

Economic Advancement

**Q4
2025**

QUARTERLY REPORT

Jonesboro, Arkansas



**A-State Topping-Off Ceremony for College of
Veterinary Medicine**

TekStarz Educator Externship

New Downtown Jonesboro Outdoor Space

Economic Data & More!



JONESBORO
UNLIMITED

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A-State Marks Major Construction Milestone for College of Veterinary Medicine

The College of Veterinary Medicine at Arkansas State University is one step closer to its anticipated opening in fall 2026. On Monday, October 13, the final beam was set into place for the building, which is expected to be completed sometime in spring.

“We imagined this college, funded it, and now we’re building it. Arkansas and this entire region need more animal health professionals,” said A-State Chancellor Todd Shields. “This college will train them, hands-on, from day one, solving problems for producers, clinics, agriculture and communities.”

Each year, students pursuing Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees leave the state to attend a veterinary college. Upon the opening of the CVM, the first 120 students will be the first wave of new veterinary professionals in Arkansas.

“Every bolt in that beam represents a student’s future. This is not just about a building, it’s about the capacity to care for animals, to support agriculture, help food insecurity, and keep talent right here in Arkansas,” Shields continued.

Dr. Heidi Banse, Dean of the CVM, said they have been working dil-

igently to build a team to instruct future students so they are best prepared to enter veterinary practice.

“One of the things we’re proudest of is our program and facilities that align to create a day-one-ready graduate,” said Banse.

For the state, many of the needs are from rural, mixed-animal practices. The building will house administrative offices, classrooms, anatomy, and small animal clinical and surgical skills training spaces.

“We are building two barns at the animal science farm next door that will allow our students hands-on experience with cattle and horses to make sure they are day-one-ready,” Banse continued.

During the ceremony, attendees had the opportunity to sign the final beam before it was hoisted and secured into place.

“This structure represents not only just the parts that it is made of, but the spirit of teamwork and doing things the right way,” said Adam Seiter, Executive Vice President of Operations at Nabholz, the contractor for the project.



This symbolic moment further cemented the future presence of this long-needed educational opportunity in the state.

Banse said they are thankful for many along the journey, including partners across the state.

“We have many partners that contribute to our educational experiences, including the Department of Corrections, the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Arkansas Department of Agriculture, National Toxicology Research Center, and our over 400 general veterinary practices across Arkansas, Southern Missouri, and beyond that are training our students in their fourth year of their curriculum,” Banse concluded.

When completed, the 56,000-square-foot building will be the first public College of Veterinary Medicine in the state. Funding was approved in December for the equine and bovine barns to support the CVM.



TekStarz Educator Externship Strengthens Ties Between Classrooms and Manufacturing

Jonesboro Unlimited's annual TekStarz Educator Externship in October brought 31 educators from 14 school districts across Northeast Arkansas to learn about manufacturing and the various careers associated with it. Originally launched in 2019, the externship has become a key workforce initiative for the region.

Designed to strengthen the connection between classrooms and career pathways, the externship gives teachers a firsthand look at the technology, operations, and opportunities shaping modern manufacturing. Participants toured facilities at Hytrol, Nestle, Frito-Lay, and Nice-Pak and explored the wide range of high-skill, high-demand careers available locally.

"By bringing educators to local industry, they get to see first-hand the many career opportunities available for their students," said Shelle Randall, Director of Workforce Development and Existing Industry. "They can then better connect students' interests to rewarding, high-demand career opportunities."

That broader vision of connecting students to long-term opportunity resonated with educators who participated in the externship.

"I'm hoping to give them an idea of what really is in the industry, to plan for a career and not just a job," said Anthony Tsui, Business Technology and Computer Science teacher at Bay High School. "A lot of places have a career path for them so they can get into a position and work their way up."

By building stronger collaboration between industry and education, the TekStarz Educator Externship helps ensure students are aware of and prepared for meaningful career opportunities in Jonesboro and the region.



**TekStarz Educator Externship
Highlight Video:**

<https://youtu.be/v7dqpY62gpl>



New Investment Aims to Activate Downtown Jonesboro with Outdoor Amenities



Cate Avenue is poised to become home to Downtown Jonesboro’s newest community destination. Local developers Ted and Amanda Herget with Math Investments have announced a vision for a dynamic outdoor space intended to serve as a central meeting place for residents, employees, and visitors together in the heart of the city.

The upcoming project will feature a landscaped green space, multi-use amphitheater, a beach volleyball court, and a dog park, providing new opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and community engagement in the downtown area.

Designed by Martin Smith of Ecological Design Group, the project blends modern architecture with natural surroundings to create a vibrant and inviting atmosphere. Renderings showcase a lively setting where people can enjoy outdoor activities, gather with friends, and experience the growing energy of downtown Jonesboro.

“Our goal is to create spaces that encourage connection — between people, their community, and the outdoors,” said Ted Herget, founder of Math Investments. “This project is about enhancing downtown’s livability while giving residents and visitors more ways to enjoy being in the heart of Jonesboro.”

The project is part of a larger effort to expand Downtown Jonesboro’s amenities and promote economic and social vitality. Construction is expected to begin soon, with completion anticipated in the summer of 2026.

“Our goal is to create spaces that encourage connection -- between people, their community, and the outdoors.”

-Ted Herget



COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES FROM AROUND THE COMMUNITY



RAISING CANE'S

The international chicken finger chain has been one of the most requested in Jonesboro for many years! The wait is finally over and it will be located at 2511 E Highland Drive.



JACK IN THE BOX

Arkansas's first Jack in the Box will open at 1207 W Parker Road. Founded in 1921 in California, they operate more than 2,100 fast food locations across 21 states.



T-MOBILE

The T-Mobile Experience Store is a new addition to the Bernard Court Shopping Center at 1849 E Highland Drive.



TOPS BAR-B-Q & BURGERS

The Midsouth-area chain brings Memphis-style barbecue to the Hilltop Area at 4115 E Johnson Street.



WALK ON'S SPORTS BISTREUX

The Louisiana-inspired restaurant is co-owned by former NFL player Drew Brees and is coming to 2809 E Highland Drive.



GOLDEN CHICK

Since 1985, the chain's flagship menu item has been their chicken strips, but they also offer chef-inspired eats as well. The chain will be located at 3219 S Caraway Road.



OLLIE'S

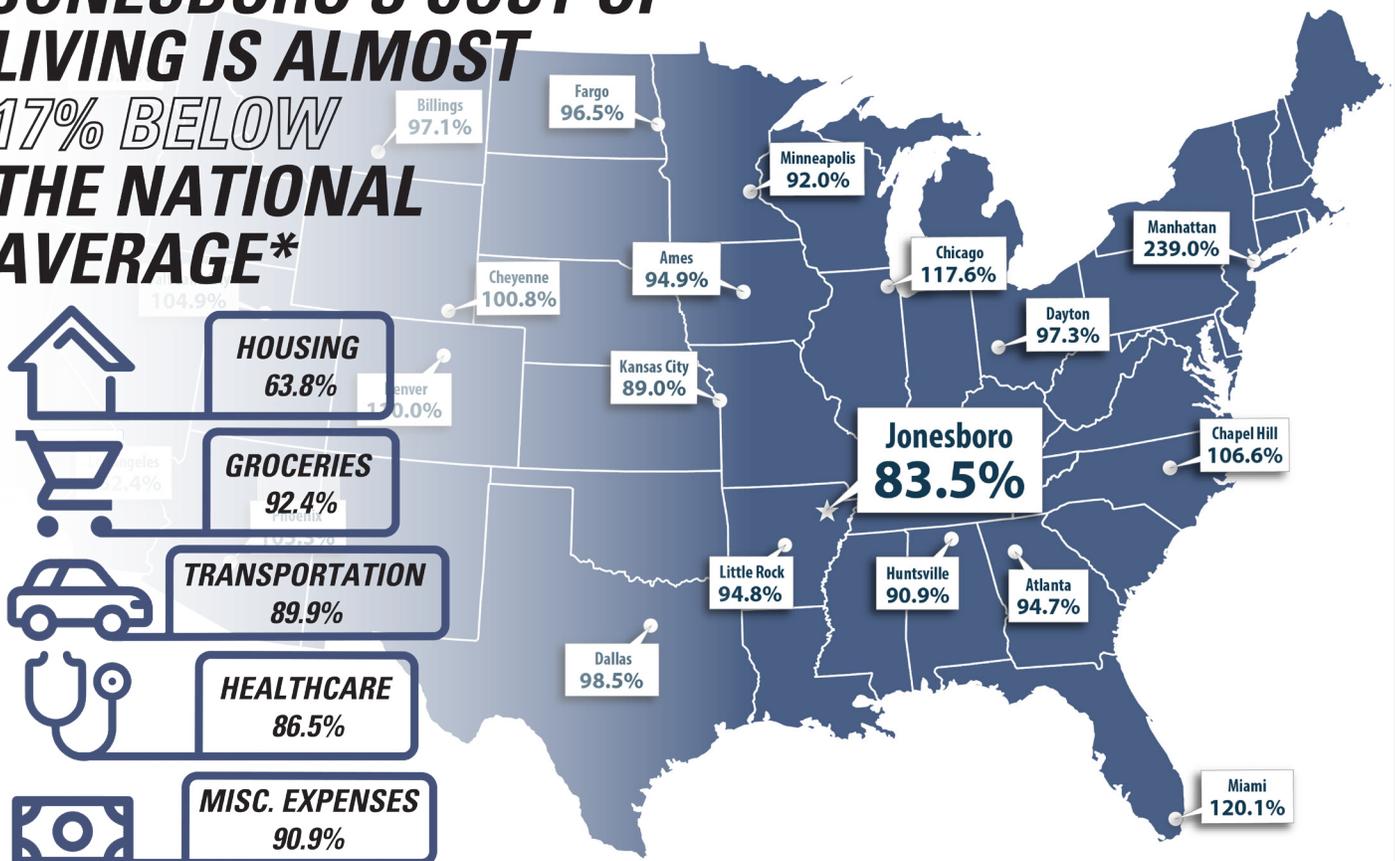
The discount chain featuring overstock and closeout merchandise from larger retailers has been rapidly expanding across 34 states with over 618 locations. It will soon be coming to the former Big Lots space at 1907 Woodsprings Road.

COST OF LIVING

QUARTER 4 2025

Source: Cost of Living Index, Council for Community and Economic Research, 2025 Annual Average Data

JONESBORO'S COST OF LIVING IS ALMOST 17% BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE*



Utilize the Cost of Living Calculator:
JonesboroUnlimited.com/Cost-of-Living

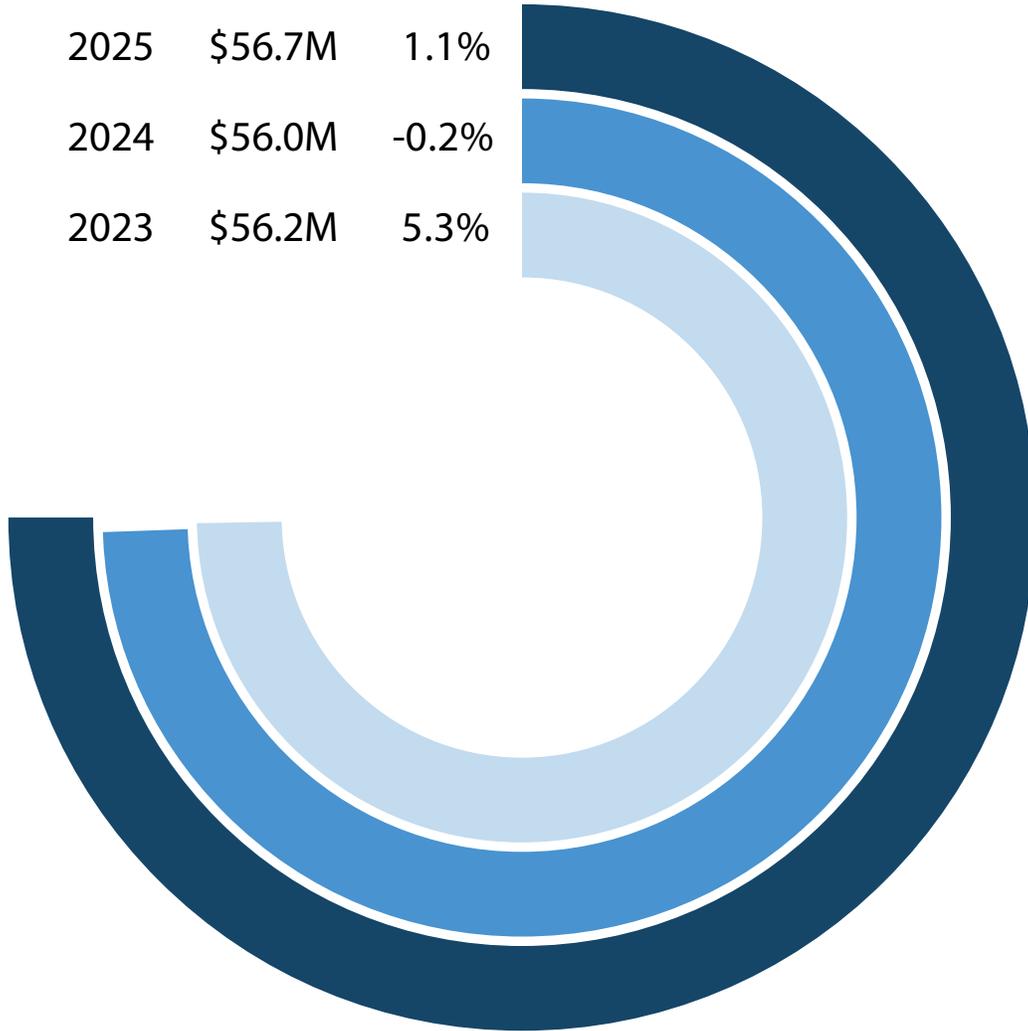
SALES & USE TAX REVENUE

YTD, JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2025 - 2023, CITY & COUNTY COMBINED (2.0%)

Source: Jonesboro & Craighead County, AR Sales & Use Tax Collection Reports

COLLECTIONS

YR	AMT	% INCR
2025	\$56.7M	1.1%
2024	\$56.0M	-0.2%
2023	\$56.2M	5.3%



2025 QUARTERLY COLLECTIONS (ACTUALS)

Q1 - \$14,235,500.58

Q2 - \$13,847,796.87

Q3 - \$14,221,159.79

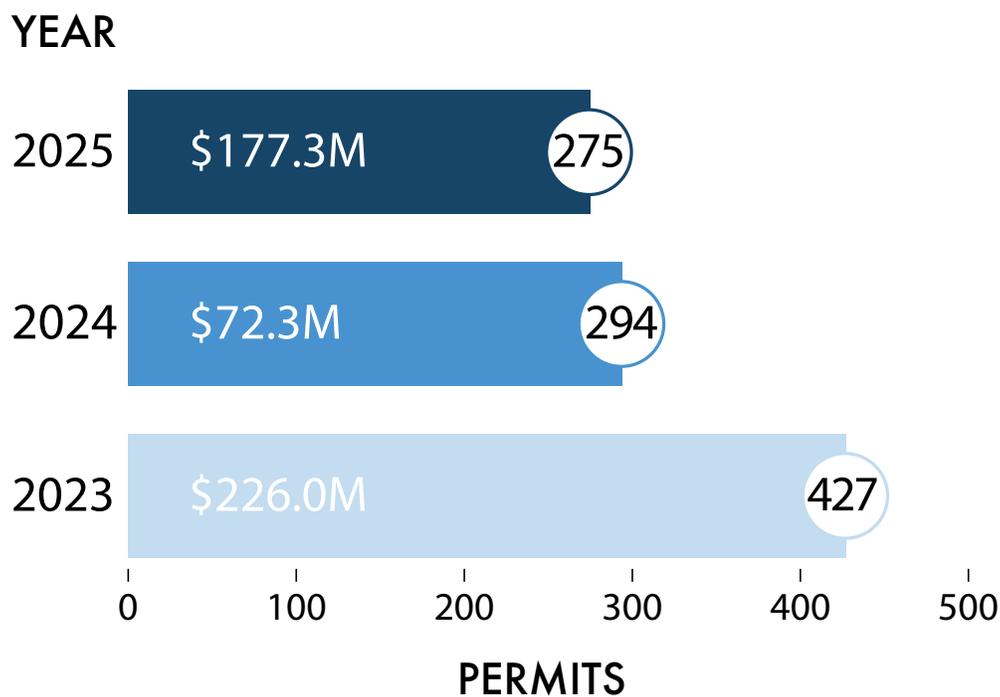
Q4 - \$14,363,985.53

COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

YTD, JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2025 - 2023

*Source: City of Jonesboro Inspection Department Monthly Permit Reports.
Totals only include new building construction, apartments, additions, alterations, and signs.*

PERMIT & PROJECT COST TOTALS



NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TOTALS

2025 - 22 Permits | \$122.1M Combined Value

2024 - 21 Permits | \$25.4M Combined Value

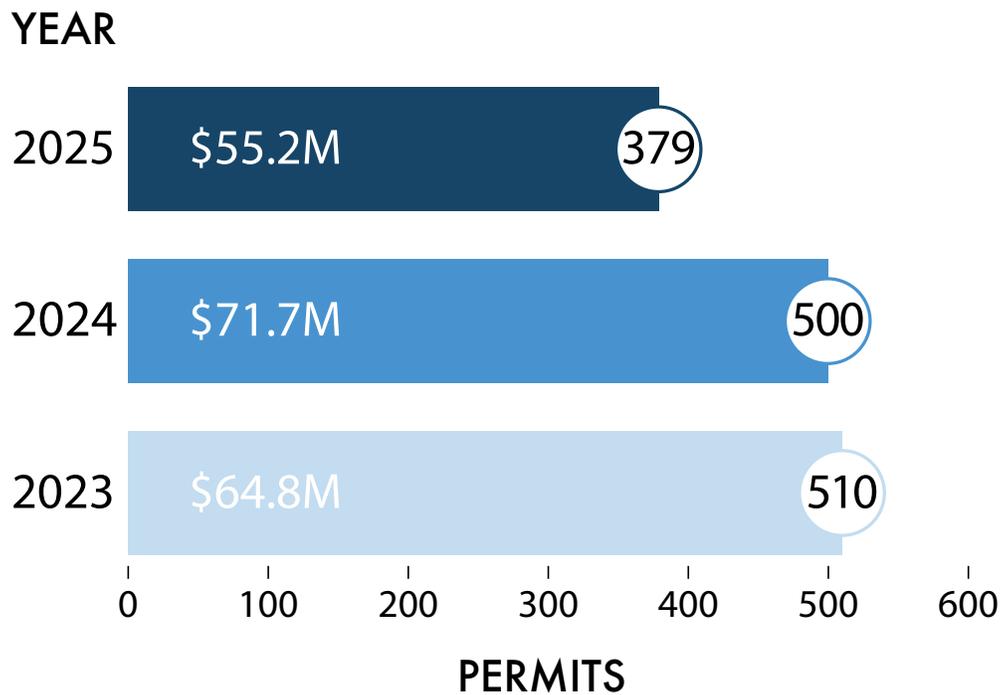
2023 - 34 Permits | \$134.0M Combined Value

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

YTD, JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2025 - 2023

*Source: City of Jonesboro Inspection Department Monthly Permit Reports.
Totals include new home construction, additions, alterations, duplexes, storage, storm shelters, and swimming pools.*

PERMIT & PROJECT COST TOTALS



NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION TOTALS

2025 - 197 Permits | \$42.6M Combined Value

2024 - 277 Permits | \$62.3M Combined Value

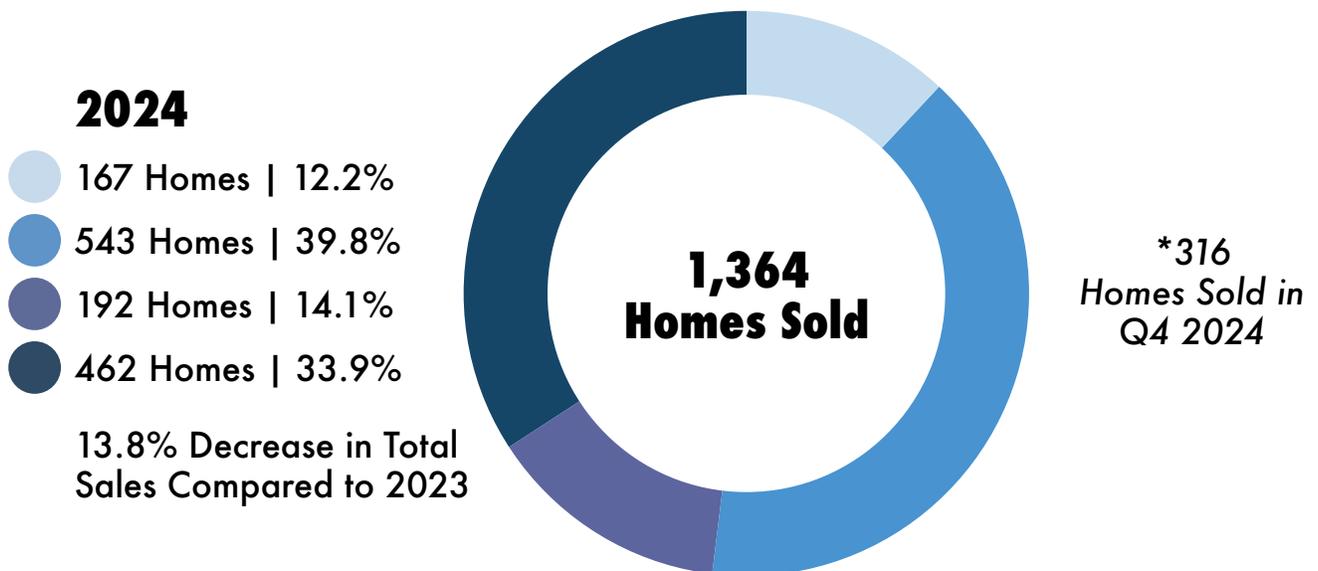
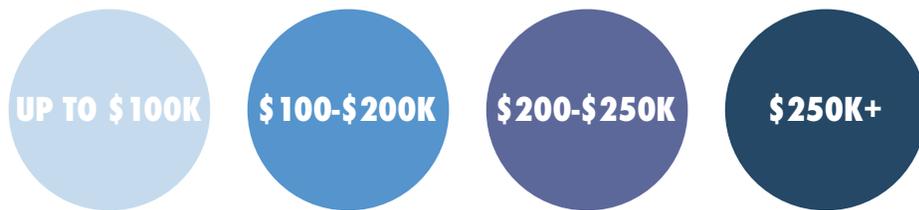
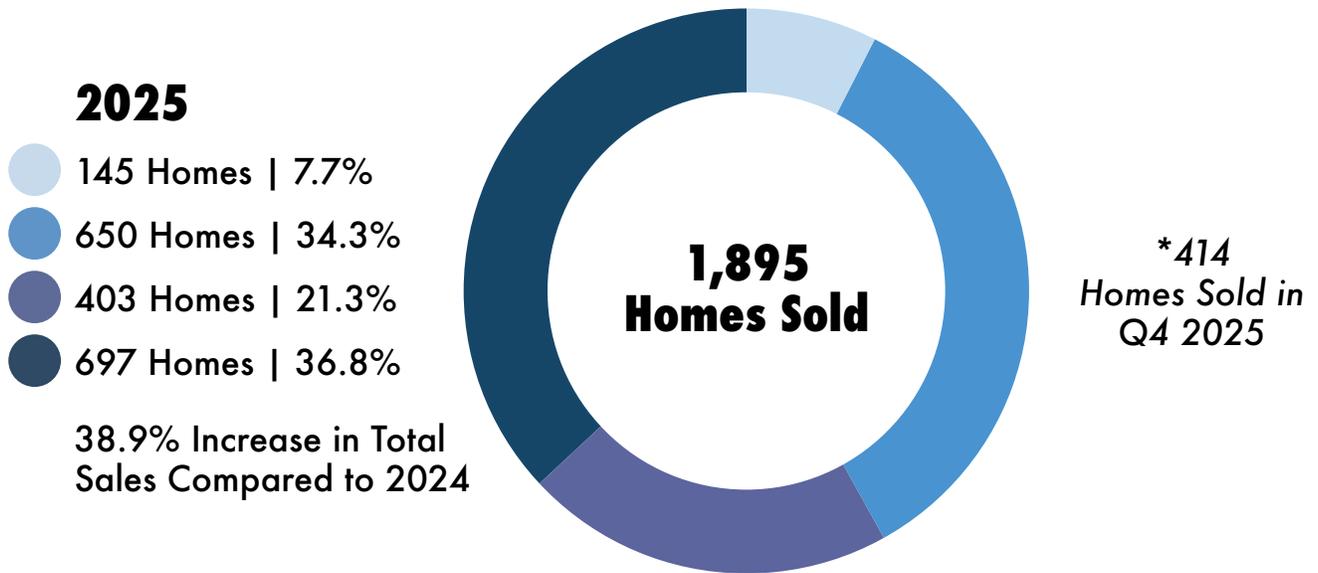
2023 - 265 Permits | \$52.1M Combined Value

HOME SALES

YTD, JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2025 - 2024

Source: NEA Board of Realtors Home Sales Reports.

Total home sales include new construction and existing homes sold in Jonesboro MSA (Craighead and Poinsett Counties)





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