

#69 of 401 U.S. MSA on Median Monthly Owner Cost — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Houston MSA: #69 on Owner Cost Affordability

Ranked among top 10% of U.S. metros — a structural edge in affordability

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THE DATA

\$1,611

Median Monthly Owner Cost (2024)

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands ranks #69 among 401 U.S. metros in median monthly owner cost.

This figure reflects a sustainable affordability edge in a national landscape where housing costs are increasingly concentrated in coastal and high-demand hubs. The \$1,611 benchmark is not a reflection of market weakness but of a well-balanced system where supply, infrastructure, and long-term planning support stability. It signals that Houston's model—driven by decentralized growth, active new construction, and resilient demand—continues to outperform more constrained markets.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-04-houston-msa-standing-owner-cost-msa>



01

Affordability as a Strategic Advantage

Houston's #69 ranking is not accidental—it's engineered. This supply responsiveness prevents price inflation from becoming entrenched, allowing working families and emerging professionals to enter the market without being priced out. This isn't stagnation—it's structural resilience.

02

The Hidden Cost of High Demand Elsewhere

In contrast to high-cost metros where affordability is eroded by scarcity, Houston's affordability is reinforced by its scale and adaptability. As national demand shifts toward mid-tier metros, Houston's position as a logistics and energy equipment hub—supported by FEDS Notes on goods production—drives industrial real estate demand and stabilizes income streams. This macroeconomic foundation underpins housing affordability, making it a self-sustaining competitive advantage.



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