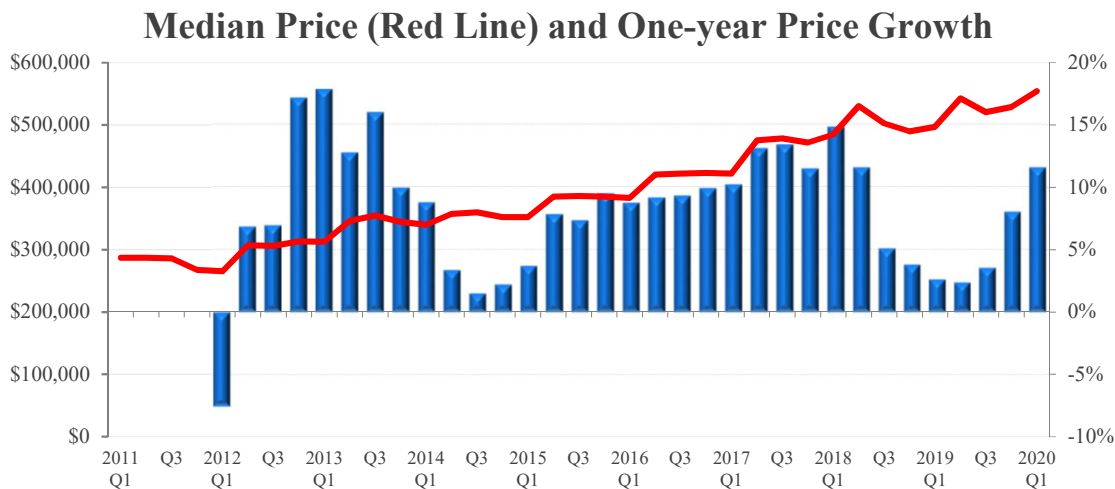


# Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Area

## Local Market Report, First Quarter 2020

including the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy

### Today's Market...



Local Price Trends			
Price Activity	Seattle	U.S.	Local Trend
Current Median Home Price (2020 Q1)	\$554,400	\$272,433	Prices continue to grow relative to last year
1-year (4-quarter) Appreciation (2020 Q1)	11.5%	7.7%	
3-year (12-quarter) Appreciation (2020 Q1)	31.3%	18.1%	
3-year (12-quarter) Housing Equity Gain*	\$132,300	\$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*	\$241,800	\$96,500	
9-year (36 quarters) Housing Equity Gain*	\$267,300	\$114,500	

\*Note: Equity gain reflects price appreciation only

	Seattle	U.S.	
<b>Conforming Loan Limit**</b>	\$726,525	\$726,525	Not all buyers have access to government-backed financing in this market
<b>FHA Loan Limit</b>	\$726,525	\$726,525	
<b>Local Median to Conforming Limit Ratio</b>	76%	not comparable	

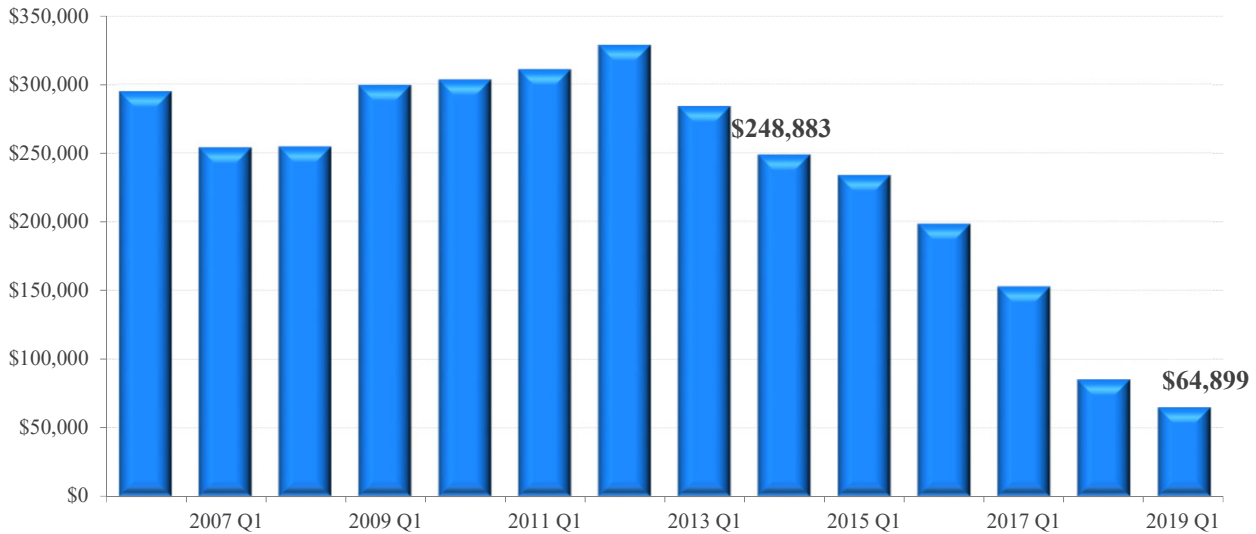
Note: limits are current and include the changes made on January 1st 2019.

#### Local NAR Leadership

The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue market is part of region 12 in the NAR governance system, which includes all of Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska. The 2020 NAR Regional Vice President representing region 12 is Angie Tallant.

# 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	Seattle	U.S.	Local Trend
1-year (4-quarter)	\$64,899	\$23,185	Price appreciation and principle payments in the last 3 years have boosted total equity growth since the recession
3-year (12-quarter)*	\$152,874	\$52,978	
5-year (20-quarter)*	\$233,864	\$87,425	
7-year (28 quarters)*	\$284,178	\$120,351	
9-year (36 quarters)*	\$311,030	\$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

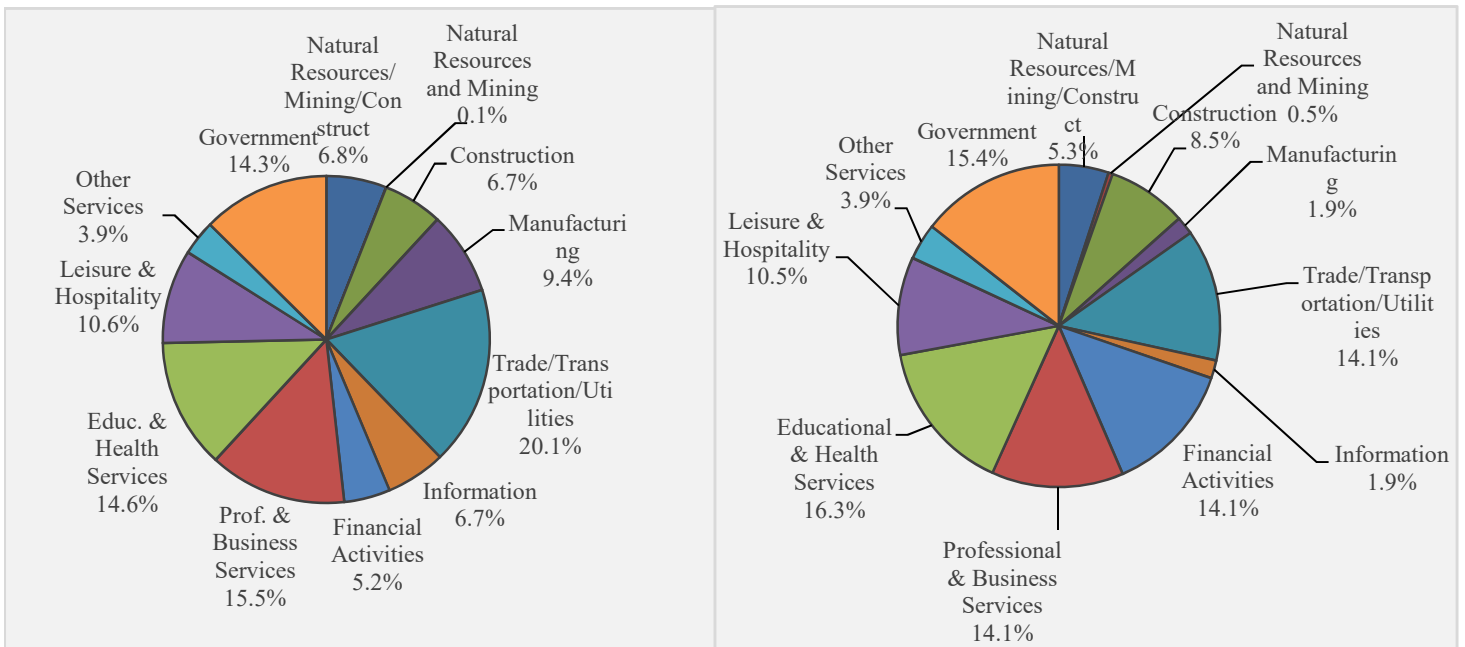
# Drivers of Local Supply and Demand...

Local Economic Outlook	Seattle	U.S.	
12-month Job Change (Mar)	21,600	Not Comparable	Employment growth has eased, but remains positive
12-month Job Change (Feb)	59,800	Not Comparable	
36-month Job Change (Mar)	111,100	Not Comparable	Seattle's unemployment situation is worse than the national average and weighs on confidence
Current Unemployment Rate (Mar)	5.5%	4.4%	
Year-ago Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.8%	Local employment growth is poor and needs to improve
1-year (12 month) Job Growth Rate	1.0%	1.3%	

## Share of Total Employment by Industry

Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Area

U.S.



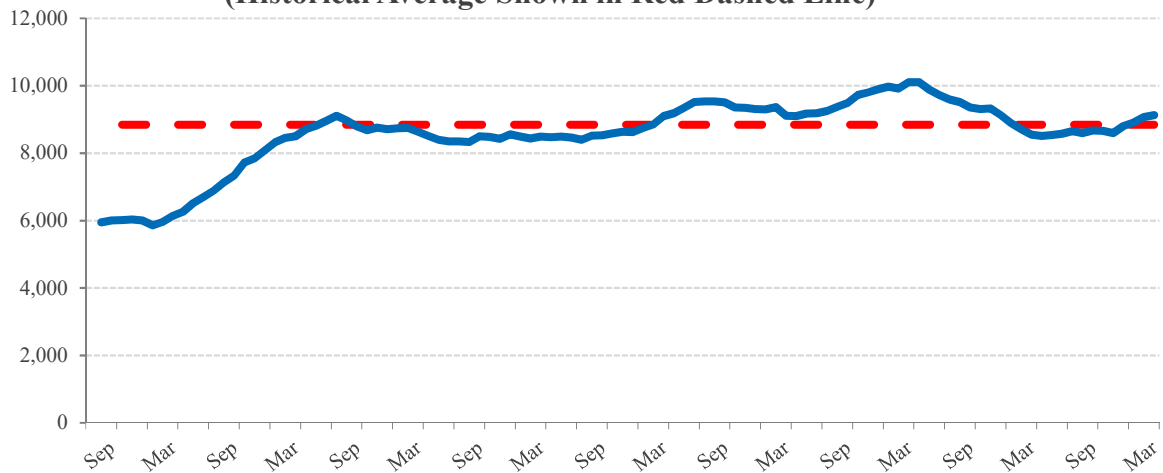
### 12-month Employment Change by Industry in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Area (Mar - 2020)

Goods Producing	NA	Information	8,100
Natural Resources/Mining/Construction	10,600	Financial Activities	600
Natural Resources and Mining	0	Prof. & Business Services	10,800
Construction	10,600	Educ. & Health Services	6,000
Manufacturing	700	Leisure & Hospitality	9,700
Service Providing Excluding Government	NA	Other Services	1,200
Trade/Transportation/Utilities	6,400	Government	5,700

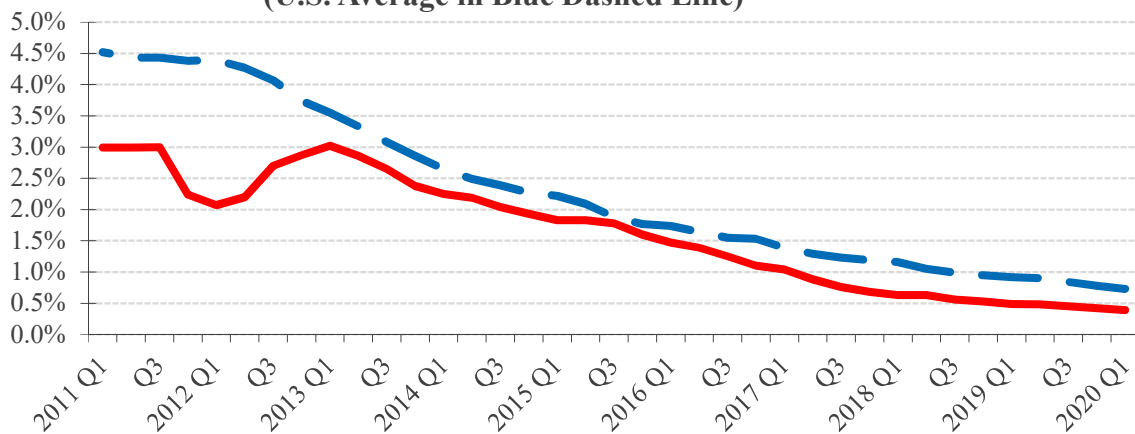
State Economic Activity Index	Washington	U.S.	
12-month change (2020 - Mar)	1.2%	1.2%	The economy of Washington has outpaced the rest of the nation and improved modestly from last month's -21.00% change
36-month change (2020 - Mar)	NA	7.0%	

<b>New Housing Construction</b>			
<b>Local Fundamentals</b>	<b>Seattle</b>	<b>U.S.</b>	
12-month Sum of 1-unit Building Permits through Mar	9,127	not comparable	The current level of construction is 3.2% above the long-term average
8-year average for 12-month Sum of 1-Unit Building Permits	8,846	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 (Mar) 12-month sum vs. a year ago	6.8%	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)



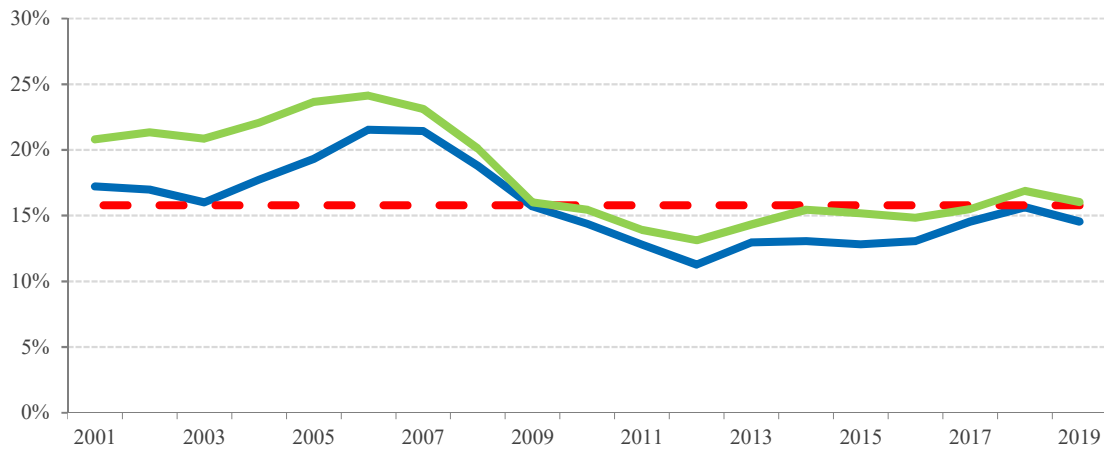
**State Total Foreclosure Rate vs. U.S. Average**  
(U.S. Average in Blue Dashed Line)



# Affordability

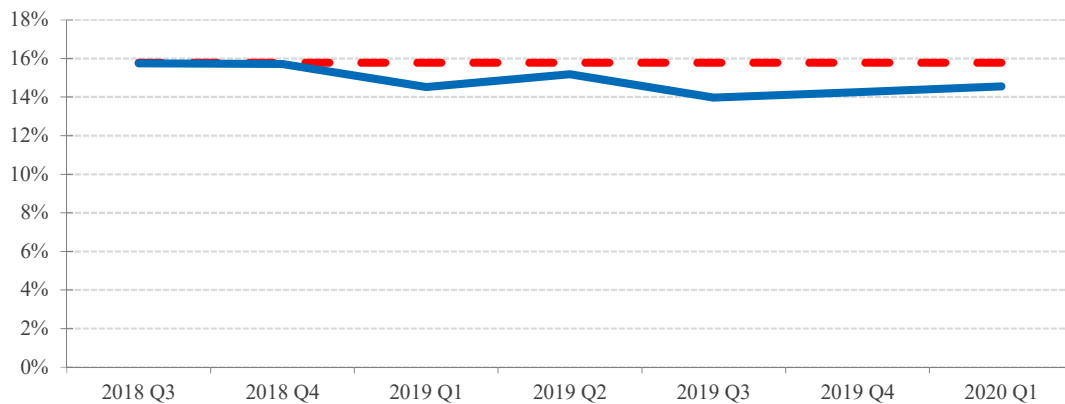


**Long-Term Trend: Ratio of Local Mortgage Servicing Cost to Income**  
(Local Historical Average Shown in Red, U.S. Average in Green)



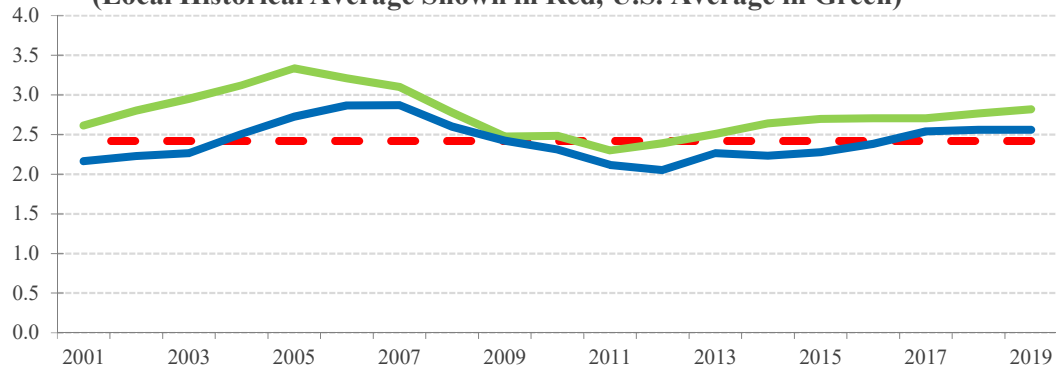
Monthly Mortgage Payment to Income	Seattle	U.S.	
Ratio for 2019	14.6%	16.0%	Historically strong, but weaker than the fourth quarter of 2019
Ratio for 2020 Q1	14.5%	14.6%	
Historical Average	15.8%	18.4%	More affordable than most markets

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



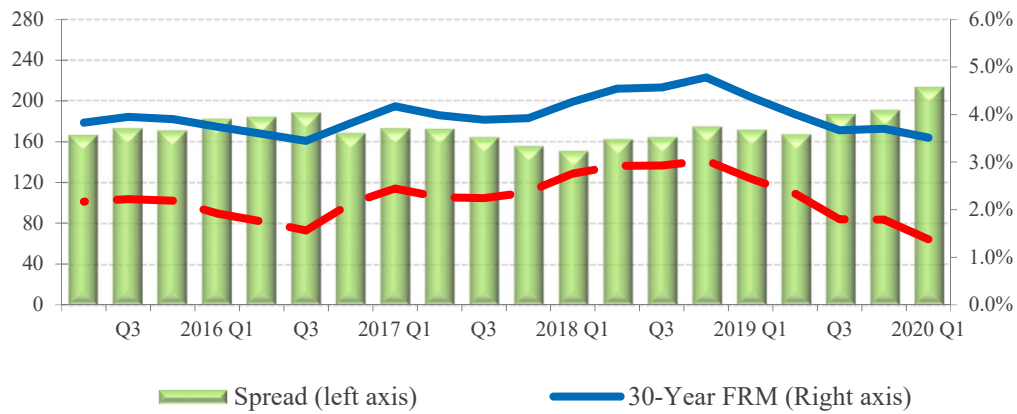
Median Home Price to Income	Seattle	U.S.	
Ratio for 2019	2.6	2.8	The price-to-income ratio is high by historic standards and getting worse
Ratio for 2020 Q1	2.7	2.7	
Historical Average	2.4	2.7	Affordable compared to most markets

**Ratio of Local Median Home Price to Local Average Income  
(Local Historical Average Shown in Red, U.S. Average in Green)**



## The Mortgage Market

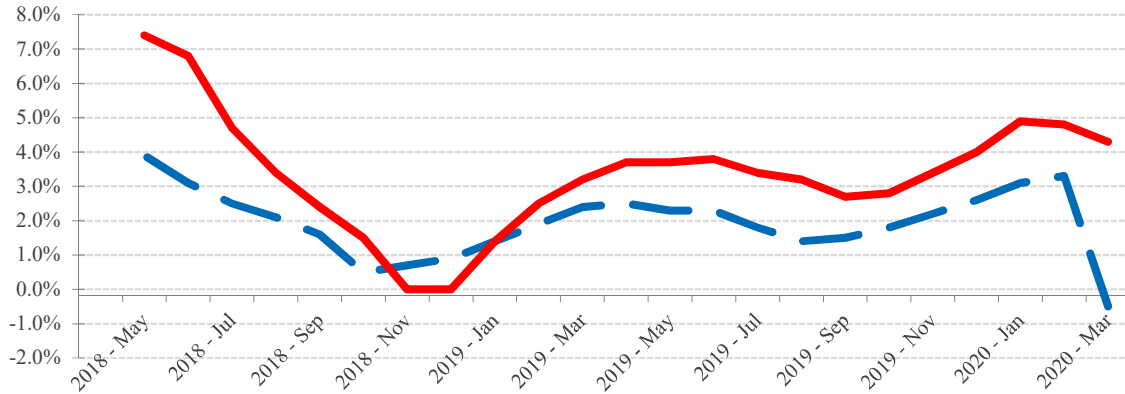
**30-year Fixed Mortgage Rate and Treasury Bond Yield**



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	Washington	U.S.	
2020 - Mar	4.3%	-0.5%	REALTORS® expect higher price growth in Washington than in the U.S. in the next 12 months. Their price expectations are also higher than a year ago.
Prior 12 months	3.2%	2.4%	



## Geographic Coverage for this Report

The Seattle area referred to in this report covers the geographic area of the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue 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:

King County, Pierce County, and Snohomish 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/)