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Blog: The Score

WNY Sets The Pace For Affordable Housing

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We all know about Western New York's demographic and economic weaknesses. But today's topic is one of the area's strengths -- affordable housing.

Nowhere else in the country is more affordable, according to [a new Business First analysis](#) of U.S. Census Bureau data.

Rochester is first among the nation's 52 major markets (those with populations above 1 million), and Buffalo is second.

The [study](#) compared median home values and median household incomes, as recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2008 American Community Survey. (Medians are midpoints, with half of all values or incomes in a given market being higher, and half being lower.)

The smaller the ratio, the more affordable the housing. And no major market has a ratio smaller than Rochester's \$2,331 of home value per \$1,000 of income, based on its median home value of \$121,300 and median household income of \$52,042.

Buffalo is right behind with a ratio of \$2,355 per \$1,000, based on its median home value of \$109,900 and its median household income of \$46,676.

The database below has affordability ratings for 451 markets, including the 52 in the major category. You can winnow the list by state, region or population size, or you can leave those tabs alone and simply hit Search to see the entire database.

If you'd like to learn more about a specific market, click View Details.

Housing Affordability in 451 Metro and Micro Areas

Metro or micro area	Population (2008 estimate)	Median home value	Mortgage affordability (home value per \$1,000 of household income)	Affordability rank (of 451 areas) ▲	View Details
Rochester, NY	1,033,155	\$121,300	\$2,330.81	51	View Details
Buffalo-Niagara Falls, NY	1,124,055	\$109,900	\$2,354.53	59	View Details
San Antonio, TX	2,030,691	\$116,900	\$2,450.84	78	View Details
Pittsburgh, PA	2,355,391	\$115,700	\$2,451.32	79	View Details
Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown,	5,726,705	\$135,800	\$2,477.60	89	View Details

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Oklahoma City, OK	1,207,519	\$118,000	\$2,532.90	103	View Details	
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX	6,301,085	\$145,200	\$2,578.45	109	View Details	
Indianapolis-Carmel, IN	1,720,796	\$142,800	\$2,631.48	120	View Details	
Kansas City, MO-KS	2,046,083	\$158,400	\$2,835.76	166	View Details	
Birmingham-Hoover, AL	1,123,146	\$139,500	\$2,861.42	175	View Details	
Memphis, TN-MS-AR	1,298,529	\$133,100	\$2,874.11	178	View Details	
Cincinnati-Middletown, OH-KY-IN	2,158,643	\$156,900	\$2,909.17	186	View Details	
Louisville-Jefferson County, KY-IN	1,249,739	\$142,500	\$2,954.96	199	View Details	
St. Louis, MO-IL	2,818,688	\$158,500	\$2,966.28	204	View Details	
Austin-Round Rock, TX	1,654,100	\$175,700	\$3,030.72	223	View Details	
Columbus, OH	1,779,822	\$164,900	\$3,059.94	227	View Details	
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH	2,094,051	\$152,300	\$3,070.07	228	View Details	
Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NC-SC	1,706,469	\$167,500	\$3,077.91	230	View Details	
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	4,423,781	\$169,700	\$3,121.84	234	View Details	
Raleigh-Cary, NC	1,090,408	\$193,900	\$3,184.74	246	View Details	
Nashville-Davidson--Murfreesboro--Franklin, TN	1,556,368	\$166,600	\$3,195.49	249	View Details	
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, GA	5,385,586	\$193,400	\$3,229.69	257	View Details	
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	1,168,547	\$180,100	\$3,663.03	303	View Details	
Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	3,237,612	\$244,800	\$3,693.37	309	View Details	
Jacksonville, FL	1,316,528	\$199,800	\$3,719.29	311	View Details	

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Tim C. 1 day ago

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