Four Corners — #1 of 10: Renters Over the 30% Rent Threshold

Four Corners has highest rent burden in Houston

87.0% of renters exceed 30% threshold — source: ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

87.0%

Renters Over the 30% Rent Threshold (2024)

Four Corners leads the Houston metro in rent burden, surpassing all other cities in the region.

This figure reflects a structural affordability crisis in the area, where housing costs consume a disproportionate share of household income. The data, drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2024 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, underscores a growing divide between income growth and housing affordability across the MSA.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-07-houston-msa-rent-burden-place-mkt

01

Affordability is a regional stress test

Four Corners' 87.0% rent burden isn't an outlier — it's a signal of systemic strain. The concentration of renters facing extreme housing cost burdens suggests that the region's growth model, while driving population inflow, is not adequately supporting income expansion or housing supply at scale. This imbalance may deter long-term workforce retention and dampen consumer spending in the broader economy.

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02

The suburbs are the new affordability frontier

The fact that Four Corners — a suburban enclave — ranks first in rent burden highlights a critical shift: affordability pressures are no longer confined to urban cores. As jobs and services expand outward, demand in suburban communities has outpaced infrastructure and income growth. This trend suggests that future policy and investment must prioritize inclusive development in the outer MSA, not just the city center.

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