

# ECONOMIC & HOUSING MARKET OUTLOOK

## ECONOMIC OUTLOOK



Unemployment rates have been declining to near historic lows this year, and Virginia's unemployment rate continues to be lower than the nation as a whole—a gap that has widened in 2023. However, with weakening economic conditions across the country, unemployment is expected to increase to 3.6% in Virginia by the end of 2024.

# HOUSING MARKET OUTLOOK

2023: -23.6% 2024: +11.4% ANNUAL CHANGE



ANNUAL CHANGE

### **NEW HOUSING STARTS**

SOLD

**HOME SALES** 

2023: -10.6% 2024: -3.5% ANNUAL CHANGE

#### % **30-YR MORTGAGE RATE** (DEC AVG)

2023: 6.90% 2024: 6.15%

Due to rising and volatile mortgage rates, upward pressure on home prices, mounting affordability challenges around the state, and tight inventory conditions, Virginia's housing market has experienced a sharp decline in sales activity in 2023 which is the lowest it has seen in almost a decade. We expect sales activity to rise in 2024 compared to 2023 as mortgage rates stabilize. Mortgage rates are expected to end the year in the upper 6% range and then slowly decline to a low 6% range by the end of 2024 as macroeconomic headwinds simmer down.

