

5.9x Home-to-Income Ratio – #1 in Birmingham

Homewood Leads with 5.9x Home-to-Income Ratio

Highest affordability pressure in the Birmingham metro — ALEX Intelligence,
2026

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THE DATA

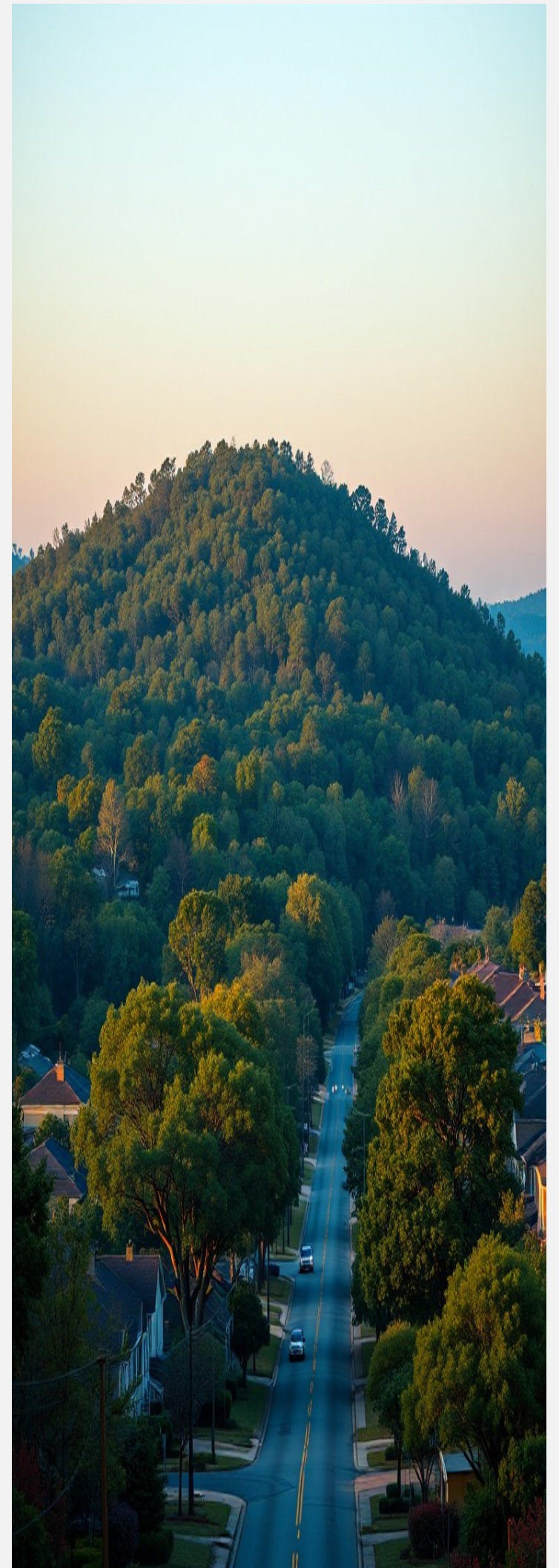
5.9x

Home Value to Income Ratio (2024)

Homewood has the highest home value to income ratio in the Birmingham metro, reflecting intense affordability pressure.

This ratio means a typical household in Homewood would need 5.9 years of gross income to purchase a home at the median price. Such a level is not just high—it is structurally significant, indicating that local income growth is not keeping pace with housing appreciation, particularly in established, high-demand neighborhoods. The data, drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, reveals a deepening divergence between housing costs and local earnings.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-21-birmingham-value-to-income-place-mkt>



01

Affordability is a strategic bottleneck

The 5.9x ratio also underscores a deeper regional tension: while Homewood leads in price-to-income pressure, it also leads in stability, equity, and community continuity. This suggests that affordability metrics alone do not capture value—nor should they be the sole driver of policy or investment. The most valuable real estate is not always the most affordable, but the most resilient.



02

The cost of stability is measured in income

This dynamic creates a feedback loop: as more residents are priced out of Homewood, demand shifts to adjacent areas—Brook Highland, Mountain Brook, Oneonta—driving up their ratios in turn. The 5.9x ratio is not just a number; it is a proxy for intergenerational wealth transfer and community continuity. For buyers, it signals that the best real estate is not necessarily the newest, but the one that has proven its resilience over time.

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