

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN
Selling Your House

SUMMER 2025 EDITION



kw WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
KELLERWILLIAMS REALTY



Michael Lentz

Keller Williams Realty
Sewell, NJ
Mike@MikeSellsNJ.com
www.BuySouthJersey.com
(856) 202-3154



Table of Contents

- 3 Are You Asking Yourself These Questions About Selling Your House?**
- 6 What an Economic Slowdown Could Mean for the Housing Market**
- 8 Expert Forecasts for the Second Half of the Year**
- 11 How Home Equity May Help You Buy Your Next Home in Cash**
- 13 The 3 Biggest Mistakes Sellers Are Making Right Now**
- 15 A Checklist for Selling Your House**
- 16 Why More Sellers Are Hiring Real Estate Agents**
- 18 Key Reasons To Hire a Real Estate Agent When You Sell**

Are You Asking Yourself These Questions About Selling Your House?

If you're debating whether you want to sell right now, it might be because you have some unanswered questions. Here's some information that can help.



1. Is It Even a Good Idea To Move Right Now?

If you own a home already, you may be tempted to wait because you don't want to sell and take on a higher mortgage rate on your next house. But your move may be a lot more feasible than you think, and that's because of how much your house has likely grown in value.

Think about it. Do you know a neighbor who's sold their house recently? If so, did you hear what it sold for? With how much home values have gone up in recent years, the number may surprise you.

According to Lawrence Yun, Chief Economist at the *National Association of Realtors* (NAR), the typical homeowner has gained \$147,000 in housing wealth in the last five years alone. That's significant. And when you sell, that increase in value can give you what you need to fund your next move.

2. Will I Be Able To Find a Home I Like?

If this is on your mind, it's probably because you remember just how hard it was to find a home over the past few years. But in today's market, it isn't as challenging.

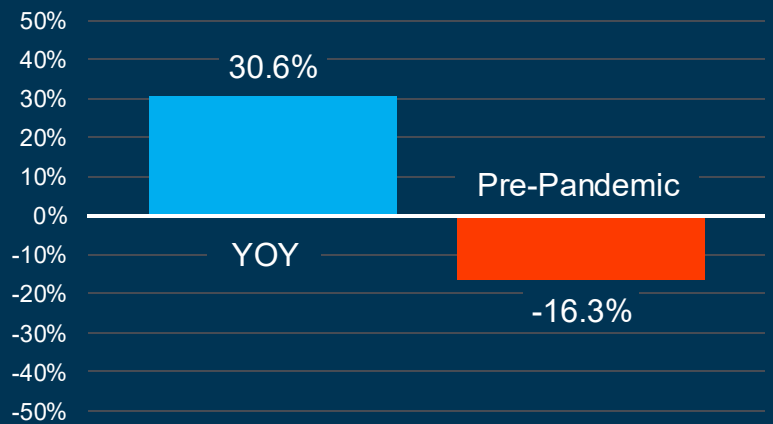
Data from *Realtor.com* shows how much inventory has increased – it's up over 30% compared to last year (see graph).

Even though inventory is still below normal, it's improved a lot in the past year. And the best part is, experts say it'll grow another 10-15% in 2025.

That means you have more options for your move – and the greatest chance in years to find a home you love.

The Supply of Homes for Sale Is Growing, but Still Below the Numbers Seen in More Normal Years

Percent Change in Inventory Year-Over-Year vs. Pre-Pandemic (2017–2019)



Source: Realtor.com

3. Are Buyers Still Buying?

And last, if you're worried no one's buying with rates and prices where they are right now, here's some perspective that can help. While there weren't as many home sales last year as there'd be in a normal market, roughly 4.06 million homes still sold (not including new construction), according to NAR. And it's expected that number will rise this year. But even if we only match how many homes sold last year, here's what that looks like.

- 4.06 million homes ÷ 365 days in a year = **11,123 homes sell each day**
- 11,123 homes ÷ 24 hours in a day = **463 homes sell per hour**
- 463 homes ÷ 60 minutes = **7.7 homes sell every minute**

Think about that. Just in the time it took you to read this, 8 homes sold. Let this reassure you – the market isn't at a standstill. Every day, thousands of people buy, and they're looking for homes like yours.

Bottom Line

If you want to talk more about these questions or need more information about what's happening in our area, reach out.



Deciding whether to sell your house depends on your personal circumstances and the specific dynamics of the market in your area. If you need to sell now . . . an experienced local agent can guide you through the process.

NerdWallet

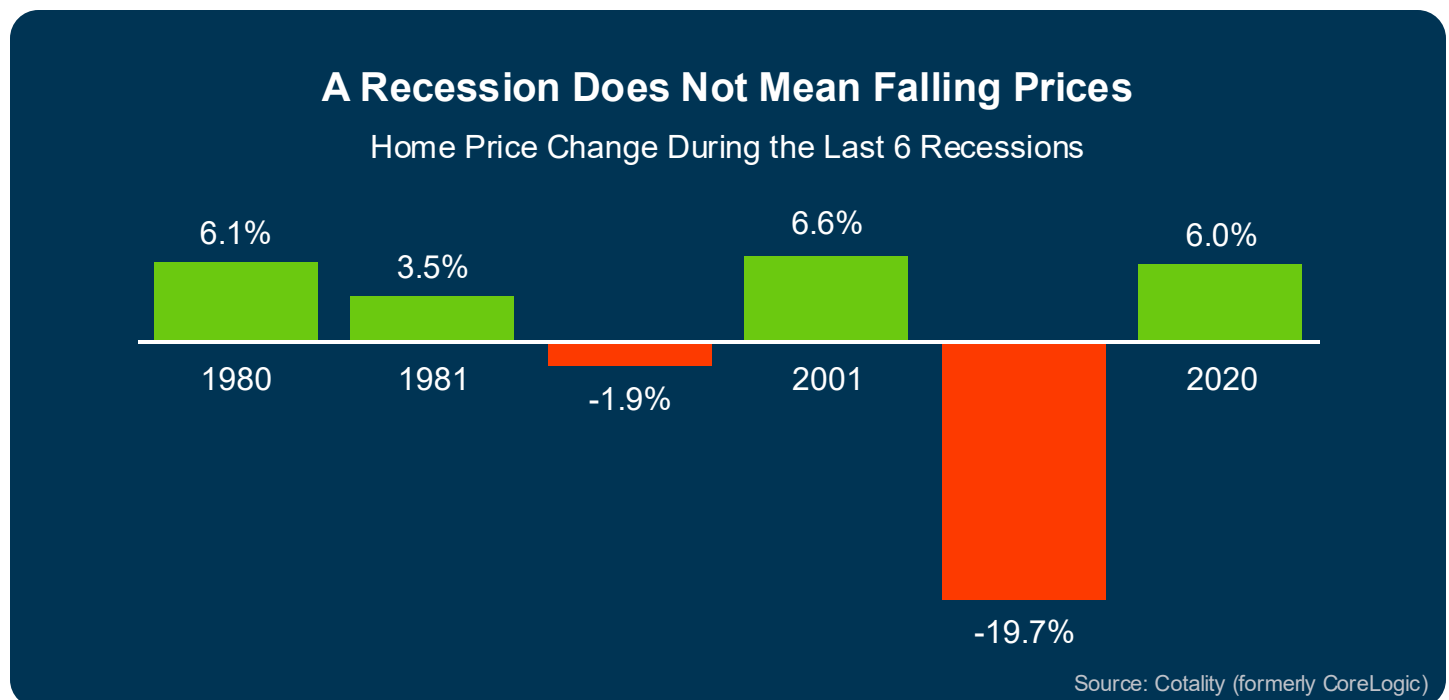
What an Economic Slowdown Could Mean for the Housing Market

Talk about the economy is all over the news, and the odds of a recession are rising this year. That's leaving a lot of people wondering what it means for the value of their home – and their buying power. Let's take a look at some historical data to show what's happened in the housing market during each recession, going all the way back to the 1980s. The facts may surprise you.

A Recession Doesn't Mean Home Prices Will Fall

Many people think that if a recession hits, home prices will fall like they did in 2008. But that was an exception, not the rule. It was the only time the market saw such a steep drop in prices. And it hasn't happened since, mainly because inventory is still so low overall. Even in markets where the number of homes for sale has started to rise this year, inventory is still far below the oversupply of homes that led up to the housing crash.

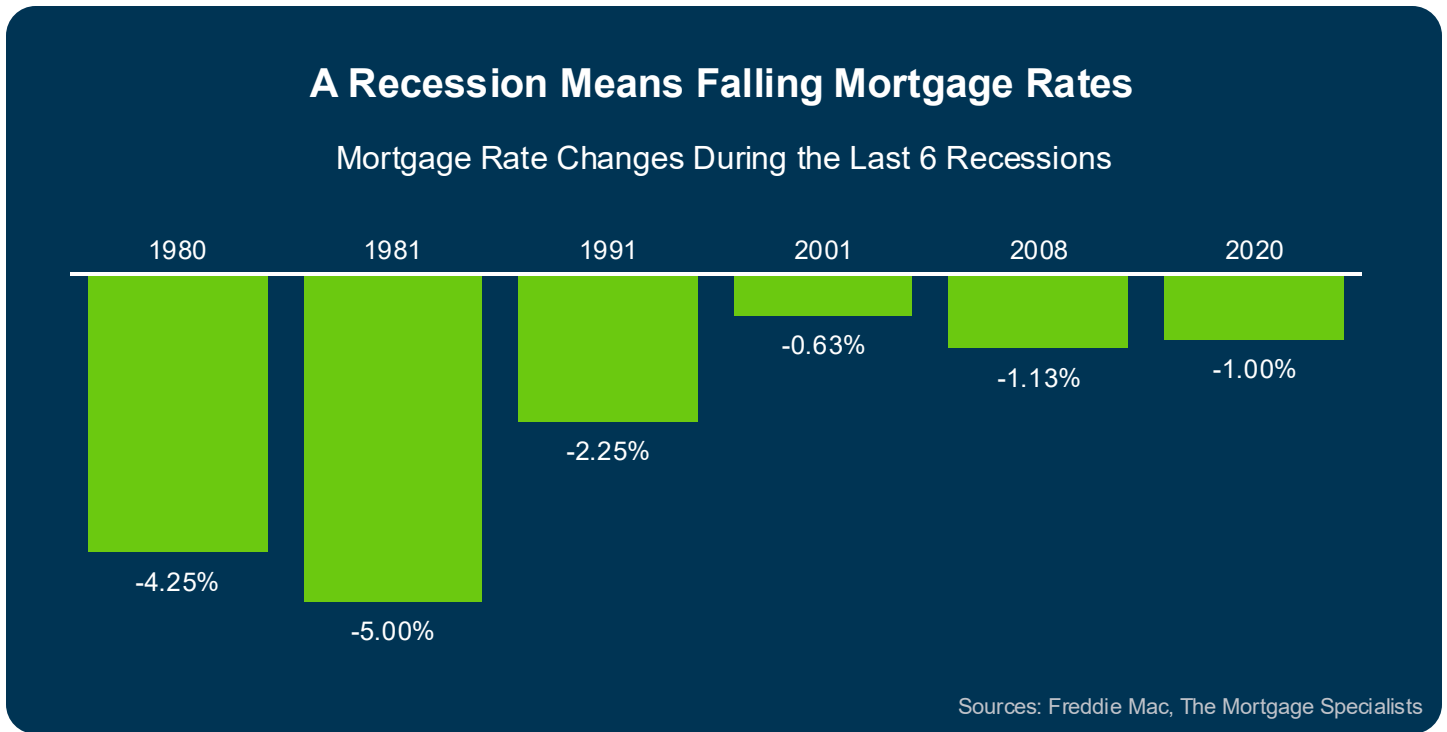
In fact, according to data from *Cotality* (formerly *CoreLogic*), in four of the last six recessions, home prices actually went up (*see graph below*):



So, don't assume a recession will lead to a significant drop in home values. The data simply doesn't support that idea. Instead, home prices usually follow whatever trajectory they're already on. And right now, in most places home prices are still rising, just at a slower pace.

Mortgage Rates Typically Decline During Recessions

While home prices tend to stay on their current path, mortgage rates usually drop during economic slowdowns. Again, looking at data from the last six recessions, mortgage rates fell each time (see graph below):



So, a recession means rates could decline. And while that would help with your buying power, don't expect the return of a 3% rate.

Bottom Line

The answer to the recession question is still unknown, but the odds have gone up. However, that doesn't mean you have to worry about what it means for the housing market – or the value of your home. Historical data tells us what usually happens.

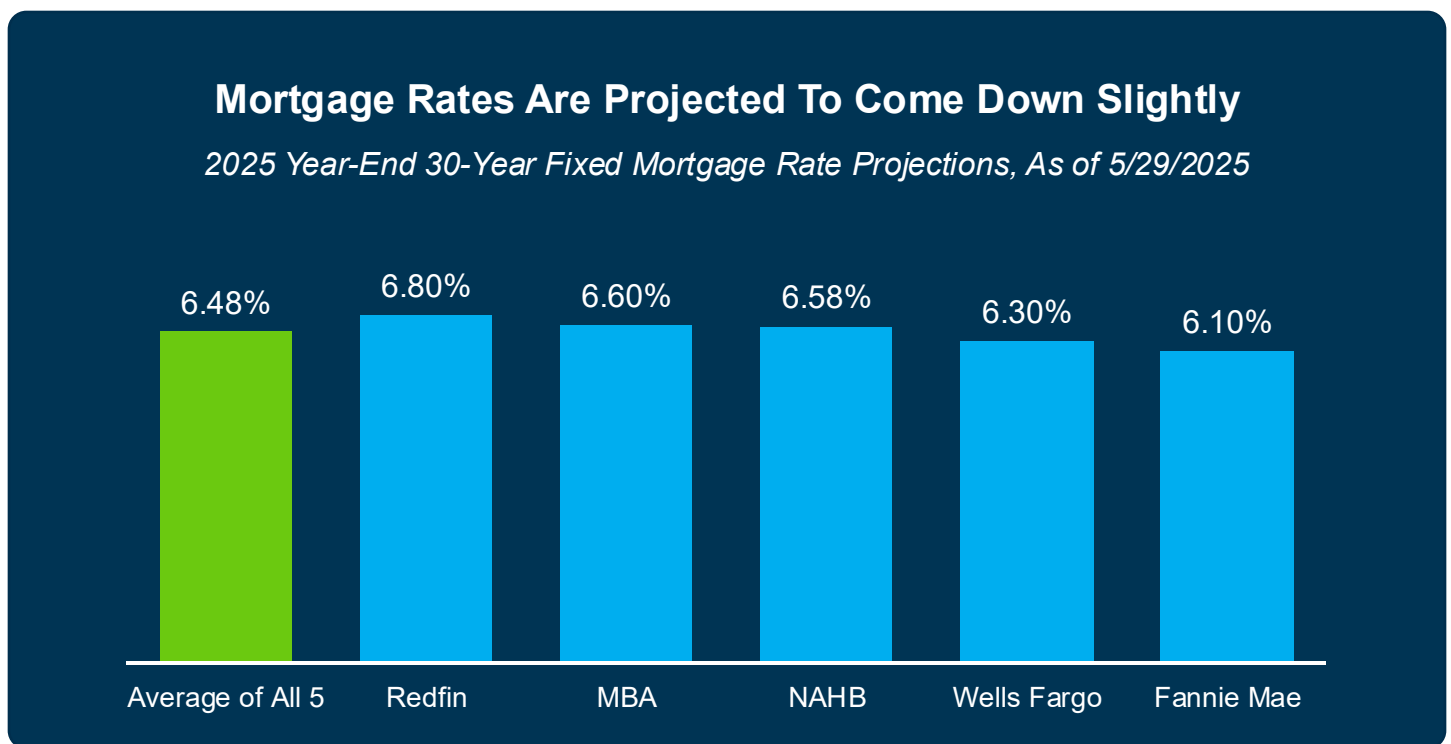


Expert Forecasts for the Second Half of the Year

From rising home prices to mortgage rate swings, the housing market has left a lot of people wondering what's next – and whether now is really the right time to move. There is one place you can turn to for answers you want the most. And that's the experts. Their forecasts will give you clarity – and maybe a little more optimism than you might expect.

Mortgage Rates Should Come Down (Slightly)

While a major drop isn't on the table, forecasters are calling for a modest decline in rates in the months ahead as the economic outlook becomes more certain. Based on the information we have right now, here's a look at where they say rates should be by year-end (see *graph below*):



Even this slight decrease is a welcome change. A seemingly small decline can still help bring down your future mortgage payment and give you a bit more breathing room in your budget.

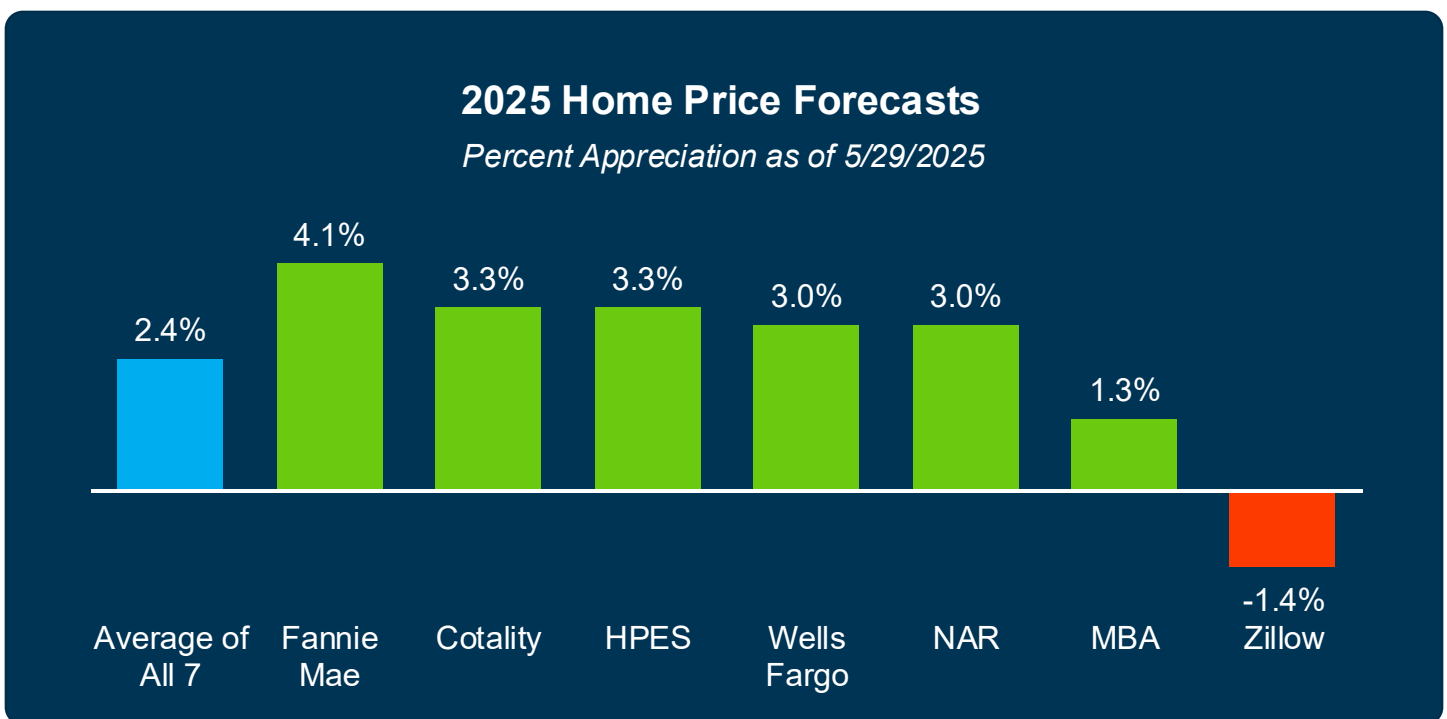
Just remember, everything from inflation to employment and broader economic shifts will have an impact on where rates go from here. So, don't try to time the market. And do expect some volatility along the way.

Inventory Will Continue To Grow

Inventory has already improved a lot this year. A big portion of the growth the market has already seen is because homeowners are getting tired of sitting on the sidelines. If rate forecasts pan out as the experts say, that could be enough to tip some more sellers off the fence and back into the market – giving you even more options for your move.

Home Prices Are Moderating

As more homes hit the market, there will also be less upward pressure on home prices. Expert forecasts are still calling for growth, but the pace of that growth is slowing down as inventory climbs. The average of all 7 forecasts shows prices will rise about 2% this year (see graph below):



That means you could finally get a little bit of relief from rapidly rising home prices. When you combine the forecast for healthier price growth with projections for slightly lower mortgage rates, that could mean more buying power in the months ahead.

Keep in mind, though, the housing market is hyper-local. So, this is will vary by area. Some markets will see prices higher. And some may even see prices dip a little if inventory is up significantly in that location. So, lean on an agent for insights into what's happening in your area.

Bottom Line

Let's talk so you can get the scoop on what's happening in our area and advice on how to make your next move a smart one.



If you bought your home prior to 2020, there's a good chance you've built up equity in your home. Home values are up 44% compared to before the pandemic and have risen 2.6% year since a year ago.

Zillow

How Home Equity May Help You Buy Your Next Home in Cash

Building equity in your house is one of the biggest financial advantages of homeownership. And right now, homeowners across the country are sitting on near record amounts of it.

Here's a look at how that equity could be a game changer for you, and why it'll flip your perspective from "Why would I move right now?" to "Why wouldn't I?"

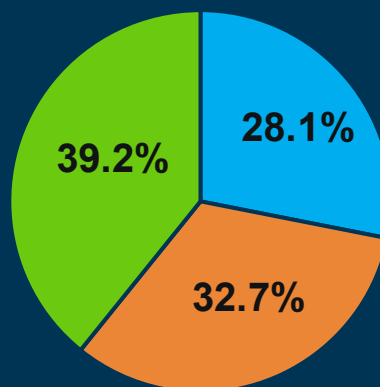
Home Equity: What Is It?

Home equity is the difference between how much your house is worth and how much you still owe on your mortgage. For example, if your house is valued at \$400,000 and you only owe \$200,000 on your mortgage, your equity would be \$200,000.

Why Equity Is Such a Big Deal for Homeowners Looking To Sell

Recent data from the *Census* and *ATTOM* shows how significant today's home equity really is. In fact, more than two-thirds of homeowners have either completely paid off their mortgages (*shown in green in the chart below*) or have at least 50% equity in their homes (*shown in blue in the chart below*):

Over 2/3 of Americans Have Paid Off Their Mortgage or Have at Least 50% Equity

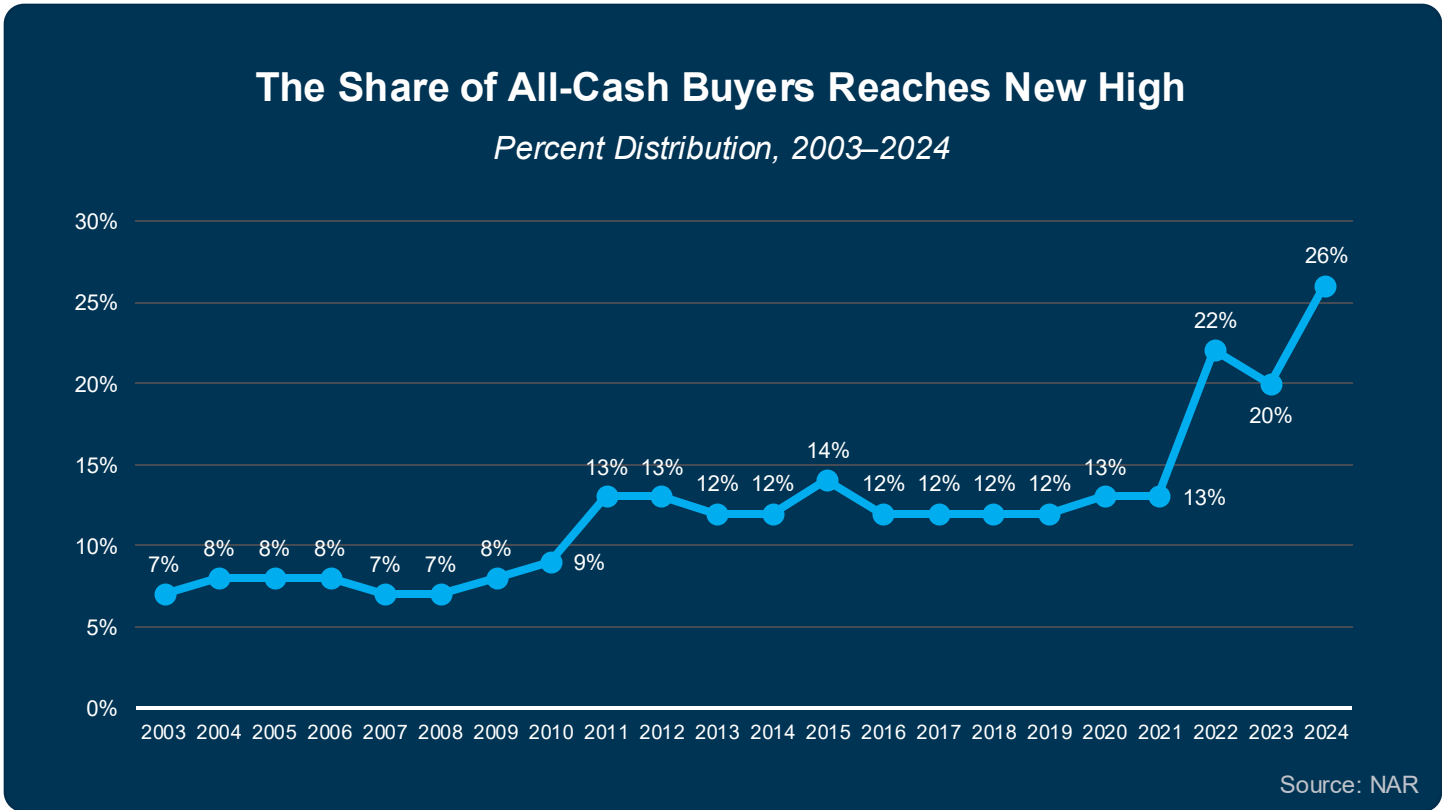


-  Mortgaged Homes with > 50% Equity
-  Mortgaged Homes with < 50% Equity
-  Owns the Home Free and Clear

Sources: Census, ATTOM Data

That's a big deal. Think about it: 2 out of every 3 homeowners have at least 50% equity in their homes. To put a more tangible number on it, *Cotality* (formerly *CoreLogic*) says the average homeowner with a mortgage has over \$311,000 in equity. That kind of net worth can go a long way if you're trying to make a move.

That's part of the reason why the share of all-cash buyers recently reached a new high. According to an annual report from the *National Association of Realtors* (NAR), 26% of buyers were able to buy without a mortgage (see graph below):



Imagine buying your next house in cash. No mortgage. No monthly payment. No interest rate to mess with. If you want to find out how much equity you have to see if that's an option for you, connect with a real estate agent and ask for a professional equity assessment report (PEAR).

Who knows, you may find out you have enough equity to buy your next place outright – and with today's mortgage rates, not having to take out a home loan is pretty incredible. Even if you don't have enough equity to buy in all cash, you may still have enough to make a larger down payment, which has its own benefits, too.

Bottom Line

Homeowners have an extraordinary amount of equity today – and that's why the share of all-cash buyers is on the rise. To see how much equity you have and talk through how it can help fuel your next move, let's connect.

The 3 Biggest Mistakes Sellers Are Making Right Now

This isn't the same market it was just a few years ago. Things have become more balanced. But not all sellers realize that and that's leading some to make costly mistakes.

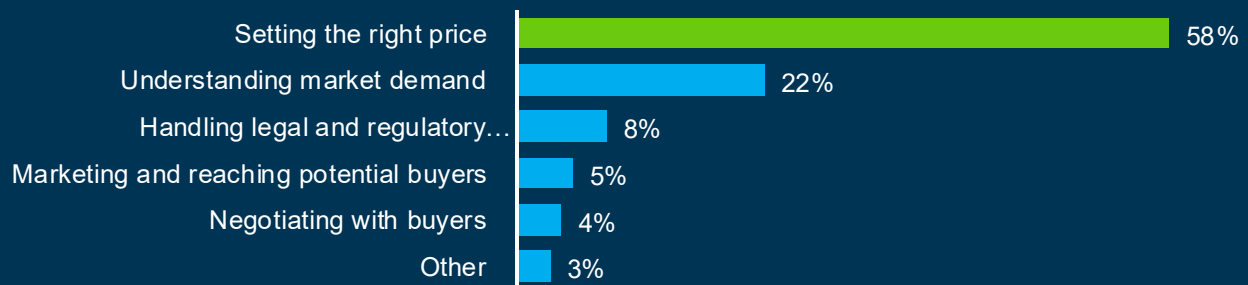
Here are the 3 most common missteps and how an agent can help you avoid each one.

1. Pricing the Home Too High

According to a survey by *John Burns Real Estate Consulting* (JBREC) and *Keeping Current Matters* (KCM), agents agree the #1 thing homeowners struggle is setting the right price for their house (see graph below). Without an agent's help, they usually set their price too high.

58% of Agents Say Sellers Have the Most Trouble Setting the Right Price in Today's Market

Top Issues Sellers Find Most Challenging in Today's Market



Source: JBREC and Keeping Current Matters Real Estate Agent Survey

Here are the most common reasons sellers make this mistake:

- They're not paying attention to current market conditions
- They're pricing based on what they want to make – not what someone would really pay for it
- They're trying to leave wiggle room for negotiation

You don't want to fall into this same trap. If you shoot too high, you'll push buyers away. That means you'll have to lower your price to try to draw buyers back in. And you could actually end up walking away with lower offers than if you'd priced it right from the start. The best way to avoid that happening to you?

Lean on you agent to find the price that draws buyers in, not pushes them away.

2. Skipping Repairs

Another common mistake is trying to avoid doing work on your house. That leaky faucet or squeaky door might not bother you, but to buyers, small maintenance issues can be red flags. They may assume those little flaws are signs of bigger problems – and it could cost you when offers come in lower or buyers ask for concessions. As *Investopedia* says:

“Sellers who do not clean and stage their homes throw money down the drain. . . Failing to do these things can reduce your sales price and may also prevent you from getting a sale at all. If you haven’t attended to minor issues, such as a broken doorknob or dripping faucet, a potential buyer may wonder whether the house has larger, costlier issues that haven’t been addressed either.”

The solution? Work with your agent to prioritize anything you’ll need to tackle before the photographer comes in. These minor upgrades can pay off big when it’s time to sell.

3. Refusing to Negotiate

Buyers today are feeling the pinch of high home prices and mortgage rates. With affordability so tight, they may come in with an offer that’s lower than you want to see. Don’t take it personally. Instead, focus on the end goal: selling your house. Your agent can help you negotiate confidently without letting emotions cloud your judgment.

At the same time, with more homes on the market, buyers have options – and with that comes more negotiating power. They may ask for repairs, closing cost assistance, or other concessions. Be prepared to have these conversations. Again, lean on your agent to guide you. Sometimes a small compromise can seal the deal without derailing your bottom line. As *U.S. News Real Estate* explains:

“If you’ve received an offer for your house that isn’t quite what you’d hoped it would be, expect to negotiate . . . the only way to come to a successful deal is to make sure the buyer also feels like he or she benefits . . . consider offering to cover some of the buyer’s closing costs or agree to a credit for a minor repair the inspector found.”

The Biggest Mistake of All? Not Using a Real Estate Agent

Notice anything? For each of these mistakes, partnering with an agent helps prevent them from happening in the first place. That makes trying to sell your house without an agent’s help the biggest mistake of all.

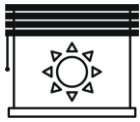
Bottom Line

Avoid these common mistakes by starting with the right plan – and the right agent. Let’s connect so you don’t fall into any of these traps.

A Checklist for Selling Your House

As you get ready to sell your house, add these items to your to-do list. A real estate professional will also provide other helpful tips based on your specific situation.

Make It Inviting



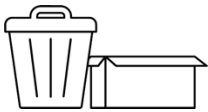
- Open blinds or curtains to let the light in



- Check lightbulbs and replace as needed



- Take down personal photos or items



- Declutter throughout



- Give every room a clear purpose

Show It's Cared For



- Clean your vents and baseboards



- Vacuum, mop, or sweep floors



- Fix anything that's broken



- Organize countertops, cabinets, and closets



- Touch up any scuffs on the walls

Boost Curb Appeal



- Power wash outdoor surfaces



- Wash the windows (inside and out)



- Tidy up the landscaping



- Freshen up your entry



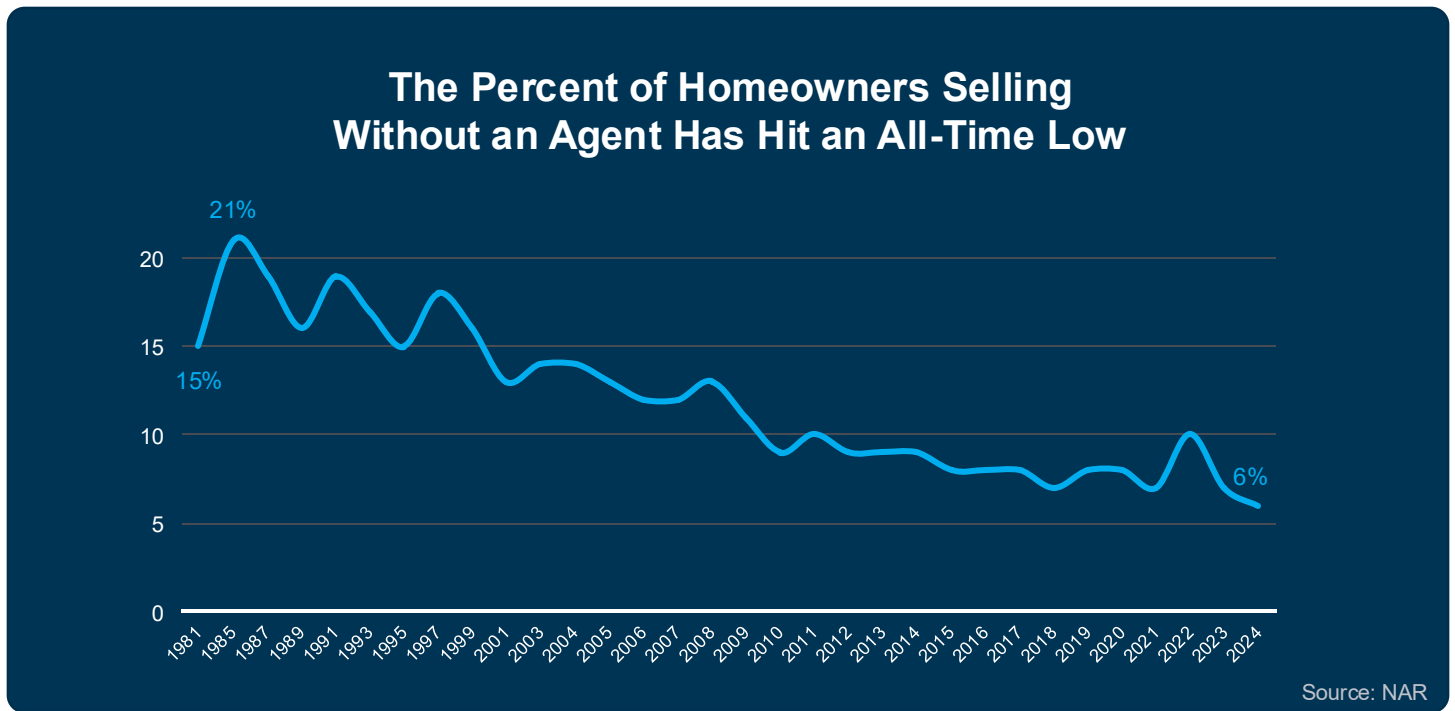
- Sweep patios, decks, and walkways

Why More Sellers Are Hiring Real Estate Agents

Putting your house for sale on your own – often called “For Sale by Owner” or FSBO – might be on your mind. But you should know that it gets complicated very quickly, especially in today’s complex market.



That’s why data from the *National Association of Realtors* (NAR) shows a record low number are going the route of selling on their own (*see graph below*):



Instead, more and more homeowners are choosing to work with a real estate agent. And here’s why partnering with an expert is the go-to choice.

1. Getting the Price Right

One of the biggest hurdles when selling a house on your own is figuring out the right price. **It's not as simple as picking a number that sounds good – you need to hit the bullseye.** Price your home too high, and buyers may overlook your listing. Price it too low, and you could leave money on the table or even raise red flags about the condition of your home.

Real estate agents are experts at finding the right price for today's market trends. As *Zillow* explains:

“Agents are pros when it comes to pricing properties and have their finger on the pulse of your local market. They understand current buying trends and can provide insight into how your home compares to others for sale nearby.”

With their knowledge of the local market, buyer behavior, and what homes like yours are selling for, an agent will help you make sure you set a price that's competitive and will draw in buyers. And it's that perfectly strategic price that'll set the stage for selling at top dollar.

2. Understanding and Managing the Legal Documentation

Another part of the process is dealing with a growing stack of paperwork, from disclosure forms to contracts. Each document needs to be completed accurately, and there are legal requirements to follow that can feel overwhelming if you're not familiar with them.

This is another area where an agent's expertise really shines. They've handled these documents countless times and know exactly what's needed to keep everything on track. Your agent will guide you through the paperwork step by step, making sure it's done right the first time. With their help, you can avoid unnecessary mistakes that can lead to delays, legal complications, and more.

Bottom Line

You don't want to take all of this on by yourself. Let's connect so you have a pro to help with everything from pricing your home to managing the details.



Key Reasons To Hire a Real Estate Agent When You Sell



Industry Experience

We're well-versed in the housing market and know the ins and outs of the entire process.



Expert Insights

We simply and effectively explain today's market conditions and what they mean for you.



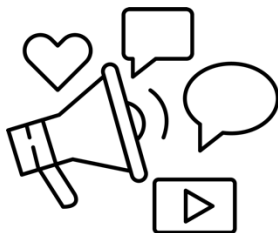
Pricing and Market Value

We help you understand today's real estate values when setting the price of a listing or making an offer to purchase your next home.



Contracts and Fine Print

We help with all the disclosures and documents necessary in today's heavily regulated environment.



Marketing and Exposure

We have effective marketing tools and networks to attract more buyers.



Negotiation Experience

We act as a buffer in negotiations with all parties throughout the entire transaction.



The complexities of the current conditions mean that, now more than ever, it's smart to lean on the guidance of an experienced local real estate agent. If you want to enter the housing market in 2025, whether as a buyer or a seller, let a pro lead the way for you.

Bankrate





Let's Chat.



Do you have questions about something you read here or about what to expect when you sell your house? Don't hesitate to reach out.

Whether it's housing market related, or something about your specific situation, I've helped other homeowners move with confidence - and I can help you too.

Michael Lentz

Keller Williams Realty

Sewell, NJ

Mike@MikeSellsNJ.com

www.BuySouthJersey.com

(856) 202-3154

kw WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY