# Richmond, Virginia Real Estate Market Research

This research document provides a comprehensive overview of the Richmond, Virginia real estate market with a focus on investment properties, off-market deals, and local market trends for Cash Home Buyers.

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## **Current Market Trends and Statistics**

#### **Market Overview**

The Richmond, Virginia real estate market in 2025 is characterized by steady growth, limited housing supply, and a gradual shift toward a more balanced market. While still favoring sellers, recent data indicates signs of softening demand, providing opportunities for buyers and more realistic expectations for sellers.

## **Housing Supply and Inventory**

- As of November 2024, Richmond has approximately **1,288 single-family homes for sale**, representing a **5.6% decrease** from the previous year.
- Condos and townhouses have seen a 12.1% increase in available inventory, with 517 properties listed.

- The months supply of inventory remains tight at 1.4 to 1.5 months for single-family homes, indicating a seller's market but with signs of slight easing compared to previous years.
- For condos and townhouses, the supply has increased to **2.4 months from 2.1**, indicating a bit more available inventory for buyers.

#### **Home Prices**

- The median sale price for single-family homes in November 2024 was \$430,000, up 2.9% from last year.
- The average sale price in November 2024 was approximately \$499,829, reflecting a 4.5% increase year-over-year.
- For condos and townhouses, the November median price was \$373,720, a 1.9% increase year over year.
- Year-to-date, the median price for single-family homes stands at \$424,000, representing a significant 8.2% increase.

## Days on Market and Sales Velocity

- Homes are selling faster than the national average, with an average of 25 days on the market for single-family homes in November 2024, compared to 19 days last year a 31.6% increase.
- For condos and townhouses, properties are spending an average of **42 days on the mar- ket**, up from 31 days the previous year a **35.5% increase**.
- The majority of homes (84%) sold within **30 days** in April 2025, with an average sale time of **17 days**.
- The percentage of homes selling above asking price remains high at around 49.1%, but the average sale-to-list price ratio has slightly decreased to 99.8%, signaling a softening demand.

## **Market Forecast**

- Zillow's projections indicate a **slow but steady increase** in home values, with an estimated **2.9% rise** by November 2025.
- The forecasted growth rate for late 2024 through 2025 suggests a **moderate appreciation**, aligning with historical trends but at a decelerated pace compared to previous years.
- Interest rates are predicted to slightly decline in early 2025, potentially increasing buyer activity.

# Popular Neighborhoods for Real Estate Investment

Richmond offers diverse neighborhoods with varying investment potential. Here are the most promising areas for real estate investment:

#### 1. The Fan District

- Known for historic charm, Victorian architecture, and proximity to Virginia Commonwealth University
- · High demand from students and young professionals
- Strong appreciation potential due to ongoing renovations and urban renewal
- · Characterized by row houses and historic homes with distinctive architectural details
- Walkable neighborhood with restaurants, shops, and cultural attractions

## 2. Scott's Addition

- Rapidly growing, with a mix of modern condos, apartments, breweries, and commercial spaces
- · Popular among millennials and young professionals
- High rental demand with potential for higher yields due to newer developments
- Former industrial area transformed into a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood
- Known for craft breweries, restaurants, and entertainment venues

#### 3. Manchester

- Redeveloped area with a mix of historic and modern homes
- Close to outdoor recreation and the James River
- Attractive for tenants seeking urban amenities and outdoor activities
- Lower entry prices compared to some other popular neighborhoods
- Ongoing development and revitalization projects

#### 4. Church Hill

- One of Richmond's oldest neighborhoods with historic homes and cobblestone streets
- Growing popularity among young professionals and families
- Strong community feel with local businesses and restaurants

- · Views of the city and the James River
- Historic preservation focus with renovation opportunities

## 5. Shockoe Bottom

- Urban neighborhood with converted warehouses and lofts
- Close to downtown and the financial district
- · Popular with young professionals
- · Mix of historic buildings and new construction
- Nightlife and entertainment options

# 6. Short Pump

- · Upscale suburban neighborhood with high-quality schools, shopping, and dining
- · Strong demand for luxury rentals and townhomes
- · Potential for higher rental rates and stable ROI
- · Family-oriented area with amenities and conveniences
- Newer construction with modern features

## 7. Midlothian and West End

- Family-oriented neighborhoods with good schools and amenities
- Stable rental demand and appreciation
- · Suitable for buy-and-hold strategies
- · Mix of single-family homes, townhouses, and apartments
- Lower maintenance costs due to newer construction

# Types of Investment Properties Available

Richmond offers a diverse range of investment property types to suit different investor strategies and budgets:

## **Single-Family Homes**

- · Most common investment property type in Richmond
- Available in various neighborhoods from historic districts to suburban areas

- Price range: \$200,000 to \$600,000+ depending on location and condition
- Popular with families and long-term renters
- · Lower turnover rates compared to multi-family units
- · Potential for appreciation in desirable neighborhoods

## **Multi-Family Properties**

- Duplexes, triplexes, and small apartment buildings (2-4 units)
- Concentrated in areas like The Fan, Museum District, and Manchester
- Price range: \$350,000 to \$800,000+ depending on unit count and location
- · Higher cash flow potential compared to single-family homes
- Allows investors to live in one unit while renting others (house hacking)
- More management intensive but offers economies of scale

## **Condos and Townhouses**

- Popular in downtown, Shockoe Bottom, and newer suburban developments
- Price range: \$200,000 to \$450,000
- Lower maintenance responsibilities (exterior maintenance handled by HOA)
- Attractive to young professionals and empty nesters
- HOA fees must be factored into investment calculations
- Typically lower price points for entry-level investors

## **Commercial Properties**

- Retail spaces, office buildings, and mixed-use properties
- Concentrated in downtown, Scott's Addition, and major commercial corridors
- Price range: \$500,000 to several million
- Longer lease terms compared to residential properties
- Higher potential returns but also higher risk
- Requires more specialized knowledge and larger capital investment

#### **Vacant Land**

· Available in developing areas and outskirts of Richmond

- Opportunity for new construction or long-term hold
- Price range: \$50,000 to \$500,000+ depending on location and size
- · Requires significant additional investment for development
- Lower carrying costs but no immediate cash flow
- Potential for substantial appreciation in growing areas

# Characteristics of Off-Market and Distressed Properties

Off-market and distressed properties in Richmond present unique opportunities for investors seeking discounted acquisitions. Understanding their characteristics is essential for successful investment strategies.

# **Types of Distressed Properties in Richmond**

#### **Pre-Foreclosure Homes**

- Properties in the early stages of foreclosure
- Often available at significant discounts (typically 10-30% below market value)
- Current listings show pre-foreclosure homes in Richmond with prices ranging from approximately \$126,800 to \$228,600
- · Owners motivated to sell quickly to avoid foreclosure
- · May require negotiation directly with homeowners or lenders

#### **Foreclosures and Sheriff Sales**

- · Homes sold via sheriff auctions or bank foreclosures
- Some listings as low as \$5,000 for properties requiring significant renovation
- Competitive bidding at auctions may reduce potential discounts
- Often sold "as-is" with limited or no inspection opportunities
- May have title issues or liens that need resolution

## **Bank-Owned (REO) Properties**

- Homes repossessed by banks after failed foreclosure auctions
- Typically priced below market value to facilitate quick sales

- Banks may be willing to negotiate on price, especially for properties that have been on the market for extended periods
- Often in poor condition due to vacancy and neglect
- May offer more traditional purchase processes compared to auctions

## **Off-Market Properties**

- Not listed on traditional MLS platforms
- Found through networking, direct marketing, or specialized investor groups
- Often owned by motivated sellers facing financial difficulties, job relocations, or inheritance situations
- Potential for significant discounts due to lack of market exposure
- Requires proactive searching and relationship building

## **Common Characteristics of Distressed Properties in Richmond**

## **Physical Condition**

- Deferred maintenance issues such as roof damage, plumbing problems, or HVAC failures
- · Outdated kitchens and bathrooms
- · Cosmetic issues including peeling paint, damaged flooring, and overgrown landscaping
- Possible structural issues in older properties, particularly in historic districts
- May have code violations or safety concerns that need immediate attention

## **Financial Aspects**

- Below-market purchase prices (typically 15-40% below comparable properties)
- Higher renovation costs that must be factored into investment calculations
- Potential for significant equity capture after repairs
- May qualify for specialized renovation financing like FHA 203(k) loans
- Higher potential ROI but with increased risk and capital requirements

#### **Acquisition Challenges**

- Competitive environment with other investors targeting the same properties
- Limited time for due diligence, especially with auction properties
- Potential title issues, liens, or legal complications

- · May require all-cash purchases, particularly at auctions
- Negotiation with distressed sellers requires sensitivity and specialized skills

## Finding Off-Market and Distressed Properties in Richmond

## **Key Resources**

- DistressedPropertiesSale.com: Database of distressed homes including fixer-uppers, short sales, auctions, and bank-owned properties
- Tax Liens and Foreclosure Listings: Properties with unpaid taxes available at auction
- **Foreclosure.com**: Listings of current foreclosure deals in Richmond, with properties available at up to 75% off market value
- Local Real Estate Investment Groups: Organizations like the Virginia Real Estate Investors Alliance (VREIA) provide networking opportunities and off-market deal access
- **Direct Marketing Campaigns**: Targeted mailings to homeowners in pre-foreclosure or with high equity

## **Neighborhoods with Higher Concentrations of Distressed Properties**

- Highland Springs
- Sandston
- · Parts of North Richmond
- Older sections of Henrico County
- · Select areas of South Richmond

# **Price Ranges for Different Types of Investment Properties**

Understanding the price ranges for different investment property types in Richmond helps investors target opportunities that align with their budget and strategy.

# **Single-Family Homes**

- Entry-Level/Starter Homes: \$200,000 \$300,000
- Typically found in areas like Highland Springs, Sandston, and parts of North Richmond
- Often require some renovations or updates

- Potential for strong rental yields but moderate appreciation
- Mid-Range Homes: \$300,000 \$450,000
- Available in neighborhoods like Manchester, parts of Church Hill, and suburban areas
- Mix of updated and properties needing moderate improvements
- Balance of cash flow and appreciation potential
- High-End/Luxury Homes: \$450,000 \$800,000+
- Located in premium neighborhoods like The Fan, Museum District, and Short Pump
- · Generally well-maintained or recently renovated
- Lower rental yields but stronger appreciation potential

## **Multi-Family Properties**

- **Duplexes**: \$350,000 \$550,000
- More common in older neighborhoods like The Fan, Oregon Hill, and parts of Church Hill
- Often in historic buildings with character features
- Higher management requirements but better cash flow than single-family
- Triplexes and Fourplexes: \$450,000 \$800,000+
- Limited inventory compared to duplexes
- Concentrated in areas near VCU and downtown
- · Higher potential returns but more complex management

#### **Condos and Townhouses**

- Standard Units: \$200,000 \$350,000
- Available throughout Richmond, with concentrations in Shockoe Bottom and newer suburban developments
- Lower maintenance responsibilities
- HOA fees impact overall returns
- Luxury Units: \$350,000 \$600,000+
- Premium locations in downtown, riverfront areas, and upscale suburban communities
- High-end finishes and amenities

• Appeal to professional tenants with higher incomes

## **Commercial Properties**

- Small Retail/Office Spaces: \$300,000 \$800,000
- · Located in neighborhood commercial districts and mixed-use areas
- Often require specialized knowledge of commercial leasing
- Potential for NNN leases that pass expenses to tenants
- Larger Commercial Buildings: \$800,000 \$3,000,000+
- Located in prime commercial corridors and business districts
- Higher barriers to entry but potential for stronger returns
- Often purchased by experienced investors or investment groups

## **Distressed and Off-Market Properties**

- Pre-Foreclosures: \$125,000 \$450,000
- Discounted 10-30% below market value
- Available across various neighborhoods
- Condition varies widely from minor repairs to major renovations
- Bank-Owned/REO: \$100,000 \$400,000
- Often priced below market for quick sales
- Typically sold "as-is" with no warranties
- May require significant renovation investment
- Auction Properties: \$50,000 \$350,000
- Potentially the deepest discounts but highest risk
- Limited inspection opportunities
- Often require all-cash purchases

## **Potential ROI and Rental Yield Estimates**

Richmond's rental market offers attractive returns for investors, with yields varying by property type and neighborhood. Understanding the potential ROI and rental yields helps investors make informed decisions.

#### **Overall Rental Market Trends**

- Richmond's rental market is thriving, driven by a steady influx of young professionals, students, and families
- The average rent in Richmond is approximately \$1,045, with properties typically spending about 16 days on the rental market
- The city's property market has appreciated significantly over the past decade, with a cumulative growth of **114.76**%, averaging **10**% **annually**

## **Estimated Rental Yields by Property Type**

## **Single-Family Homes**

Gross Rental Yields: 6-8%

• Net Rental Yields: 4-6% (after expenses)

Monthly Rent Ranges:

• 2-bedroom homes: \$1,200 - \$1,600

• 3-bedroom homes: \$1,500 - \$2,200

• 4-bedroom homes: \$1,800 - \$2,800

• Best Performing Areas: Manchester, Church Hill, Northside

## **Multi-Family Properties**

• Gross Rental Yields: 7-10%

• Net Rental Yields: 5-7% (after expenses)

Monthly Rent Ranges:

• Duplex units: \$1,100 - \$1,800 per unit

• Triplex/fourplex units: \$1,000 - \$1,700 per unit

• Best Performing Areas: Near VCU, The Fan, Oregon Hill

#### **Condos and Townhouses**

• Gross Rental Yields: 5-7%

• Net Rental Yields: 3-5% (after expenses, including HOA fees)

Monthly Rent Ranges:

• 1-bedroom units: \$1,000 - \$1,400

• 2-bedroom units: \$1,300 - \$1,900

• 3-bedroom units: \$1,600 - \$2,300

• Best Performing Areas: Shockoe Bottom, Scott's Addition, downtown

## **ROI Considerations by Neighborhood**

#### The Fan District

• Average Purchase Price: \$450,000 - \$700,000

• Average Monthly Rent: \$1,800 - \$2,500

• Gross Yield: 5-6%

• Appreciation Potential: High

• Tenant Profile: Young professionals, students, small families

• Vacancy Rates: Low (2-3%)

#### Scott's Addition

• Average Purchase Price: \$350,000 - \$550,000

• Average Monthly Rent: \$1,500 - \$2,200

• Gross Yield: 6-7%

Appreciation Potential: Very High

• Tenant Profile: Young professionals, millennials

Vacancy Rates: Very Low (1-2%)

#### **Manchester**

• Average Purchase Price: \$300,000 - \$450,000

• Average Monthly Rent: \$1,400 - \$2,000

· Gross Yield: 6-8%

• Appreciation Potential: High

• Tenant Profile: Young professionals, artists, small families

• Vacancy Rates: Low (2-3%)

#### **Church Hill**

Average Purchase Price: \$275,000 - \$500,000

Average Monthly Rent: \$1,300 - \$2,100

• Gross Yield: 6-7%

Appreciation Potential: Moderate to High

• Tenant Profile: Young professionals, small families

• Vacancy Rates: Low to Moderate (3-4%)

## **Short Pump**

• Average Purchase Price: \$400,000 - \$650,000

Average Monthly Rent: \$1,700 - \$2,500

• Gross Yield: 5-6%

• Appreciation Potential: Moderate

• Tenant Profile: Families, professionals

• Vacancy Rates: Very Low (1-2%)

## **Investment Strategy Considerations**

## **Buy and Hold**

- Most suitable for properties in established neighborhoods with steady appreciation
- Focus on properties with strong cash flow potential
- Consider properties with value-add opportunities through minor renovations
- Target areas with low vacancy rates and stable tenant bases

## Fix and Flip

- Best for distressed properties in transitional or up-and-coming neighborhoods
- Look for properties discounted at least 20-30% below ARV (After Repair Value)
- Budget for renovation costs of \$30-\$75 per square foot depending on scope
- Target 15-20% minimum profit margin after all expenses

## BRRRR (Buy, Rehab, Rent, Refinance, Repeat)

- Ideal for properties in emerging neighborhoods with strong rental demand
- Focus on properties with significant value-add potential
- Aim for post-renovation appraisal that allows 75-80% LTV refinance to recapture initial investment
- Target cash-on-cash returns of 10%+ after refinancing

## **Expense Factors Impacting ROI**

- Property Taxes: Approximately 1.2% of assessed value annually
- Insurance: \$800-\$1,500 annually depending on property type and location
- Property Management: 8-10% of monthly rent plus leasing fees
- Maintenance: 1-2% of property value annually
- Capital Expenditures: 5-10% of rental income should be reserved
- Vacancy: Budget for 5-8% annual vacancy rate

# **Local Regulations for Real Estate Investors**

Richmond real estate investors must navigate various regulations at state and local levels. Understanding these rules is crucial for compliance and successful investment operations.

## **State-Level Regulations**

Virginia's real estate industry is governed by statewide statutes and regulations, primarily overseen by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). Key regulations include:

## **Licensing Requirements**

- Real estate agents and brokers must be licensed through the Virginia Real Estate Board
- Property managers handling rentals for third parties require a real estate license
- Individual investors purchasing properties for their own portfolio do not typically need a real estate license

#### **Landlord-Tenant Laws**

- Virginia Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (VRLTA) governs most residential rental relationships
- · Security deposits limited to two months' rent
- Specific notice periods required for lease termination and rent increases
- Strict requirements for handling security deposits, including interest payments in some cases
- Detailed maintenance and habitability standards for rental properties

## **Fair Housing Laws**

- Virginia Fair Housing Law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, elderliness, familial status, disability, source of funds, sexual orientation, gender identity, and military status
- Violations can result in significant penalties and legal action

## **Local Richmond Ordinances**

Richmond has specific local ordinances that impact real estate investors:

#### **Zoning Regulations**

- Richmond's zoning code classifies areas into residential, commercial, mixed-use, and special districts
- These classifications determine permissible property uses, density, building heights, and development standards
- Historic districts like Church Hill and the Fan District impose additional restrictions on renovations and new constructions
- Special use permits may be required for certain property uses or modifications

## **Historic District Regulations**

- Properties within designated historic districts face restrictions on modifications
- Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) approval required for exterior changes to buildings in historic districts
- Compliance with preservation guidelines mandatory for renovations
- · Additional permits and reviews required for significant alterations

## **Rental Inspection Programs**

- Some areas of Richmond require periodic rental inspections
- Rental inspection districts aim to ensure minimum housing standards
- Fees associated with inspections and potential remediation requirements
- Non-compliance can result in fines and inability to legally rent properties

## **Property Maintenance Code**

- Richmond enforces the Virginia Maintenance Code
- Specific requirements for property upkeep, safety features, and structural integrity
- Code enforcement can issue violations requiring prompt remediation
- Repeated violations may result in escalating penalties

## **Recent Legislative Developments**

The Virginia Real Estate Investors Alliance (VREIA) monitors legislation impacting the industry. Recent proposed bills include:

- HB2175: Allows localities to limit rent increases, potentially affecting rental income stability
- HB2218: Mandates acceptance of various rent payment methods without additional fees
- HB2047: Prohibits algorithmic rent pricing, impacting automated pricing tools
- HB2229: Changes eviction procedures, affecting landlord-tenant relations

#### **Tax Considerations**

Richmond investors should be aware of various tax implications:

## **Property Taxes**

- Richmond's real estate tax rate is \$1.20 per \$100 of assessed value
- Properties are assessed annually, with potential for significant increases in appreciating areas
- Tax abatement programs available for certain rehabilitation projects
- Special assessments may apply in certain districts for infrastructure improvements

#### **Business Licenses**

• Investors with multiple properties may need a business license

- · License fees based on gross receipts from rental income
- · Annual renewal requirements and reporting obligations

## **Short-Term Rental Regulations**

- Special permits required for short-term rentals (less than 30 days)
- Occupancy taxes apply to short-term rentals
- Many areas require owner occupancy for short-term rental operations
- Zoning restrictions may prohibit short-term rentals in certain districts

# **Compliance Recommendations for Investors**

To navigate Richmond's regulatory environment successfully:

- Conduct thorough due diligence before purchasing, including zoning verification and permit history
- 2. Establish relationships with local officials in planning, zoning, and code enforcement departments
- 3. Join local investor associations like VREIA for updates on regulatory changes
- 4. **Work with experienced local professionals** including attorneys, property managers, and contractors familiar with Richmond's regulations
- 5. **Maintain detailed records** of all property maintenance, tenant communications, and financial transactions
- 6. **Consider professional property management** to ensure compliance with complex and changing regulations
- 7. **Stay informed about legislative changes** that may impact investment strategies and operations

# **Images of Richmond Properties and Neighborhoods**

# **Historic Neighborhoods**

- Church Hill Historic District (https://whyrichmondisawesome.com/wp-content/uploads/church-hill-bricks.jpg)
- Fan District Row Houses (https://live.staticflickr.com/65535/32906590777 b20f54acb8 b.jpg)
- Monument Avenue in The Fan (https://live.staticflickr.com/65535/47824230542 6584c5ce84 b.jpg)

 Historic Jackson Ward (https://www.tclf.org/sites/default/files/thumbnails/image/ VA\_Richmond\_JacksonWard\_BarrettDoherty\_2018\_01.jpg)

## **Popular Investment Areas**

- Scott's Addition Neighborhood (https://sightdoing.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/scotts-addition-richmond.jpg)
- Manchester Development (https://i.pinimg.com/originals/e8/08/64/ e80864f08110c1d316324af38e5d4604.png)
- Shockoe Bottom Area (https://live.staticflickr.com/32/35527763\_628d1165e3\_z.jpg)
- Museum District (https://whyrichmondisawesome.com/wp-content/uploads/ 021\_Museum\_District\_104771\_149325-640x427.jpg)

## **Investment Property Types**

- Multi-Family Home in Richmond (https://ap.rdcpix.com/ff94a0be7d6c3e447b5c0bd5248a12b9l-m4253299819rd-w960\_h720.jpg)
- Single-Family Investment Property (https://i.pinimg.com/736x/ab/9d/65/ab9d65468b388d789f26c-c4ec17015e8.jpg)
- Richmond Commercial Real Estate (https://cdn.commercialcafe.com/images/65E8F96F-93C5-4E38-B6E9-2F273F1FEC84/Vistas-37.JPG?width=450)
- Renovated Investment Property (https://ufundinvestment.com/wp-content/uploads/ 2019/12/%E5%B0%81%E9%9D%A2.jpg)

## **Distressed Properties**

- Pre-Foreclosure Home Example (https://www.fortunebuilders.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/distressed-properties.jpg)
- Fixer-Upper Investment Opportunity (https://live.staticflickr.com/ 5146/5555812649\_80313dc374\_b.jpg)
- Distressed Property Renovation Potential (https://learn.roofstock.com/hs-fs/hubfs/iS-tock-1154227862.jpg?width=4128&name=iStock-1154227862.jpg)

# **Richmond Cityscape**

Richmond Skyline (https://dividendsdiversify.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/richmond-va-sky-line.jpg)

- James River View (https://cwprop.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Overlook-Townhomes-Richmond-VA-James-River.jpg)
- Downtown Richmond (https://cdn.commercialcafe.com/images/F3287C62-2443-49E7-A44F-A7EE9C72608E/11470043.jpeg?width=450)