Steiner Ranch — #1 of 9: Renters Over the 50% Rent Threshold

Steiner Ranch leads Austin MSA in rent burden

44.5% of renters spend over half income on rent

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THE DATA

44.5%

Renters Over the 50% Rent Threshold (2024)

Steiner Ranch has the highest share of renters spending over half their income on rent in the Austin MSA.

This figure — 44.5% — marks a structural stress point in the local housing market. It indicates that nearly half of renters in Steiner Ranch are classified as 'severely rent burdened' under federal standards, a condition linked to reduced financial resilience and long-term displacement risk. The concentration of such burden in a suburban community challenges the narrative that affordability is solely a downtown or inner-city issue.



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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-03-austin-msa-severe-rent-burden-place-mkt

01

Affordability is not just a price issue

The data reveals that severe rent burden in Steiner Ranch is not driven by high absolute rents alone, but by a mismatch between local wages and housing costs. This suggests that the problem is not simply a lack of supply, but a failure of income growth to keep pace with housing inflation. As tech and service-sector jobs expand in the Austin MSA, the wage-to-rent ratio is not keeping up, especially in communities with limited public transit and job access.

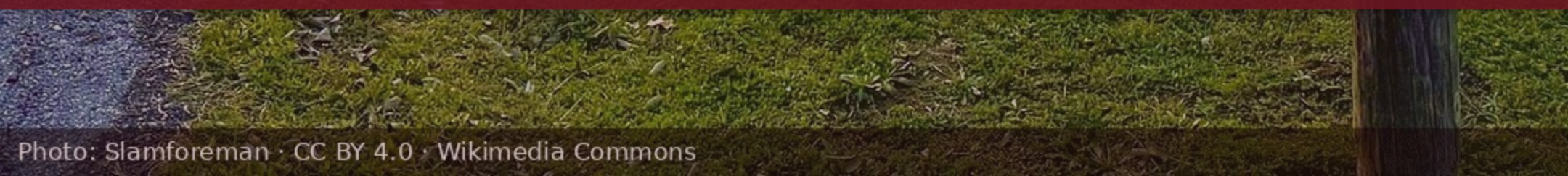


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02

The hidden cost of suburbanization

Steiner Ranch's top rank in rent burden underscores a deeper trend: suburban communities are becoming the new front lines of housing stress. Unlike urban cores where rent control and subsidies exist, suburban areas like Steiner Ranch lack the institutional tools to mitigate housing cost shocks. This could lead to a demographic reversal — where lower-income residents are pushed out not just from downtown, but from the very suburbs they once considered affordable retreats.

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