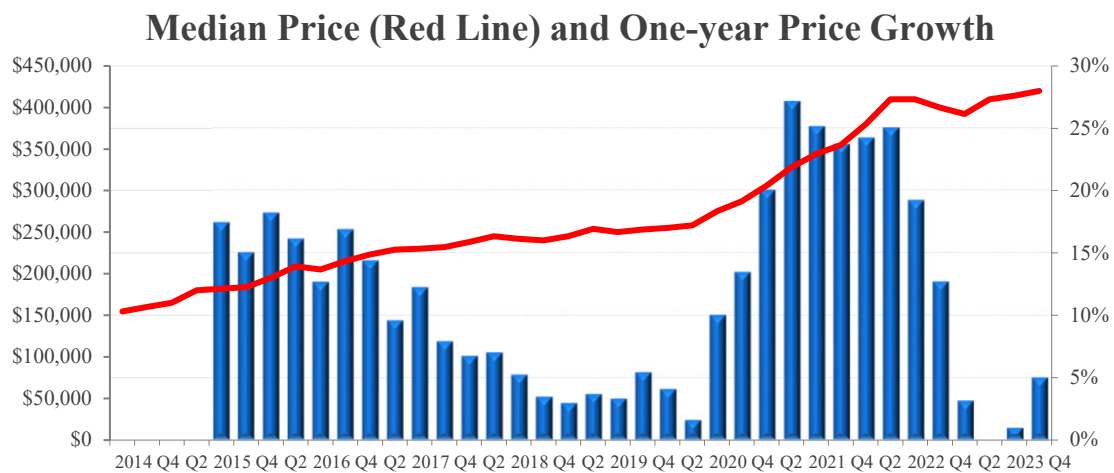


## Port St. Lucie Area

### Local Market Report, Fourth Quarter 2023

## Today's Market...



Local Price Trends			
Price Activity	Port St. Lucie	U.S.	Local Trend
Current Median Home Price (2023 Q4)	\$420,000	\$387,300	Prices continue to grow relative to last year
1-year (4-quarter) Appreciation (2023 Q4)	5.0%	3.9%	
3-year (12-quarter) Appreciation (2023 Q4)	46.3%	24.5%	
3-year (12-quarter) Housing Equity Gain*	\$133,000	\$76,300	Gains in the last 3 years have extended the trend of positive price growth after the recession
7-year (28 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$205,000	\$153,367	
9-year (36 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$260,000	\$179,667	

\*Note: Equity gain reflects price appreciation only

	Port St. Lucie	U.S.	
<b>Conforming Loan Limit**</b>	\$766,550	\$1,149,825	Most buyers in this market have access to government-backed financing
<b>FHA Loan Limit</b>	\$546,250	\$1,149,825	
<b>Local Median to Conforming Limit Ratio</b>	55%	not comparable	

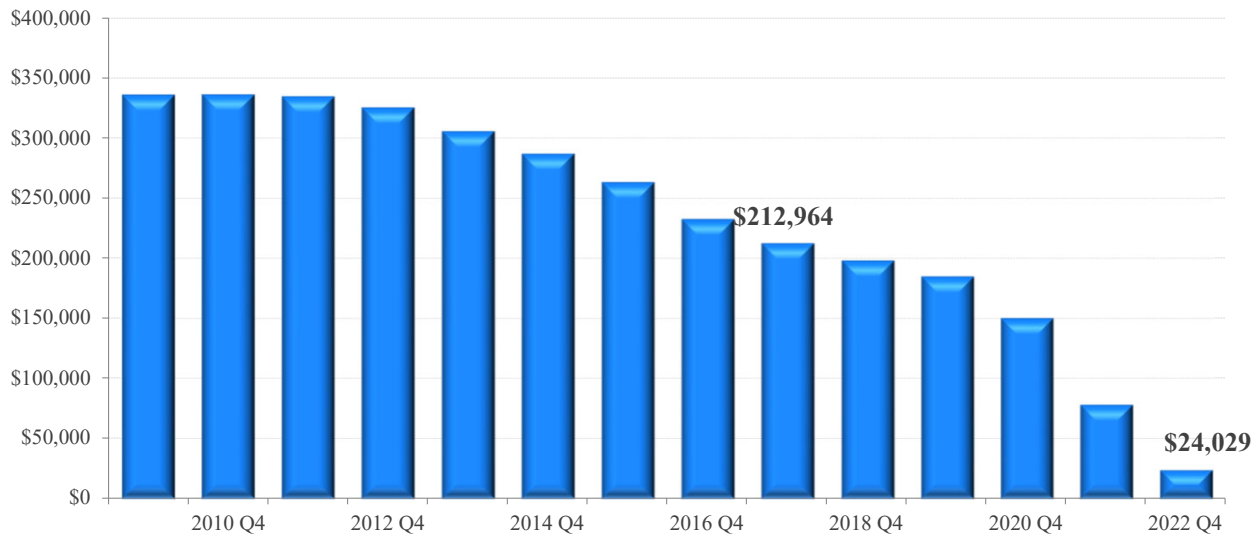
Note: limits are current and include the changes made on January 1st 2024.

#### Local NAR Leadership

The Port St. Lucie 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	PortStLucie	U.S.	Local Trend
1-year (4-quarter)	\$24,029	\$18,387	Price appreciation and principle payments in the last 3 years have boosted total equity growth since the recession
3-year (12-quarter)*	\$150,403	\$95,158	
5-year (20-quarter)*	\$198,572	\$151,356	
7-year (28 quarters)*	\$232,952	\$183,780	
9-year (36 quarters)*	\$287,286	\$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

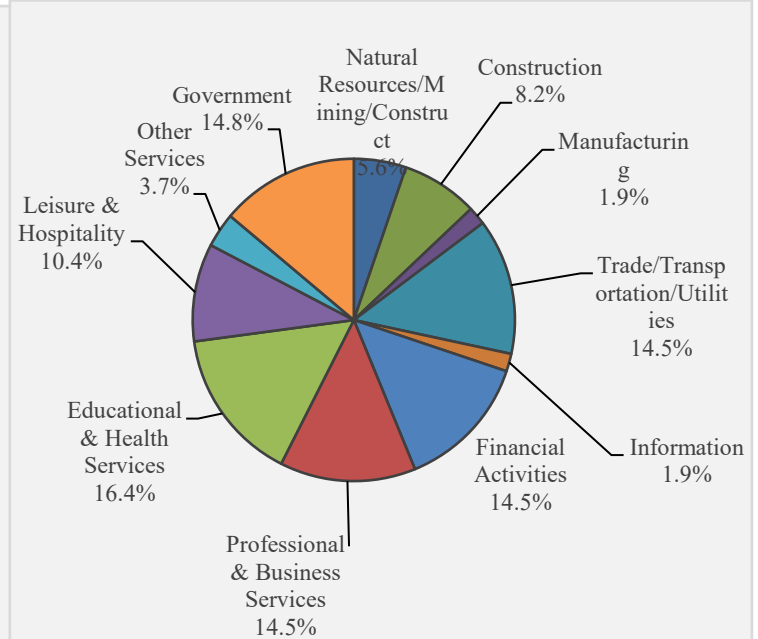
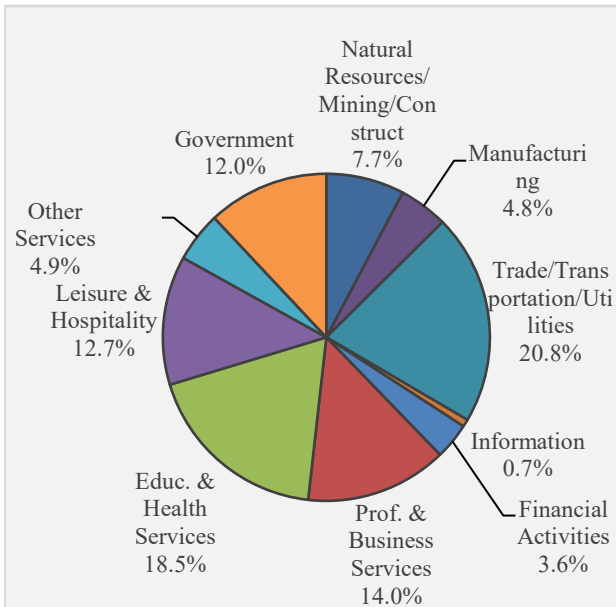
# Drivers of Local Supply and Demand...

Local Economic Outlook	Port St. Lucie	U.S.	
12-month Job Change (Dec)	3,700	Not Comparable	Employment growth has eased, but remains positive
12-month Job Change (Nov)	4,600	Not Comparable	
36-month Job Change (Dec)	17,700	Not Comparable	Unemployment has risen since the same period last year, but Port St. Lucie's labor market has been more resilient than the national average
Current Unemployment Rate (Dec)	3.3%	3.7%	
Year-ago Unemployment Rate	2.5%	3.5%	Local employment growth is poor and needs to improve
1-year (12 month) Job Growth Rate	2.2%	2.3%	

## Share of Total Employment by Industry

Port St. Lucie Area

U.S.



### 12-month Employment Change by Industry (Dec - 2023)

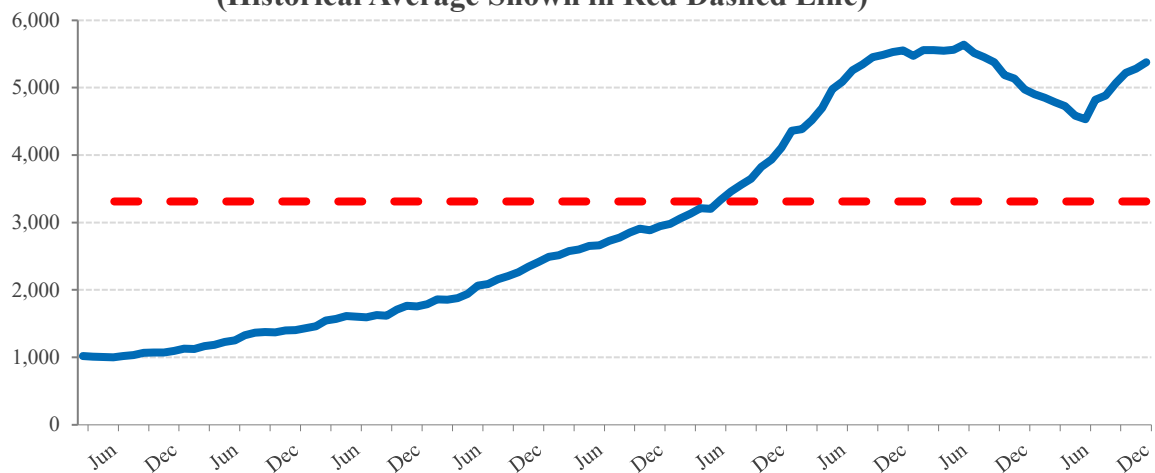
Goods Producing	NA	Information	-100
Natural Resources/Mining/Construction	-400	Financial Activities	0
Natural Resources and Mining	NA	Prof. & Business Services	1,300
Construction	NA	Educ. & Health Services	2,000
Manufacturing	100	Leisure & Hospitality	600
Service Providing Excluding Government	NA	Other Services	0
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	400	Government	700

State Economic Activity Index	Florida	U.S.	
12-month change (2023 - Dec)	2.7%	3.0%	Florida's economy is growing, but decelerated from last month's 3.00% change and lags the rest of the nation
36-month change (2023 - Dec)	18.2%	14.3%	

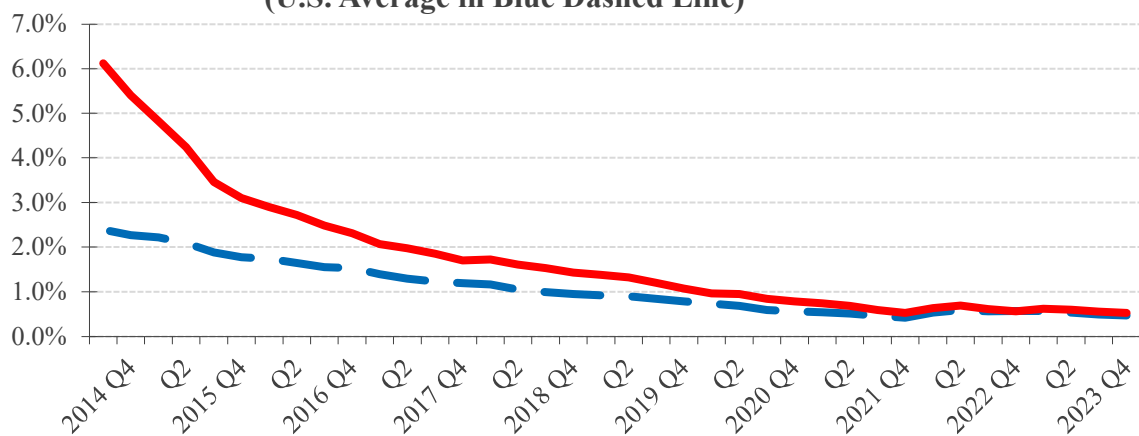
## New Housing Construction

Local Fundamentals	Port St. Lucie	U.S.	
12-month Sum of 1-unit Building Permits through Dec	5,376	not comparable	The current level of construction is 62.2% above the long-term average
8-year average for 12-month Sum of 1-Unit Building Permits	3,314	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	8.1%	-6.1%	Construction is on the rise relative to last year, suggesting that the local inventory has stabilized

**Construction: 12-month Sum of Local Housing Permits**  
(Historical Average Shown in Red Dashed Line)



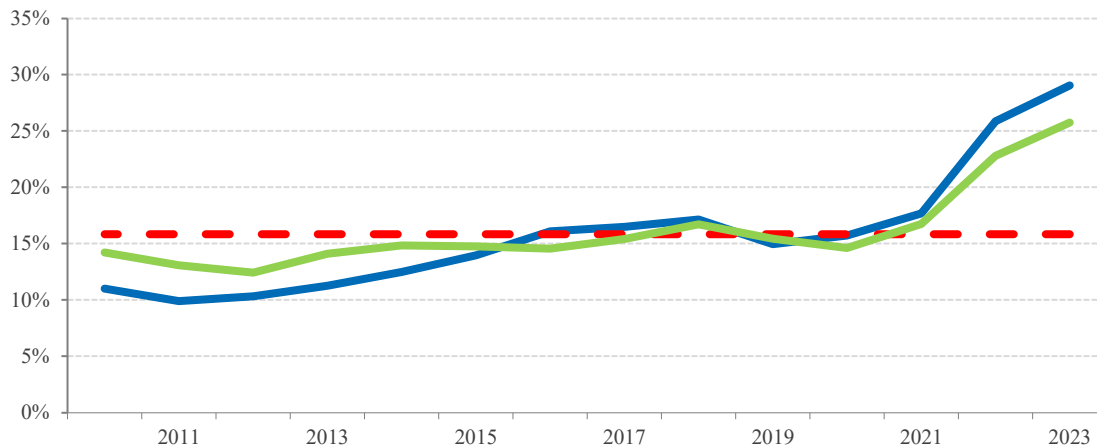
**State Total Foreclosure Rate vs. U.S. Average**  
(U.S. Average in Blue Dashed Line)



Source: Mortgage Bankers' Association

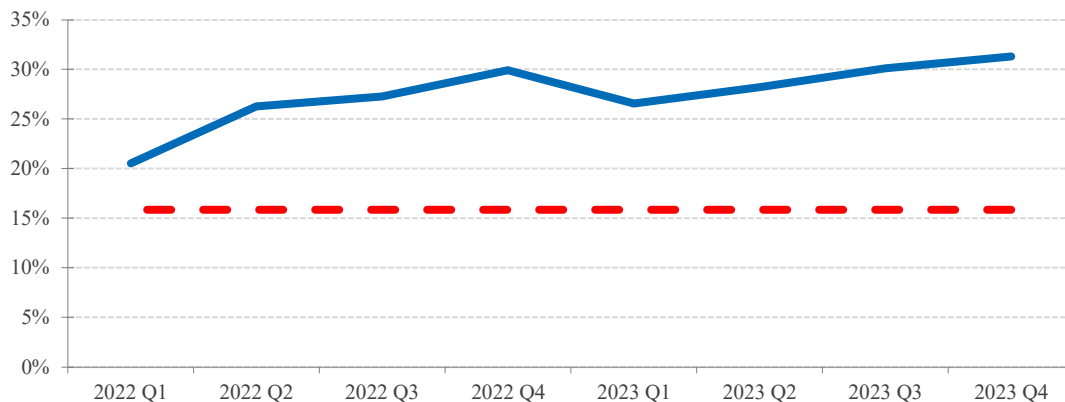
# Affordability

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

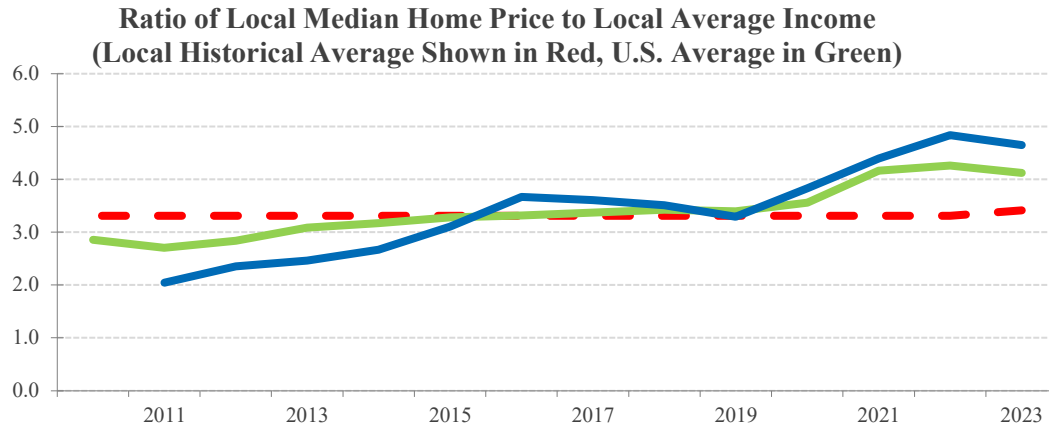


Monthly Mortgage Payment to Income	Port St. Lucie	U.S.	
Ratio for 2023	29.1%	25.8%	Weak by local standards and could weigh on demand
Ratio for 2023 Q4	31.3%	25.5%	
Historical Average	15.9%	17.0%	More affordable than most markets

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



Median Home Price to Income	Port St. Lucie	U.S.	
Ratio for 2023	4.6	4.1	The price-to-income ratio is high by historic standards and getting worse
Ratio for 2023 Q4	4.8	3.9	
Historical Average	3.4	3.4	Less affordable than 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 Port St. Lucie area referred to in this report covers the geographic area of the Port St. Lucie 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:

[Martin County and St. Lucie County](#)

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

