

A 3D architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story townhouse complex. The building features a mix of grey, white, and tan exterior finishes, with large windows and balconies. Palm trees and other landscaping are visible in front of the building. A red SUV is parked on the left, and a dark car is partially visible on the right. Two people are walking in the foreground. The sky is blue with light clouds.

## **ANALYSIS OF THE NORTHEAST OHIO HOUSING MARKET VISUALIZATION & REGRESSION ANALYSIS**

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## Executive Summary

Northeast Ohio offers a wide range of homes of different prices, sizes, and lot sizes, ranging from urban, modern homes, to large country estates, to grand historic homes in older neighborhoods.

**Average sizes:** The average listing price is \$176,040, but this mean is driven up by some very expensive homes in the more exclusive neighborhoods of Gates Mills, Pepper Pike, Solon and Aurora. There are many other options that are well below this average price. The average lot size is 19,404 square feet, which again is driven up by more exclusive neighborhoods like Gates Mills, where the average lot size is 168,263 square feet, and Pepper Pike, where the average lot size is 55,723 square feet. The average square footage of homes follows a similar pattern. The average size is 1,860 square feet, with the larger homes located in the more exclusive neighborhoods, but there are many sizes available. The number of bathrooms will also follow this trend: larger homes have more bathrooms. In spite of the vast range of home sizes, lot sizes and listing prices, the numbers of bedrooms are surprisingly consistent. The majority of homes have three bedrooms, though there many homes with four or more bedrooms.

**Cost drivers:** List price will be driven significantly by where the house is located. Exclusive neighborhoods like Gates Mills and Pepper Pike have greater property values and taxes, so the cost of the home will reflect this. There is a strong relationship between the list price of the house with the number of baths and the square footage of the house. This means that the more baths a house has, the higher the average list price. The square footage of the house will also impact the average list price of the house. The number of beds, the lot size and the number of parking spots will also increase the price, but not as much as these first two factors. Interestingly, the age of the home has two effects on price: the older the house is, the lower the listing price becomes until after age 100. At that point, the prices begin to rise for older, more historic homes. The majority of the homes available are aged 50-75 years, but like the other factors, there are a wide range of ages.

In fact, we determined that the general trend is for every additional bathroom, the price will increase by \$34,611. For every additional parking spot, the price will increase by \$12,014. The price per square foot of the house is \$94.33. Finally, each year that the house is older, the price will decrease by \$739.

### Conclusions:

John Doe is seeking a home that will be large enough for himself and his wife, a new baby and visiting parents, which will require at least three bedrooms. He would also like a large yard for his child and dogs to play in. The data has demonstrated that there are numerous homes in the area that fulfill these criteria. John has also assumed that size and location influence price, which the data demonstrates is correct. Other factors that he will need to consider will be the number of baths, parking spots and age, as these factors will also have an effect on price.

Given his salary of \$120,000, we are confident that John and his family will be able to find a home that meets their home and budgetary requirements.

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## Data Cleansing

### Missing values:

When cleansing the data, we immediately noticed that there were several pieces of data missing:

- 15 missing in zip codes: Because this is closely correlated with city, we determined this would not affect results
- 3 missing number of bathrooms: This is a very small number. We determined this would not affect results.
- 337 missing square footage data: We felt this would not significantly skew results, as there were other pieces of data such as lot size, bedrooms and baths that would provide a complete picture of the housing market.
- 242 missing lot size data: Again, we felt the missing values would be complemented by other variables such as square footage, bedrooms and baths.
- 75 missing the year the house was built: Because this was not a large percentage, we did not feel this would skew data.

### Duplicates:

We discovered and removed one duplicate entry.

### Errors:

Year built was miscategorized as continuous data. We changed this to nominal.

### Summary statistics & Potential errors

We did an immediate scan for potential errors in data entry by looking at the Columns View summary data (see Figure 1 in the Appendix). We noticed several potential errors:

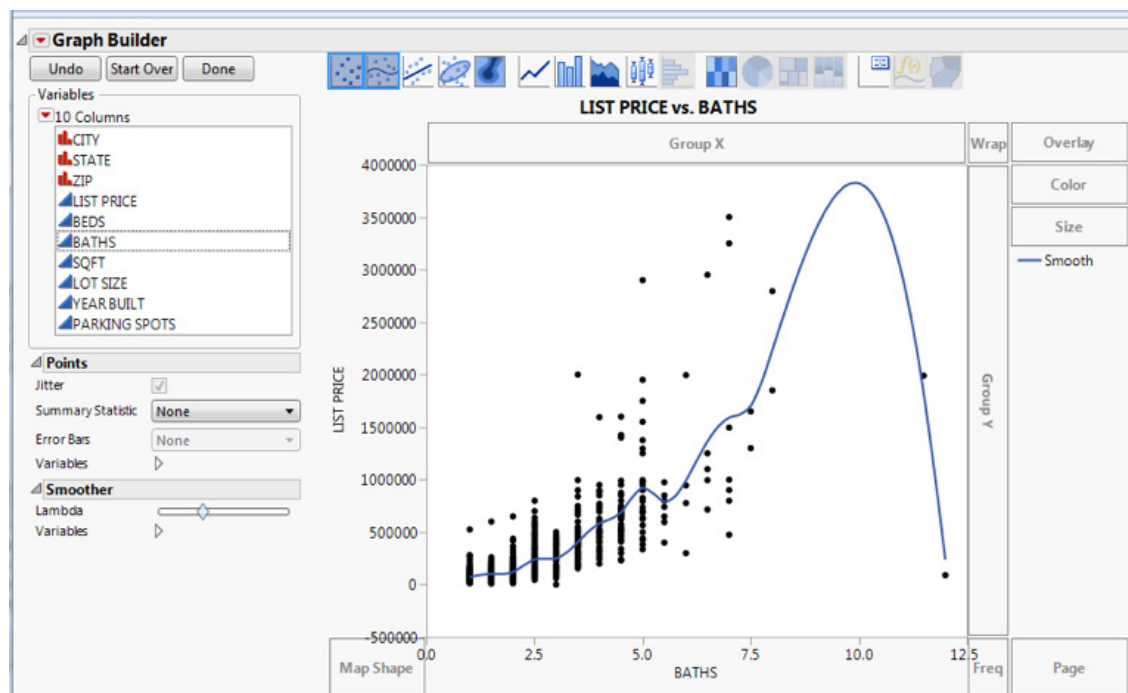
- Maximum value for number of bathrooms: 12 bathrooms. This could be possible with a large house, but it appeared strange.
- Maximum value for parking spots: 30 parking spots. This seemed unlikely.
- Minimum for list price: 100. This value seemed too low.
- Maximum value for square footage: 15,233. This value may be too high

### Outliers:

After making note of these potential errors found in the Summary Statistics, we also looked at the box plots to identify outliers (See Figure 2 in Appendix). For listing price, we immediately saw that there was an outlier for \$2,950,000 (Row 77) in Gates Mills, which is a very nice area; therefore, we included this data. We also noticed three outliers in lot size. Again, after looking more closely at the data, we determined that these values potentially made sense; the lots were located in Solon and Gates Mills, which are known for spacious properties.

We also noticed that Row 1312 had 12 bathrooms. We decided to exclude this data because the list price was only \$90,000, so this value did not make sense. This outlier also skewed our visualization to help us understand how the number of baths affected price. We saw a general positive correlation with price and number of baths, but the outlier skewed the model:





Outlier skewing data and price v. bath model

Given the large sample size of almost 2,000 values and the uncertainty of the validity of these outlier values, we decided to only include data that fell within four standard deviations of the mean for the categories with the greatest outliers, to avoid these values skewing the data:

- **Number of baths:** Excluded 13 rows of data due to the number of baths lying outside of four standard deviations outside the mean. The mean was 3.349, with standard deviation of .82662.
- **Number of bedrooms:** Excluded 12 rows of data that fell outside four standard deviations, or seven beds and greater. The mean was 2.01248, and the standard deviation was 1.09966.
- **Number of parking spots:** Excluded two of data. This was after finding row 86, which had a value of 30 parking spots, as an outlier. The mean was 1.813084, the standard deviation was 1.0658. We excluded houses with more than 7 parking spots, which were 4 standard deviations beyond the mean.
- **Lot size:** Excluded 6 additional rows for lot size, also within 4 standard deviations. We saw a range in values that seemed too large to make sense, such as 4,467,949 square feet, and others, such as a minimum of 109 square feet, which seemed too low. The mean was 29,969 sq. ft. and the standard deviation was 165,081 sq. ft. Within 4 standard deviations we excluded houses with a lot size of more than 690,295 sq. ft.

We determined that all other data was acceptable. By doing this we were able to eliminate our outliers while maintaining the integrity of our data with 99.99% of the points remaining within 4 standard deviations of the true mean.

We created an age column, which was built from the year built, using the formula “2016-Year Built.”

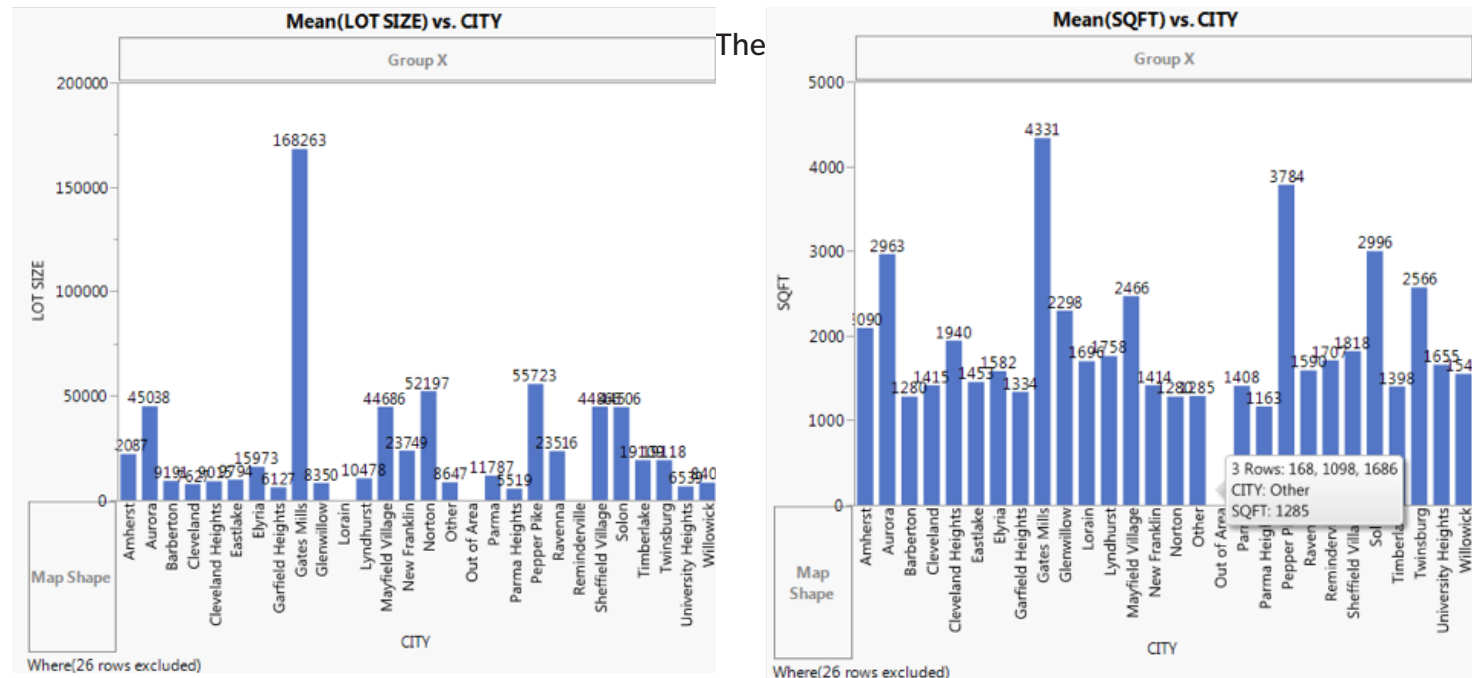
We also created our validation column using a stratified random method because we excluded outlier data and wanted to make sure that the groups were not skewed by the excluded data. The purely random

approach included the data that we excluded, which could cause some of the groups to become skewed.

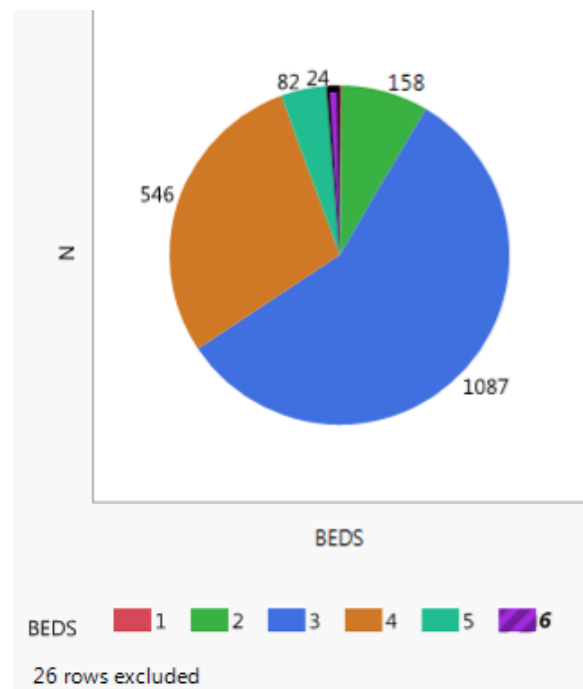
Data Visualization & Descriptive Statistics:

Descriptive Statistics:

After eliminating our outliers, we had a cleaner set of Summary Statistics and box plots. The mean list price for Northeast Ohio is \$176,040. This data was skewed to the right, meaning that the mean is greater than the median, and there are many larger values on the right side of the scale. Lot size (mean of 19,404 sq. ft.), and square footage (mean of 1,860 sq. ft.) were also quite skewed to the right, suggesting that there is a wide range of sizes available, from smaller, urban lots to vast properties further outside of the city. As the two bar charts demonstrate, these averages are driven up by more exclusive neighborhoods such as Gates Mills and Pepper Pike, both of which have significantly higher mean lot and home square footage values :

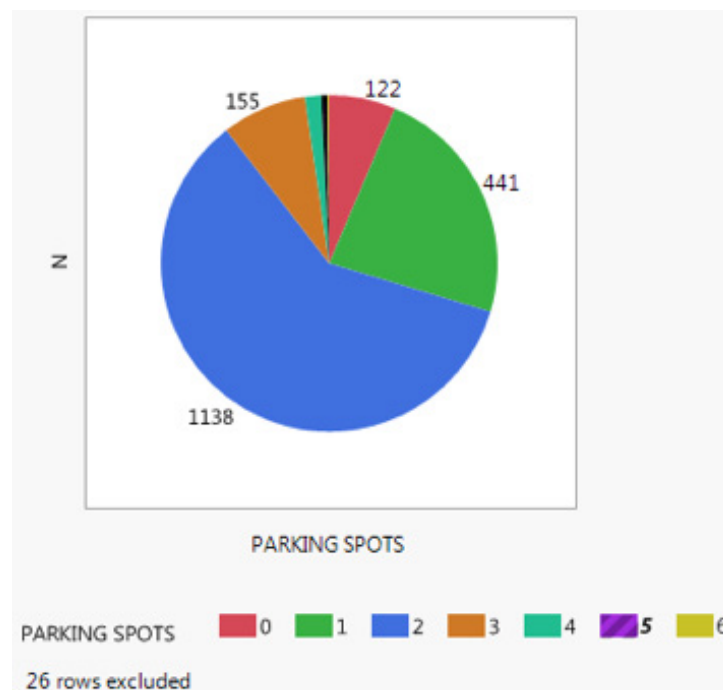


data for number of bathrooms (mean of 1.96, which is just below the median of 2 baths) was also slightly skewed to the right, coinciding with the wide range of home sizes. Surprisingly, the number of bedrooms was normally distributed. The average home has 3 bedrooms, regardless of the size of the house or lot, though there are a number of homes with four or more bedrooms, as shown in this pie chart:



**Number of bedrooms**

Parking spots were skewed to the left. Almost sixty percent of the houses in the data set had two parking spots. Nearly 90% of the homes have two spots or fewer. However, almost two hundred homes have three parking spots or greater.



**Number of parking spots**

The age of the home was fairly normally distributed. The average age was 61.2 years, and the median age was 62 years. There are more homes to the left of the mean and median than the right, meaning that John will

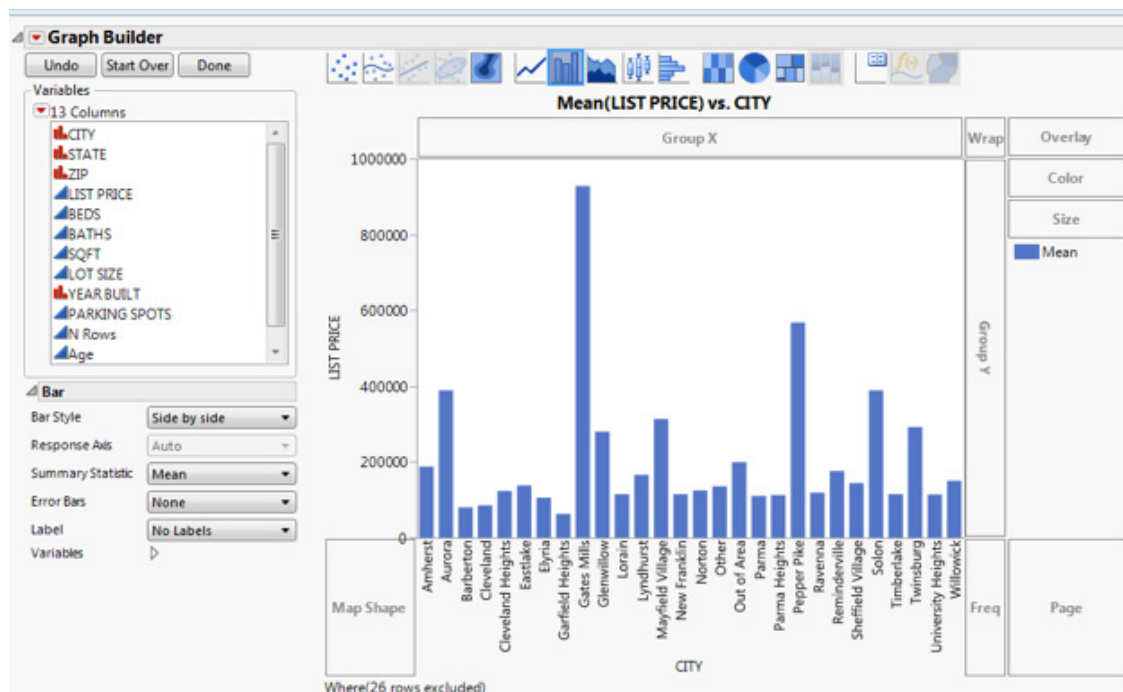
have more new homes to choose from than very old (more than 100 years, for example).

See Figures 3 and 4 in the Appendix for the jmp outputs on data distribution for all variables.

### Visualizations:

The variable that we were most interested in understanding was price, and how the other variable values influence listing price. The visualizations we selected will help “John” understand the type of house he will be able to purchase while staying within his budget.

### How city affects prices::

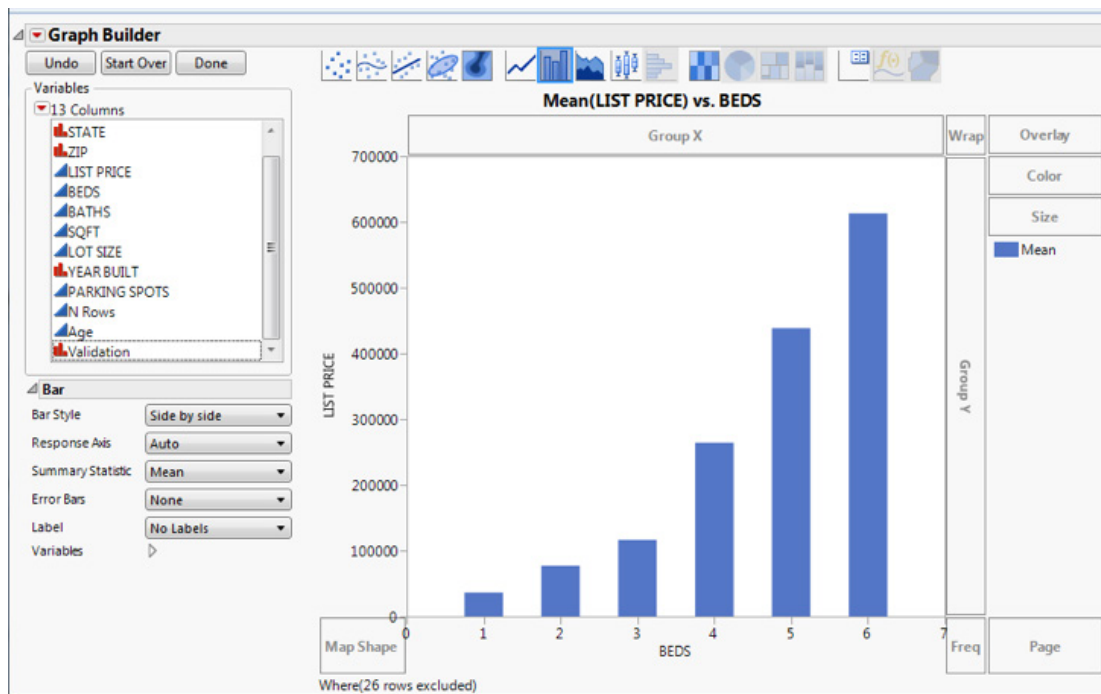


This chart shows Price by City, which shows that some cities are significantly more expensive than other cities. From having knowledge of the area, we know that this is a realistic depiction of the areas. For example, Gate Mills and Pepper Pike are historically wealthier communities. This graph would allow us to show “John” the most expensive areas and the areas that are within his budget. We can then focus on those communities when searching for houses.

### How number of bedrooms affect price:

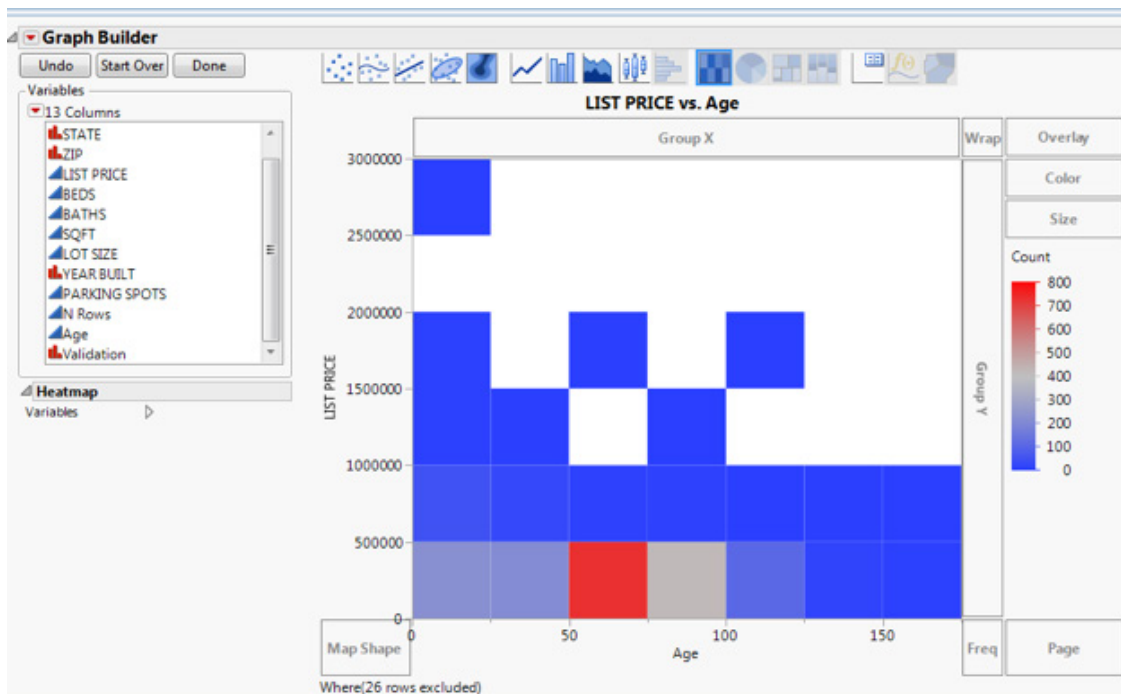
In this graph, we can see that on average the more expensive houses have more bedrooms.



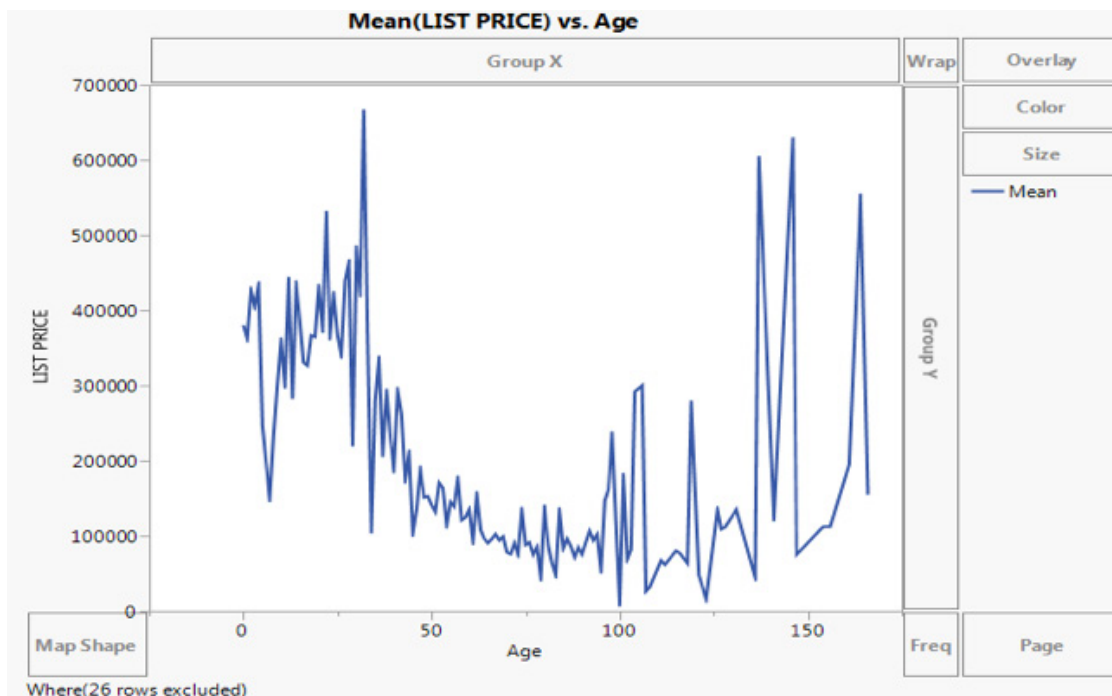


### How age of the house affects price:

This first chart shows where the greatest concentration of houses lies: age 50-75, at price range from \$0 - \$500,000

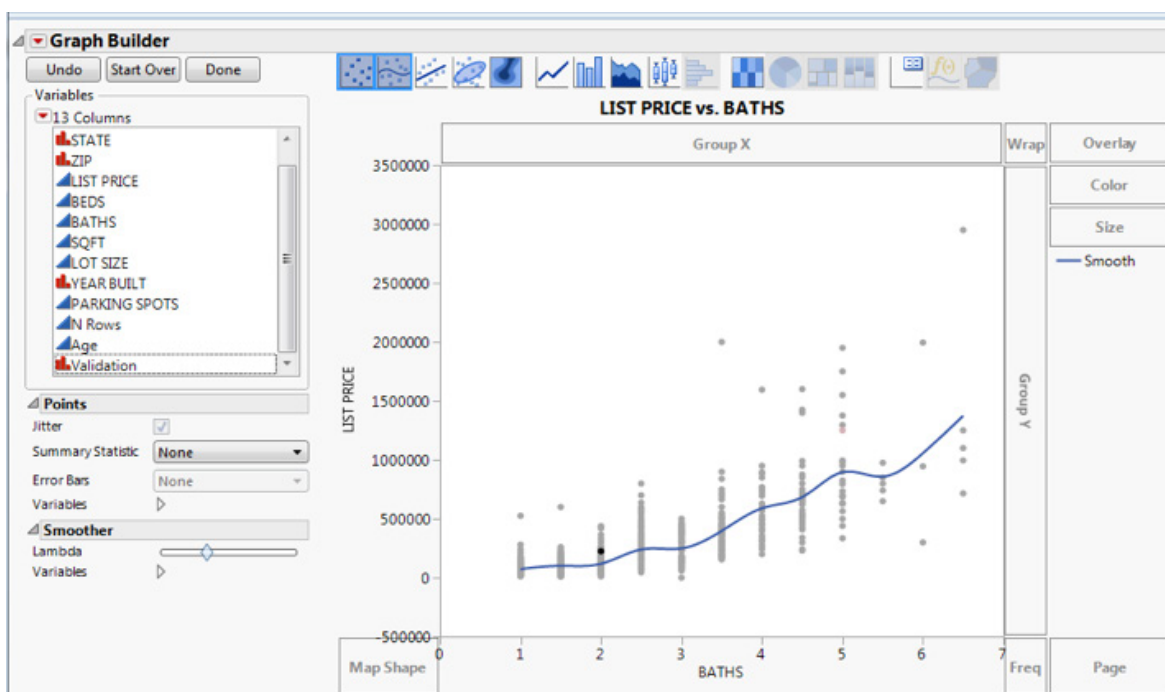


This second visualization of price by age of house shows that there is a negative correlation between list price and age (i.e. the older the house is, the lower the list price). However, homes that are 100 years old or greater begin to see increases in list price.



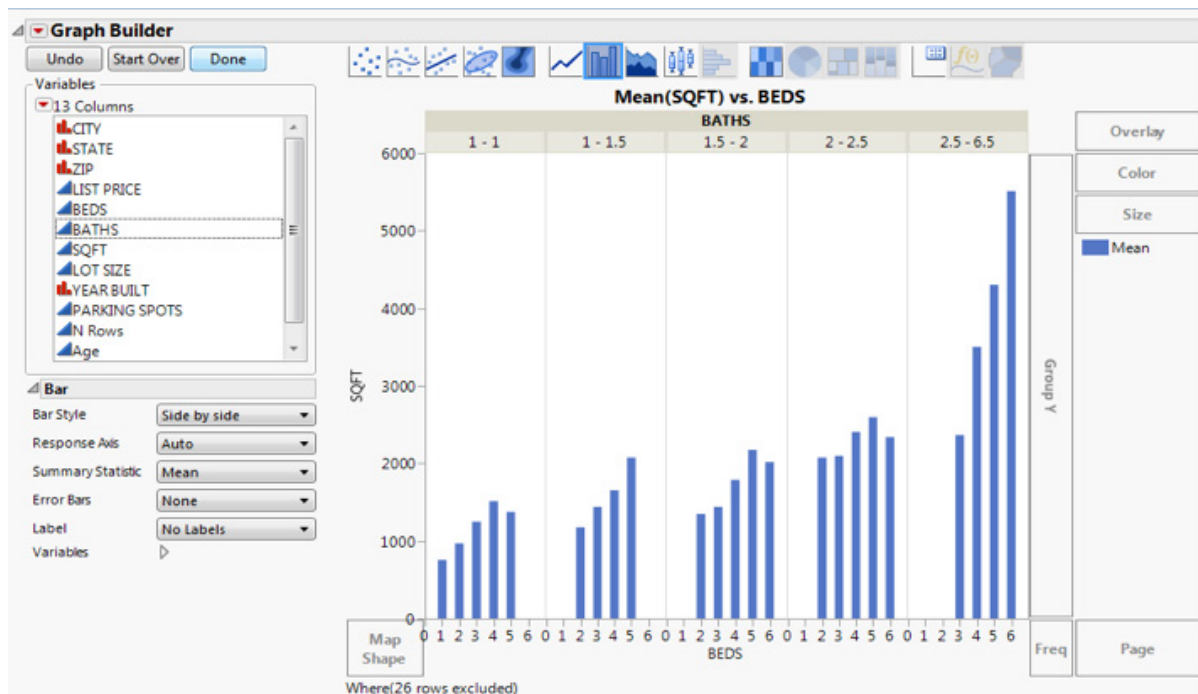
### List price vs baths:

The data suggests that the list price will rise as the number of bathrooms increase.



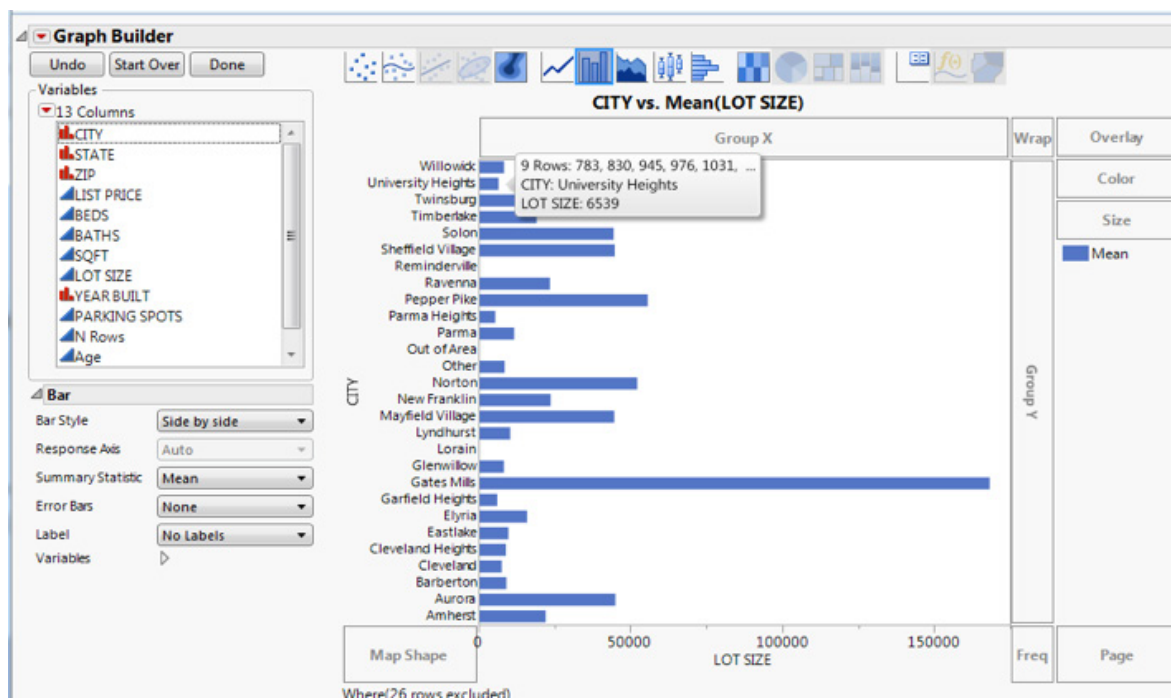
### Square footage and number of bedrooms:

We can see from this graph, that if John prefers to have a bathroom for himself, his parents and a guest bathroom then he would need to purchase a house with three or more bedrooms. This graph shows that there are no houses available with more than three baths that has less than three beds.



### Average lot size by city:

John would like to purchase a house that has a yard for his dogs and future children. This graph tells him where he is more likely to find larger lots, and what the mean lot size is in each neighborhood.



All of these charts help John to get a better understanding of the communities in which he will most likely find the type of home he wants, what the average price in those areas are, and the kinds of things that affect listing price, such as the age of the home, number of bedrooms and number of bathrooms.

## Pairwise Correlation Analysis:

Our analyses show that the list price of the house is highly positively correlated with the number of baths and the square footage of the house. With a correlation of 0.8846 and 0.7617, respectively, the square footage and number of baths will increase the list price as the variables increase. This means that the more baths a house has, the higher the average list price. The square footage of the house will also impact the average list price of the house. The number of beds, the lot size and the number of parking spots is also correlated with list price, though the correlation is not strong. Age is the only variable that is negatively correlated with list price at a correlation of -0.3975. Again, this variable does not have a strong correlation which means that there may not be a large effect on price when the age differs among houses. This negative relationship indicates that as the age of a house increases, the list price of that house will decrease. However, as our visualization demonstrated, houses age 100 years and greater did increase in price.

There are several variables that are correlated with each other, which can cause a problem of multicollinearity. The dependent variables that are correlated are baths and square footage and beds and square footage. This makes sense because larger houses have greater square footage and more room for additional beds and baths. We may take this into consideration when creating our regression analysis because we would want to make sure that our dependent variables are not correlated. We may find that excluding square footage from the analysis would give us a more explanatory model.

See Figures 5 & 6 of the Appendix for our Pairwise Correlation matrix and outputs.

## Simple Regression Analysis

Our regression analyses looked at the influence that one variable had on another.

### List price and age:

We looked at the relationship between list price and age. Our null hypothesis was that the beta of the age variable will be equal to zero meaning that the age variable has no effect on the list price. Our alternative hypothesis is that the beta of the age variable is not equal to zero meaning that the age variable has an effect on list price. We would reject the null hypothesis because the p-value is significant and less than our alpha of 0.05. The R<sup>2</sup> of this regression is 0.160. This small R<sup>2</sup> indicates that this model is not a good indicator of the variables that affect list price. We would need to add additional variables to make this model more comprehensive. As our pairwise regression analysis suggests, the beta for the age variable is negative meaning that as there is a one year increase in age, there is a \$2,863.59 decrease in price.

### List price and square footage:

We looked at the relationship between list price and the square footage of the house. Our null hypothesis was that the beta of the square footage variable will be equal to zero meaning that the square footage of the house has no effect on the list price. Our alternative hypothesis is that the beta of the square footage variable

is not equal to zero meaning that the square footage variable has an effect on list price. We would reject the null hypothesis because the p-value is significant and less than our alpha of 0.05. The R2 of this regression is 0.751916. This R2 is higher and indicates that this model can explain 75% of the variables that affect list price. With this higher R2, we can see that this model is starting to explain how list price is determined. We still need to add additional variables to see if R2 increases, showing that the variables in the model explain the list price. As our pairwise regression analysis suggests, the beta for the square footage variable is positive meaning that as there is a one square foot increase in the size of the house, there is a \$146.59 increase in price.

### List price and number of beds:

We looked at the relationship between list price and number of beds. Our null hypothesis was that the beta of the beds variable will be equal to zero meaning that the bed variable has no effect on the list price. Our alternative hypothesis is that the beta of the beds variable is not equal to zero meaning that the bed variable has an effect on list price. We would reject the null hypothesis because the p-value is significant and less than our alpha of 0.05. The R2 of this regression is 0.21941. This small R2 indicates that this model is not a good indicator on its own of the variables that affect list price. We would need to add additional variables to make this model more comprehensive. As our pairwise regression analysis suggests, the beta for the bed variable is positive meaning that for each additional bedroom in a house, there is a \$131,580 increase in price. This is unreasonable and another reason why this model is not reliable. We will now create a multiple regression to examine the effect of multiple variables on the list price.

In summary here are the results of our regression. See Figure 7 of the Appendix for our jmp outputs

Model	Regression equation	p-value	r2
Y by age	LIST PRICE = 346805.23 - 2863.5896*Age	<.0001	.160
Y by beds	LIST PRICE = -261498.1 + 131580.03*BEDS	<.0001	.219
Y by square footage	LIST PRICE = -100955.4 + 146.58881*SQFT	<.0001	.752

### Multiple Regression Analysis:

We analyzed the effect that the number of beds, number of baths, the square footage of the house, the lot size, the number of parking spots and the age of the house has on the list price of the house. We excluded city, zip and state from our analysis because they are correlated with each other and we wanted to avoid multicollinearity. Our null hypothesis is that the betas of each of the variables are equal to zero, meaning that the variables in the model have no effect on the list price. Our alternative hypothesis is that at least one of the



betas of the variables will not be equal to zero, meaning that at least one of the variables has an effect on the list price.

We ran a stepwise regression analysis. We found that the variables we selected were all significant in this model as their p-values were less than an alpha of 0.05. We had an R2 of 0.8257, meaning that 83% of the list price can be explained by the model. The equation that we developed is as follows:

$$\text{List Price} = -35175.34 - 15953.38 * \text{Beds} + 38069.56 * \text{Baths} + 99.471376 * \text{SQFT} + 0.7845009 * \text{Lot Size} + 13176.636 * \text{Parking Spots} - 687.5151 * \text{Age}$$

We found it interesting that the beta for beds was negative, as our pairwise regression analysis indicated that the number of beds in a house has a strong positive correlation with list price. This model would suggest that for every additional bedroom, the price of the house would decrease by \$15,953. We know that this is not reasonable. Because of this, we analyze the Variance Inflation Factor of the model. We found that the VIF for all of the variables was fewer than 5, meaning that there was no multicollinearity. We still found this curious, so we decided to run the model again. This time, we excluded the beds variable on the basis of our pairwise regression analysis indicating a correlation between beds and square footage.

With this new model, our results were as follows:

- The beta for beds is now positive aligning with our assumption that the more bedrooms a house has, the higher the price
- The p-values of all of the variables are statistically significant and we would reject the null hypothesis because p is less than alpha.
- Our R2 value has decreased very slightly to 0.82 indicating that this model still does a good job explaining the list price of a house.

**The new equation is:**

$$\text{List Price} = -67,817.29 + 34,611.428 * \text{Baths} + 94.330562 * \text{SqFt} + 0.8296131 * \text{Lot Size} + 12,014.661 * \text{Parking Spots} - 739.0884 * \text{Age}$$

This model indicates the effect of these variables on list price. For every additional bathroom, the price will increase by \$34,611. The price per square foot of the house is \$94.33. For every additional parking spot, the price will increase by \$12,014. Finally, each year that the house is older, the price will decrease by \$739. This model explains 82% of the variables that make up list price.

The R2 for the three different types of data differs by the test. For the validation tests, a larger sample size will yield a better the R2 and results that explain that larger sample.

Difference between simple regressions and multiple regression analyses:

There is a difference between the 3 simple regressions and the multiple regression we ran. First, the R2 of the simple regressions are lower for the most part in the simple regressions. By adding more variables, we

were able to explain more of the model. We also noticed that the betas were different between the simple regressions and the multiple regression. This indicates that the magnitude of the effect of each variable differed depending on how many other variables were taken into account in the model.

## Recommendations and Conclusions:

The selling price of the house per square foot is \$94.33. The price per additional bathroom is \$34,611. The average list price of the house is calculated by inputting the conditions into the regression equation.

The average list price of the house is calculated as follows:

$$\text{List Price} = -67817.29 + 34611.428 \cdot \text{Baths} + 94.330562 \cdot \text{SqFt} + 0.8296131 \cdot \text{Lot Size} + 12014.661 \cdot \text{Parking Spots} - 739.0884 \cdot \text{Age}$$

Based on our model, the most important variable in predicting price is the number of bathrooms because of the large beta.

Given the parameters of 3,000 square feet, four bedrooms, three baths, lot size of 15,000 square feet, and age of not more than 20 years, we can expect the price to cost \$316,671. While it is difficult to determine if he can afford such a house without knowing his credit history or other debt, with a salary of \$120,000, it is likely that such a house would be in his budget.

## Appendix

Figure 1: Summary Statistics before removing outliers

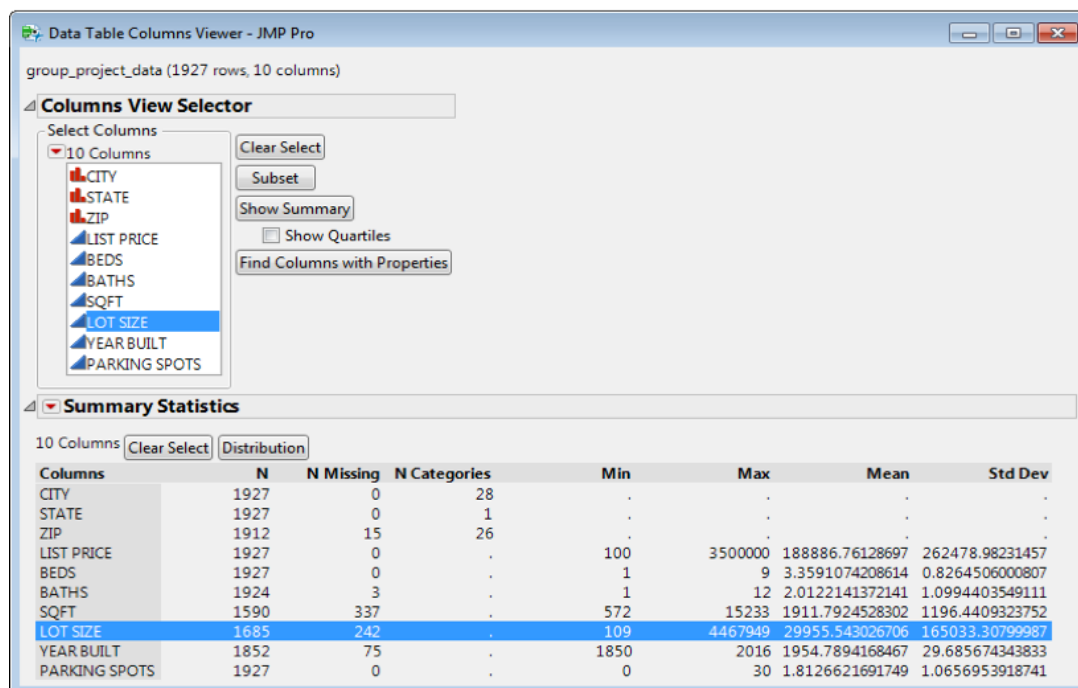


Figure 2: Box plots before removing outliers

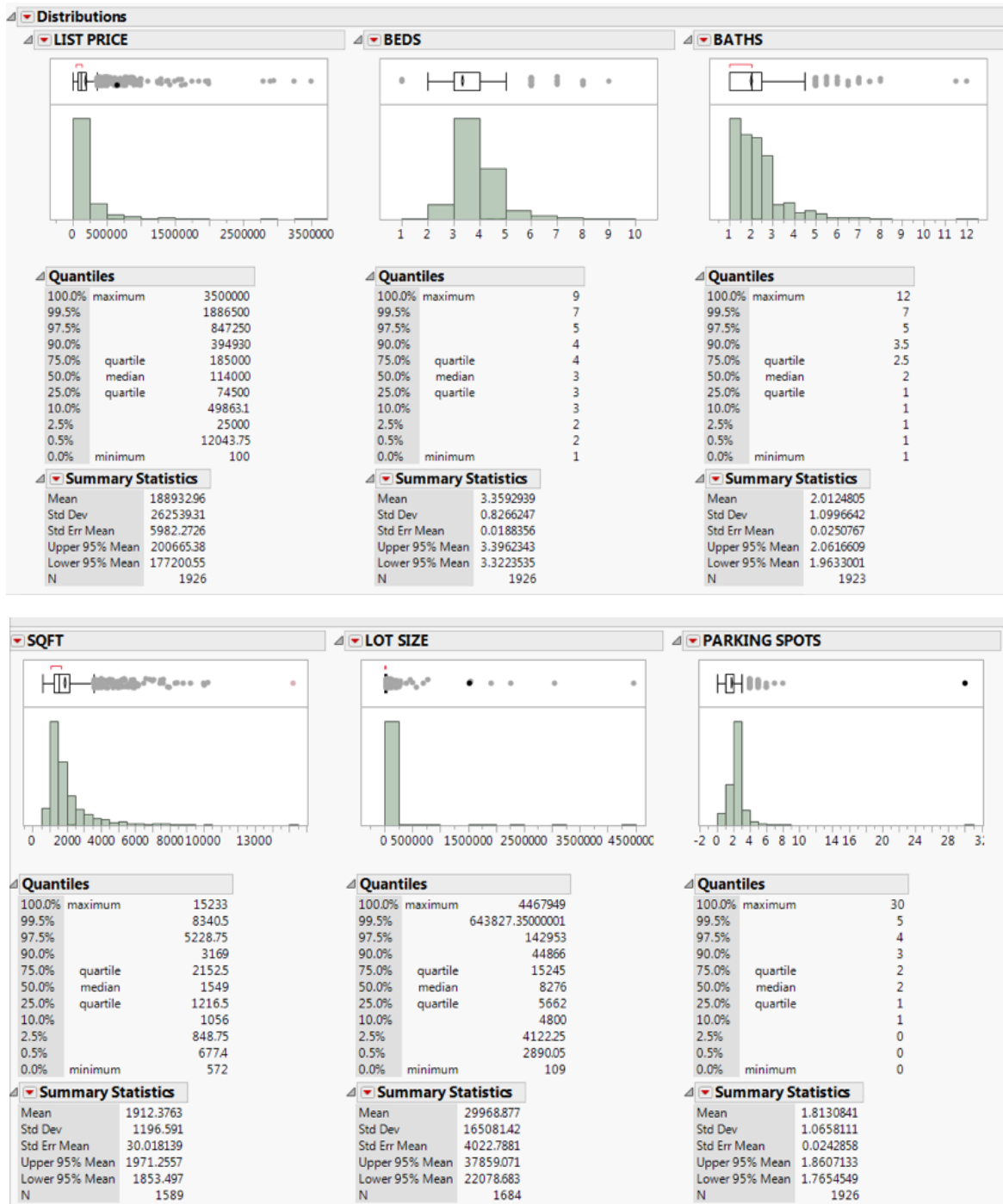


Figure 3: Summary after removing outliers

Summary Statistics							
13 Columns <span>Clear Select</span> <span>Distribution</span>							
Columns	N	N Missing	N Categories	Min	Max	Mean	Std Dev
CITY	1900	0	28	.	.	.	.
STATE	1900	0	1	.	.	.	.
ZIP	1885	15	26	.	.	.	.
LIST PRICE	1900	0	.	100	2950000	176040.15210526	209770.55801136
BEDS	1900	0	.	1	6	3.3252631578947	0.7467631991668
BATHS	1897	3	.	1	6.5	1.9604638903532	0.9601871059138
SQFT	1568	332	.	572	15233	1860.6339285714	1065.466276635
LOT SIZE	1658	242	.	109	571942	19404.522316043	38600.48319049
YEAR BUILT	1825	75	130	.	.	.	.
PARKING SPOTS	1900	0	.	0	6	1.7763157894737	0.8132441779426
N Rows	1900	0	.	1	2	1.0	0.0229415733871
Age	1825	75	.	0	166	61.233424657534	29.596450277388
Validation	1900	0	3	.	.	.	.

Figure 4: Box Plots after removing outliers

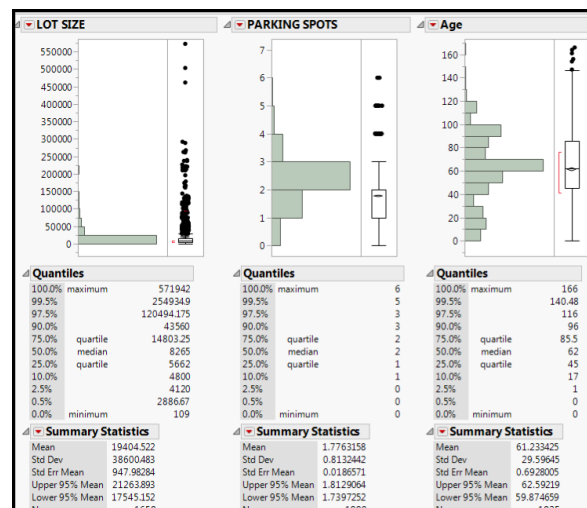


Figure 5: Co-relations

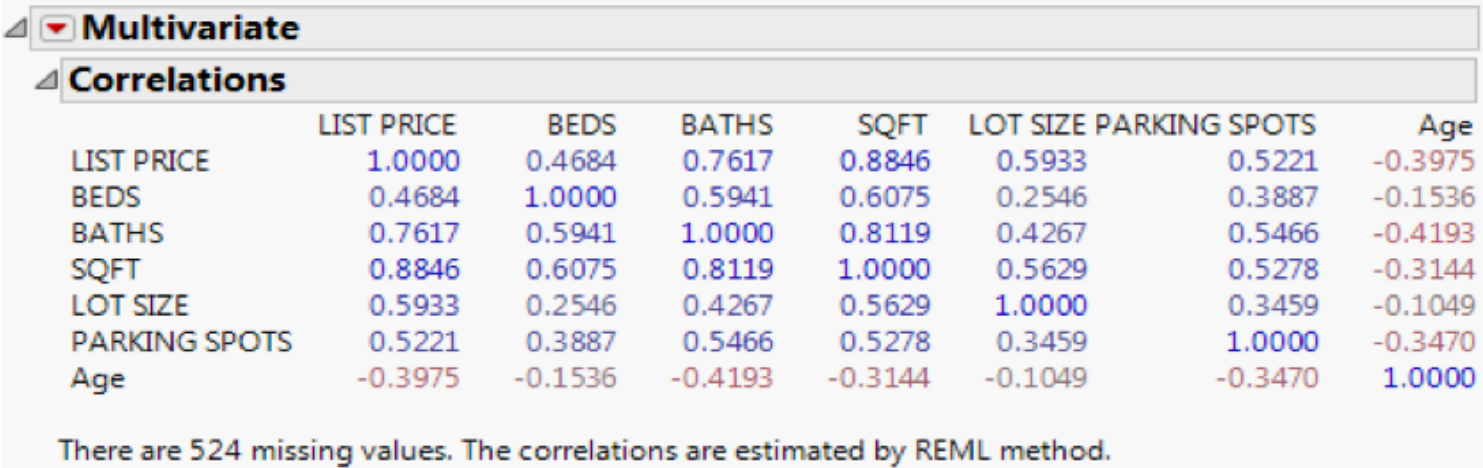


Figure 6: Scatterplot Matrix

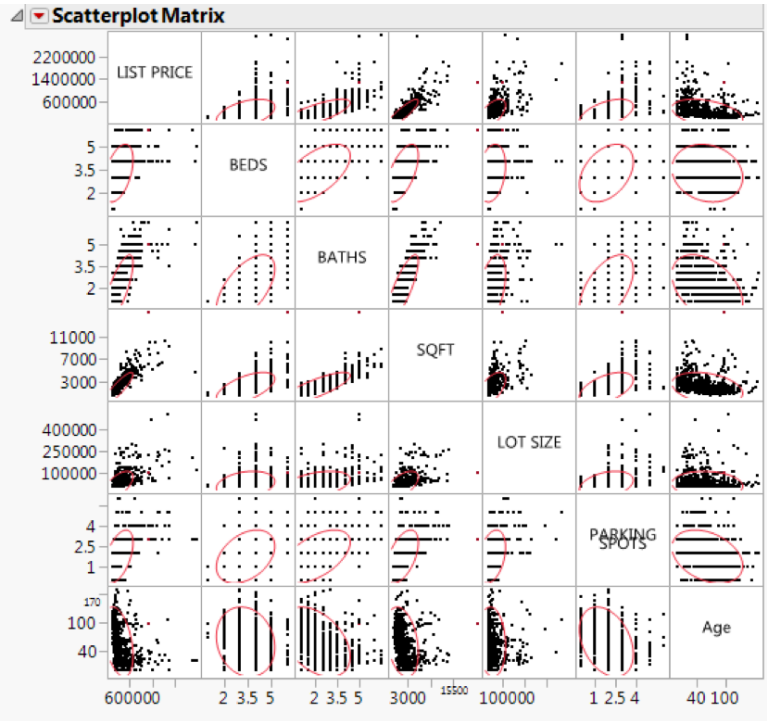
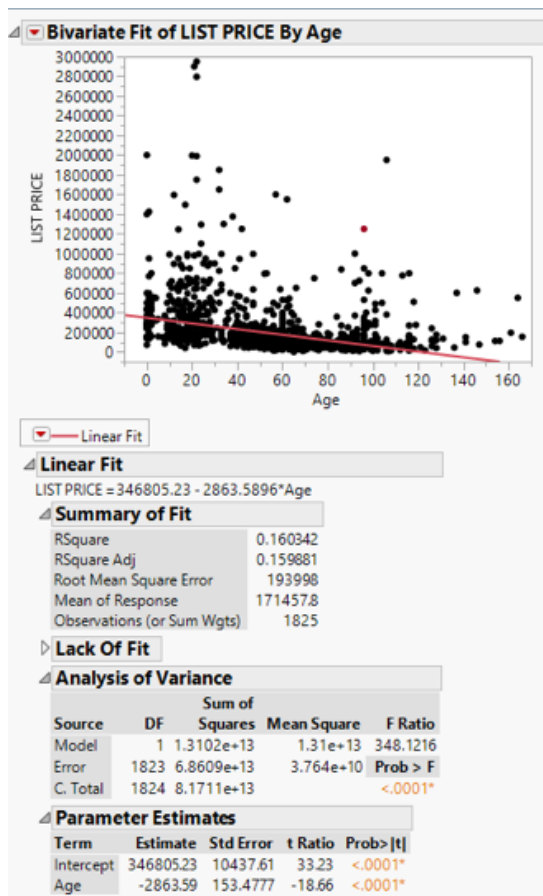
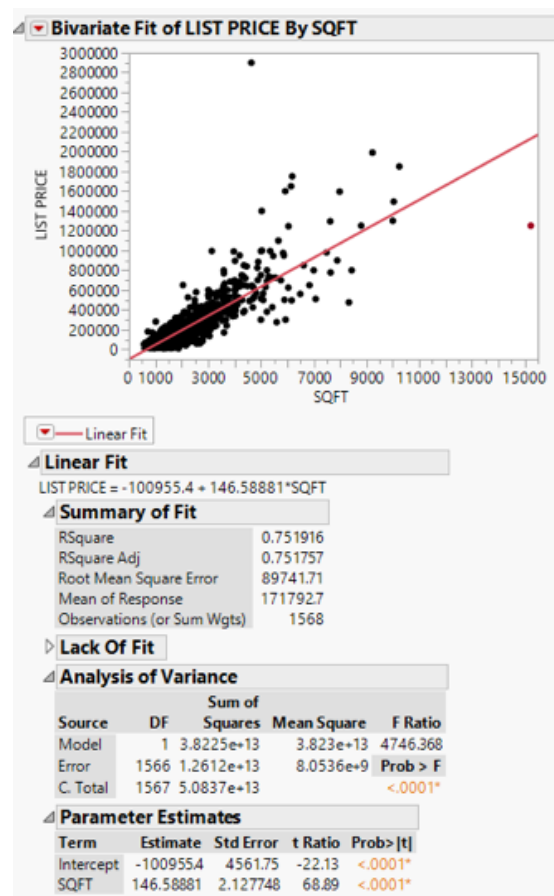




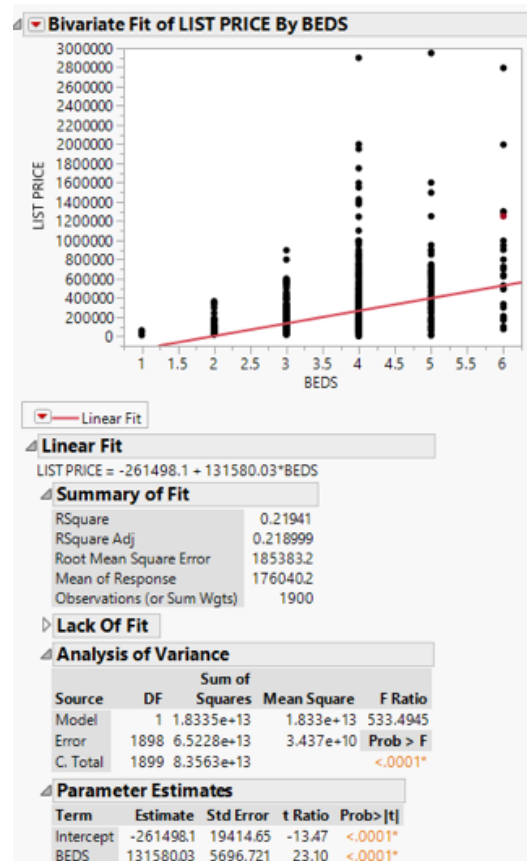
Figure 7: Simple Regression analysis



List Price by Age

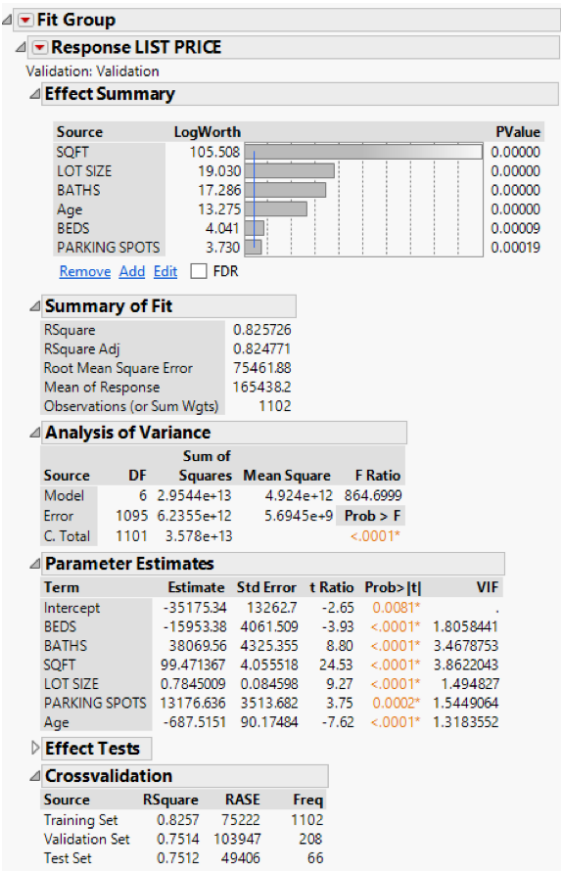


List Price by SQFT



List Price by beds

Figure 8: Multiple Regression Analysis



**OTHER IMPORTANT CHARTS:**  
PUT OTHER CHARTS HERE

**NOTE:** All charts used for this analysis, including those posted in this report, can be found in the JMP file.



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