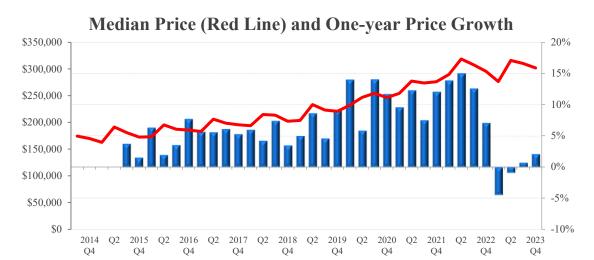


## **Birmingham-Hoover Area**

## **Local Market Report, Fourth Quarter 2023**

## Today's Market...



Local Price Trends				
Price Activity	Birmingham	U.S.	Local Trend	
Current Median Home Price (2023 Q4)	\$295,700	\$387,300		
1-year (4-quarter) Appreciation (2023 Q4)	2.1%	3.9%	Prices continue to grow relative to last ye	
3-year (12-quarter) Appreciation (2023 Q4)	22.5%	24.5%		
3-year (12-quarter) Housing Equity Gain*	\$55,400	\$76,300	Gains in the last 3 years have extended the	
7-year (28 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$116,200	\$153,367	trend of positive price growth after the	
9-year (36 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$132,100	\$179,667	recession	
*Note: Equity gain reflects price appreciation only				

	Birmingham	U.S.		
Conforming Loan Limit**	\$766,550	\$1,149,825	Most buyers in this market have access to	
FHA Loan Limit	\$498,257	\$1,149,825	government-backed financing	
<b>Local Median to Conforming Limit Ratio</b>	39%	not comparable	government-backed imancing	
Note: limits are current and include the changes made on January 1st 2024.				

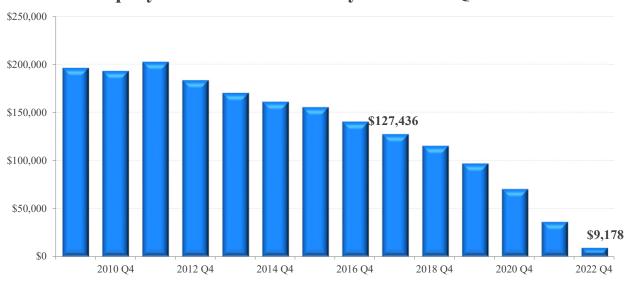
#### **Local NAR Leadership**

The Birmingham-Hoover market is part of region 5 in the NAR governance system, which includes all of Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. The 2024 NAR Regional Vice President representing region 5 is Faron W. King.



# **Benefits of Ownership: Total Equity Appreciation**

#### Total Equity Accrued to Owner by Year and Quarter of Purchase



Total Equity Gained** through 2023 Q4 from quarter in which home was of purchased				
Price Activity	Birmingham	U.S.	<b>Local Trend</b>	
1-year (4-quarter)	\$9,178	\$18,387		
3-year (12-quarter)*	\$70,347	\$95,158		
5-year (20-quarter)*	\$115,255	\$151,356	Price appreciation and principle payments in the last 3 years have boosted total equity	
7-year (28 quarters)*	\$140,343	\$183,780	growth since the recession	
9-year (36 quarters)*	\$161,057	\$215,076		

\*Note: Equity gain reflects price and principle payments since purchase, prevailing 30-year fixed rate mortgage at time of purchase and a 10% downpayment. Downpayment is not included in total equity



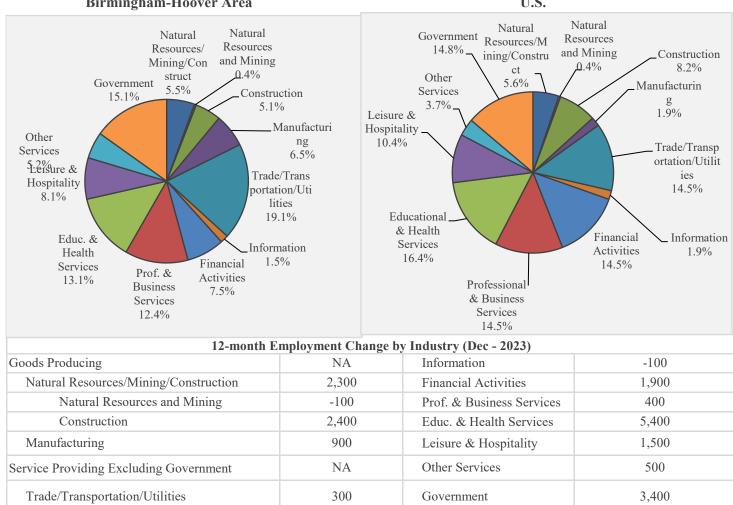
## **Drivers of Local Supply and Demand...**

Local Economic Outlook	Birmingham	U.S.	
12-month Job Change (Dec)	18,200	Not Comparable	Employment has held up and is on an
12-month Job Change (Nov)	16,500	Not Comparable	upward trend
36-month Job Change (Dec)	40,100	Not Comparable	Unemployment has risen since the same period last year, but Birmingham's labor
Current Unemployment Rate (Dec)	2.4%	3.7%	market has been more resilient than the national average
Year-ago Unemployment Rate	1.9%	3.5%	Local employment growth is strong
1-year (12 month) Job Growth Rate	3.2%	2.3%	compared to other markets

#### **Share of Total Employment by Industry**

Birmingham-Hoover Area

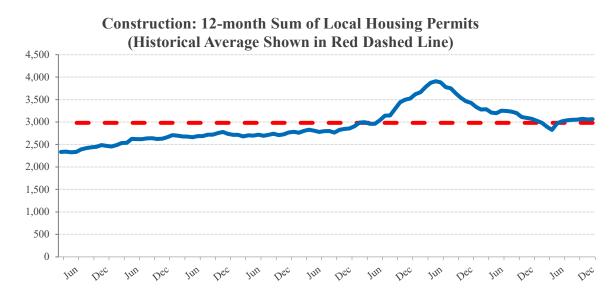
U.S.

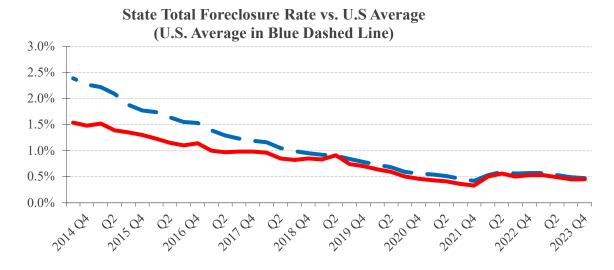


State Economic Activity Index	Alabama	U.S.	
12-month change (2023 - Dec)	2.1%	3.0%	Alabama's economy is growing, but decelerated from last month's 2.64% change
36-month change (2023 - Dec)	11.9%	14.3%	and lags the rest of the nation



New Housing Construction				
Local Fundamentals	Birmingham	U.S.		
12-month Sum of 1-unit Building Permits through Dec	3,063	not comparable	The current level of construction is 2.6% above the long-term average	
8-year average for 12-month Sum of 1-Unit Building Permits	2,986	not comparable	Production above trend for an extended period of time could cause prices to moderate as inventory is built up.	
Single-Family Housing Permits (Dec) 12-month sum vs. a year ago	-0.3%	-6.1%	Construction is down from last year, but appears to have bottomed.	



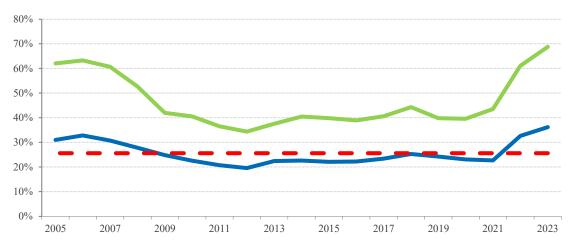


Source: Mortgage Bankers' Association

# **Affordability**

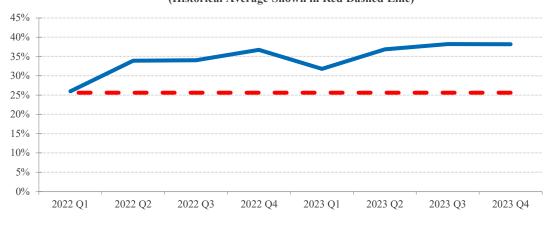


# Long-Term Trend: Ratio of Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income (Local Historical Average Shown in Red, U.S. Average in Green)



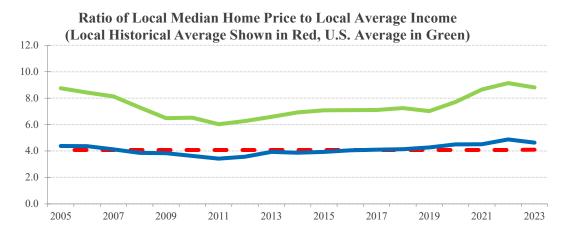
<b>Monthly Mortgage Payment to Income</b>	Birmingham	U.S.		
Ratio for 2023	36.2%	68.8%	Weak by local standards and could weigh on demand	
Ratio for 2023 Q4	38.2%	68.3%		
Historical Average	25.6%	47.0%	More affordable than most markets	

# Recent Trend - Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income (Historical Average Shown in Red Dashed Line)

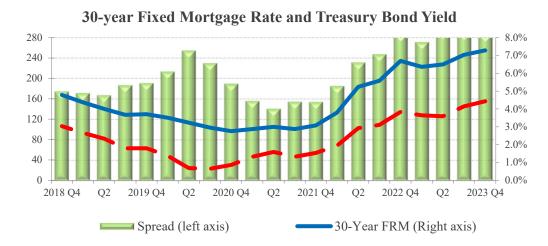


Median Home Price to Income	Birmingham	U.S.	
Ratio for 2023	4.6	8.8	The price-to-income ratio eased, but could
Ratio for 2023 Q4	4.6	8.3	be better
Historical Average	4.1	7.4	Affordable compared to most markets





### The Mortgage Market



Throughout much of the final quarter of the year, mortgage rates remained elevated near 7.5 percent. According to the mortgage provider Freddie Mac, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate rose to 7.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2023 from 6.7 percent the previous year. Nevertheless, rates fell below 7 percent at the end of year as the Federal Reserve continued to halt its interest rates hikes. With lower interest rates on the horizon, mortgage rates are expected to continue their downward trend in 2024, thereby enhancing affordability for potential homebuyers.

NAR forecasts the 30-year fixed mortgage rate to average 6.8 percent in the first quarter of 2024, with a further decline expected to bring them below 6.6% by the end of the first half.



# Geographic Coverage for this Report

The Birmingham area referred to in this report covers the geographic area of the Birmingham-Hoover metro area as officially defined by the Office of Management and Budget of the U.S. Government. The official coverage area includes the following counties:

Bibb County, Blount County, Chilton County, Jefferson County, Shelby County, St. Clair County, and Walker County

More information on the OMB's geographic definitions can be found at https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/bulletins\_default/