

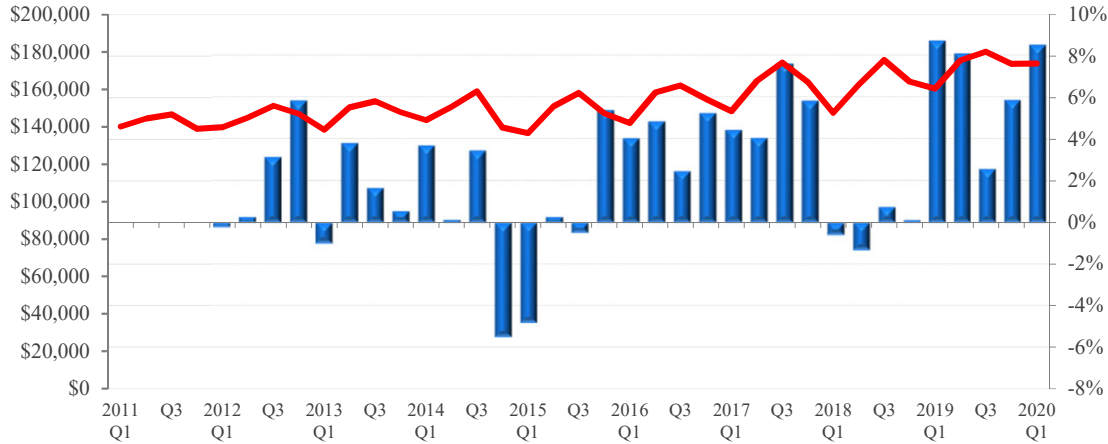
Reading Area

Local Market Report, First Quarter 2020

including the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy

Today's Market...

Median Price (Red Line) and One-year Price Growth



Local Price Trends

Price Activity	Reading	U.S.	Local Trend
Current Median Home Price (2020 Q1)	\$173,900	\$272,433	Prices continue to grow relative to last year
1-year (4-quarter) Appreciation (2020 Q1)	8.5%	7.7%	
3-year (12-quarter) Appreciation (2020 Q1)	17.2%	18.1%	
3-year (12-quarter) Housing Equity Gain*	\$25,500	\$41,733	Gains in the last 3 years have extended the trend of positive price growth after the recession
7-year (28 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$35,500	\$96,500	
9-year (36 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$33,800	\$114,500	

*Note: Equity gain reflects price appreciation only

	Reading	U.S.	
Conforming Loan Limit**	\$484,350	\$726,525	Most buyers in this market have access to government-backed financing
FHA Loan Limit	\$314,827	\$726,525	
Local Median to Conforming Limit Ratio	36%	not comparable	

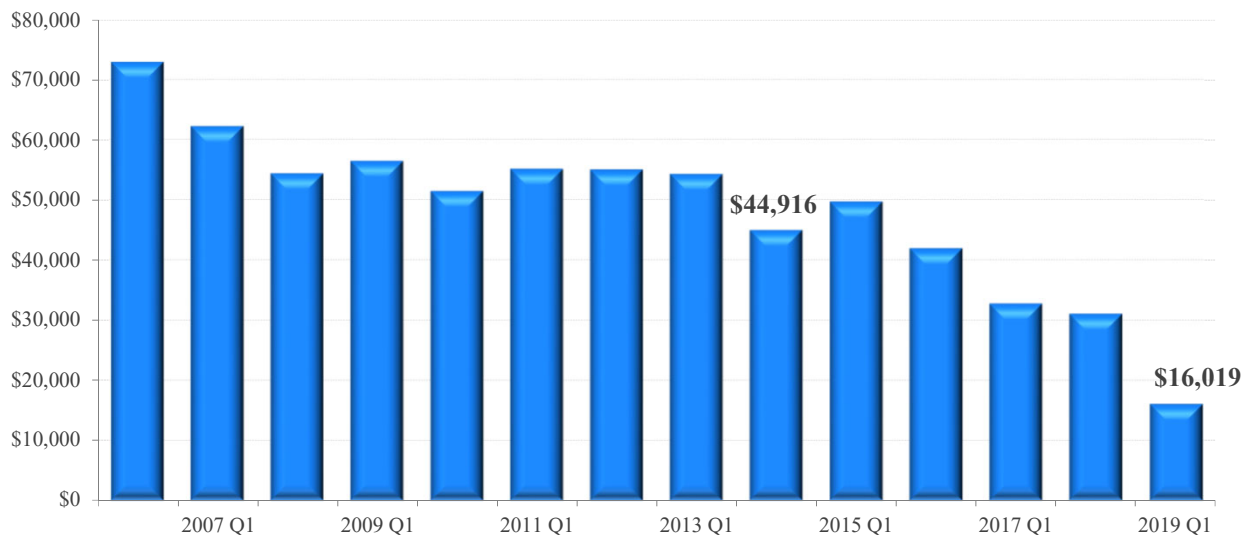
Note: limits are current and include the changes made on January 1st 2019.

Local NAR Leadership

The Reading market is part of region 2 in the NAR governance system, which includes all of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The 2020 NAR Regional Vice President representing region 2 is Drew Fishman.

Benefits of Ownership: Total Equity Appreciation

Total Equity Accrued to Owner by Year and Quarter of Purchase



Total Equity Gained through 2020 Q1 from quarter in which home was of purchased**

Price Activity	Reading	U.S.	Local Trend
1-year (4-quarter)	\$16,019	\$23,185	Price appreciation and principle payments in the last 3 years have boosted total equity growth since the recession
3-year (12-quarter)*	\$32,733	\$52,978	
5-year (20-quarter)*	\$49,651	\$87,425	
7-year (28 quarters)*	\$54,262	\$120,351	
9-year (36 quarters)*	\$55,139	\$138,556	

*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

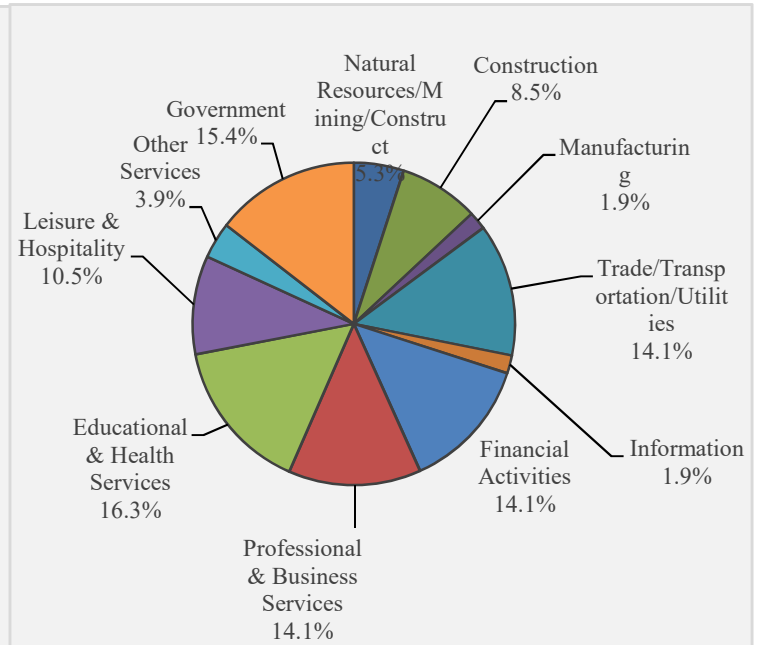
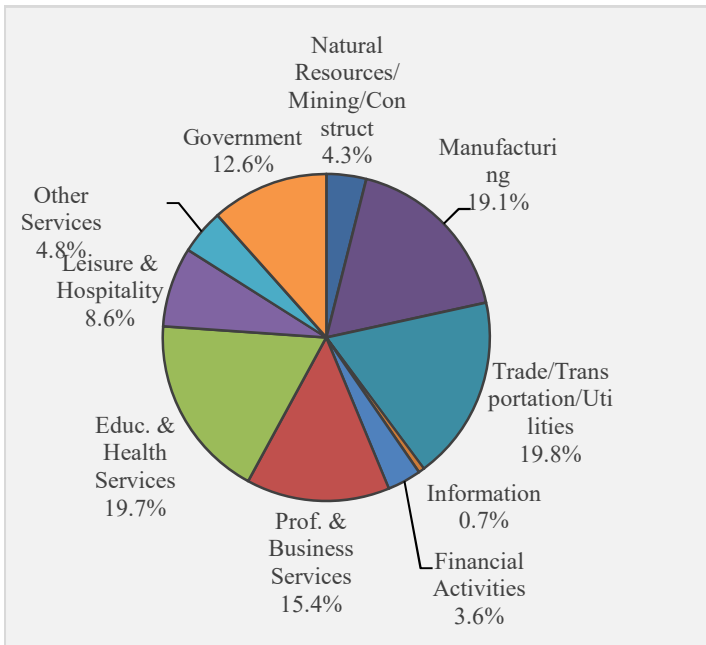
Drivers of Local Supply and Demand...

Local Economic Outlook	Reading	U.S.	
12-month Job Change (Mar)	1,100	Not Comparable	Employment growth has eased, but remains positive
12-month Job Change (Feb)	2,700	Not Comparable	
36-month Job Change (Mar)	6,800	Not Comparable	Reading's unemployment situation is worse than the national average and weighs on confidence
Current Unemployment Rate (Mar)	5.7%	4.4%	
Year-ago Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.8%	Local employment growth is poor and needs to improve
1-year (12 month) Job Growth Rate	0.6%	1.3%	

Share of Total Employment by Industry

Reading Area

U.S.



12-month Employment Change by Industry in the Reading Area (Mar - 2020)

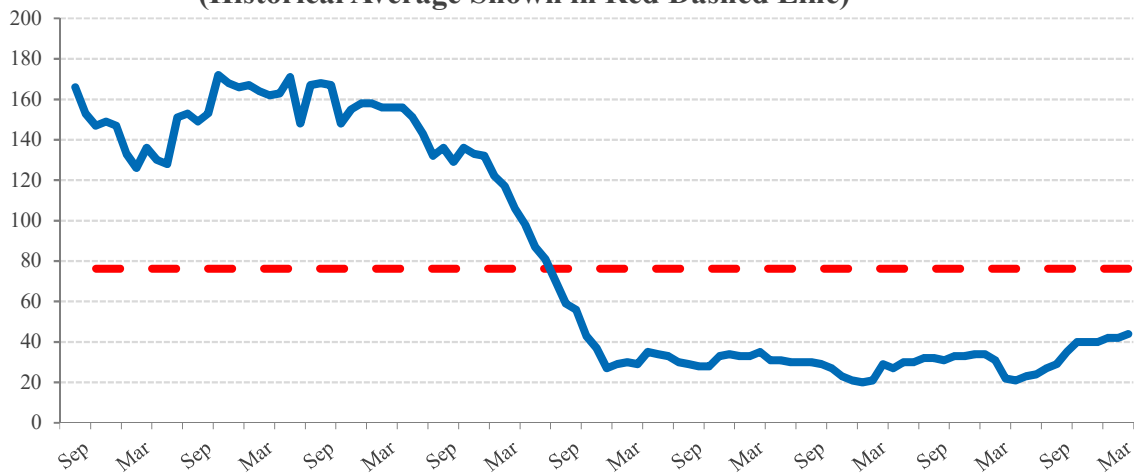
Goods Producing	NA	Information	-100
Natural Resources/Mining/Construction	-100	Financial Activities	200
Natural Resources and Mining	NA	Prof. & Business Services	1,900
Construction	NA	Educ. & Health Services	1,000
Manufacturing	200	Leisure & Hospitality	-300
Service Providing Excluding Government	NA	Other Services	100
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	300	Government	-500

State Economic Activity Index	Pennsylvania	U.S.	
12-month change (2020 - Mar)	-0.7%	1.2%	The economy of Pennsylvania is still in recession, but improved modestly from last month's -19.45% change
36-month change (2020 - Mar)	NA	7.0%	

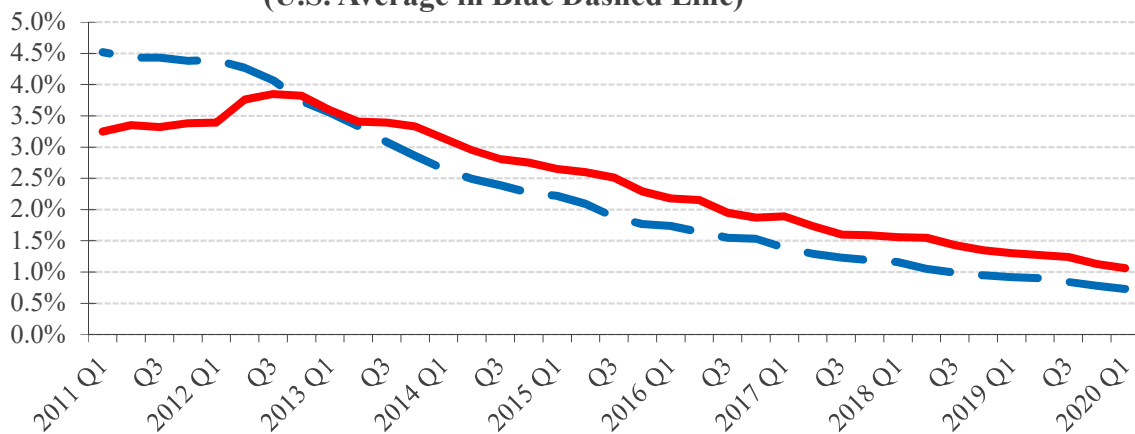
New Housing Construction

Local Fundamentals	Reading	U.S.	
12-month Sum of 1-unit Building Permits through Mar	44	not comparable	The current level of construction is 42.3% below the long-term average
8-year average for 12-month Sum of 1-Unit Building Permits	76	not comparable	Reduced construction will limit new supply to the market, allowing demand to catch up with inventory more quickly
Single-Family Housing Permits (Mar) 12-month sum vs. a year ago	100.0%	5.5%	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)



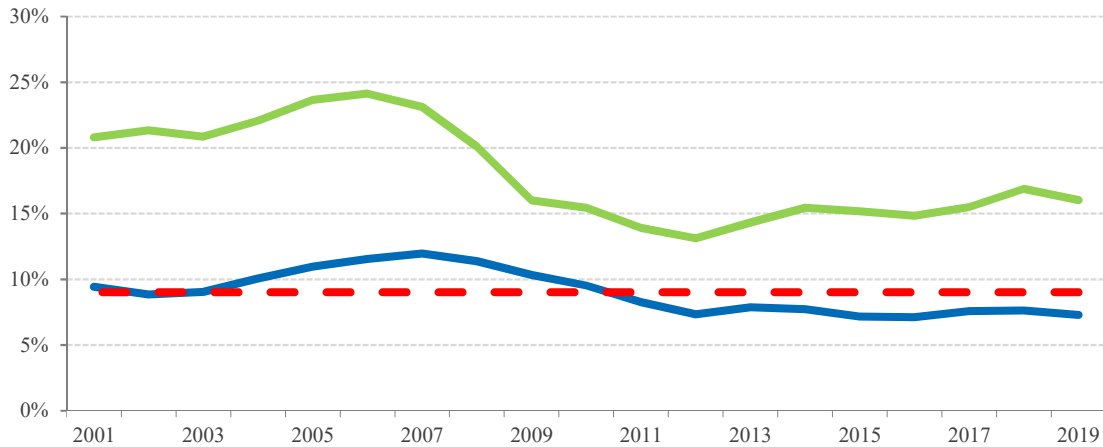
State Total Foreclosure Rate vs. U.S Average
(U.S. Average in Blue Dashed Line)



Affordability

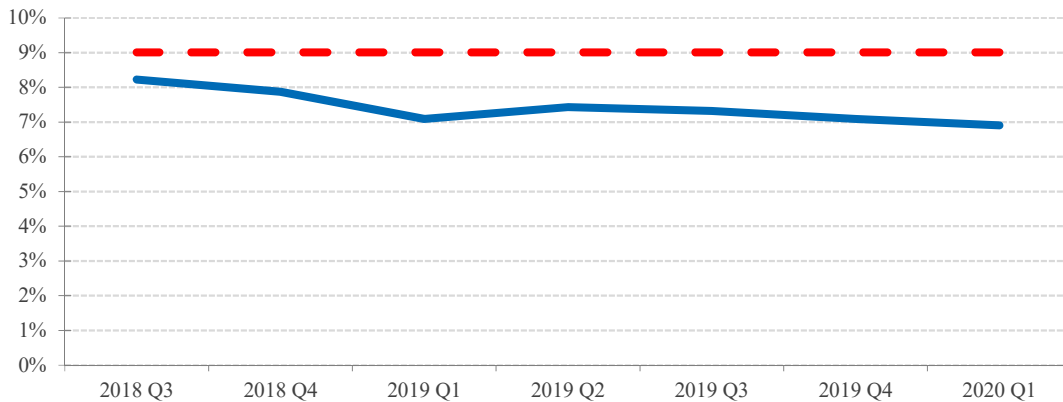


Long-Term Trend: Ratio of Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income
(Local Historical Average Shown in Red, U.S. Average in Green)

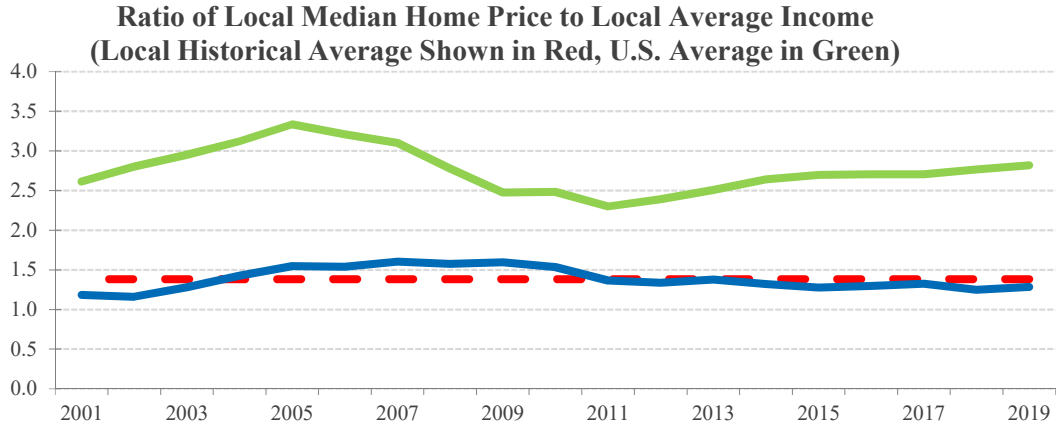


Monthly Mortgage Payment to Income	Reading	U.S.	
Ratio for 2019	7.3%	16.0%	Historically strong, but weaker than the fourth quarter of 2019
Ratio for 2020 Q1	6.9%	14.6%	
Historical Average	9.0%	18.4%	More affordable than most markets

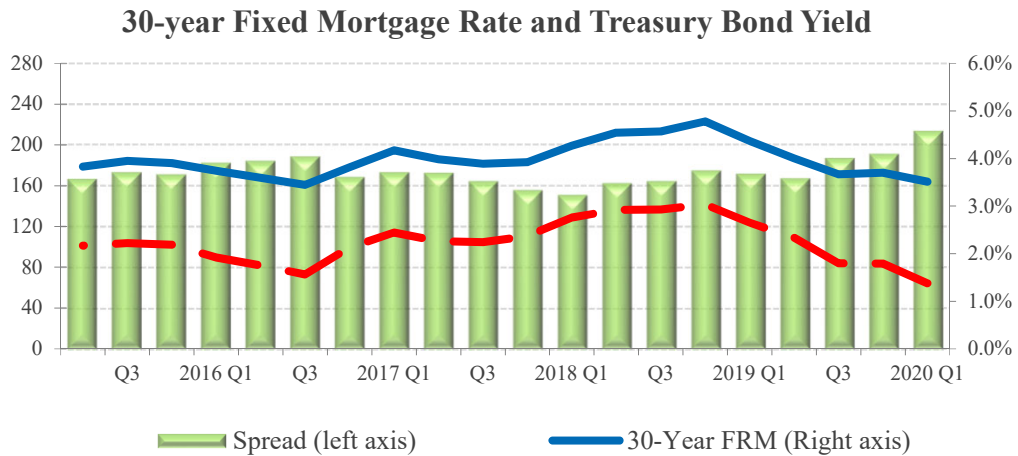
Recent Trend - Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income
(Historical Average Shown in Red Dashed Line)



Median Home Price to Income	Reading	U.S.	
Ratio for 2019	1.3	2.8	The price-to-income ratio rose, but is better than the historic average
Ratio for 2020 Q1	1.3	2.7	
Historical Average	1.4	2.7	Affordable compared to most markets



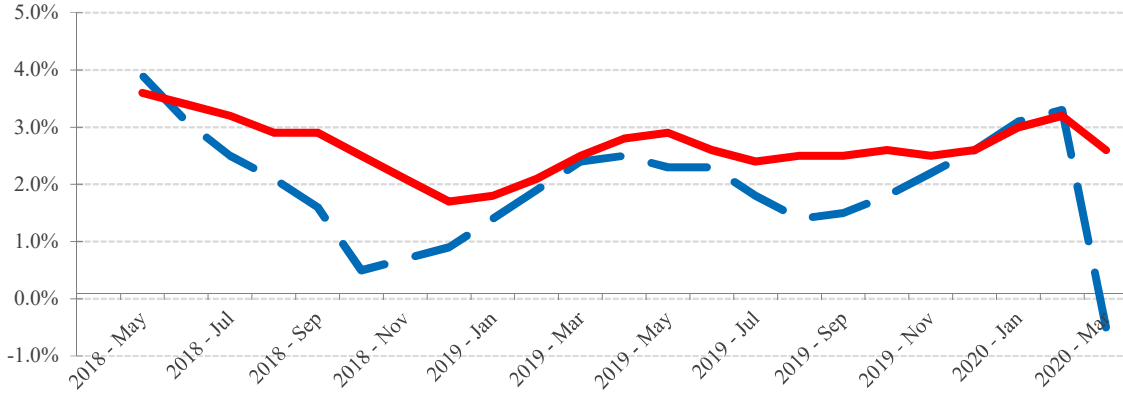
The Mortgage Market



The first quarter of the year mostly encompassed a pre-pandemic economy that was characterized by low unemployment and a robust economy. Nevertheless, as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, mortgage rates reached a then-historical low in March of 2020 fueling an increase in refinance activities. Specifically, at the end of the first quarter, mortgage rates declined 90 basis points compared to a year earlier. According to the mortgage finance provider Freddie Mac, the 30-year fixed rate mortgage dropped to 3.51 percent in Q1 2020 from 4.37 percent in Q1 2019. Looking ahead, NAR is forecasting the 30-year fixed rate mortgage to average 3.20 percent for 2020.

REALTOR® Price Expectations

REALTOR® Price Expectations for the Next 12 Months
(U.S. Average in Blue Dashed Line)



Source: NAR

REALTOR® Price Expectations	Pennsylvania	U.S.	
2020 - Mar	2.6%	-0.5%	REALTORS® expect higher price growth in Pennsylvania than in the U.S. in the next 12 months. Their price expectations are also higher than a year ago.
Prior 12 months	2.5%	2.4%	



Geographic Coverage for this Report

The Reading area referred to in this report covers the geographic area of the Reading 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:

[Berks County](#)

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