## **HOUSING MONITORING**

### IN THE CENTRAL PUGET SOUND REGION

November 2023



#### What's New in 2023?

Rising mortgage rates, high housing prices, and big legislative changes in Olympia are defining the housing landscape in the Central Puget Sound. While housing production is up, affordability is still a challenge, as many factors impact housing costs. To learn more, see the recently published 2023 Housing Monitoring Report.

Housing production is at a 20-year high, with nearly 30,000 new units built in 2023. Unfortunately, the number of permitted units is falling.

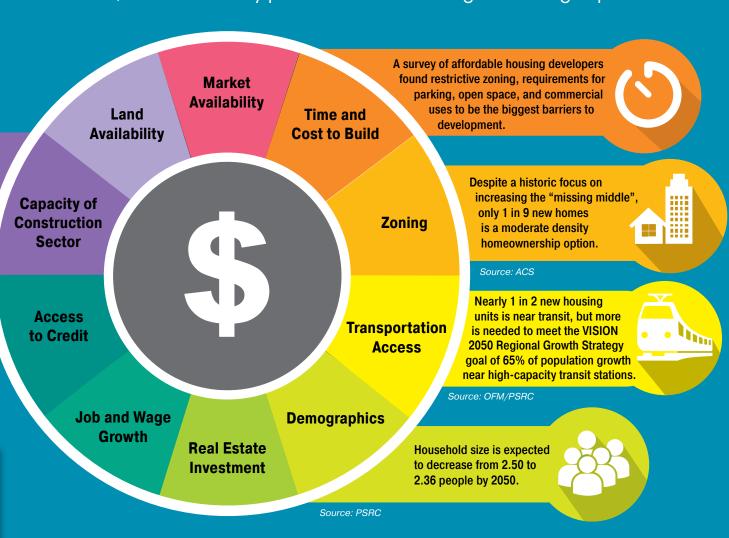
Source: OFM, US Census

Higher mortgage rates have increased a typical mortgage payment by 56%, or \$1500 more per month, pushing homeownership out of reach for many households.

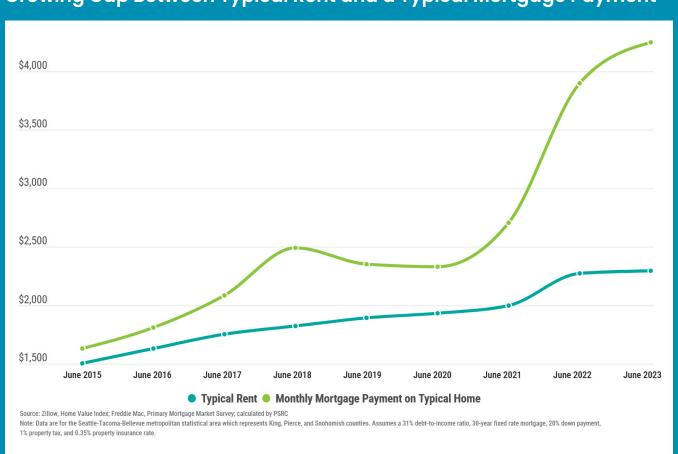
Public intervention can lead to positive change. An updated inventory of income-restricted units tallied over 90,000 units in the region, with 3,400 new units constructed in 2021.

# What Are the Impacts of Rising Housing Costs?

Many renters have seen incomes rise, yet racial disparities continue to grow. Renter households need to earn about \$67,000 per year to comfortably afford median rent. Black renter households earn, on average, only \$45,000 per year, leaving little to cover other basic necessities.



#### Growing Gap Between Typical Rent and a Typical Mortgage Payment



The monthly cost difference between renting and owning has jumped from \$100 in 2015 to over \$2000 in 2023, assuming a 20% downpayment on a median priced home.



