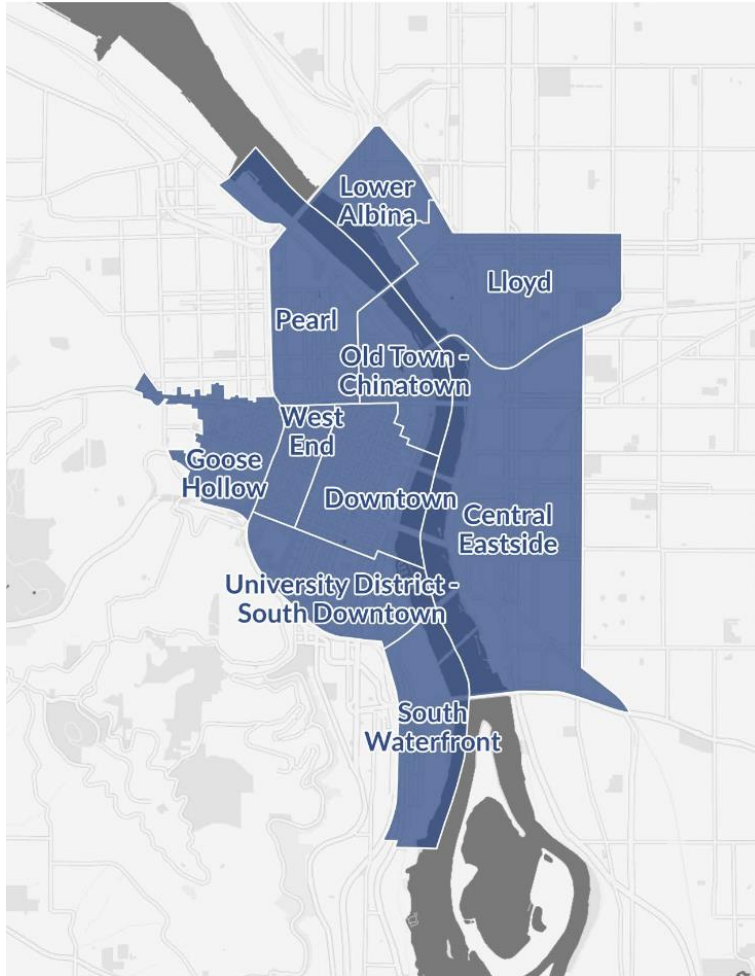




Portland Central City Taskforce

May 2024 Update

Task Force by the Numbers



- **46** task force members
- **10** neighborhoods
- **5** committees
- **9,000+** online survey responses
- **24** listening sessions with **300** Portlanders
- **10** recommendations for implementation in 2024 and more for the rest of the decade

Oregon Is Recriminalizing Drugs. Here's What Portland Learned.

Oregon's governor has signed a measure to reimpose criminal penalties for hard drugs. Mayor Ted Wheeler of Portland talks about why the experiment "failed."

Recommendation: Ban the public use of controlled substances and reduce barriers to prosecuting drug delivery

Action: The Legislature passed HB 4002



Ms. Kotek with Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler. Amanda Lucier for The New York Times

Oregon Leaders Declare Drug Emergency in Portland

The News: Oregon leaders are marshaling resources against fentanyl.

Oregon leaders on Tuesday declared a 90-day state of emergency in central Portland as part of a broad effort to tackle the effects of fentanyl on the streets of the state's largest city.



An emergency declaration is part of a plan Gov. Tina Kotek of Oregon announced late last year to curb public drug use and crime in Portland. Erin Schaff/The New York Times

Recommendation: Declare a tri-government fentanyl emergency

Action: 223 overdose reversals, 301 shelter referrals, 458 grams of fentanyl seized, 308 M110 citations

Recommendation: Increase safe and accessible options for unsheltered people

Action: County and City budgets are aligned to expand shelter bed capacity by 1,000

Multnomah County, Portland present plan to halve unsheltered homelessness by 2026



By **Alex Zielinski** (OPB)

March 11, 2024 9 a.m. Updated: March 11, 2024 2:49 p.m.



Recommendation: Clean up the city

Actions: Legislature appropriates \$20 million for litter and graffiti removal and prevention; Columbia Sportswear sponsors I-405 clean up

POLITICS

Oregon lawmakers send \$20 million to clean up Portland highways; work to start right away

Updated: Mar. 10, 2024, 5:18 p.m. | Published: Mar. 09, 2024, 6:11 a.m.



Recommendation: Declare a three-year moratorium on new taxes

Action: County Chair seeks to delay increase in PreK tax



WILLAMETTE WEEK



Vega Pederson Says She Will Seek to Delay Preschool for All Tax Increase by One Year

It's the first time the county chair, who championed the passage of the preschool ballot measure in 2020, has said she wants to rethink the tax rate.

 Expand



Recommendation: Make downtown a worthy destination

Action: Philanthropy and the Legislature invest \$52 million in anchor arts organizations in Portland and statewide

ARTS

Oregon's art groups get a \$52M boost to revive after pandemic shutdowns



By **Kristian Foden-Vencil** (OPB)

March 20, 2024 4:29 p.m. Updated: March 20, 2024 6:27 p.m.

Two major foundations are contributing \$20 million apiece and the Legislature approved \$11.8 million in funding for the arts earlier this month.



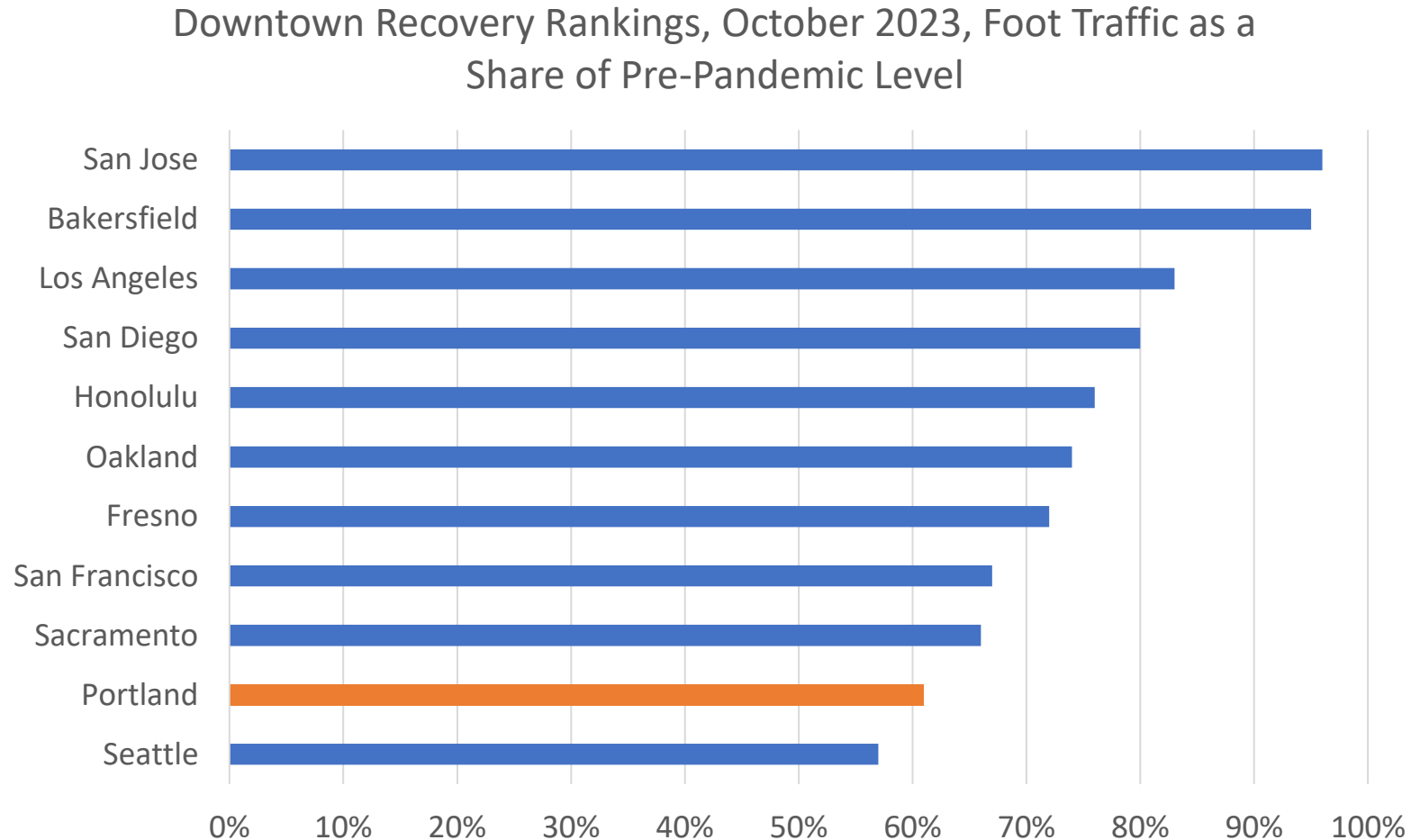
Recommendation: Bring down the
2020-era fences and plywood

Action: ...



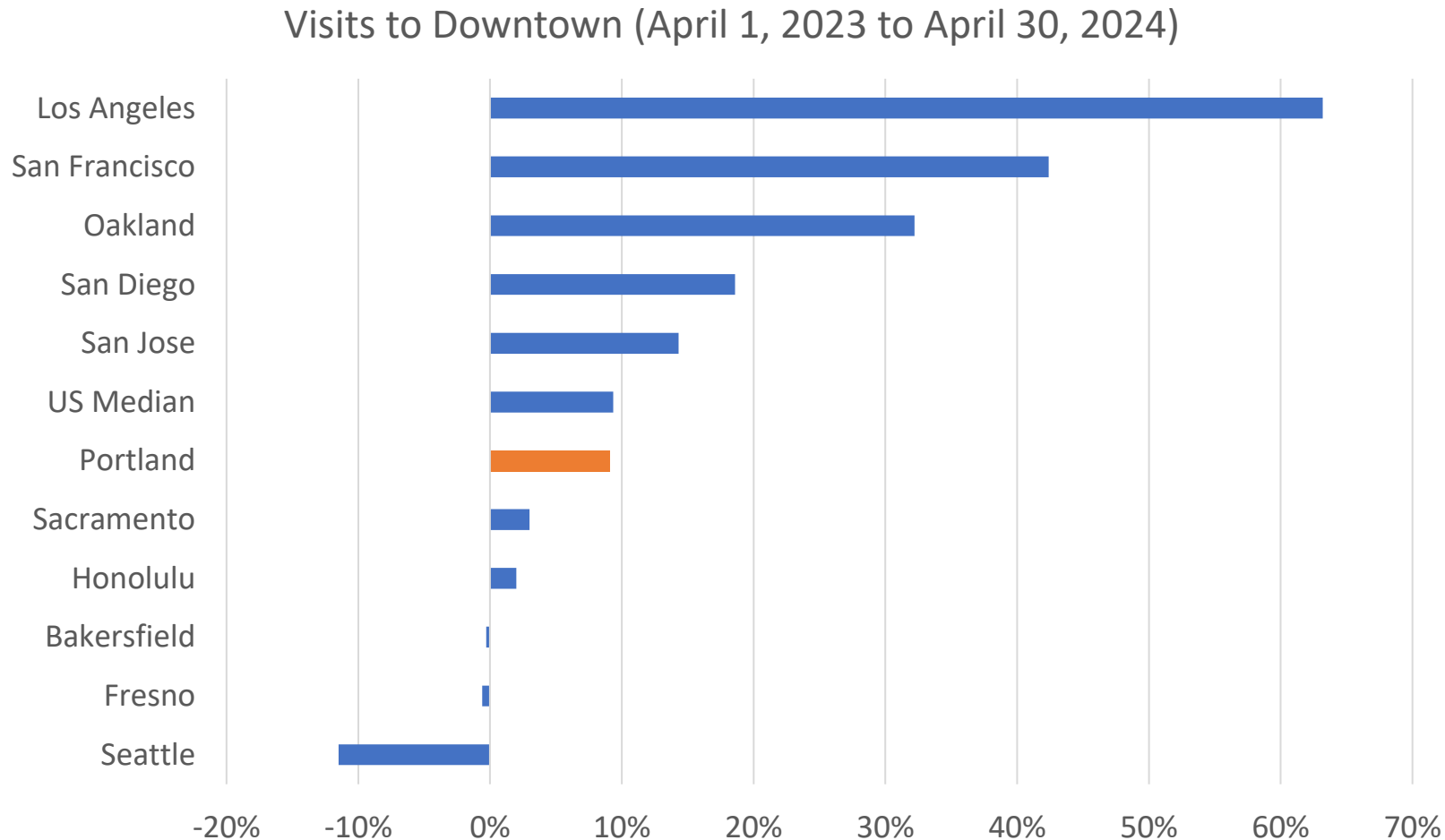
Central city conditions

Foot traffic still well below pre-pandemic levels



Source: Downtownrecovery.com, University of Toronto

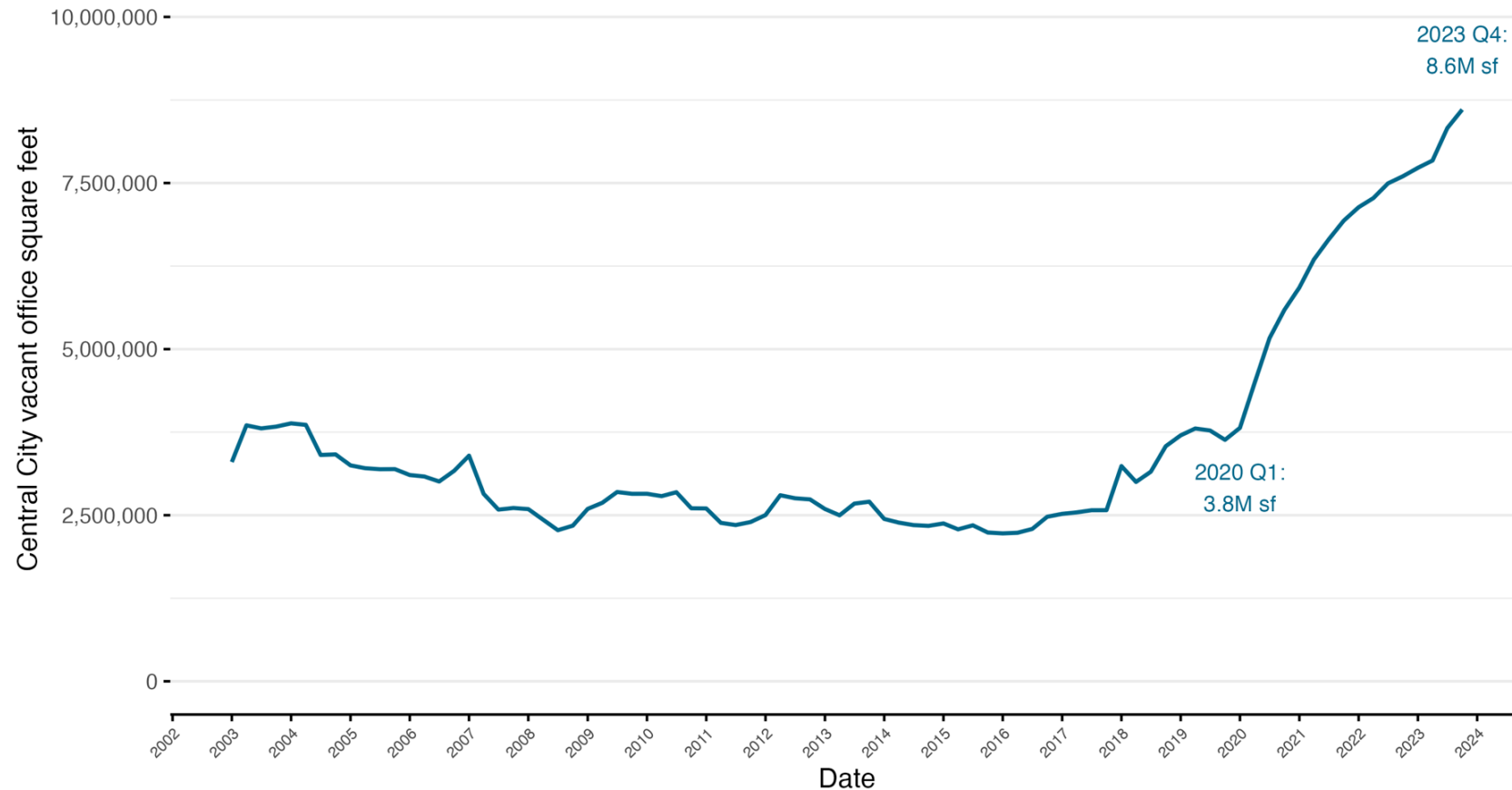
Visitors up 9% compared to April 2023



Source: Downtownrecovery.com, University of Toronto

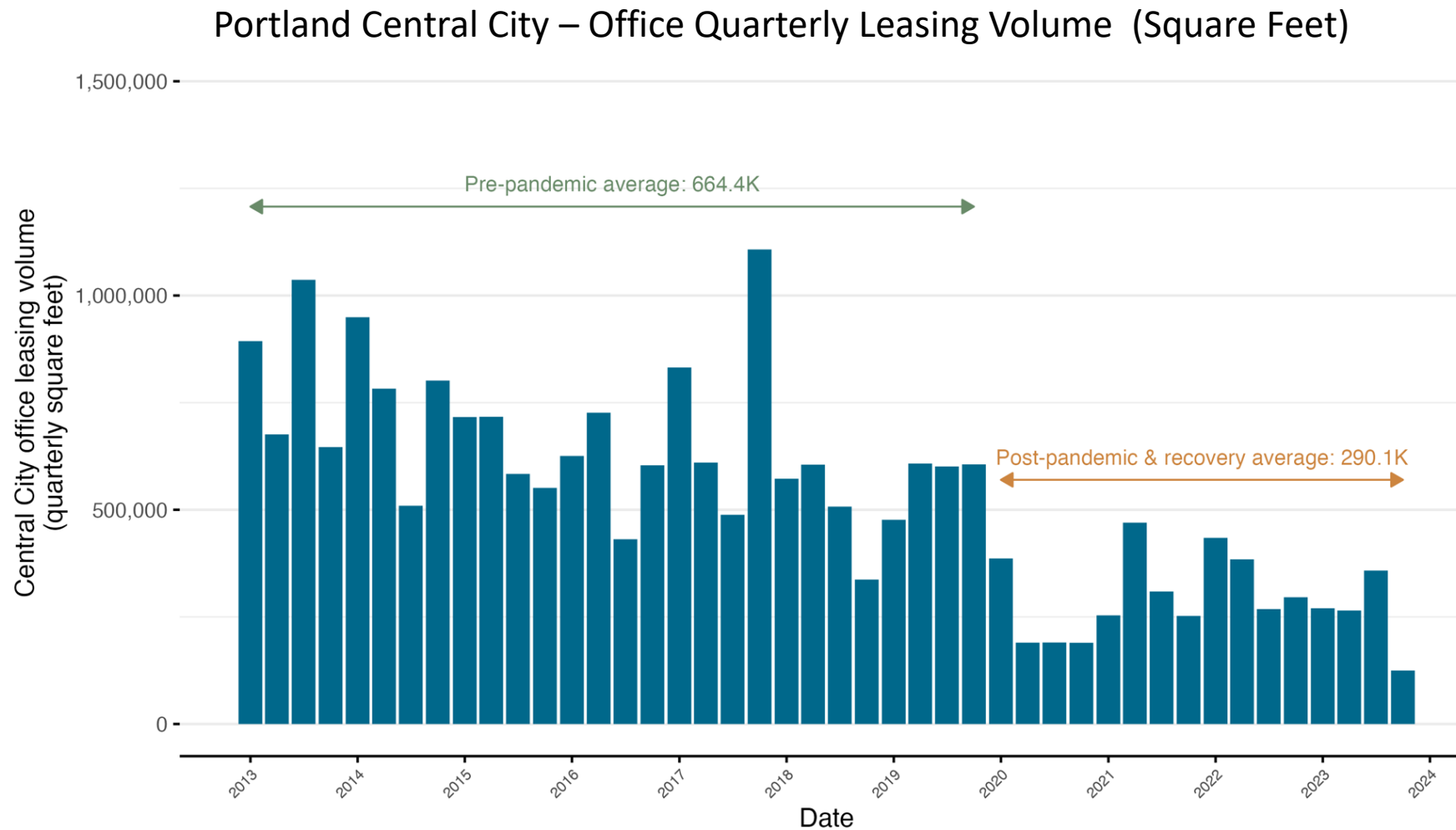
Office vacancy still growing in the Central City

Portland Central City – Vacant Office Square Feet



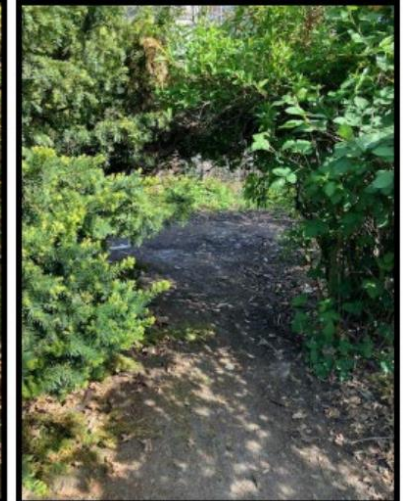
Source: ECONorthwest analysis of CoStar data

Leasing less than half pre-pandemic volume

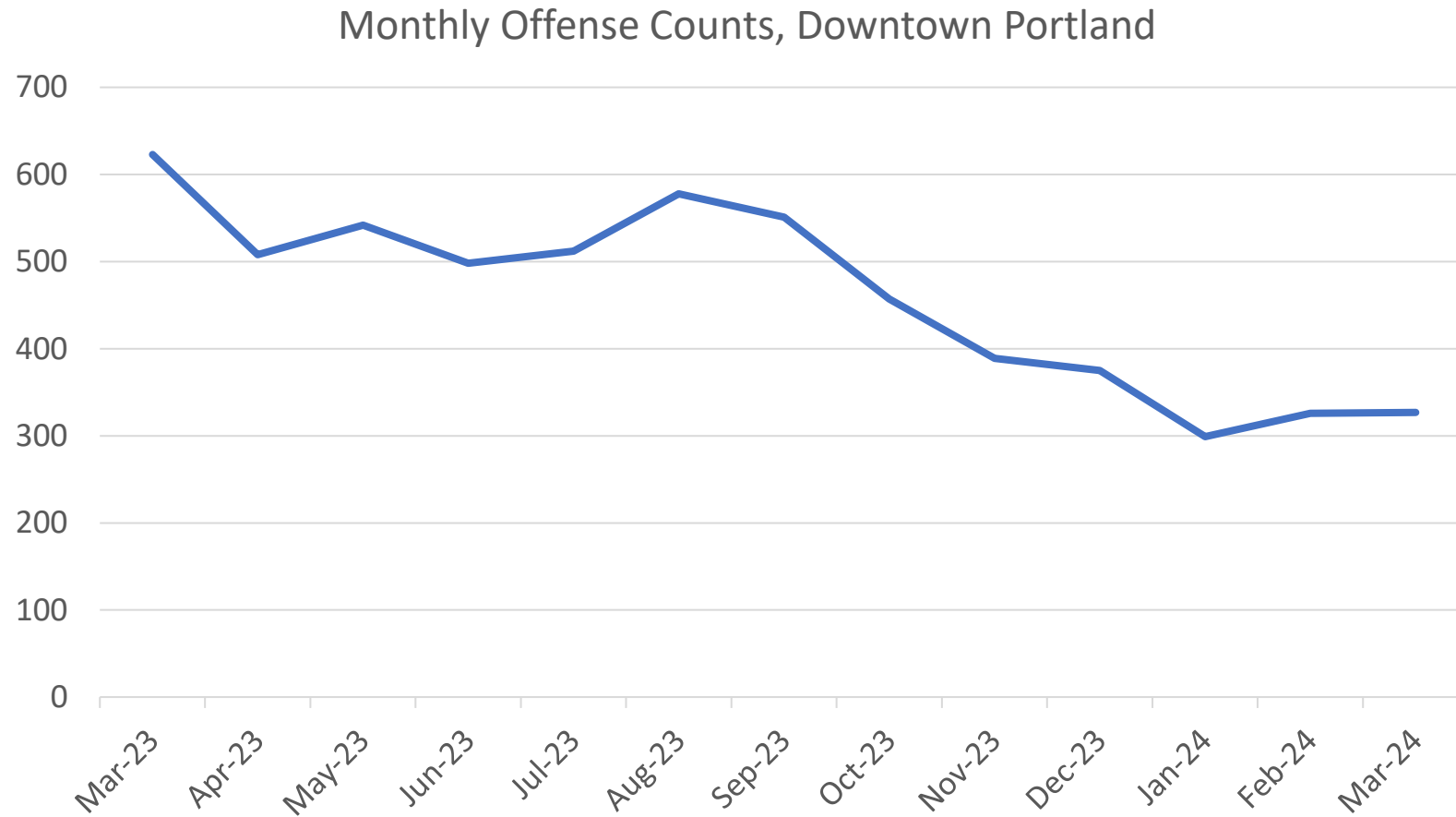


Source: ECONorthwest analysis of CoStar data

1,540 tags removed, 5,900 pounds of litter collected (4/18 - 5/9)

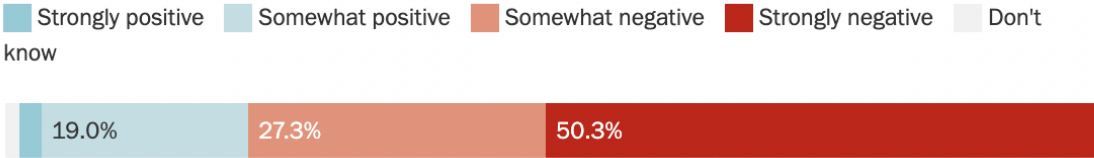


Crime is down



Source: Portland Police Bureau

All things considered, is your impression of downtown Portland positive or negative?



600 polled; ±4.0% margin of error; totals don't add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: The Oregonian/DHM Research • [Get the data](#)



Voters still frustrated about downtown Portland, though crime data shows improvement

Updated: May. 08, 2024, 7:57 p.m. | Published: May. 08, 2024, 10:04 a.m.



James Woodard cleans up the streets of downtown in January. Voters in the Portland area still have negative impressions of the city center but crime data shows marked improvement. Gosia Wozniacka/The Oregonian/OregonLive

Imperatives

1. Activate public spaces, take down the fences, win the summer, and change the narrative
2. Implement the spirit and the letter of HB 4002
3. Communicate and execute the County-City Homeless Response Action Plan
4. Develop a strategy to initiate a steady, sustained recovery of the office market

Appendix

Ten short-term recommendations

1. Declare a tri-government fentanyl emergency
2. Ban the public use of controlled substances and reduce barriers to prosecuting drug delivery
3. Ramp up existing infrastructure for implementation of a Public Use Ban, pending legislative approval
4. Focus peer delivered services and street outreach workers in the Central City
5. Increase safe and accessible options for unsheltered people
6. Expand Central City's homeless shelter capacity
7. Further elevate law enforcement response in the Central City
8. Clean up the city
9. Bring down the 2020-era fences and plywood
10. Declare a moratorium on new taxes and offer targeted tax relief