## OrangeTee.

# Property Market Outlook 2022

How will the real estate market perform this year? How will the new property cooling measures affect the private residential, HDB and rental markets?





The private residential and public housing markets achieved brilliant sales last year. Prices of private residential properties rose for seven consecutive quarters to a historical high in the fourth quarter of 2021. For the HDB resale market, prices have similarly reached record levels in the same quarter.

According to flash estimates from the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), prices of private residential homes surged 10.6 per cent for the whole of 2021, surpassing the full-year growth in 2019 and 2020.

The fast-growing prices did not hamper demand. Sales were brisk across many project launches and resale developments. More than 25,000 private homes, excluding executive condominium units (EC), were sold in the first nine months of 2021, higher than the annual sales recorded over the past three years.

Demand for private homes was wellsupported by an influx of HDB upgraders buying condominiums in the suburbs and city fringes. Many home owners sold their flats to capitalise on the rising resale prices and were seeking replacement homes. Other Singaporeans bought private homes for fear that prices may climb further when our economy picks up.

To address the upward momentum in prices and rein in the housing market, the Government introduced fresh measures on 16 December 2021. The authorities have upped the ante by imposing a more comprehensive slew of property curbs and ramping up housing supply for both the public and private housing markets.

The Additional Buyers' Stamp Duty (ABSD) rates were increased, and the Total Debt Servicing Ratio (TDSR) was tightened to tamper demand. The new measures are likely to impact some buyers. Investors holding multiple properties, permanent residents (PR) and foreigners could bear the biggest brunt as they face the most significant ABSD hikes.

The ultra-rich and super-wealthy investors may proceed with their purchases. The advantages of parking their monies here, including our haven status and strong economic fundamentals, may outweigh the additional costs to these well-heeled buyers.

The new measures have little impact on Singaporeans purchasing their first private property as they are exempted from paying the ABSD. As investors take a temporary backseat, some HDB upgraders may take the chance to enter the property market now.

Those who are affected by the ABSD or need more time to raise funds may turn to the rental market temporarily. Some landlords may also hold back on the sale of their units while they wait for prices to recover.

How will the different market segments fare in light of the new cooling measures? How will new home sales, resale and the rental markets perform this year? Read on to find out more.

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## 2022 Forecast at a Glance



### **Rent Projection**

8% to 11%

URA Rental Index 2022 Projection



### 95,000 to 100,000 units

Rental Volume 2022 Projection

### Sales Projection



## Private Residential Market

This year, we anticipate that a constrained supply and robust demand may continue to prop up prices. More people could be buying properties than units available for purchase.

The unsold private housing inventory has dipped to an almost four-year low. The number of new project launches is expected to slide this year as the land supply from the Government Land Sales (GLS) Programme was moderated over the past two years to keep pace with the uncertain economic outlook. Successful en bloc deals have been few and far between.

Therefore, sales may dip to around 23,500- to 26,500- units, since fewer private homes could be launched (Chart 1).

The overall private home prices may rise up to 3 per cent in 2022, after an estimated increase of around 6 to 7 per cent last year.

Chart 1 Overall private residential market

Indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021 (projection)	2022 (projection)				
Overall									
URA PPI Price Change (incl. EC)	7.9%	2.7%	2.2%	6% to 7%	0% to 3%				
Sales Volume (excl.EC) (units)	22,139	19,150	20,909	32,000 to 33,500	23,500 to 26,500				
New Sale (excl. EC)									
Price Change	12.1%	3.4%	1.9%	8% to 10%	3% to 6%				
Sales Volume (units)	8,795	9,912	9,982	13,000 to 13,300	8,000 to 9,000				
Resale (excl. EC)	Resale (excl. EC)								
Price Change	3.7%	2.5%	-0.9%	8% to 11%	3% to 6%				
Sales volume (units)	13,009	8,949	10,729	19,500 to 20,500	15,000 to 17,000				
Rental									
URA Rental Index (incl. EC)	0.6%	1.4%	-0.6%	6% to 8%	8% to 11%				
Leasing volume (units) (excl. EC)	89,904	93,960	92,537	92,000 to 97,000	95,000 to 100,000				

Source: URA, OrangeTee & Tie Research and Analytics

The overall economicrecovery scenario and travel corridor arrangement may have some positive impact on private home demand. Among the countries with Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL) arrangements, we may see more impact from Malaysia, India and Indonesia as their citizens are among the top four foreign purchasers of condominiums in Singapore. From 2019 to Q3 2021, these buyers bought around 4,000 condominiums.

The VTL with the United States, United Kingdom, Korea, France and Canada may have some moderate impact. Their citizens were among the top 12 foreign buyers of condominiums over the last three years, and they comprise around 12 per cent of the total foreign purchases here.

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### **Private New Sales**

Around 30 projects or less could be launched for sale this year, which will be in stark contrast to the 50 over projects launched in 2019. Close to 9,000 units including executive condominiums (EC) may be released into the market, and this is approximately 17 to 20 per cent lower than the number of private homes launched annually in 2019 and 2020.

Developers in general are likely to proceed with their launches despite the cooling measures. There will be a few notable project launches. AXA Tower, opposite the Tanjong Pagar MRT station in Shenton Way along Cecil Street, will be redeveloped into a new mixeddevelopment comprising residential units and office space. This is a joint-venture between Alibaba Singapore and a consortium led by Perennial Real Estate Holdings.

New projects at the former Maxwell House jointly developed by Chip Eng Seng Corp, SingHaiyi Investments and Chuan Investments and the Marina View white site by a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malaysian property developer IOI Properties Group, could be launched within the same precinct in H2 2022.

These launches could garner market interest as Downtown Core has been gaining traction as a new hotbed for luxury homes in recent years. The area is set to benefit further when it is rejuvenated alongside the planned development for the Greater Southern Waterfront.



#### Chart 2 Private new home sales (exclude EC)

A sprawling hilltop site at the former Caldecott Broadcast Centre in Andrew Road jointly owned by Perennial Real Estate Holdings and its chairman, Mr Kuok Khoon Hong, could also be launched. It was cited in some news reports that the 752,015 sqft site could be redeveloped into 67 two-storey bungalows with a land area of 800 sqm each.

An upcoming EC project in Tampines Street 62 by Qingjian Realty and Santarli Construction and two leasehold sites - a private residential development with commercial space at Lentor Central by GuocoLand and a private housing site at Ang Mo Kio Avenue 1 opposite the Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park by a joint venture between UOL Group, Singapore Land Group and Kheng Leong Company – may be keenly watched as these projects could set new price levels in those areas based on their record land prices and attractive locations.

Other residential projects that may draw buyers' interest include Liv @ MB at Arthur Road in District 15 and the Pollen Collection, which is third phase of strata landed houses to be launched at Nim Road.

New condominiums at Northumberland Road bought by City Developments (CDL) and joint venture partner MCL Land, and Tanah Merah Kechil Link bought by MCC Land (Singapore) may be launched too.





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Normanton Park



Irwell Hill Residences



Hyll on Holland

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South Beach Residences

### Private Resale

The private resale market saw a significant rebound in buyers' interest last year. The number of resale transactions rose by 0.5 per cent quarter-on quarter (q-o-q) from 5,333 units in Q2 2021 to 5,362 units in Q3 2021. This is the highest quarterly resale volume registered since Q3 2009 when 5,809 units were sold.

A growing number HDB upgraders are turning to the resale market to meet their housing needs. The increased demand was more apparent in the suburbs as mass market condominiums tend to more affordable and supply of new homes in the suburban areas have been dwindling in recent months.

We anticipate that prices of resale homes may continue to rise this year by around 3 to 6 per cent in tandem with the price growth of new private homes. As prices of homes are expected to rise further, sales may slow down to around 15,000- to 17,000- units (Chart 3). However, the sales volume for 2022 will still be higher than the ten-year average of around 9,969 units.



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### Chart 3 Private resale market (exclude EC)



### **Private Rental**

Barring new developments from the Omicron variant and border controls are not tightened, rental demand is poised to bounce back stronger this year when international air travel continues to be restored.

VTLs have been established with many countries, and we are expecting more foreign expats, business partners, and students to return after a two-year exodus.

Many permanent residents (PRs), Singaporeans and foreigners have been returning over the past few weeks. Those who are affected by the cooling measures may also turn to rental. Some could have sold their existing properties before buying another unit to avoid the ABSD.

Hiring prospects may improve for certain sectors like aviation, hospitality, MICE (*Meetings*, Incentives, *Conferences* & Exhibitions) and tourism in the coming months, which may help drive up rental demand.

### Chart 5 Expected completions of private residential properties (exclude EC) as at Q3 2021



Rents have been rising over the past year amid a tight supply of completed homes and robust demand. We estimate that rents may increase by 6 to 8 per cent in 2021, and may rise at a faster pace of between 8 and 11 per cent this year (Chart 4).

We anticipate that the overall leasing volume may hit around 92,000- to 97,000-units in 2021, rising further by 3 to 4 per cent to around 95,000- to 100,000-units in 2022.



## HDB Resale Market

### Resale

The HDB resale market have ended on a high note in 2021. 23,077 resale transactions were inked in the first three quarters of last year, which is almost on par with the fullyear sales in 2018 (23,099 units) and 2019 (23,714 units). The total resale transactions for 2021 is poised to surpass 2020's numbers, which stands at 24,748 units.

New cooling measures were imposed on the public housing market, and the effects could be 'minimal to moderate' depending on the family's financial situation. The Loan-To-Value (LTV) Limit, or the maximum amount that potential homebuyers can borrow from HDB was lowered from 90 per cent to 85 per cent. Those who do not take a maximum loan or are borrowing from financial institutions will not be affected by the new cooling measures.

Indicators	2018	2019	2020	2021 (projection)	2022 (projection)			
Resale								
Price Change	-0.9%	0.1%	5.0%	10% to 12%	5% to 8%			
Sales Volume (units)	23,099	23,714	24,748	29,000 to 31,000	22,000 to 25,000			
Rental								
Rental Price Change (SRX)	-0.4%	1.5%	1.6%	7% to 9%	7% to 10%			
HDB Rental Applications (units)	46,440	48,195	38,798	42,000 to 44,000	46,000 to 48,000			

Source: HDB, Data.gov.sg, SRX, OrangeTee & Tie Research and Analytics

Even as the authorities push out more BTO flats to meet the increasing housing needs, the construction sector may still struggle to clear the backlog of flat completions as the sector is likely to grapple with continual global supply chain disruptions and manpower shortages. Young couples and expanding families may still buy resale homes to meet their immediate housing needs. This year, we may see more million-dollar flat transactions as more flats in the mature estates are expected to reach their five-year occupation period. These include flats in Bukit Merah, Queenstown, Ang Mo Kio and Toa Payoh

We anticipate that resale flat prices could climb at a slower pace of between 5 and 8 per cent this year due to price resistance in some locations.



### **Chart 6 HDB resale market**

### **HDB** Rental

The rental stock has been diminishing since many owners have sold their flats in recent months. On the other hand, demand has picked up considerably after Singapore reopened its borders and many people needing new accommodation.

If our borders remain open despite the emergence of the new variant, more PRs, foreigners and students could return this year. More companies may ramp up the hiring of foreign expats and work pass holders, which may spur rental demand further.

We estimate that overall rents may rise by 7 to 10 per cent in 2022 while volumes may increase around 9 per cent to between 46,000- and 48,000- units this year (Chart 7).

SkyTerrace@Dawson



### Chart 7 HDB rental market



**Chart 8 Number of flats reaching MOP** 

		Numbe	er of Flats re	aching MOF	>			
Town	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	<b>Grand Total</b>	
Bukit Batok	700	224	1,232	6,884	3,014	662	12,716	
Punggol	4,638	6,232	1,638	5,844	680	754	19,786	
Sembawang	456	0	2,561	3,962	518	2,669	10,166	
Woodlands	687	1,002	818	3,701	1,746	0	7,954	Ē
Bukit Merah	2,966	340	570	2,023	689	0	6,588	Ī
Yishun	3,822	840	3,366	1,882	1,548	824	12,282	Ē
Jurong West	1,432	348	1,640	1,223	907	0	5,550	
Queenstown	758	960	0	1,179	0	489	3,386	, [,
Tampines	2,074	462	852	902	1,943	1,930	8,163	
Bedok	911	1,104	0	728	330	660	3,733	ī
Ang Mo Kio	256	0	859	712	0	0	1,827	Ē
Sengkang	6,039	3,550	2,934	624	511	2,081	15,739	1
Toa Payoh	0	436	465	542	557	1,286	3,286	Ī
Clementi	888	0	962	502	0	385	2,737	

Number of Flats reaching MOP								
Town	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	<b>Grand Total</b>	
Hougang	2,020	878	1,338	467	2,234	711	7,648	
Serangoon	0	195	0	150	0	0	345	
Choa Chu Kang	0	4,032	2,476	0	0	0	6,508	
Kallang/Whampoa	0	626	2,827	0	738	0	4,191	
Geylang	0	975	584	0	108	642	2,309	
Bukit Panjang	1,136	862	0	0	0	0	1,998	
Pasir Ris	1,386	447	0	0	0	0	1,833	
Jurong East	0	518	0	0	225	0	743	
Bishan	0	0	408	0	0	0	408	
Bukit Timah	0	132	0	0	0	0	132	
Tengah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Marine Parade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Central Area	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Source: Data.gov.sg, OrangeTee & Tie Research and Analytics

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