

Lowest Median Household Income in Knoxville — ALEX Intelligence 2026

ZIP 37916 Has Lowest Income in Knoxville

Median Household Income: \$14,925 — ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

\$14,925

Median Household Income (2024)

ZIP 37916 is the lowest-income ZIP in the Knoxville metro area.

This figure, drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024, reveals a profound economic divide within the region. While other ZIPs in the metro reach over \$50,000, ZIP 37916 remains isolated in a zone of deep economic vulnerability. The disparity underscores the uneven distribution of opportunity across East Tennessee's urban core.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-03-knoxville-median-income-zcta-mkt-asc>



01

Income Inequality Drives Housing Demand

In ZIP 37916, where median income is just \$14,925, housing affordability is not a market choice — it is a survival necessity. This ZIP is likely to see high demand for subsidized housing, rental assistance, and community development grants. Yet, it remains under-served by new construction, which is concentrated in higher-income areas. The imbalance between income and housing supply creates a latent pressure point for future policy intervention.



02

Economic Segregation Limits Mobility

The data reveals a spatial entrenchment of poverty: ZIP 37916 is not an outlier but a node in a broader pattern of economic segregation. When income levels are so far below regional averages, upward mobility becomes structurally constrained. Without access to quality education, transportation, and job networks, residents face entrenched disadvantage. This is not just a housing issue — it's a regional equity crisis with long-term implications for workforce development and civic health.

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