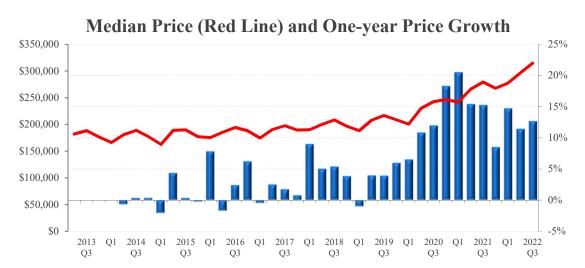


### Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Area

#### **Local Market Report, Third Quarter 2022**

## Today's Market...



Local Price Trends				
Price Activity	Allentown	U.S.	Local Trend	
Current Median Home Price (2022 Q3)	\$314,800	\$391,467		
1-year (4-quarter) Appreciation (2022 Q3)	12.6%	8.6%	Prices continue to grow relative to last ye	
3-year (12-quarter) Appreciation (2022 Q3)	45.3%	41.4%		
3-year (12-quarter) Housing Equity Gain*	\$98,100	\$114,567	Gains in the last 3 years have extended the	
7-year (28 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$125,000	\$164,133	trend of positive price growth after the	
9-year (36 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$126,400	\$184,600	recession	
*Note: Equity gain reflects price appreciation only				

	Allentown	U.S.		
Conforming Loan Limit**	\$726,200	\$1,089,300	Most buyers in this market have access to government-backed financing	
FHA Loan Limit	\$472,030	\$1,089,300		
Local Median to Conforming Limit Ratio	43%	not comparable	government-backed financing	
Note: limits are current and include the changes made on January 1st 2023.				

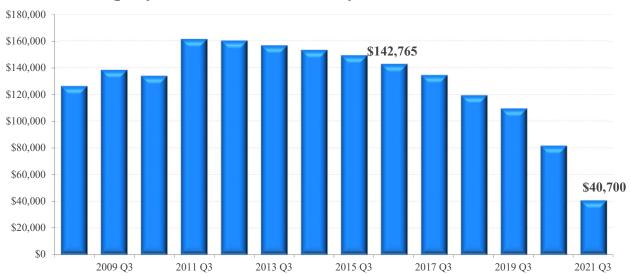
#### **Local NAR Leadership**

The Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton market is part of region 2 in the NAR governance system, which includes all of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The 2022 NAR Regional Vice President representing region 2 is Ilene Horowitz.



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

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



Total Equity Gained** through 2022 Q3 from quarter in which home was of purchased				
Price Activity	Allentown	U.S.	<b>Local Trend</b>	
1-year (4-quarter)	\$40,700	\$38,029		
3-year (12-quarter)*	\$109,536	\$129,179		
5-year (20-quarter)*	\$134,480	\$160,886	Price appreciation and principle payments in the last 3 years have boosted total equity	
7-year (28 quarters)*	\$149,221	\$193,144	growth since the recession	
9-year (36 quarters)*	\$156,655	\$217,820		

\*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



7,800

500

400

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

Local Economic Outlook	Allentown	U.S.		
12-month Job Change (Sep)	17,900	Not Comparable	Employment growth has eased, but remains	
12-month Job Change (Aug)	18,600	Not Comparable	positive	
36-month Job Change (Sep)	9,000	Not Comparable	Unemployment in Allentown is better than the national average and improving	
Current Unemployment Rate (Sep)	3.3%	3.5%		
Year-ago Unemployment Rate	5.5%	4.7%	Local employment growth is strong	
1-year (12 month) Job Growth Rate	4.8%	4.3%	compared to other markets	

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

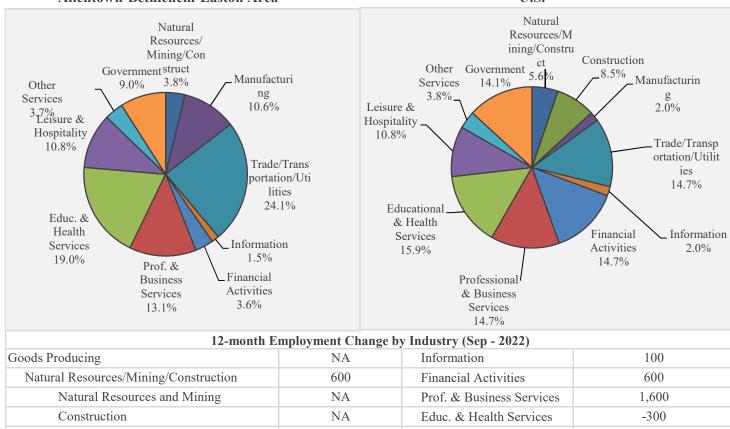
#### Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton Area

Manufacturing

Service Providing Excluding Government

Trade/Transportation/Utilities

U.S.



State Economic Activity Index	Pennsylvania	U.S.	
12-month change (2022 - Sep)	7.3%	4.9%	Pennsylvania's economy is stronger than the nation's, but slowed from last month's
36-month change (2022 - Sep)	4.3%	5.2%	7.45% change

1,600

NA

5,700

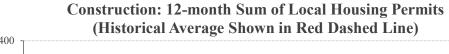
Leisure & Hospitality

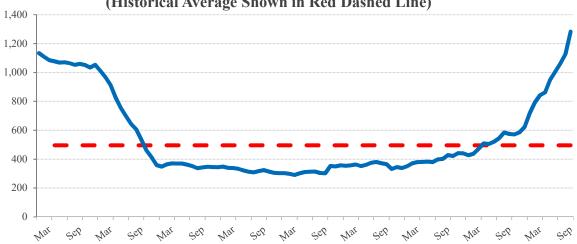
Other Services

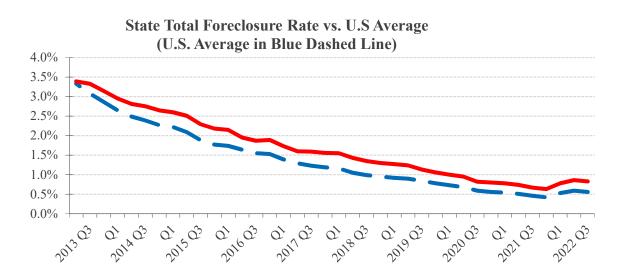
Government



New Housing Construction					
Local Fundamentals Allentown U.S.					
12-month Sum of 1-unit Building Permits through Sep	1,283	not comparable	The current level of construction is 158.7% above the long-term average		
8-year average for 12-month Sum of 1-Unit Building Permits	496	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 (Sep) 12-month sum vs. a year ago	123.1%	-7.7%	Construction is on the rise relative to last year, suggesting that the local inventory has stabilized		







Source: Mortgage Bankers' Association

## **Affordability**

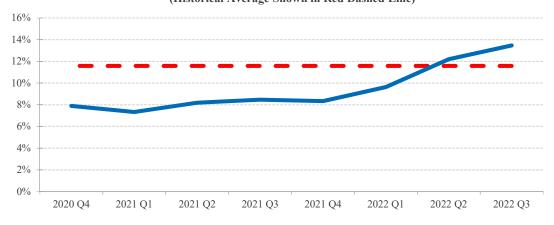


# Long-Term Trend: Ratio of Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income (Local Historical Average Shown in Red, U.S. Average in Green)



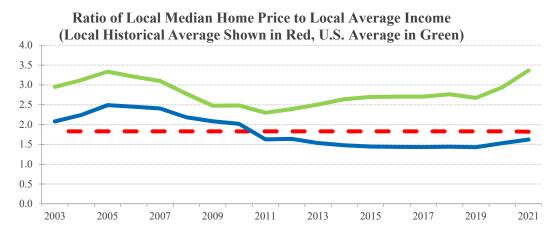
Monthly Mortgage Payment to Income	Allentown	U.S.		
Ratio for 2021	8.2%	16.9%	Weak by local standards and could weight on demand	
Ratio for 2022 Q3	13.5%	24.4%		
Historical Average	11.6%	18.1%	More affordable than most markets	

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



Median Home Price to Income	Allentown	U.S.	
Ratio for 2021	1.6	3.4	The price-to-income ratio is high by historic
Ratio for 2022 Q3	2.0	3.6	standards and getting worse
Historical Average	1.8	2.7	Affordable compared to most markets





## The Mortgage Market



Mortgage rates continued their upward trek in the third quarter of the year. Due to elevated inflation, the Federal Reserve raised twice its short-term interest rates by 75 basis points each time. While both rising inflation and higher interest rates typically move up mortgage rates, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate surpassed the 6.5 percent threshold moving closer to 7 percent. According to the mortgage finance provider Freddie Mac, the 30-year fixed mortgage rate rose to 5.6 percent in Q3 2022 from 2.9 percent a year earlier. As long as inflation remains elevated, mortgage rates will continue to rise. NAR forecasts the 30-year fixed mortgage rate to average 6.5 percent at the end of the year.



## Geographic Coverage for this Report

The Allentown area referred to in this report covers the geographic area of the Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton 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:

Carbon County, Lehigh County, Northampton County, and Warren County

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