

Required for Buying a Home

1. San Jose, CA - \$254,835.73
2. San Francisco, CA - \$198,978.01
3. San Diego, CA - \$131,640.79
4. Los Angeles, CA - \$123,156.01
5. Boston, MA - \$106,789.93

The Bottom 5 Metro Areas With the Lowest Salary Required for Buying a Home

1. Pittsburgh, PA - \$37,659.86
2. Cleveland, OH - \$40,437.72
3. Oklahoma City, OK - \$41,335.41
4. Memphis, TN - \$41,400.93
5. Indianapolis, IN - \$42,288.92

In general, metro areas in the Midwest and the South require lower salaries than metro areas on the West Coast and the East Coast. The most expensive metros are located in California, especially near Silicon Valley. For example, San Jose requires the highest salary (\$254,835.73) for a median-priced home and San Francisco requires the second-highest salary (\$198,978.01). Metros in the Northeast, like Boston (\$106,789.93) and New York (\$105,684.33) are similarly expensive. On the flip side, Pittsburgh only requires a salary of \$37,659.86 to buy a median-priced home. Metro areas like Memphis (\$41,400.93) and Oklahoma City (\$41,335.41) require about one-sixth the salary required in San Jose.

HSH notes that when looking at the nation overall, you would need to earn \$61,453 in order to buy a home. However, 24 of the largest 50 metro areas require a higher salary to make it affordable. It's also worth noting that even within metro areas, home prices and salaries can differ by zip code or neighborhood, so final costs could vary even more. Overall, when deciding where to buy a home or look for a job, taking the area's salaries and housing costs into consideration becomes even more important.

Curious how this differs from the most expensive metro areas last year? Compare to our [2018 visualization](#) on this topic.

Data: [Table 1.1](#)

by
Raul

18 April 2019
Visualization