

See how much income you'd need to afford a home in most California cities

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California median home prices have risen by \$120,000 in the last three years, once again putting them out of reach of most households in the state.

The median sales price for homes in California - the middle-priced home in a ranked list - was \$393,000 in January 2015, according to real estate tracking firm [Zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com).

A household would need to make about \$78,000 a year to reasonably afford a home at that price, assuming a 20 percent down payment. Almost two thirds of the state's households make less than \$78,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The household income needed to afford a median-priced home ranges from \$27,000 in the farming town of Tulare to \$442,000 in the Silicon Valley town of Palo Alto.

This graphic shows the amount of income a household would need to buy the median-priced home in each California city with more than 30,000 residents.

Update 1: Click a city on the map to see a detailed breakdown of income needed to buy a median-priced home based on down payment amount. Homes with less than 20 percent down payment include estimated mortgage insurance payments. Update 2: Graphic now includes all cities with more than 30,000 residents.

Home price data source: [Zillow](http://www.zillow.com)

Assumptions: Buyer pays 20 percent down payment. Interest rate of 4 percent on a 30-year mortgage. Annual property taxes and insurance equal 1.2% of home price. Household pays no more than 29 percent of annual gross income on housing payments. Fixed text above graphic at 3 PM on 3/12 to note that almost two-thirds of California households earn less than \$78,000 annually.

Hat tip to [HSH.com](http://www.hsh.com) for the idea. [Check out](#) their calculations for the nation's largest metro areas.