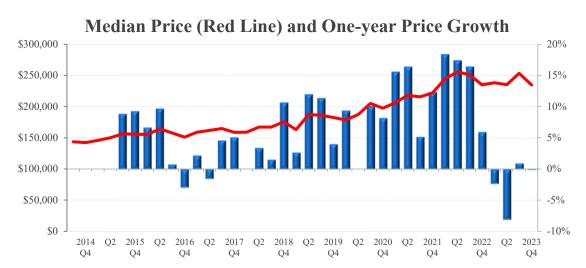


## **Abilene Area**

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

## Today's Market...



Local Price Trends				
Price Activity	Abilene	U.S.	Local Trend	
Current Median Home Price (2023 Q4)	\$234,900	\$387,300	Year-over-year price growth swung	
1-year (4-quarter) Appreciation (2023 Q4)	-0.1%	3.9%	negative this quarter after growing last	
3-year (12-quarter) Appreciation (2023 Q4)	18.8%	24.5%	quarter	
3-year (12-quarter) Housing Equity Gain*	\$37,200	\$76,300	Gains in the last 3 years have extended the	
7-year (28 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$83,700	\$153,367	trend of positive price growth after the	
9-year (36 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$92,300	\$179,667	recession	
*Note: Equity gain reflects price appreciation only	·			

	Abilene	U.S.		
Conforming Loan Limit**	\$766,550	\$1,149,825	Most buyers in this market have access t	
FHA Loan Limit	\$498,257	\$1,149,825		
<b>Local Median to Conforming Limit Ratio</b>	31%	not comparable	government-backed financing	
Note: limits are current and include the changes made on January 1st 2024.				

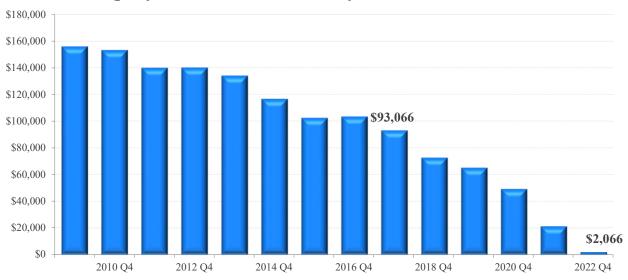
#### **Local NAR Leadership**

The Abilene market is part of region 10 in the NAR governance system, which includes all of Louisiana and Texas. The 2024 NAR Regional Vice President representing region 10 is Marvin Jolly.



# **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	Abilene	U.S.	<b>Local Trend</b>	
1-year (4-quarter)	\$2,066	\$18,387		
3-year (12-quarter)*	\$49,170	\$95,158	Price trends in the last three years have	
5-year (20-quarter)*	\$72,681	\$151,356	undercut the steady post-recession home	
7-year (28 quarters)*	\$103,318	\$183,780	equity growth despite owners paying down	
9-year (36 quarters)*	\$116,568	\$215,076	principle	

\*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



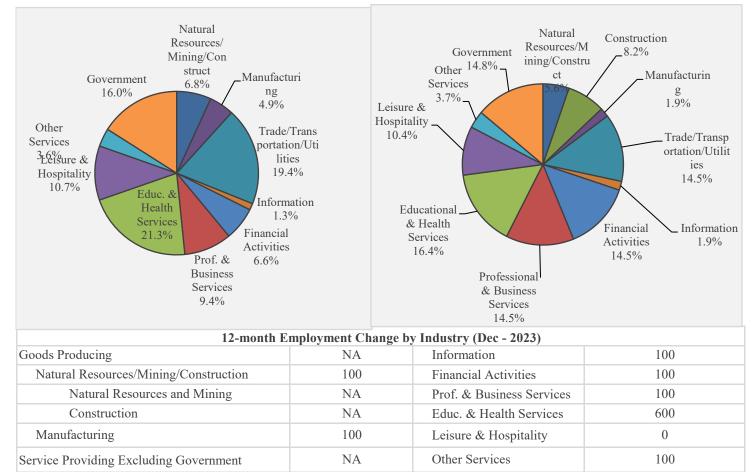
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## **Drivers of Local Supply and Demand...**

Local Economic Outlook	Abilene	U.S.		
12-month Job Change (Dec)	900	Not Comparable	Employment growth has eased, but remains	
12-month Job Change (Nov)	1,100	Not Comparable	positive	
36-month Job Change (Dec)	6,100	Not Comparable	Unemployment in Abilene is better than the national average and improving	
Current Unemployment Rate (Dec)	2.9%	3.7%		
Year-ago Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.5%	Local employment growth is poor and	
1-year (12 month) Job Growth Rate	1.2%	2.3%	needs to improve	

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

Abilene Area U.S.



State Economic Activity Index	Texas	U.S.		
12-month change (2023 - Dec)	3.5%	3.0%	The economy of Texas has outpaced the rest of the nation and improved modestly	
36-month change (2023 - Dec)	16.4%	14.3%	from last month's 3.49% change	

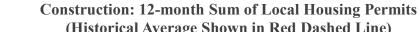
Government

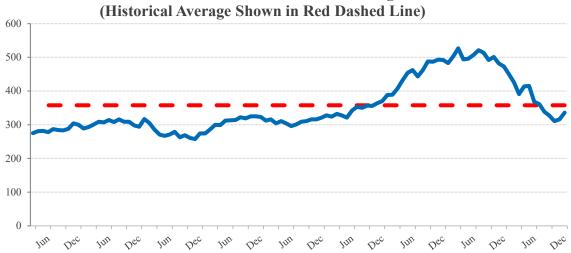
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Trade/Transportation/Utilities

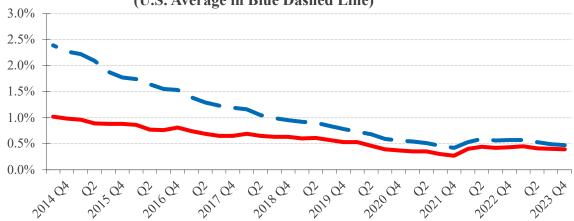


New Housing Construction				
Local Fundamentals	Abilene	U.S.		
12-month Sum of 1-unit Building Permits through Dec	336	not comparable	The current level of construction is 6.1% below the long-term average	
8-year average for 12-month Sum of 1-Unit Building Permits	358	not comparable	Reduced construction will limit new supply to the market, allowing demand to catch up with inventory more quickly	
Single-Family Housing Permits (Dec) 12-month sum vs. a year ago	-29.0%	-6.1%	Construction is down from last year, but appears to have bottomed.	









Source: Mortgage Bankers' Association

# **Affordability**

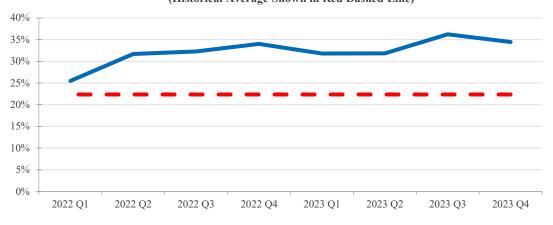


# Long-Term Trend: Ratio of Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income (Local Historical Average Shown in Red, U.S. Average in Green)



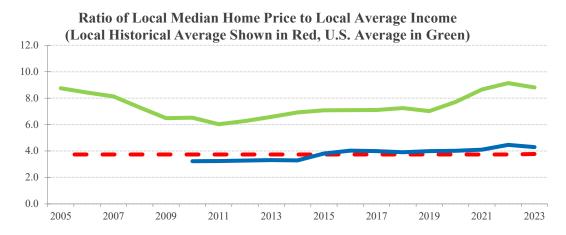
Monthly Mortgage Payment to Income	Abilene	U.S.		
Ratio for 2023	33.5%	68.8%	Weak by local standards and could weight on demand	
Ratio for 2023 Q4	34.4%	68.3%		
Historical Average	22.4%	47.0%	More affordable than most markets	

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

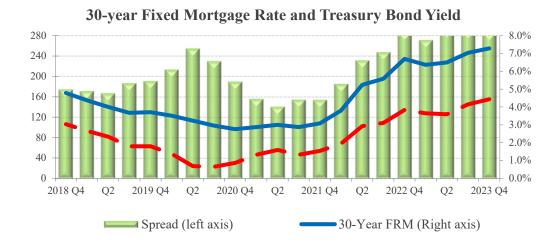


Median Home Price to Income	Abilene	U.S.	
Ratio for 2023	4.3	8.8	The price-to-income ratio eased, but could
Ratio for 2023 Q4	4.2	8.3	be better
Historical Average	3.8	7.4	Affordable compared to most markets





## 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 Abilene area referred to in this report covers the geographic area of the Abilene 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:

Callahan County, Jones County, and Taylor County

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