## Brown Harris Stevens

Established 1873

Manhattan<br>Residential Market Report

Fourth Quarter 2008


## Closings Yet to Show Full Impact of Recession

Closing prices for Manhattan apartments averaged $\$ 1,449,621$ during the fourth quarter, up slightly from a year ago but down $2 \%$ from the third quarter. While closings at 15 Central Park West and The Plaza had inflated prices over the past few quarters, this was not the case during the fourth quarter. Removing these two buildings brings the average price down just \$24,230 to $\$ 1,425,391$, which would be up $2 \%$ from the comparable third quarter figure and the second highest figure on record. The lack of activity in these buildings this quarter brought many prices lower over the past year, especially for two- and three-bedroom apartments.

New developments continued to account for a higher percentage of closings during the fourth quarter. Comprising $42 \%$ of all sales, and $72 \%$ of condominium sales, they sold for an average price of $\$ 1,717,115,3 \%$ higher than the prior quarter. As we have pointed out in previous reports, these deals are typically negotiated far in advance of when they close. On average, new developments that closed during the fourth quarter had their contract signed on November 16, 2007.

At $\$ 1,103,952$, the average price of a cooperative apartment was $3 \%$ higher than during the fourth quarter of 2007. This increase is solely due to a $25 \%$ rise in the average price for fourbedroom and larger co-ops during this time. The average price for all other size categories of co-ops fell over the past year, as did the median co-op price, which measures the middle of the market and is not as impacted by high-end sales.

Now that the initial closings are essentially complete at 15 Central Park West and The Plaza, average condo prices are being driven lower. The decline in the number of closings at these buildings was the only reason the average condo price fell $7 \%$ over the past year to $\$ 1,713,124$. If they are excluded, the average condo price would actually be up $21 \%$ from the fourth quarter of 2007 and would set a new record.

Although the troubles in the financial markets have intensified since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September, this was not reflected in closing prices during the fourth quarter. While the number of reported closings fell $9 \%$ compared to the same period in 2007, both the average and median prices were higher than a year ago, and even higher than the prior quarter if 15 Central Park West and The Plaza are excluded. Sales in new developments and co-ops, the majority of Manhattan apartment sales, take several months to go from a signed contract to a closing, and, therefore, most of the sales in this report were negotiated prior to Lehman's collapse.

Transaction data for this market report is provided by ValuExchange, a proprietary database containing the largest known survey of the Manhattan residential market. This report is based on 2,301 recorded Manhattan apartment sales.

Gregory J. Heym
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## Manhattan Cooperatives and Condominiums

The average apartment price of $\$ 1,449,621$ was down from the third quarter, but up slightly from a year ago. If 15 Central Park. West and The Plaza are removed from this statistic, the average price is $18 \%$ bigher than a year ago, and 2\% bigher than the third quarter.

Average and Median Sale Price


Average Sale Price $\square$ Median Sale Price $\square$
Average Sale Price

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 7,387,901$ | $\$ 2,857,399$ | $\$ 1,593,420$ | $\$ 798,973$ | $\$ 481,024$ | $\$ 1,449,621$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 8,878,019$ | $\$ 3,088,451$ | $\$ 1,540,920$ | $\$ 805,682$ | $\$ 493,257$ | $\$ 1,473,351$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 7,682,890$ | $\$ 3,662,882$ | $\$ 1,791,003$ | $\$ 799,066$ | $\$ 502,735$ | $\$ 1,663,533$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 10,039,712$ | $\$ 4,139,289$ | $\$ 1,740,749$ | $\$ 813,208$ | $\$ 484,280$ | $\$ 1,690,995$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 6,951,864$ | $\$ 3,528,383$ | $\$ 1,695,245$ | $\$ 784,290$ | $\$ 437,317$ | $\$ 1,430,514$ |

Average Price Per Square Foot

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 1,734$ | $\$ 1,391$ | $\$ 1,209$ | $\$ 1,061$ | $\$ 1,002$ | $\$ 1,162$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 2,173$ | $\$ 1,540$ | $\$ 1,214$ | $\$ 1,063$ | $\$ 984$ | $\$ 1,184$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 2,013$ | $\$ 1,633$ | $\$ 1,297$ | $\$ 1,080$ | $\$ 1,077$ | $\$ 1,251$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 2,352$ | $\$ 1,724$ | $\$ 1,259$ | $\$ 1,104$ | $\$ 1,049$ | $\$ 1,263$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 1,764$ | $\$ 1,546$ | $\$ 1,273$ | $\$ 1,042$ | $\$ 953$ | $\$ 1,181$ |

Average Price Per Room

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 789,337$ | $\$ 458,054$ | $\$ 348,614$ | $\$ 254,485$ | $\$ 223,292$ | $\$ 323,307$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 917,384$ | $\$ 494,702$ | $\$ 344,739$ | $\$ 255,496$ | $\$ 233,223$ | $\$ 323,046$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 865,781$ | $\$ 571,488$ | $\$ 391,267$ | $\$ 254,358$ | $\$ 233,656$ | $\$ 354,006$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 1,026,915$ | $\$ 630,164$ | $\$ 375,403$ | $\$ 256,001$ | $\$ 229,535$ | $\$ 349,826$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 752,692$ | $\$ 542,661$ | $\$ 371,594$ | $\$ 247,876$ | $\$ 205,513$ | $\$ 319,591$ |

## Manhattan Cooperative Apartments

A 25\% gain in the average price of four-bedroom and larger units helped bring the average co-op price 3\% bigher than during 2007's fourth quarter.

Average and Median Sale Price


Average Sale Price $\square$ Median Sale Price $\square$

## Average Sale Price

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 10,643,737$ | $\$ 2,549,093$ | $\$ 1,246,358$ | $\$ 616,136$ | $\$ 391,316$ | $\$ 1,103,952$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 10,160,049$ | $\$ 2,574,422$ | $\$ 1,264,292$ | $\$ 667,816$ | $\$ 400,109$ | $\$ 1,199,909$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 8,258,341$ | $\$ 3,436,665$ | $\$ 1,465,315$ | $\$ 653,319$ | $\$ 428,123$ | $\$ 1,292,652$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 12,947,751$ | $\$ 3,587,305$ | $\$ 1,511,340$ | $\$ 683,698$ | $\$ 414,074$ | $\$ 1,333,431$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 8,543,583$ | $\$ 3,016,364$ | $\$ 1,315,614$ | $\$ 659,875$ | $\$ 394,539$ | $\$ 1,074,369$ |

Average Price Per Room

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 968,610$ | $\$ 373,186$ | $\$ 259,042$ | $\$ 190,270$ | $\$ 180,068$ | $\$ 240,192$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 937,691$ | $\$ 391,278$ | $\$ 270,736$ | $\$ 205,912$ | $\$ 184,794$ | $\$ 255,399$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 881,355$ | $\$ 460,219$ | $\$ 298,728$ | $\$ 203,981$ | $\$ 197,408$ | $\$ 268,930$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 1,129,921$ | $\$ 498,645$ | $\$ 306,878$ | $\$ 211,647$ | $\$ 193,283$ | $\$ 274,088$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 781,006$ | $\$ 418,670$ | $\$ 276,890$ | $\$ 206,412$ | $\$ 180,825$ | $\$ 244,111$ |

## Manhattan Condominium Apartments

The decline in closings at 15 Central Park West and The Plaza during the fourth quarter brought the average condo price down $7 \%$ over the past year to $\$ 1,713,124$. If these buildings are removed, however, the average price would have risen 21\% during this time to a new bigh of $\$ 1,672,423$.

Average and Median Sale Price


Average Sale Price Median Sale Price

## Average Sale Price

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 5,759,983$ | $\$ 2,965,349$ | $\$ 1,819,192$ | $\$ 947,405$ | $\$ 620,998$ | $\$ 1,713,124$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 7,988,448$ | $\$ 3,385,446$ | $\$ 1,718,786$ | $\$ 912,414$ | $\$ 644,510$ | $\$ 1,651,677$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 7,452,156$ | $\$ 3,786,189$ | $\$ 2,004,123$ | $\$ 934,321$ | $\$ 633,862$ | $\$ 1,975,695$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 8,889,694$ | $\$ 4,428,083$ | $\$ 1,935,538$ | $\$ 917,691$ | $\$ 596,730$ | $\$ 1,997,108$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 6,139,071$ | $\$ 3,794,892$ | $\$ 2,111,210$ | $\$ 930,186$ | $\$ 538,400$ | $\$ 1,851,709$ |

Average Price Per Square Foot

|  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio | All |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4th Q 08 | $\$ 1,715$ | $\$ 1,455$ | $\$ 1,305$ | $\$ 1,156$ | $\$ 1,134$ | $\$ 1,266$ |
| 3rd Q 08 | $\$ 2,066$ | $\$ 1,622$ | $\$ 1,283$ | $\$ 1,128$ | $\$ 1,055$ | $\$ 1,257$ |
| 2nd Q 08 | $\$ 1,959$ | $\$ 1,708$ | $\$ 1,384$ | $\$ 1,164$ | $\$ 1,210$ | $\$ 1,355$ |
| 1st Q 08 | $\$ 2,403$ | $\$ 1,841$ | $\$ 1,354$ | $\$ 1,173$ | $\$ 1,177$ | $\$ 1,369$ |
| 4th Q 07 | $\$ 1,772$ | $\$ 1,635$ | $\$ 1,411$ | $\$ 1,136$ | $\$ 1,075$ | $\$ 1,308$ |

## East Side

Generally 59th to 96th Street, Fifth Avenue to the East River

Pricing gains on the East Side were led by one- and threebedroom units, whose average price rose $11 \%$ and $9 \%$ respectively over the past year.

|  |  | 4+Bedroom | 3-Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio |
| :---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Percent of | 4th Q 07 | $5 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| Sales | 4th Q 08 | $6 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $11 \%$ |
| Average | 4th Q 07 | $\$ 9,322,746$ | $\$ 3,205,239$ | $\$ 1,720,636$ | $\$ 717,660$ | $\$ 413,787$ |
| Price | 4th Q 08 | $\$ 9,533,939$ | $\$ 3,492,747$ | $\$ 1,781,663$ | $\$ 796,068$ | $\$ 401,203$ |
|  | $\%$ Change | $2 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $-3 \%$ |

Cooperative
Average Price Per Room


## Condominium

Average Price Per Square Foot


## West Side

Generally 59th to 110th Street, Hudson River to West of Fifth Avenue

With significantly fewer closings occurring at 15 Central Park West, West Side prices fell compared to the fourth quarter of 2007, especially for larger apartments.

|  |  | 3+Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Percent of | 4th Q 07 | $18 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Sales | 4th Q 08 | $14 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $42 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Average | 4th Q 07 | $\$ 4,952,327$ | $\$ 1,761,942$ | $\$ 771,928$ | $\$ 433,175$ |
| Price | 4th Q 08 | $\$ 3,817,442$ | $\$ 1,759,084$ | $\$ 714,386$ | $\$ 420,020$ |
|  | \% Change | $-23 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $-7 \%$ | $-3 \%$ |

## Cooperative

Average Price Per Room


## Condominium

Average Price Per Square Foot

| $\$ 1,700$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 1,600$ |
| $\$ 1,500$ |
| $\$ 1,400$ |
| $\$ 1,300$ |
| $\$ 1,200$ |
| $\$ 1,000$ |

$4 \mathrm{QO7} \square \quad 4 \mathrm{Q} 08 \square$

## Midtown

While prices fell for co-op apartments in the Midtown
East market over the past year, the average condo price per square foot rose $12 \%$ to $\$ 1,306$.

Due mainly to abnormally low figures a year ago, Midtown West co-op prices rose significantly over the past year.

MidTown East generally 34th to 58 th Street, Fijth Avenue to the East River

## Cooperative

Average Price Per Room


## Condominium

## Average Price Per Square Foot

| $\$ 1,500$ | $\$ 1,164$ | $\$ 1,306$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 1,300$ |  |  |
| $\$ 1,100$ |  |  |
| $\$ 700$ |  |  |
| $\$ 500$ | 4007 | 4008 |
|  |  |  |

Midtown West gemealy 3 4th th 5 5th Strect, Huldor Riverto Westof Fith Avenue

## Cooperative

Average Price Per Room


## Condominium

Average Price Per Square Foot


## Downtown

South of 34th Street

In the Downtown market, where $65 \%$ of closings were in new developments, the average price was higher for all sizes of apartments when compared to the fourth quarter of 2007.

|  |  | 3+Bedroom | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio |
| :---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Percent of | 4th Q 07 | $8 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $23 \%$ |
| Sales | 4th Q 08 | $13 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $17 \%$ |
| Average | 4th Q 07 | $\$ 3,052,773$ | $\$ 1,664,691$ | $\$ 836,257$ | $\$ 476,721$ |
| Price | 4th Q 08 | $\$ 3,349,647$ | $\$ 1,722,350$ | $\$ 866,388$ | $\$ 560,237$ |
|  | \% Change | $10 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $18 \%$ |

## Cooperative

Average Price Per Room

$4 \mathrm{Q07}-4 \mathrm{Q} 08$

## Condominium

Average Price Per Square Foot


## Northern Manhattan

Generally north of 96th Street on the East Side, and 110th Street on the West Side

Although the average price fell sharply for three-bedroom and larger apartments located in Northern Manhattan, this was due primarily to closings at 111 Central Park North during 2007's fourth quarter which inflated that figure.

|  | $3+$ Bedroom |  | 2-Bedroom | 1-Bedroom | Studio |
| :---: | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Percent of | 4th Q 07 | $17 \%$ | $44 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $8 \%$ |
| Sales | 4th Q 08 | $17 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $7 \%$ |
| Average | 4th Q 07 | $\$ 1,617,440$ | $\$ 556,048$ | $\$ 378,248$ | $\$ 243,641$ |
| Price | 4th Q 08 | $\$ 791,514$ | $\$ 536,988$ | $\$ 434,756$ | $\$ 292,627$ |
|  | \% Change | $-51 \%$ | $-3 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $20 \%$ |

## Cooperative

Average Price Per Room

|  | \$104,789 \$ 107,217 | \$113,424 ${ }^{\text {/ } 108,779}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \$175,000 |  |  |
| \$150,000 |  |  |
| \$125,000 |  |  |
| \$100,000 |  |  |
| \$75,000 |  |  |
| \$50,000 |  |  |
| \$25,000 |  |  |
| \$0 |  |  |
| Prewar Postwar |  |  |

## Condominium

Average Price Per Square Foot

| $\$ 900$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 800$ |
| $\$ 700$ |
| $\$ 600$ |
| $\$ 500$ |
| $\$ 400$ |
| $\$ 300$ |
| $\$ 200$ |

# Manhattan Lofts and Townhouses 

## Manhattan Lofts

Average Price Per Square Foot
At $\$ 1,181$ per square foot, the average loft price
was up slightly from the fourth quarter of 2007.

> Townhouse prices averaged $\$ 1,550$ per square foot during the fourth quarter, up $24 \%$ from a year ago, but down $9 \%$ from the prior quarter.

Manhattan Townhouses
Average Price Per Square Foot



Gregory J. Heym is the Chief Economist for Brown Harris Stevens and serves on the City's Economic Advisory Panel. He has covered the residential real estate market for the past thirteen years, and was the author of the Real Estate Board of New York's cooperative and condominium sales reports prior to joining Brown Harris Stevens. Mr. Heym's academic background includes a B.S. in Economics from Saint John's University and an M.B.A. from Hofstra University.


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