

Housing affordability and shelter costs

Housing affordability is based on whether the household spent 30% or more of its average monthly total income on shelter costs (also referred to as shelter-cost-to-income ratio). Shelter costs include mortgage payments, rent, the cost of electricity, heat, water and other municipal services, property taxes, and condominiums fees.

- Data from the 2016 Census showed that roughly 53,000 New Brunswick households spent 30% or more of their household total income on shelter costs (16.8%). Of these 53,000 households, 24,000 owned their dwelling and 29,000 rented.
- A larger proportion of tenant households exceeded the affordability threshold than owner households. In 2016, 36.5% of households that rented their dwelling paid 30% or more of their total income towards shelter costs, compared to 10.3% of owner households.
- In Canada, the proportion of households with shelter costs that were not considered affordable was 24.1% in 2016.
- New Brunswick households that paid 30% or more of total income towards shelter costs had an average shelter cost of \$1,004 per month. Owner households that exceeded the affordability threshold paid an average of \$1,227 per month, while tenant households paid \$817.

