NYC Rent Guidelines Board

2019 Mortgage Survey Report

April 18, 2019

What is the *Mortgage Survey Report*?

- Section 26-510(b)(iii) of the Rent Stabilization Law requires the RGB to consider "costs and availability of financing" in its deliberations
- Surveys financial institutions that underwrite mortgages for multifamily properties in N.Y.C.
- Four main areas:
 - new and refinanced loans
 - underwriting criteria
 - non-performing loans
 - the characteristics of buildings in lenders' portfolios

What is the *Mortgage Survey Report*?

- Highlights changes in N.Y.C. multifamily lending market over the prior year
- Report consists of three parts:
 - Mortgage survey analysis;
 - Longitudinal analysis; and
 - Rent stabilized building sales volume and prices

How is the Survey Conducted?

- Lenders surveyed each winter
- Update list of mortgage lenders
- Received **11** responses in 2019
 - 27 lenders were surveyed
 - **41%** participation rate

Summary Findings

- Interest rates decreased
- Points on new loans declined to record low
- Vacancy & collection losses decreased to record low
- New & refinanced loan volume increased
- Loan-to-value ratios declined
- Sales of rent stabilized buildings increased

Interest Rates Decrease

- Mortgage survey data shows decrease in interest rates for new mortgages, to
 4.65%
 - Decline of 18 basis points (4%)

Average Interest Rates for New Loans to Rent Stabilized Buildings, 1981-2019

Multifamily Mortgage Interest Rates Decrease This Year



Source: NYC Rent Guidelines Board, Annual Mortgage Surveys

Service Fees Decrease

- Upfront service fees, called points, for loans fell to record low of 0.38
 - Six basis point (14%) decline from prior year
- Fees ranged between **0** and **1** point
 - Five lenders charge no service fee

Service Fees for New Loans to Rent Stabilized Buildings, 1981-2019

Service Fees Decrease to Record Low in 2019



Source: NYC Rent Guidelines Board, Annual Mortgage Surveys

Mortgage Loan Activity Grew

- New loan volume rose from prior year
 - Average of **94** loans per institution
 - 116% increase over prior year
 - **1,031** new loans reported by surveyed lenders
- Refinanced loan volume increased
 - Number of refinanced loans grew to **57**
 - Increase of 7% from prior year
 - 622 refinanced loans reported by lenders

Minimal Change in Underwriting Criteria

- Maximum LTV ratios ranged from 60% to 82.5%
- Average LTV ratio declined from 73.5% to 72.0% this year
- Average debt service ratio rose slightly, from 1.21 last year to 1.23 this year

1996-2019 Mortgage Survey Average Loan-to-Value Standards

Maximum Loan-to-Value Ratios Decline



Source: NYC Rent Guidelines Board, Annual Mortgage Surveys

Similar Lending Standards for Rent Stabilized Buildings

- Survey found lending standards similar for both stabilized and unregulated buildings
- Majority of lenders reported standards no more stringent among stabilized buildings for:
 - interest rates;
 - LTV ratio;
 - debt service coverage

Non-Performing Loans & Foreclosures

- Two lenders reported non-performing loans vs. one the prior year
 - Represents less than 1% of lenders' portfolio
- One lender reported having foreclosures, same as last year
 - Also less than 1% of lender's portfolio

Characteristics of stabilized buildings in lenders' portfolios

- Typical building in lenders' portfolios has:
 - 20-49 units: **36%** of lenders
 - 1-10 units: **27%** of lenders
 - 50-99 units: **27%** of lenders
 - 100+ units: **one** lender

Characteristics of stabilized buildings in lenders' portfolios

- Average rent per apartment rose 16%, to \$1,482
- Average expense per apartment rose 22%, to \$727
- Average O&M cost-to-rent ratio rose from 46.7% to 49.0% this year

Characteristics of stabilized buildings in lenders' portfolios

- Vacancy and collection losses fell to record low of **2.59%** this year
 - Decline from 2.83% the prior year
- All but two lenders offered financing to buildings containing commercial space
 - 25% of buildings in loan portfolios contain commercial space, down from 35% in the prior year

Average Vacancy and Collection Losses, 1996-2019

Vacancy and Collection Losses Decline To Record Low For Six Consecutive Years



Source: NYC Rent Guidelines Board, Annual Mortgage Surveys

Portfolios of Mortgage Lenders

- 82% of lenders' NOI; debt service; and O&M expenses expectations equaled or exceeded
 - Similar to prior year
- **75%** of lenders keep their mortgages, rather than selling to secondary markets

Longitudinal Analysis Summary

- Ten of this year's lenders responded to our survey both this and last year
- Average rate for new originations: **4.72%**, up from **4.68%** in prior year
- Average points rose from last year: 0.42 this year from 0.33 last year

Longitudinal Analysis Summary

- Maximum LTV ratio declined from 73.3% last year to 71.8% this year
- Debt service ratio declined from 1.23 last year to
 1.21 this year
- V&C losses declined from 2.60% last year, to
 2.55% this year
- **Two** lenders reported non-performing loans, the same as last year
- One lender reported foreclosures, down from two last year

Rent Stabilized Sales Data Analysis

- 885 buildings sold in 2018, up 12% from the prior year
- Growth in sale volume varied by building size:
 - Sales among 6-10 unit buildings up **2%**
 - Sales of 11-19 unit buildings grew **12%**
 - Sales of 20-99 unit buildings increased **22%**
 - Sales of 100+ unit buildings rose **38%**

Sales Volume Change Varies by Borough

| | 2017 | 2018 | Change |
|-----------|------|------|--------|
| Bronx | 156 | 195 | 25.0% |
| Brooklyn | 292 | 281 | -3.8% |
| Manhattan | 233 | 289 | 24.0% |
| Queens | 112 | 120 | 7.1% |
| Citywide | 793 | 885 | 11.6% |

Rent Stabilized Building Sales, 2003-2018

Citywide Building Sales Declined from Prior Year



Source: NYC Department of Finance

Rent Stabilized Sales Data Analysis

- In 2018, median rent stabilized building sale price Citywide was \$4.4 million
 - Manhattan: **\$7.2 million**
 - Bronx: **\$4.6 million**
 - Brooklyn: \$3.0 million
 - Queens: **\$2.1 million**

Rent Stabilized Sales Data Analysis

- In 2018, median Citywide sales prices by building size:
 - 6-10 unit buildings: **\$2.1 million**
 - 11-19 unit buildings: **\$5.1 million**
 - 20-99 unit buildings: **\$8.3 million**
 - 100+ unit buildings: **\$78.9 million**

2019 Mortgage Survey Report Summary

- Average interest rates declined
- Service fees declined to record low
- Vacancy & collection losses decreased to record low
- Among longitudinal group, interest rates and service fees rose
- Building sales volume increased Citywide

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