

Almost One in Five Households Exceed the Affordability Threshold

In 1986, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the provinces agreed to measure housing affordability based on whether the household spent 30% or more of its average monthly total income on shelter costs.

- Data from the 2011 National Household Survey showed that roughly 58,000 New Brunswick households (18.9%) spent 30% or more of their household total income on shelter costs. Of these 58,000 households, 30,000 owned their dwelling and 28,000 rented.
- Although the number of owner households and tenant households that paid 30% or more was about the same, a larger proportion of tenant households in the province exceeded the affordability threshold. In 2011, 38.2% of households that rented their dwelling paid 30% or more of their total income towards shelter costs, compared to 12.8% of owner households.
- New Brunswick households that paid 30% or more of total income towards shelter costs had an average shelter cost of \$912 per month. Owner households that exceeded the affordability threshold paid an average of \$1,110 per month, while tenant households paid \$703.
- The proportion of households that paid 30% or more of total income towards shelter costs differed across the seven largest urban centres in the province. Moncton had the largest proportion (21.9%), while Miramichi had the smallest (16.6%).

