




Regional Snapshot

HOUSING

With a growing economy and a high quality of life, the greater Portland area has attracted thousands of new residents in the past decade. Our popularity has strained our limited housing supply, however, and prices have soared while builders scramble to catch up to the demand.

Here are some things to know about housing affordability in the Portland region today.

Building homes, but playing catch-up

38 
Average new dwellings constructed daily in 2015

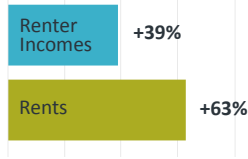
120K 
New households added in the past 10 years

20% more new households than new housing permits 
2006-2015

The price squeeze

Renter incomes have not kept pace with rising rents

Percent increase, 2006 - 2015



72 

Hours of work per week required to afford a one-bedroom apartment for a worker making minimum wage

“You can work really hard and play by the rules and still not make anywhere near the money you need to live in this city... It’s not a moral failure to need affordable housing in a city.”

Michael Parkhurst, Meyer Memorial Trust

Where we stand

In 2015, greater Portland ranked

11th of 100


US metros in the cost to buy a home based on price-to-income ratios, up from 15th in 2014

Housing in Portland is the least expensive of major West Coast cities.



A public need

14,300

Section 8 housing vouchers are in use in the four-county region 

80,000

affordable housing units are needed to meet current demand in the area 

“If we want to have equitable schools, if we want to have equitable neighborhoods, if we want to have an equitable justice system, first and foremost, people have to have a place to go home.”

Prof. Marisa Zapata, Portland State University



For more information and the rest of the story, visit: oregonmetro.gov/snapshot

Data Sources: US Census Bureau; Johnson Economics; Greater Portland Pulse; Oregon Economics Department; 2015 Affordable Housing Inventory, Metro (2015).