

The Most Expensive Cities in the United States

Q: Have you ever considered living in one of the cities listed below? Here are some information on how much you will need to make in a year in order to live comfortably in these cities!

1. San Francisco, CA (\$123,268)

It's no surprise that San Francisco tops the list of most expensive places to live. Residents have been lamenting the high cost of living for a long time, and yet the city's charm, Asian influence, and status as a hot high-tech locale packs a lot of appeal. On the other hand, the city has far and away the most expensive rent in the country, averaging \$3,300 a month for a one-bedroom. Groceries are also more expensive than they are elsewhere.

2 New York, NY (\$99,667)

"If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere," Frank Sinatra sang. Well, you can make it there if you earn \$100,000 a year, but only just. At \$2,295 a month for the average one-bedroom, New York has the third-highest rent in the country. It also has the second-biggest gap between residents' average earnings and cost of living. No wonder so many who work in New York City live just across the Hudson in New Jersey and commute in.

3. San Jose, CA (\$99,431)

Want to live in the heart of Silicon Valley? It'll cost you. Typical rent here is second only to San Francisco's, at \$2,395 a month. On the other hand, living in startup heaven may pay off, because average income in this city is \$90,303--the highest of all 50 cities. And then, of course, there are the stock options.

4. Oakland, CA (\$95,611)

Oakland has always been San Francisco's poorer neighbor, and it still is. It's where people who can't afford to live in San Francisco often live. Typical rents are more than \$1,000 a month cheaper for a one-bedroom--\$2,195 compared with \$3,300 for San Francisco. That's still enough to be among the top five highest rents in the nation, though. And with an average income of \$57,778, many Oakland residents are struggling to survive in their increasingly expensive town.

5. D.C. (\$90,811)

Living near the center of power can be expensive--typical rents in D.C. are \$2,170 a month, just a hair lower than in Oakland. At least residents' median income of \$72,935 is among the top five in the nation. And transportation costs are lower here, although groceries are expensive. Civil servants don't usually earn all that much, though, which is why many of them live nearby in Virginia or Maryland.

6. Seattle (\$89,248)

Rents in Seattle are rising rapidly, an unpleasant side effect of Amazon's continued growth, which is partly behind the rapid influx of new residents, especially Millennials. Still, at a typical \$1,975, they're a lot lower than rents in San Francisco or New York, at least for the moment. Median income is \$74,458, the fourth highest in the nation.

7. Boston (\$88,967)

Rent in Boston is \$2,100, one of the highest in the nation. Transportation costs are a bit lower than average, though, perhaps thanks to a good public transportation system. (That has the added advantage that you don't have to drive around Boston, which is a good thing as you will inevitably get lost.) Unfortunately, median income in Boston is less than \$60,000, which means a lot of people there are struggling to get by.

8. Los Angeles, CA (\$87,260)

In addition to having the allure of the movie industry, L.A. is becoming a startup hub, as the next major city down the coast from Seattle and San Francisco. Typical rent is \$2,050--higher than in Seattle. And L.A. is consistently ranked as the city with the worst traffic in the United States.

9. Anaheim, CA (\$86,721)

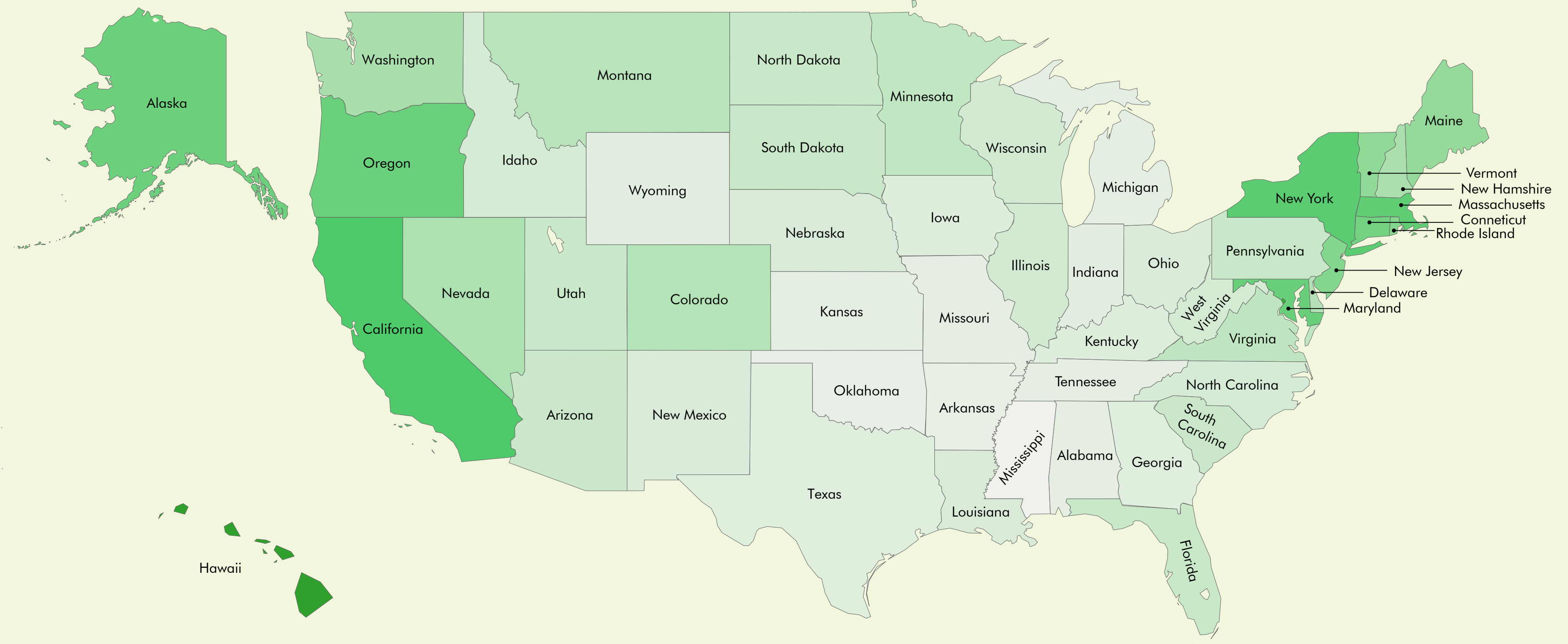
You can live in the shadow of Disneyland's Sleeping Beauty Castle, but it'll cost you only slightly less than living in nearby L.A., with average rent at \$1,912. Tourism is the dominant industry here, with Disneyland the city's largest employer, although YKK, the world's biggest zipper maker, is also located in Anaheim.

10. Honolulu, HI (\$85,367)

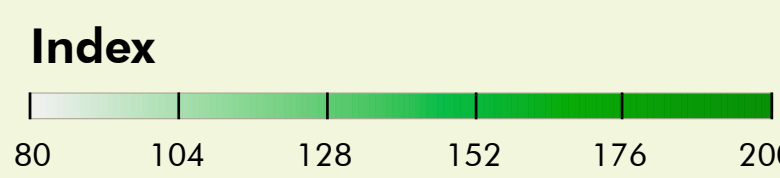
The least expensive of the 10 costliest cities might also be the nicest place to live. It shows up regularly on ranks of most livable cities and has been ranked among the safest cities in the nation as well. Besides being the state's capital and biggest city, it's considered the gateway to Hawaii, a business, military, and cultural hub. It also has the third highest median income at \$77,161. Although groceries and other goods are costlier, as things usually are on an island, rents are less expensive than in California.

The Most Expensive Places to Live in the United States

Linda Lueng | DAI 523.01 | Trogu | SFSU | Spring 2019



The average cost of living varies differently depending from person to person, but the index calculated focuses on certain aspects. The index, in this case, focuses on aspects such as the cost of groceries, housing, cost of transportation, utilities, health care, and individual spending.



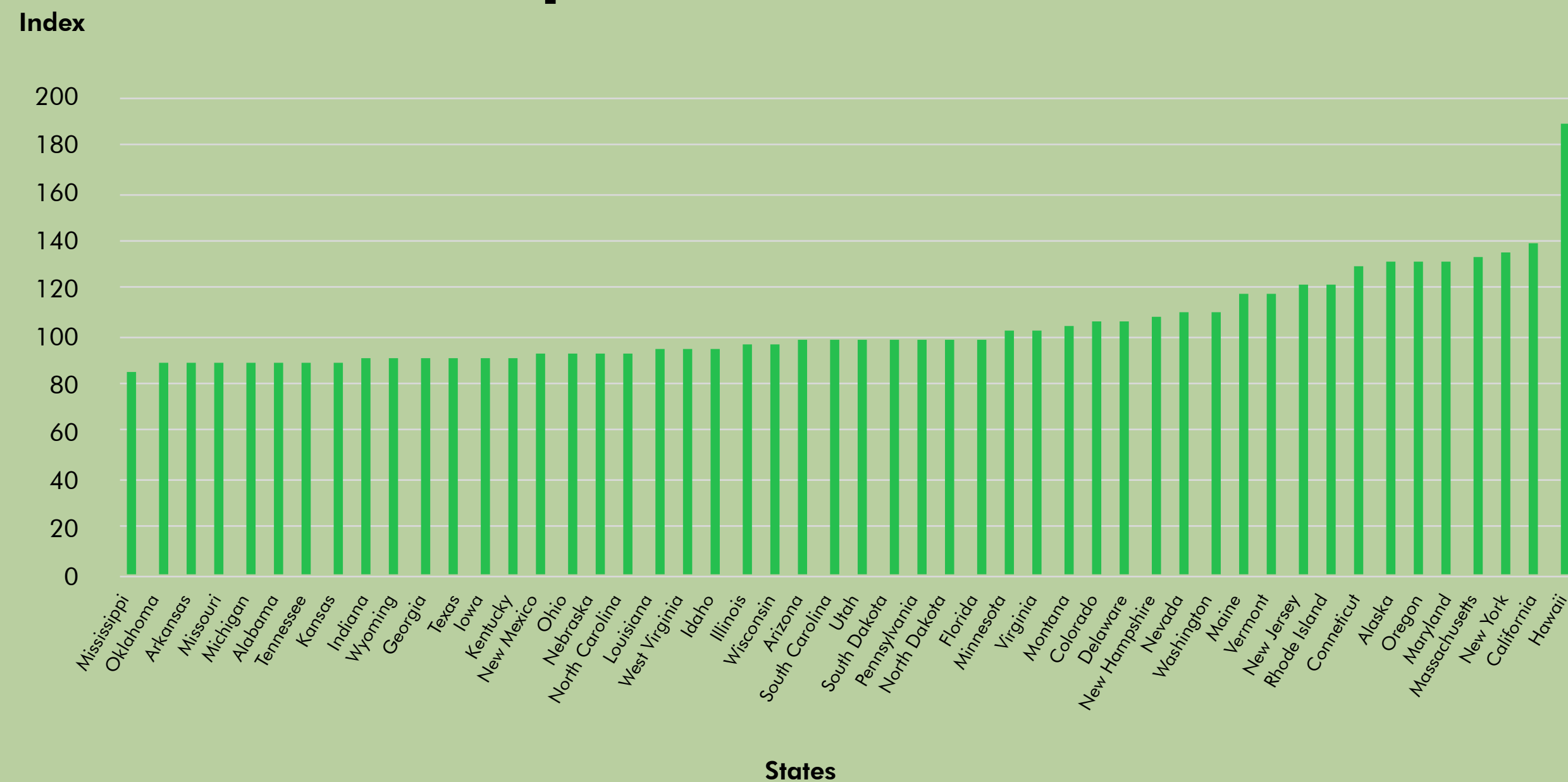
Top 3 Most Expensive States

HI Hawaii, the island state and a popular vacation spot, tops the list as a highly sought-after location. However, renting a place in Hawaii costs somewhere around \$1,507, according to the median gross rent. Its RPP is 118.4, and this is mostly due to high food, electricity and gas prices. People generally make around \$74,511, as the median household income reflects.

CA The Golden State has drawn a massive population, but the increased number of Californians has driven prices and the demand for housing up. It takes extra funds to thrive in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and large cities like these force California's RPP up to 114.4. California citizens make a median \$67,739 per year, but they still have a housing crisis and compact living quarters. The median rent is at \$1,358, and permanent housing is even more luxurious and extravagant.

NY Due to the bustling metropolis of New York City, the whole state's RPP is incredibly high at 115.6. The limited space of the city causes the state's median gross rent to be \$1,194, and people are willing to overpay for an apartment in this famed area. You can be hard-pressed to find an affordable neighborhood in the city.

The Most Expensive States in the United States

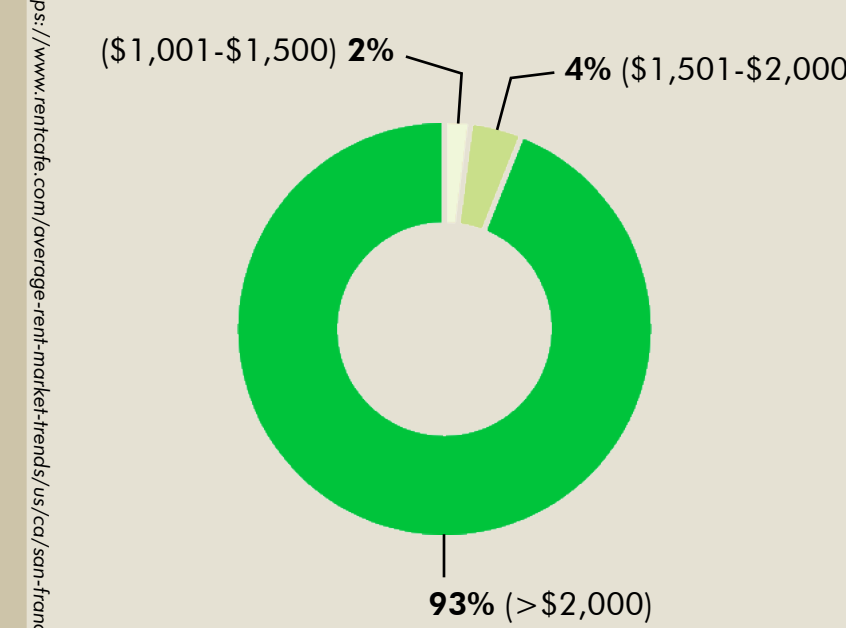


Living in San Francisco, the Most Expensive City in the United States

The average rent for an apartment in San Francisco is \$3,609, a 5% increase compared to the previous year, when the average rent was \$3,426. The average size for a San Francisco, CA apartment is 792 square feet, but this number varies greatly depending on apartment type. Studio apartments are the smallest and most affordable, 1-bedroom apartments are closer to the average, while 2-bedroom apartments and 3-bedroom apartments offer a more generous square footage. The most affordable neighborhoods in San Francisco are Treasure Island, where the average rent goes for \$2,616/month, Tenderloin, where renters pay \$2,905/mo on average, and Van Ness - Civic Center, where the average rent goes for \$2,905/mo. If you're looking for other great deals, check out the listings from Marina (\$2,919), Downtown District 8 - North East (\$2,931), and Bernal Heights (\$2,942), where the asking prices are below the average San Francisco rent of

\$3,609/mo. The most expensive neighborhoods in San Francisco are Eureka Valley - Dolores Heights (\$4,348), Mission Bay (\$4,472) and Presidio (\$4,881).

The Rental Market in San Francisco



"The average rent for an apartment in San Francisco is \$3,609"

