ridge Real Estate Purchase Price: \$26 MM Price per Unit: \$110,009

Flats on Fifth



City: Pittsburgh Buyer: GCU Purchase Price: \$15 MM Price per Unit: \$202,703

Wellington Square



City: South Park, Pa. Buyer: Lobos Management Purchase Price: \$8 MM Price per Unit: \$62,303