There’s a chance you’ve heard the cost of lumber has skyrocketed over the past year, and if you or someone you know has bought a newly constructed home, I can guarantee you’ve heard about it, along with a curse word or two.

“For years, the price of 1,000 board feet of lumber has generally traded in the $200 to $400 range,” writes Emily Stewart, senior reporter for Vox. “It’s now well above $1,000. (One board foot is 12x12x1 inches, and the average new single-family home takes about 16,000 board feet of lumber to construct.)

“A new house that would have cost $10,000 in wood to get off the ground a couple of years ago now costs $40,000 worth of wood – assuming, that is, you can even get your hands on the lumber.”

As with everything in 2020, COVID had an impact on the situation. Many thought the housing market, specifically new construction, would take a hit. Short term, there was a slowdown due to consumer uncertainty and the shift to a virtual world for everything from showings to closing.

But at the end of April 2020, the housing market began roaring back. Since then, sellers are getting offers at and above the asking price each week, and homes are spending fewer days on the market.

Spend just a few minutes on social media, and you’re sure to see a plea from a Realtor seeking homes not yet on the market to satisfy the growing buyer demand.

Low mortgage rates are driving this buyer demand despite increasing prices due to low inventory. Pair those factors with the bugaboo lumber prices, and you have a perfect storm for the housing market.
small businesses.”

Batch eventually ended 2020 with 25% growth through doubling corporate sales and tripling its online sales. The company added a staff position, even though the retail store is permanently gone.

“I guess if there’s a takeaway, it was that if you’re a leader you had to communicate that you were uncertain, too,” Davidson says. “Just like everyone else, it was our first pandemic. And it was hard to tell people that we didn’t know if they would have a job after the next two weeks, but at least we were telling them what was going on.

“And we discovered how important it is to build your network before you need it – because last year we really needed it. The people we have met in other businesses over the last eight years, the business organizations like the chamber and the convention and visitors team, the more than 400 businesses whose products we sell. We all had to help each other, and that meant relying on those partnerships and making new ones,” he adds.

“There’s still a lot of uncertainty, but we’re coming out on more solid footing because we used that community, we are a part of and spent the time building up.”

Supply chain, sanitized clothes

Non-food retailers also found ways to adapt. Now the trick will be to ensure that inventory will flow smoothly as newly reopened storefronts have the stock they need, says Scott Schimmel, who, along with wife Lisa Sorensen, own Bliss Home furniture stores in Knoxville, Nashville and Louisville, and women’s boutique and gift shop Bliss & Tori Mason Shoes on Gay Street in Knoxville.

“Our concepts are pretty different, so the way we are getting back to normal is not the same, either,” Schimmel says. “The clothing stores are coming back a little faster due to supply chain issues for larger goods, like furniture. With the boutiques, we were totally shut down for two months, and then when we reopened, we couldn’t use our dressing rooms. So, it’s been slow to come back there, but it’s been an ongoing process that has evolved.”

For example, a sanitizing machine was purchased to clean clothes once customers were allowed to try them on again. That’s still in use but has been scaled back some from the days when everything was taken off-site for sanitizing. Even so, it’s now part of the stores’ landscape and will factor into how goods are cared for.

“We were also way behind on our e-commerce,” Schimmel adds. “We had a presence, but it wasn’t very impressive. So, we put a lot of time and energy into a temporary site and are about to relaunch our main site for the clothing stores after relaunching the furniture store main site in March.

“The pandemic showed us just how far behind we were, and that gave us the impetus to spend the money, time and energy to making sure our websites were
New housing costs rise due to soaring lumber prices

Wondering why prices have increased in new home construction? Lumber prices have tripled during the past 12 months, causing the price of an average new single-family home to increase by $35,872, a new National Association of Home Builders analysis reveals.

The increased lumber cost isn’t just affecting new home construction. Households will be paying $119 a month more to rent a new apartment. And, existing homeowners starting remodeling projects will feel sticker shock with a visit to a building supply store.

The price of framing lumber rose to nearly $1,200 per thousand board feet – an increase of nearly 250% since April 2020, reports Random Lengths, an independent publication that reports on the lumber business. Further adding to affordability woes, building material prices have been large and have been steadily rising since 2020 and were up across the board in March.

Due to the increase in average new home prices, more than 5.5 million U.S. households have been priced out of the market. That means those households could qualify for a mortgage to buy the average new home before the price increase but no longer can.

These estimates reinforce the need to find ways to reduce the cost curve for adding much-needed inventory to the housing market, particularly as buyers remain frustrated by a lack of available homes for sale.

These unprecedented lumber price hikes are attributable to a few factors. Many mills reduced production last spring due to stay-at-home orders and social distancing measures enacted by state and local governments at the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

When it became clear in the ensuing months that housing weathered the storm much better than predicted and demand remained strong, lumber mills did not ramp up production accordingly. Lumber producers also did not anticipate the massive uptick in demand from do-it-yourselfers and big-box retailers during the pandemic.

Finally, the extreme lumber price volatility has been exacerbated by tariffs on Canadian lumber imports into the U.S. market.

As lumber prices remain stubbornly high, the Home Builders Association of Greater Chattanooga in conjunction with the NAHB continues to work relentlessly with the White House, Congress, and lumber producers to increase production and bring prices lower.

Our advocacy team – government affairs, communications, economics and legal – continues to work doggedly on all fronts to find solutions that will ensure a lasting and stable supply of lumber for the home building industry at a competitive price.

What can you do to help? Contact your elected officials and let your voice be heard. If you’re a local business owner or manager in the housing industry, consider becoming a member of the Home Builders Association of Greater Chattanooga to help us collectively work on a solution to the increased lumber shortage as well as many other important community issues.

Learn more at www.HBAGC.net.

>> MAJORS From page 13

broker of the company’s Ooltewah branch, she’s also back in management. Since taking over for longtime broker Dan Gries in February, Majors has once again discovered there’s a night and day difference between the working in the corporate world and running a real estate business.

“Managing independent contractors is very different from managing employees. My agents don’t work for me, I work for them, so it’s my job to make sure they have everything they need to be successful and help them with any issues that arise.

“This is new to me, but after working as an independent contractor for a long time, I’m used to it.”

Majors started with Crye-Leike in 2004; a year later, she began serving as a recruiting manager. When the housing market crash of 2007 eliminated the need for recruiters (“You don’t need a recruiter when no one is getting into real estate,” Majors quips), she returned to selling.

Majors says Crye-Leike had placed her on solid ground before the crash, which allowed her to remain in real estate until the market recovered.

“I was able to build enough clientele to get over the hump,” she shares.

Four years ago, Majors earned her broker’s license without the intention of actually serving in the role. But when Gries stepped down from the position after leading the office since it opened in 2007, she was willing to take his place. After growing up in Cleveland, Majors graduated from Cleveland State Community College before studying business administration at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

While at UTC, she slipped her foot in the door at Provident Life & Accident Insurance Company, which hired her to work part-time in exchange for what Majors says was generous pay and benefits.

“I even received paid vacation, which was rare in the early 90s,” she smiles.

Majors stayed with Provident after completing her undergraduate degree. During the years that followed, she ascended the ranks of the company and worked a variety of jobs until the day she accepted a position the company immediately phased out.

As she sat stunned in her car, she called her husband, Brian, and expressed her uncertainty about what she should do next.

“I had done this for 15 years,” she says. “I felt lost.”

Majors’ husband told her it was a good time for her to do something new. Since she had been planning to earn a real estate license and work part-time as an agent, she decided to take a leap of faith and registered for classes at TREES Real Estate School.

Majors has now been in real estate longer than she was in group insurance.

“When I started out, I wasn’t sure I’d make it. Now, when I look back, I can’t believe I’ve been doing this for more than 15 years,” she marvels.

Majors says her husband and four cats have kept her sane at Crye-Leike as she has renovated its Ooltewah branch, and that her home on Missionary Ridge has provided a welcome retreat at the end of each workday.

Once things at the office settle into a groove, she’s looking forward to taking a cruise with her close friends, cheering on the Lady Vols basketball team and occasionally going to the beach.

Although Majors still represents buyers and sellers, she says it’s her privilege to spend a large portion of each day presiding over her group of “team-oriented agents and solid producers.”

“I wouldn’t be successful as a broker if I didn’t have such a successful group of agents to lead,” she muses. “I’m trying to learn a new role and be what they need, and they have been incredibly supportive.”

>> GCR PRESIDENT From page 13

with lumber mills trying to reach pre-COVID production levels, and it’s easy to see why lumber prices are so high.

A recent study from the National Association of Home Builders showed that 47% of builders now include price escalation clauses in their sales contracts.

Moreover, more builders are pre-ordering lumber to help avoid cost increases, and 22% are obtaining price guarantees from suppliers.

Those price guarantees don’t often stretch past two months, and it looks like this crunch will be with us at least in the short term.

The NAHB study also shows that 10% of homebuilders’ contracts now include a shared price clause, which is similar to price escalation clauses in that they tie the final price of the house to the price of building materials.

Paul Emrath, NAHB’s vice president for survey and housing policy research, wrote on the NAHB’s blog, “The difference is that, in the typical shared price clause, the homebuilder agrees to absorb part of the material price increase, with the homeowner covering the rest.”

Emrath added that while these price escalation clauses might help to protect builders from rising costs, customers being unable to afford the escalated house prices will result in lost sales.

Thankfully, many organizations are working to find ways to bring lumber costs down. On behalf of 35 organizations, including the National Association of Realtors, the NAHB wrote to Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo urging the Biden administration to “undertake a thorough examination of the lumber supply chain and seek remedies with the White House, Congress and lumber producers to increase production and bring prices lower.”

Our advocacy team – government affairs, communications, economics and legal – continues to work doggedly on all fronts to find solutions that will ensure a lasting and stable supply of lumber for the home building industry at a competitive price.

What can you do to help? Contact your elected officials and let your voice be heard. If you’re a local business owner or manager in the housing industry, consider becoming a member of the Home Builders Association of Greater Chattanooga to help us collectively work on a solution to the increased lumber shortage as well as many other important community issues.

Learn more at www.HBAGC.net.
As other states legalize weed, TN passes to right

What's that smell?

As other states legalize marijuana for recreational use, Tennessee has already taken that step. As of July 1, possession and cultivation by adults 21 and older will be legal, and the state will tax and regulate the substance when commercial sales become legal Jan. 1, 2024.

I say “technically,” though, because an argument can be made – and I’m making it – that Virginia really isn’t a Southern state anymore, geography notwithstanding. It now has a Democratic governor and a Democratic-controlled legislature, and it has voted for a Democrat for president in every election since 2008.

Southern states used to vote Democratic routinely, but that pattern started reversing course once the party came to be associated with allowing African Americans to vote. Encouraging relaxing the rules has grown.

Surprisingly, though, of the 16 states allowing weed for fun (plus the District of Columbia), at least three have Republican trifectas: Control of the governor’s office and both houses of the legislature. Those are Arizona, Montana and South Dakota.

African Americans to vote. Encouraging making it – that Virginia really isn’t a Southern state anymore, geography and history notwithstanding. It now has a Democratic governor and a Democratic-controlled legislature, and it has voted for a Democrat for president in every election since 2008.

Southern states used to vote Democratic routinely, but that pattern started reversing course once the party came to be associated with allowing African Americans to vote. Encouraging them to, even.

If I had to live through Arizona summers, I’d sure be looking for a way to seriously alter my perception of reality.

I suspect that, since then, support for the ones that got the most sympathetic reception, though not sympathetic enough.

An effort I found intriguing would have allowed for retail sales of marijuana in amounts up to one-half-ounce and placed a state tax of 12% on the sales. Predictably, it’s gotten nowhere.

Which brings me back to where I started this whole discussion: The more appropriate question is whether Tennessee will be the last state to allow recreational use. If ever.

Rep. Brandon Ogles introduced a House joint resolution that would, among other things, change the state constitution to prohibit the legislature from approving marijuana for fun.

“This will ensure we never have recreational drug use in this state,” Ogles told members of a House subcommittee.

No, it wouldn’t. We’ll always have recreational use of marijuana.

Here’s part of an email I got recently from a Nashville newcomer who previously was living in Cancun, Mexico:

I was trying to find out if you have done any writing on the amount of people in Tennessee that use pot,” he wrote. “I ask this because in the many areas we shop around town, the smell of marijuana coming off people is really overpowering at times.”

I had lived in Colorado (a pot-legal state) prior to my move to Mexico and never, ever smelled as much pot as here in Tennessee.

I can’t speak for elsewhere in the state, I don’t get around that much.

But it’s clear on my walks around my Nashville environs that there’s more than just the smell of spring in the air.

Joe Rogers is a former writer for The Tennessean and editor for The New York Times. He is retired and living in Nashville. He can be reached at jrogink@gmail.com

Source: JPMorgan Chase

Program aims to help minority entrepreneurs

With support from JPMorgan Chase, the Urban League of Greater Chattanooga, LAUNCH and Pathway Lending are working together to strengthen the small business ecosystem for minority entrepreneurs in Chattanooga.

JPMorgan Chase recently committed $50,000 to Pathway Lending, which will allow it to expand its NextLevel entrepreneurship training program.

NextLevel combines management support with access to market opportunities and capital to drive sustainable growth at minority-owned businesses.

In April, NextLevel welcomed more than two dozen local entrepreneurs with existing businesses to virtual classroom sessions focused on business assessment, financial planning, marketing, sales and securing resources.

After graduating from the program in June, the Urban League will monitor alumni progress and extend additional support where needed.

JPMorgan Chase’s commitment will also allow the Urban League to leverage Pathway Lending as participants look for the capital necessary to scale their businesses.

Pathway Lending develops loans aimed at addressing opportunity shortfalls for minority entrepreneurs and small-business owners.

JPMorgan Chase is contributing $200,000 to Pathway Lending to increase its presence in Chattanooga and its ability to develop loan products for new and growing businesses.

LAUNCH has taken its financial coaching and technical assistance classes online in response to COVID-19. JPMorgan Chase is committing $50,000 to help LAUNCH reach more women and minority small-business owners through their classes for startups.

This support will also help LAUNCH expand its commercial kitchen incubator, which is providing space for local culinary entrepreneurs to find new ways to grow their businesses.

Source: JPMorgan Chase
much better.”

Now Bliss, which began in 2003 as a “catch-all” kind of store, as Schimmel describes it, and eventually morphed into its two current iterations, is staring at its past two years and how they've affected the businesses. Its two current iterations, is staring at the rest of 2021 to see what’s around the corner.

“The supply chain issue is going to take along time to resolve, and this year will be tough – but not as tough as last year,” he says. “It’s not going to be easy for a while, but I’m hoping by 2022 we can look back at all this from a place that’s a lot more normal.”

Cocktail truck, working outside

In any other usage, being kicked to the curb would be a bad thing.

For restaurateurs in 2020, however, it was a lifeline to stay open while their indoor spaces were closed or vastly diminished.

Curbside pickup, along with online ordering, third-party delivery services and other ways to connect food to consumers, were all on the table, says Demetrios Klonaris, whose family has been operating restaurants in Knoxville for more than 20 years and now operates Spaces In The City, a hub for its Café4, Kefi, Vida, The Vault, The Square Room, The Press Room and City Catering.

“We’ve got three restaurants, a bar and two venues, so it’s a combination of factors that we’ve had to deal with,” says Klonaris, VP of operations. “We had a lot of unknowns during that first month when we were completely shut down, and then we had to look at each space differently once we could operate again.

For instance, the downtown restaurants really couldn’t leverage curbside since there was little to no foot traffic. Instead, deep cleaning and remodeling took place, the projects Klonaris says “you don’t normally get to do when you are up and running."

“And then there was the advent of the cocktail truck.

“We were still struggling even when carryout was possible, and then our local and state government were very helpful with some new regulations, such as allowing the outside sales of alcohol,” he explains. “We came up with the idea of a cocktail truck, because at Kefi we do craft cocktails on draft. We worked with local partners to acquire bottles from distilleries that couldn’t move their inventory, and we bottled drinks.

“We’d post on social media to let neighborhoods know we were headed their way, and then we’d park at a clubhouse or other site and distribute food and drinks that way.”

By leveraging the strengths of the restaurants, bars and catering sites, they were able to keep them all going, or at least viable, over the following months.

Moving ahead, things like online menus are definitely here to stay, Klonaris says, as well as the resumption of traditional, in-person service.

“We’re going to make it easy for our guests, whatever that looks like,” he says. “People are a little more willing to order in now, and we’re ready for that. For those that want to come out for a special occasion, that’s available, too.

“We’ve learned to operate leaner in the last year, and also how to adapt and change our processes and procedures so we’re not inhibiting ourselves if we have to deal with the unexpected. Now we have new streams of revenue, which will help us as we regain steam and continue to grow our businesses.”

The employee pool

One problem that that has carried over from pre-pandemic days? Staffing issues. While unemployment numbers are far higher than they were just over a year ago, it’s still a battle to find and keep qualified food-service personnel in the state’s urban markets. That, and securing funding to get the doors back open, or opened in the first place.

“People who had been working in the industry found work elsewhere when they lost their job, or got furloughed,” Littlejohn says. “Some of those people may come back, but a lot of them are going to stay in that new career. The employee pool will come back, but if restaurants get busy really quickly, they are going to struggle with that issue.”

One benefit will be the new processes that many restaurants put in place that allow them to do more, or at least as much, with fewer staff, adds Tim Moore, director of communications at Proof. “The successful ones figured out how to change their service model to have less staff and still handle volume, and they are probably going to keep those changes,” Moore says. For instance, they may have limited table service and expanded counter service. It’s about how to operate leaner.

“The challenges are many and the unknowns significant for all small businesses, not just those focused on food service and retail sales. Even so, those two have been hit possibly the hardest, and also have proven to be the most resilient in many ways. Can that keep going? It’ll depend on many things, not the least of which is that most mercurial of things, entrepreneurial spirit, Littlejohn says.

“When you look at the food and beverage sector in 2020, you see a group of people who got as many curveballs thrown at them as you can imagine,” she says. “Everyone was forced to reevaluate why they are in business, why they are excited about what they do. That’s letting them emerge stronger and clearer on why they do the work they do.

“People learned how to adapt, innovate and adjust to a lot of variables they could never have anticipated. I think that’s why this sector will come out stronger and better and create a better guest experience.”

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Photo by Michael Patrick |The Ledger
Is the pandemic helping level workplace hierarchy?

The past 14 months have changed the nature of work, especially for remote workers. Many no longer spend hours in the car, making their way to one shared office building. They’re waking up and joining their colleagues via Zoom. And, this remote environment is transforming more than just our morning commute.

Just look at today’s job openings. Many companies are now posting one job in multiple cities or simply listing the job as remote. What’s considered normal has evolved.

Companies are being more flexible in order to be competitive. In the past, employees needed to live in the city where the company was located. If they lived in a market with few opportunities, they might be out of luck unless they were willing to uproot their life.

In the world of remote work, employees can now accept jobs that are outside of their local area. But the changes go beyond physical location to include the work dynamic. A large part of our work culture is made up of meetings. We gather to discuss ideas and to work on projects. And there is a hierarchy in many of these meetings. People position themselves in a meeting room based on important factors.

Often, the highest-ranking employees are seated at the table. Lower-ranking employees can be found in chairs farther from the center of the room, such as along the wall. At the table, workers sit at the head of the table or near the middle based on their status or a desired perception.

This hierarchy is reduced in an online meeting. Every employee is given a small video square that is the same size as everyone else in the meeting, regardless of seniority. Participants often raise their hand in the meeting want to speak up and, they are called on to speak based on how soon their raised their hand.

No one is any closer to the most senior executives in Zoom meetings. Beyond this, what we wear to work is now less status oriented. On video, it’s harder to view a full outfit, which has led many workers to switch to more relaxed athletic wear.

Casual conversations also are less casual. There are big downsides to this lack of team interaction. But, if someone felt left out of important networking opportunities, this is likely no longer the case.

Working remotely also allows employees to set up a home work environment that works well for them. So, rather than a standard office setup that might be undesirable, each person is able to design a custom environment that is the most productive for them.

Not all of the changes are positive. For those with family responsibilities at home, including children, remote work might be more challenging.

And, regardless of how you feel about remote work, one thing is for sure: It is changing the way we work together. Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.
It can be a friend or foe

Get acquainted with your money, reap the benefits

By Laura McMullen

What’s your relationship with money? Maybe your personal finances are like a distant cousin you barely think about or an unsettling stranger you avoid. Or perhaps money feels like your enemy, frustrating you and rarely doing what you want.

In fact, 31% of Americans say they feel anxious when thinking about the current state of their personal finances, a 2020 NerdWallet survey reports.

That sounds exhausting. What if you thought of money as your friend instead? A more positive relationship can help you feel more confident and empowered to make the most of your money.

Addie McHale, a Denver-based certified financial planner, gives the following tips to feel more confident and empowered to make the most of your money.

“A more positive relationship can help you think of money as your friend instead?”

These are things you can start to do today,” she says. “You don’t even have to get out a calculator.”

Give your time, attention

If you’ve ever grown apart from someone, you know that friendship takes work. Making quality time for each other – and not scrolling Instagram while you’re supposed to be listening – is key.

Mean spendful time with your money. Schedule check-ins to review your recent spending. Hop into your retirement account to monitor its progress. Peek at the debts you’re repaying.

McHale, who’s also the founder of the financial services business Moneyfull, says “miracles happen” when her clients start paying attention to their money and taking action. They gain momentum, she says.

For example, spend time tracking your spending and you may spot opportunities to cut expenses. You make those trims and now you’ve saved money. Next, you’re looking into where to put that extra cash. Now you’re investing, contributing to a savings goal or putting more toward paying off debt – all because you took the time to scan your spending.

Take an interest

You know that friend you know everything about – their birthday, beverage of choice, feelings about their mom? You know that stuff because you took an interest and learned it.

Same goes for your friendship with money. In addition to giving time and attention to your finances, make an effort to learn more. Seek out articles and books about money, discuss it with friends and family or consider getting professional guidance, like through a financial adviser.

McHale recommends trying a money podcast. “There are lots of ways to learn and incorporate it into your life very easily,” she says. “Anyone can listen to a podcast while they’re walking outside.”

Show appreciation

Of course, you want more money. McHale points out that society often pushes the mindset that “you never have enough and should always buy more, more, more.” But, she says, “we have to get off that train and start to appreciate what we have.”

Try reflecting on what your money has allowed you to do. Or appreciate yourself for trying to understand your finances better. Or follow McHale’s advice: “Get in the habit of saying, ‘What am I grateful for today?’”

No, this gratitude won’t make you rich, but it will help you develop a more positive relationship with money. It’s like associating your friend with their warmth and thoughtfulness rather than their perpetual tardiness.

Don’t talk smack

Good friends don’t say mean things to each other. Similarly, saying more positive words about money can help improve the way you feel about it.

“Start paying attention to the language we’re using around money, because of course those are connected to our thoughts,” McHale says.

For example, listen for phrases such as “I’m terrible with money” or “I don’t care about money.” Those kinds of words can act like crutches. Why try to improve your finances if you’re bad with money? Why save for retirement if you don’t care?

If you’re not comfortable with personal finance, consider reframing to say “I don’t understand this, but I’m going to take small steps to learn more,” McHale says.

Also aim for more empowering language. Rather than claiming you can’t afford something, McHale suggests saying that you’re choosing not to spend your money.

Drop the judgment

Any friend who has confided in you likely expected a judgment-free zone. Give yourself that same compassion and try to let go of money shame.

McHale suspects that many people aren’t friends with their money, in part because “it’s an emotional topic that they want to avoid.” But, she adds, “if we come from a more neutral place, maybe we can drop some of our money baggage.”

Aim to be more analytical and less emotional about money by scheduling times to check on your finances when you’re feeling calm and level-headed.

Prepare to forgive

“If you’ve ever had a falling out with a friend, you know how important grace is and letting things go,” McHale says.

Money friendships take hits, too. Finances can be hard to understand, so you’ll likely blunder. Maybe you miss bill payments or overdraft or rack up debt. Beating yourself up is unproductive and can lead to resentment and avoidance.

“You must forgive yourself for past or current mishaps and mistakes,” McHale says. “It doesn’t mean condoning, but accepting it and learning from it and moving on.”

Laura McMullen is a writer at NerdWallet. Email: lmcmullen@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: @lauriemcmullen.
Five new EVs you might want to wait for in 2021

By Cameron Rogers | Edmunds

Electric vehicle shoppers have an increasing number of models to choose from. There are nearly two dozen EVs on the market today, and that selection will only grow over the next eight months. Here are five upcoming EVs—organized by price—that the experts at Edmunds are most excited to see in 2021.

2022 Chevrolet Bolt EUV

As the name suggests, the Bolt EUV is related to Chevrolet’s existing Bolt hatchback. Compared to the Bolt, it has a longer, more SUV-like shape and offers more rear legroom. It can also be optioned with features not available on the standard Bolt, such as a panoramic sunroof and ventilated front seats.

Expect the Bolt EUV to get around 250 miles of range. Like the regular Bolt, it’s front-wheel-drive with no option for all-wheel drive.

But it will offer General Motors’ Super Cruise. This hands-off driving system allows the car to accelerate, brake and steer itself on more than 200,000 miles of highway and limited access roads. The Bolt EUV is the first non-Cadillac vehicle to get this system.

■ Arriving summer 2021
■ Price: starting at $33,995

2022 Audi e-Tron GT

This sleek-looking luxury sedan is Audi’s newest EV, following the e-tron SUV that debuted a few years ago. The GT’s dual electric motors produce between 469 horsepower and 637 horsepower total, depending on the trim level and driving mode, allowing it to sprint from a stop to 60 mph in as little as 3.2 seconds.

Inside, the e-tron’s multiple display screens and angular surfaces give the cabin a futuristic feel. There also are eco-conscious touches, including recycled materials used in the seat fabric and interior trim. The result is a distinctive cabin that helps differentiate the e-tron GT from the Porsche Taycan, upon which it’s based.

■ Arriving summer 2021
■ Price: starting at $100,945

2022 Hyundai Ioniq 5

Today’s Hyundai Ioniq Electric serves as the entry point to Hyundai’s electrified offerings, but the automaker will soon apply that name to a line of sedans and crossover SUVs built on a dedicated EV platform.

First up is the 2022 Hyundai Ioniq 5.

The Ioniq 5 is similar in size to the Honda CR-V, but since there’s no engine, its front end is shorter. The extra length is between the wheels, which should translate to legroom that rivals that of a midsize crossover. Other highlights include an abundance of tech features and an available dual-motor powertrain good for about 300 horsepower and an estimated range of 250 miles.

■ Arriving fall 2021
■ Estimated price: starting around $38,000

2021 Rivian R1T

The first mass-market electric pickup truck won’t come from Ford, Chevrolet or Tesla, but rather a Detroit-based startup. In terms of size, the 2021 Rivian R1T slots between midsize and full-size trucks, but its capabilities are closer to what you’ll find in the latter. Rivian says the R1T can tow up to 11,000 pounds, or slightly less than a Ram 1500 crew cab.

The R1T’s specs as an electric vehicle also are notable. The initial Launch Edition is fully loaded and, like all R1Ts, features an abundance of tech features and an available dual-motor powertrain that produces between 469 horsepower and 637 horsepower total, depending on the trim level and driving mode, allowing it to sprint from a stop to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds. GMC estimates the Hummer EV will deliver 350 miles of range.

■ Those who snagged a slot will be treated to a truck with three motors (one up front and two in the rear) that produce 1,000 horsepower and 637 horsepower total, depending on the trim level and driving mode, allowing it to sprint from a stop to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds. GMC estimates the Hummer EV will deliver 350 miles of range.

■ Arriving fall 2021
■ Price: starting at $75,000

2022 GMC Hummer EV

GMC Hummer EV launches later this year it will be packed with goodies, including a body-raising air suspension, all-terrain tires and CrabWalk mode, which allows the vehicle to move diagonally from a stop.

The initial top-spec Edition 1 model is the only Hummer EV we’ll see this year, and reservations are already full. Those who snagged a slot will be treated to a truck with three motors (one up front and two in the rear) that produce a rather outrageous 1,000 horsepower and accelerate this truck from zero to 60 mph in 3.5 seconds. GMC estimates the Hummer EV will deliver 350 miles of range.

■ Arriving fall 2021
■ Price: $112,595

EDMUNDS SAYS

EV shoppers have a respectable variety of EVs to choose from. But waiting until the summer or fall will get you an even more diverse lineup.

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