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# You now need a six-figure salary to buy a home in most of the US. Here are the 10 most and 10 least expensive cities to buy one

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## You now need a six-figure salary to buy a home in most of the US. Here are the 10 most and 10 least expensive cities to buy

one. ©yhelfman/Getty Images

- A study shows that the amount of money needed to own a home is increasing.
- A handful of cities require more than a quarter-million in salary to afford a home comfortably.
- In other cities, you can afford a home with less than the US median salary.

Americans searching for homes today are facing some of [the harshest conditions yet](#). Some people are opting for extreme measures, like living in [tiny homes in expensive neighborhoods](#), [moving in with family members](#), or, sometimes, [a combination of both](#).

A number of prospective homeowners have uprooted their lives and moved to different [parts of the country](#) — [or even the world](#) — in search of a more affordable lifestyle.

The South, in particular, saw [a large influx of Northerners](#) seeking lower home prices and a lower overall cost of living. The Midwest, too, has [become a hot destination](#) due to its growing affordability.

How much money you make plays a major role in where you can afford to live. [A report from Consumer Affairs](#) shows that the amount you need to make in order to buy a home doesn't generally align with how much people are making.

The median household income in the US was \$83,730 in 2024, according to the US Census Bureau. The Consumer Affairs report found that an annual income of \$120,796 is needed for homeownership, assuming a 10% down payment. That number varies depending on where you live.

Note

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The report found that California is home to the most cities that require a handsome salary, with nine out of the 10 cities in the top 10 being in the Golden State. Meanwhile, the cities that support salaries on the lower end are scattered throughout the South and Midwest.

See what cities require the highest and lowest salaries to afford a home.

Read the original article on [Business Insider](#)

## **The 10 cities that require the least income to afford a home**

### **10. Macon, Georgia** ©Sean Pavone/Getty Images/iStockphoto

**Income:** \$67,832

**Median home-sale price:** \$197,500

**Population:** 157,056 (Macon-Bibb County)

### **9. Fort Smith, Arkansas** ©Brad McGinley Photography/Getty Images

**Income:** \$67,064

**Median home-sale price:** \$196,000

**Population:** 90,507

### **8. Columbus, Georgia** ©Jacob Boomsma/Getty Images

**Income:** \$66,245

**Median home-sale price:** \$210,000

**Population:** 201,830

### **7. Mobile, Alabama** ©Cavan Images / George Dodd/Getty Images/Cavan Images RF

**Income:** \$66,241

**Median home-sale price:** \$232,250

**Population:** 201,367

**6. Binghamton, New York** ©ChrisBoswell/Getty Images/iStockphoto

**Income:** \$65,989

**Median home-sale price:** \$175,000

**Population:** 46,773

**5. Peoria, Illinois** ©Sean Pavone/Getty Images

**Income:** \$65,486

**Median home-sale price:** \$145,900

**Population:** 111,696

**4. Flint, Michigan** ©Brand Diverse Solutions Steven Barber/Getty Images/iStockphoto

**Income:** \$63,535

**Median home-sale price:** \$50,000

**Population:** 79,735

**3. Shreveport, Louisiana** ©Sean Pavone/Getty Images/iStockphoto

**Income:** \$63,030

**Median home-sale price:** \$185,000

**Population:** 176,578

**2. Youngstown, Ohio** ©InfiniteImpactStudios/Getty Images/iStockphoto

**Income:** \$59,433

**Median home-sale price:** \$90,000

**Population:** 59,123

**1. Huntington, West Virginia** ©Posnov/Getty Images

**Income:** \$53,650

**Median home-sale price:** \$144,450

**Population:** \$44,942

**The 10 cities that require the most income to afford a home**

**10. Honolulu, HI** ©SCStock/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$255,280

**Median sales price:** \$605,000

**Population:** 344,967

**9. Salinas, CA** ©4kodiak/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$262,403

**Median sales price:** \$699,000

**Population:** 160,783

**8. Oxnard, CA** ©benedek/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$276,805

**Median sales price:** \$797,500

**Population:** 200,616

**7. San Luis Obispo, CA** ©MattGush/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$280,591

**Median sales price:** \$1,102,500

**Population:** 49,729

**6. San Diego, CA** ©Brandon Colbert Photography/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$293,618

**Median sales price:** \$950,000

**Population:** 1,404,452

**5. Los Angeles, CA** ©frankpeters/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$301,221

**Median sales price:** \$1,025,000

**Population:** 3,878,704

**4. Santa Maria, CA** ©MattGush/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$305,535

**Median sales price:** \$617,500

**Population:** 111,346

**3. Santa Cruz, CA** ©Pgiam/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$354,973

**Median sales price:** \$1,352,000

**Population:** 62,581

**2. San Francisco, CA** ©frankpeters/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$358,090

**Median sales price:** \$1,687,500

**Population:** 827,526

**1. San Jose, CA** ©Steve Proehl/Getty Images

**Income needed:** \$501,012

**Median sales price:** \$1,489,000

**Population:** 997,368