

# Houston: Investment Hot Spot

July 2022

Transaction Activity Intensifies, PPU Rises

Construction, Deliveries Remain Elevated

Rent Growth Trails the Nation

# HOUSTON MULTIFAMILY



## Healthy Fundamentals Bolster Demand

Houston recovered all the jobs it lost during the pandemic, with the multifamily sector directly benefiting from the bounce, as fundamentals stayed healthy on the heels of a robust 2021. Rents rose 0.7% on a trailing three-month basis through May, to \$1,293, and the overall occupancy rate in stabilized properties rose 130 basis points in the 12 months ending in April, to 94.1%.

Houston unemployment stood at 4.1% in April, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, outperforming the state (4.3%). Even though it lags the U.S. (3.6%), Dallas (3.2%) and Austin (2.5%), Houston marked a 140-basis-point improvement since the beginning of the year. Employment expanded by 5.2%, or 150,400 jobs, in the 12 months ending in March, 50 basis points above the U.S. The market's largest sector—trade, transportation and utilities—added 35,300 positions and will likely continue to grow as global macroeconomic trends are indirectly favoring the area, boosting production and exports. Container volumes at Port Houston were up 20% year-over-year in the first quarter of 2022.

Developers delivered 5,692 units in 2022 through May and had another 23,382 units under construction. Transaction activity intensified compared to the same period last year, amounting to \$4.8 billion through May, for a price per unit that rose 25% year-over-year, to \$152,443. However, the current economic climate is likely to dampen transaction activity in the near term.

## Market Analysis | July 2022

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### Recent Houston Transactions

#### Bayou Park



City: Houston  
Buyer: Makaan Investment Group  
Purchase Price: \$131 MM  
Price per Unit: \$190,034

#### The Commons at Hollyhock



City: Katy, Texas  
Buyer: Post Investment Group  
Purchase Price: \$119 MM  
Price per Unit: \$190,594

#### Village at Piney Point



City: Houston  
Buyer: Kalkan Capital  
Purchase Price: \$107 MM  
Price per Unit: \$97,502

#### Reserve at Westwood

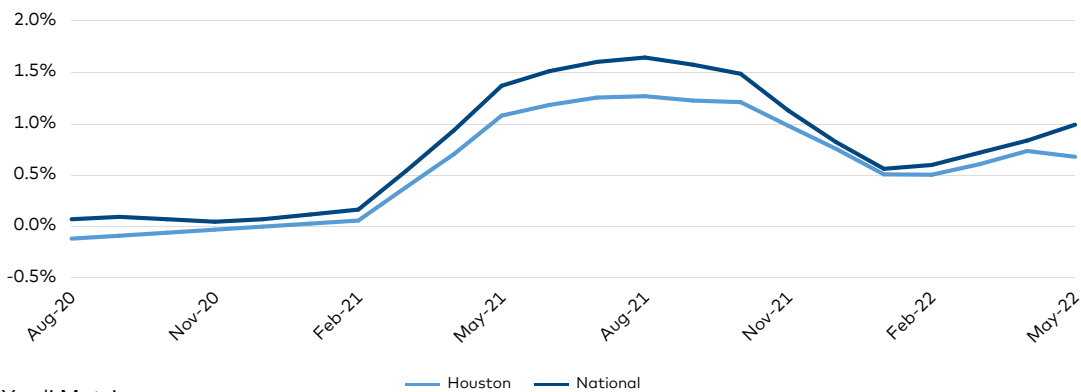


City: Houston  
Buyer: Applesway Investment Group  
Purchase Price: \$88 MM  
Price per Unit: \$123,729

## RENT TRENDS

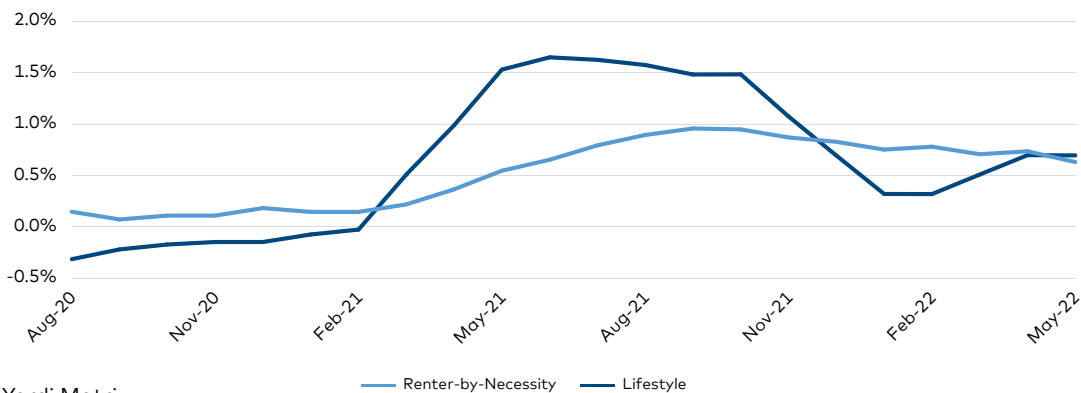
- ▶ Houston rents rose 0.7% on a trailing three-month (T3) basis through May, lagging the U.S. rate by 30 basis points. At \$1,293, the metro's average asking rate was well below the \$1,680 national figure. Year-over-year, Houston rents were up 10.8%, again below the U.S. rate, which reached 13.9%.
- ▶ Lifestyle units led rent development, up 0.7% on a T3 basis to \$1,601, while working-class Renter-by-Necessity figures rose 0.6%, to \$1,014. During the last 12 months, Lifestyle growth was irregular, going up as high as 1.7% on a T3 basis, and falling as low as 0.3%. Meanwhile, RBN rates had a steadier evolution, between 0.5% and 1.0%.
- ▶ Occupancy rose 1.3% in the year ending in April, to 94.1%. By asset class, the rate illustrates stronger demand for RBN apartments (1.6% to 93.6%) than for Lifestyle ones (1.0% to 94.6%).
- ▶ Of the 65 submarkets tracked by Yardi Matrix, 48 posted double-digit gains in annual average asking rates. As a result, the number of submarkets with average rents above the \$1,000 mark increased to 56 from 48 a year ago. The average in the Museum District stood at \$2,055 in May, following a 9.9% year-over-year rise. Clear Creek remained the most expensive area in the metro's eastern half (10.3% to \$1,554).
- ▶ The single-family rental sector is booming, with the annual average rent up 14.4% and occupancy up 5.5%. As potential homebuyers are expected to face higher borrowing costs, both the SFR and the multifamily sectors are poised to benefit.

### Houston vs. National Rent Growth (Trailing 3 Months)



Source: Yardi Matrix

### Houston Rent Growth by Asset Class (Trailing 3 Months)



Source: Yardi Matrix

## ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

- ▶ Houston's unemployment rate marked the largest improvement among major Texas markets since the start of the year, dropping 140 basis points to 4.1% in April, according to data from the BLS. The metro outperformed the state (4.3%), but trailed the nation (3.6%), Dallas (3.2%) and Austin (2.5%).
- ▶ Houston is one of the few metros where employment markets have returned to pre-pandemic levels, according to the Texas Workforce Commission. Job growth posted a 5.2% expansion, or 150,400 jobs, in the 12 months ending in March, 50 basis points above the U.S. rate. Unsurprisingly, the recovery is uneven, with some industries having fared better than others.
- ▶ All sectors added jobs, with leisure and hospitality (36,600 jobs) slightly ahead of the trade, transportation and utilities sector (35,300 jobs).
- ▶ The latter is the metro's main economic driver, accounting for 20.6% of the total workforce. The sector is poised for more growth, boosted by favorable global macroeconomic trends. Houston already recorded increased production and exports of goods at the beginning of the year. Container volumes at Port Houston were up 20% year-over-year in the first quarter, reaching almost 1 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units. The port has also accelerated projects at its container terminals, for example, doubling gate capacity at its Barbour's Cut Container Terminal.

### Houston Employment Share by Sector

Code	Employment Sector	Current Employment	
		(000)	% Share
70	Leisure and Hospitality	329	10.4%
40	Trade, Transportation and Utilities	653	20.6%
65	Education and Health Services	426	13.5%
15	Mining, Logging and Construction	285	9.0%
90	Government	435	13.7%
60	Professional and Business Services	504	15.9%
30	Manufacturing	219	6.9%
55	Financial Activities	171	5.4%
80	Other Services	111	3.5%
50	Information	31	1.0%

Sources: Yardi Matrix, Bureau of Labor Statistics

### Population

- ▶ Houston gained 69,094 people in 2021, a 1.0% increase. That was 30 basis points below the 2020 rate but well above the 0.1% U.S. figure.
- ▶ During the decade ending in 2021, Houston's population grew 16.6%, slightly below Dallas-Fort Worth's 16.8%.

### Houston vs. National Population

	2018	2019	2020	2021
National	326,838,199	328,329,953	331,501,080	331,893,745
Metro Houston	6,974,948	7,063,400	7,137,747	7,206,841

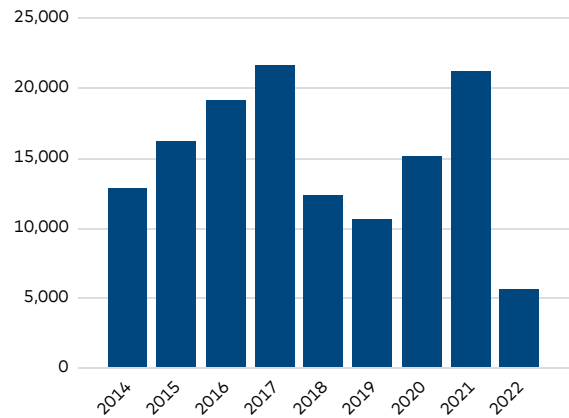
Source: U.S. Census

## SUPPLY

- ▶ Houston's multifamily inventory expanded by 5,692 units in 2022 through May, 0.8% of total stock, 10 basis points above the U.S. rate. The bulk of deliveries were located in the western half of Houston (3,931 units), while 1,761 units came online on the eastern side. Aside from two fully affordable communities totaling 201 units combined, deliveries consisted of upscale Lifestyle properties.
- ▶ The construction pipeline comprised 23,382 units underway and another 58,000 units in the planning and permitting stages. Of the properties underway, 2,930 units broke ground in 2022 through May, below the number of apartments that started construction during the same period in recent years: 4,391 units in 2021 and 3,573 units in 2020.
- ▶ Similar to recent deliveries, submarkets in the western part of Houston led in construction activity, with 15,590 units underway. Nearly one-third of these are located in West End/Downtown (4,816 units under construction). Eastern submarkets had 7,792 units underway. East End was the only submarket on this side of the metro with more than 1,000 units under construction (1,291 apartments).

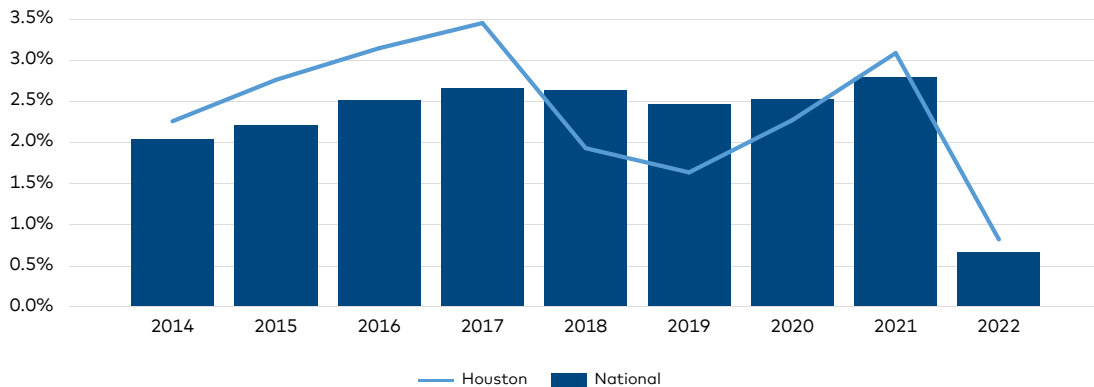
- ▶ By the end of the year, some 13,500 units are slated for completion, but current headwinds that include labor shortages, supply chain issues, rising construction costs and inflation will likely cause delays for some projects.
- ▶ The largest project delivered in 2022 through May was Aspire Post Oak, a 383-unit Lifestyle property built by The Dinerstein Cos. with aid from a \$121.5 million construction loan issued by Pacific Life Insurance Co.

**Houston Completions** (as of May 2022)



Source: Yardi Matrix

**Houston vs. National Completions as a Percentage of Total Stock** (as of May 2022)



Source: Yardi Matrix

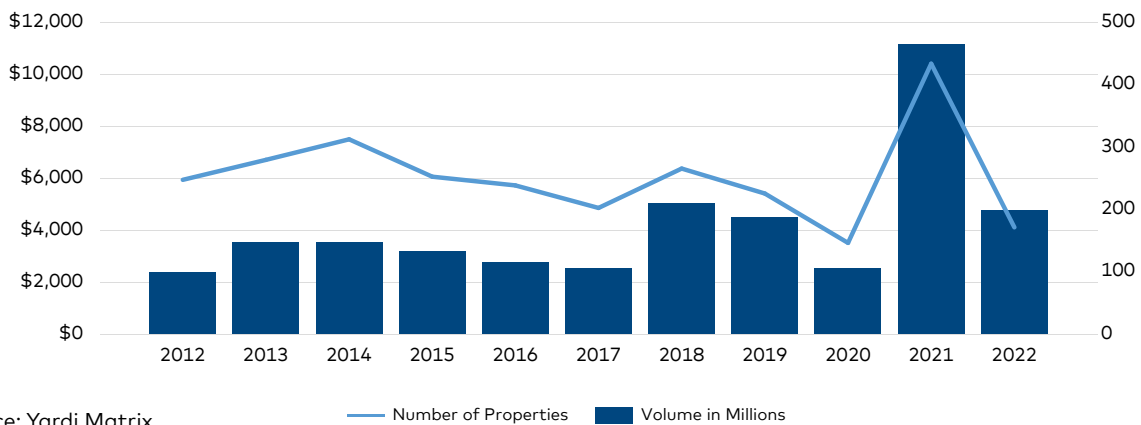
## TRANSACTIONS

- ▶ After last year's all-time investment peak, when more than \$11.1 billion in multifamily assets traded in the metro, transaction activity remained robust. Investment volume rose close to \$4.8 billion during the first five months of the year, more than double the \$2.3 billion recorded during the same period of 2021.
- ▶ Investor interest was equally balanced across quality segments, reflecting increased competition in the investment market, which created

sustained property value appreciation. The price per unit posted a substantial 25.0% increase year-over-year through May, to \$152,443. Despite this hefty gain, Houston remains relatively affordable, trailing the \$213,724 U.S. average.

- ▶ Transactions are likely to soften in the upcoming months, in no small part due to the Federal Reserve's hawkish interest rate hikes. With commercial real estate being reactive to interest rate movement, the tightening monetary policy will likely complicate some deals.

### Houston Sales Volume and Number of Properties Sold (as of May 2022)



Source: Yardi Matrix

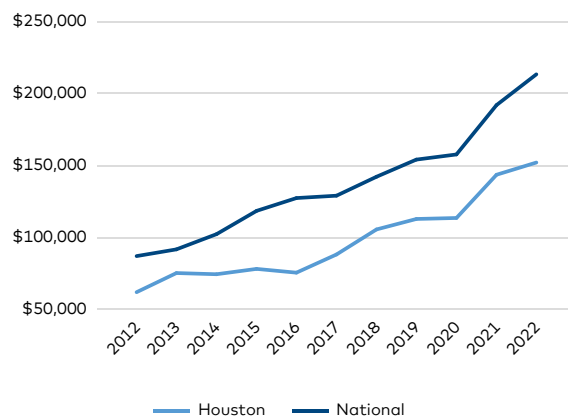
### Top Submarkets for Transaction Volume<sup>1</sup>

Submarket	Volume (\$MM)
West End/Downtown	1,015
Jersey Village/Satsuma	763
West Bellaire	644
The Heights	610
Addicks	518
Louetta	503
Cinco Ranch-North	488

Source: Yardi Matrix

<sup>1</sup> From June 2021 to May 2022

### Houston vs. National Sales Price per Unit



Source: Yardi Matrix

## Top 10 Multifamily Markets by Sales Volume in 2021

By Anca Gagiuc

The multifamily market had an exceptional year in 2021, exhibiting healthy fundamentals across the board. Behind the market's unpredicted expansion was demand, with the pandemic highlighting not just the essential feature of the multifamily market but also its resilient nature. Although the retail, office and hospitality industries showed some signs of recovery in 2021, they still struggled, leading to a shift in investment toward multifamily.

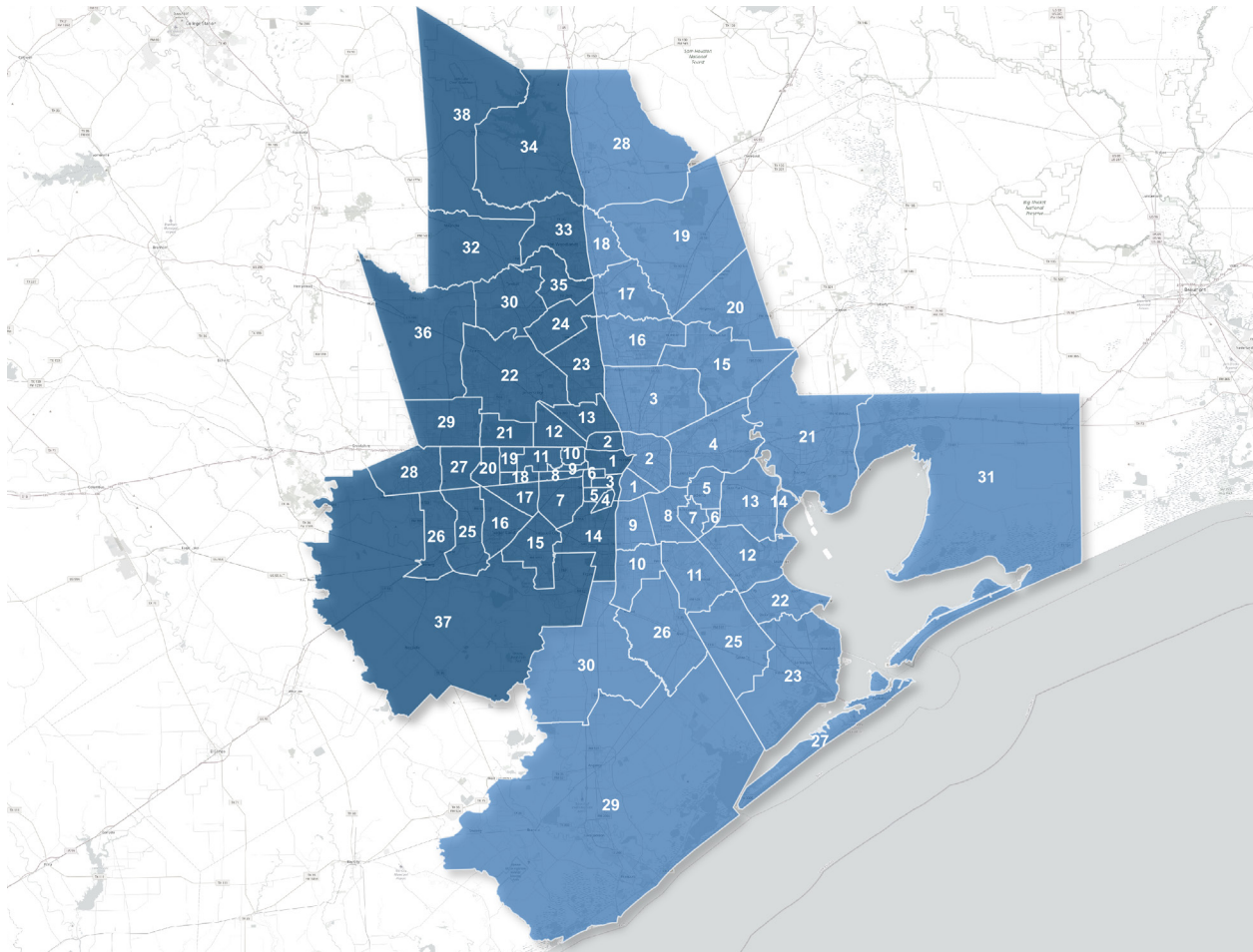
Metro	Sales Volume 2021	Properties Sold 2021	Units Sold 2021	Average Sale Price Per Unit 2021
Dallas–Fort Worth	\$14,638,381,314	551	140,640	\$171,005.13
Atlanta	\$14,462,137,683	325	83,765	\$192,369.38
Phoenix	\$14,412,674,811	270	56,789	\$258,166.74
Houston	\$11,059,042,386	426	115,011	\$146,827.43
Denver	\$9,771,559,229	143	32,630	\$322,238.47
Miami	\$9,310,892,009	201	45,806	\$254,904.37
Washington, D.C.	\$7,283,430,008	111	33,241	\$267,832.24
Orlando	\$5,736,315,365	128	33,434	\$215,675.28
Tampa	\$5,397,235,455	139	31,320	\$197,556.20
Raleigh	\$5,143,848,320	99	24,845	\$215,070.80

### Houston

Houston's total multifamily sales volume rose to \$11.1 billion, making it one of only four metros in the country with double-digit sales figures. In 2020, only \$2.6 billion in multifamily assets (just 23.4 percent of 2021's figure) changed hands, below 2019's \$4.5 billion. Transaction activity was especially intense in the fourth quarter, which accounted for nearly half of the total volume (\$4.9 billion); in Q3, \$3.5 billion in multifamily assets traded, \$1.5 billion in Q2 and \$1.2 billion in Q1.



# HOUSTON SUBMARKETS



Area No.	Submarket	Area No.	Submarket
1	West End/Downtown	20	George Bush Park
2	The Heights	21	Bear Creek Park
3	Museum District	22	Jersey Village/Satsuma
4	Reliant Park	23	Bammel
5	Bellaire	24	Louetta
6	River Oaks	25	Richmond
7	West Bellaire	26	Rosenberg
8	Piney Point Village–South	27	Cinco Ranch–South
9	Piney Point Village–North	28	Katy
10	Hunters Creek	29	Cinco Ranch–North
11	Bunker Hill Village	30	Tomball
12	Spring Valley	32	Magnolia
13	Rossllyn	33	The Woodlands
14	Missouri City	34	Conroe–West
15	Suger Land–South	35	Avonak
16	Sugar Land–West	36	Northwest Harris County
17	Suger Land–North	37	Outlying Fort Bend County
18	Royal Oaks Country Club	38	West Montgomery County
19	Addicks		

Area No.	Submarket	Area No.	Submarket
1	Greater Third Ward	17	Spring
2	East End	18	The Woodlands–East
3	Mount Houston	19	Porter
4	Cloverleaf	20	Kingwood
5	Pasadena	21	Baytown
6	South Houston Crenshaw Park	22	League City/Dickenson
7	South Houston	23	Texas City
8	William P. Hobby Airport	25	League City–West
9	Pierce Junction	26	Alvin
10	Clear Creek	27	Galveston
11	Pearland/Friendswood	28	Conroe–East
12	Nassau Bay/Seabrook	29	Lake Jackson/Angleton
13	Deer Park	30	Northwest Brazoria County
14	La Porte	31	Outlying Chambers County
15	Atascocita		
16	Humble/Westfield		



## DEFINITIONS

**Lifestyle households (renters by choice)** have wealth sufficient to own but have chosen to rent. Discretionary households, most typically a retired couple or single professional, have chosen the flexibility associated with renting over the obligations of ownership.

**Renter-by-Necessity households** span a range. In descending order, household types can be:

- ▶ *A young-professional*, double-income-no-kids household with substantial income but without wealth needed to acquire a home or condominium;
- ▶ *Students*, who also span a range of income capability, extending from affluent to barely getting by;
- ▶ *Lower-middle-income ("gray-collar") households*, composed of office workers, policemen, firemen, technical workers, teachers, etc.;
- ▶ *Blue-collar households*, which barely meet rent demands each month and likely pay a disproportionate share of their income toward rent;
- ▶ *Subsidized households*, which pay a percentage of household income in rent, with the balance of rent paid through a governmental agency subsidy. Subsidized households, while typically low income, extend to middle-income households in some high-cost markets, such as New York City;
- ▶ *Military households*, subject to frequency of relocation.

These differences can weigh heavily in determining a property's ability to attract specific renter market segments. The five-star resort serves a very different market than the down-and-outer motel. Apartments are distinguished similarly, but distinctions are often not clearly definitive without investigation. The Yardi® Matrix Context rating eliminates that requirement, designating property market positions as:

Market Position	Improvements Ratings
Discretionary	A+ / A
High Mid-Range	A- / B+
Low Mid-Range	B / B-
Workforce	C+ / C / C- / D

The value in application of the Yardi® Matrix Context rating is that standardized data provides consistency; information is more meaningful because there is less uncertainty. The user can move faster and more efficiently, with more accurate end results.

The Yardi® Matrix Context rating is not intended as a final word concerning a property's status—either improvements or location. Rather, the result provides reasonable consistency for comparing one property with another through reference to a consistently applied standard.

To learn more about Yardi® Matrix and subscribing, please visit [www.yardimatrix.com](http://www.yardimatrix.com) or call Ron Brock, Jr., at 480-663-1149 x2404.



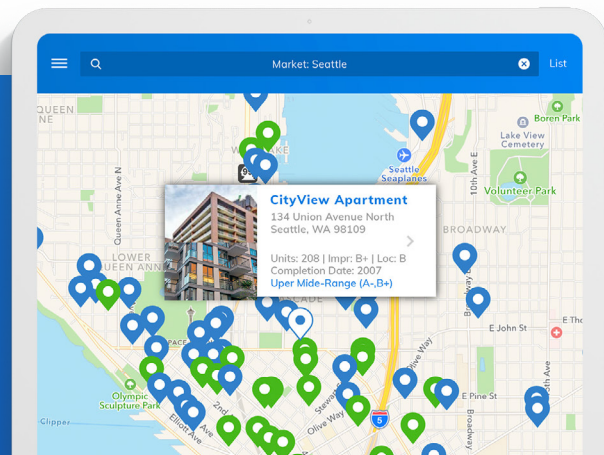
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