

2024 Data: Can Your Favorite Characters Afford Their Famous TV and Movie Houses?



By [Nick Pisano](#)

Updated August 19, 2024

Table of Contents



 Could those characters really afford their famous TV and movie houses in real life? 

Based on current salaries and home prices, just 2 out of 20 — or 10% — of the well-known pop culture homes evaluated would be definitively affordable to their supposed occupants. Only four would be rentable based on the characters' incomes.

[Famous Movie and TV Homes By the Numbers](#) | [Famous Home Affordability Analysis](#) | [Rankings by Category](#) | [Methodology](#) | [FAQs](#)

Many people look to TV and movies as a chance to relax and immerse themselves in another world. While most viewers have no trouble accepting a universe full of ghosts, dragons, aliens, crime empires, or other outlandish plots, there's one factor that may seem particularly unrealistic when their mortgage or rent is due: the main characters' homes.

Whether it's a laugh-out-loud sitcom or a nail-biting horror flick, Hollywood's big- and small-screen homes are overwhelmingly unaffordable for real people working the same jobs in the same cities as the supposed occupants.

Only 2 out of the 20 homes evaluated could actually be bought by their on-screen owners when factoring in present-day prices and incomes, while just four would even be rentable.

Clever analyzed data on salaries, home prices, property tax rates, and insurance rates from the Federal Reserve, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Zillow](#), Redfin, Realtor.com, Bankrate, the Tax Foundation, Rocket Mortgage, and Home Bay, as well as a variety of informational sources on pop-culture homes.

In many cases, characters make just a fraction of the required income, including Mikey's father from "The Goonies," Uncle Phil and Aunt Vivian from "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," and Carrie Bradshaw from "Sex and the City."

Read on to learn more about which TV and movie characters would be searching for alternative accommodations and just how far off many media living situations are from reality.



Famous TV and Movie House Statistics

- Just 2 out of 20 — or 10% — of the well-known pop culture homes evaluated would be affordable for their supposed occupants in real life, based on current salaries and prices.
 - The homes in "Roseanne" and "That '70s Show" are the only two properties affordable for their occupants to own.
 - Only four would definitively be rentable by their fictional occupants: "Roseanne," "That '70s Show," "Twilight," and "10 Things I Hate About You."

- “Breaking Bad” straddles the line for both, while “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” “Modern Family,” and “Poltergeist” could also potentially be rented, depending on the characters' exact salary.
- **Homes valued at a million dollars** or more account for 16 out of the 20 properties on the list (80%). A majority (55%) have an estimated listing price of \$2 million or higher.
 - Only “Roseanne,” “That ‘70s Show,” and “Breaking Bad” had homes valued below the **national average** of just over \$363,000.
- Eleven homes (55%) were supposedly paid for with a single income. In those cases, *none* of their residents could afford to buy them, and only two — “Twilight” and “10 Things I Hate About You” — could afford to rent them in real life .
- In its restored state, the home from “The Notebook” would be the least affordable to Noah and Allie, who earn just 7.2% of the income required to buy it and 9.9% of the income required to rent it.
 - In dollars, the largest gap between occupants’ incomes and the salary needed to buy a home is “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” where Uncle Phil and Aunt Viv are an estimated \$2,465,665 short.
- Tony Soprano’s New Jersey home has the highest statewide effective property tax rate at 2.23%, roughly \$48,121 per year.
 - The lowest tax situation is found in “The Notebook,” where Noah and Allie’s South Carolina estate is responsible for a statewide effective average of 0.57%, or \$14,406 annually.
- The property from “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air” has the highest insurance bill at \$50,702 annually, but the home from “The Notebook” faces the highest rates, with a typical \$300,000 home in South Carolina charged \$2,360 per year.
 - Red and Kitty Forman from “That ‘70s Show” pay the least in insurance, just \$1,057 per year.

- The highest-earning household among TV and movie homes studied was “Full House,” though it takes four earners to bring in the estimated \$435,380 in annual income.
 - The lowest was “The Goonies,” where Mikey’s father, Irving, likely earned just \$46,230 per year based on current salary rates as a museum curator.

Famous Movie and TV Homes By the Numbers

<u>Home</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Could They Afford?</u>	<u>Listing Price Estimate</u>	<u>Monthly PITI*</u>	<u>Monthly Rent</u>	<u>Statewide Effective Property Tax</u>
Sex and the City	66 Perry St., New York, NY 10014	No	\$2,773,800	\$19,108	\$5,700**	1.4%
The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air	251 N. Bristol Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049	Potentially Rentable	\$10,468,346	\$65,756	\$34,894	0.75%
Full House	1709 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94115	No	\$6,500,000	\$40,829	\$18,056	0.75%
Friends	90 Bedford St., New York, NY 10014	No	\$2,650,000	\$18,256	\$7,500**	1.4%
Home Alone	671 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093	No	\$5,250,000	\$39,869	\$36,458	2.08%

The Brady Bunch	11222 Dilling St., Studio City, CA 91602	No	\$3,318,400	\$20,844	\$11,061	0.75%
Modern Family	10336 Dunleer Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90064	Potentially Rentable	\$3,169,700	\$19,910	\$10,566	0.75%
Roseanne	619 S. Runnymede Ave., Evansville, IN 47714	Yes	\$232,700	\$1,222	\$1,077	0.84%
That '70s Show	2735 S. 16th St., Sheboygan, WI 53081	Yes	\$274,900	\$1,901	\$996	1.61%
The Goonies	368 38th St., Astoria, OR 97103	No	\$1,591,900	\$10,032	\$6,317	0.93%
10 Things I Hate About You	2715 N. Junett St., Tacoma, WA 98407	Rent Only	\$2,210,500	\$14,035	\$7,085	0.87%
Sixteen Candles	3022 Payne St., Evanston, IL 60201	No	\$1,973,300	\$14,986	\$10,000**	2.08%
The Notebook	204 Martins Point Road, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487	No	\$2,527,400	\$16,133	\$11,701	0.57%

Twilight	184 S. 6th St., Saint Helens, OR 97051	Rent Only	\$523,900	\$3,301	\$1,984	0.93%
Sleepless in Seattle	2460 Westlake Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109	No	\$1,737,500	\$11,032	\$5,569	0.87%
Breaking Bad	3828 Piermont Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111	Potentially Ownable or Rentable	\$352,700	\$2,251	\$1,633	0.67%
The Sopranos	14 Aspen Drive, North Caldwell, NJ 07006	No	\$2,157,900	\$16,011	\$11,988	2.23%
Mrs. Doubtfire	2640 Steiner St., San Francisco, CA	No	\$5,332,800	\$33,497	\$25,000**	0.75%
Poltergeist	4267 Roxbury St., Simi Valley, CA 93063	Potentially Rentable	\$1,056,900	\$6,639	\$3,523	0.75%
The Conjuring	1677 Round Top Road, Burrillville, RI 02830	No	\$1,006,200	\$7,007	\$4,658	1.4%

**PITI includes monthly mortgage principal and interest payments, property taxes, and home insurance costs.*

***Monthly rent is estimated using an area's price to rent multiple, except for starred properties where rental listing comparisons were used.*



Big City, Big Mortgage

Sex and the City

Address: [66 Perry St., New York, NY 10014](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$2,773,800

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$19,108

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$5,700

Rent or own?: Rent

Who pays the rent?: Carrie Bradshaw, writer/columnist

Total Household Income: \$116,030

Unfortunately for wannabe relationship columnists and fans of this beloved turn-of-the-millennium series, Carrie Bradshaw's brownstone apartment is among the more unrealistic living situations of any famous TV show.

Located in New York City's upscale West Village neighborhood, the mortgage payments dwarf a typical New York-area writer or columnist's monthly salary of around \$9,669 by several thousand dollars. It's also far beyond the threshold of affordability for renting. Monthly rent would eat up roughly 60% of Carrie's pre-tax income.

Plus, with just one weekly column, whether Carrie is pulling in a six-figure paycheck is questionable on its own. Naturally, the series explains this away by noting her unit is rent controlled, a crucial plot device for characters living beyond their means.

The real-life address is divided into apartments, with a two-bedroom, one-and-a-half bathroom unit spanning a spacious 1,800 square feet. These would-be Carrie Bradshaws or their landlords are also responsible for property taxes with a statewide effective average of 1.4%, among the highest in the country.

Salary needed to buy: \$818,929

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$660,429

Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

Address: [251 N. Bristol Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90049](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$10,468,346

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$65,756

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$34,894

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Philip Banks, lawyer; Vivian Banks, English literature professor

Total Household Income: \$352,430

When Will moved in with his auntie and uncle in Bel-Air, he also likely moved into an overextended living situation. Although Uncle Phil is known to be successful, the average Los Angeles lawyer makes \$219,740, significantly less than he'd need to buy or rent this home, even with Aunt Viv's \$132,690 professor's salary. Plus, with four kids, Will, and a butler, expenses were likely high.

However, with lawyers' salaries varying significantly depending on experience and type of law, we can't rule out that Phil pulled in a salary roughly 6x the typical one, which is what he'd need to rent the five-bedroom, five-bathroom home with a pool and three-car garage. The 12x salary he'd need to buy is far less realistic.

Fortunately, the Banks family would benefit from California's relatively moderate statewide effective property taxes (0.75%) and insurance rates (\$1,453 for a \$300,000 home).

Salary needed to buy: \$2,818,095
 Could the characters afford to buy this property?: No
 Salary needed to rent: \$1,495,478
 Could the characters afford to rent this property?: Maybe

Roommates Required

Full House

Address: [1709 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94115](#)
 Listing Price Estimate: \$6,500,000
 Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$40,829
 Monthly Rent Estimate: \$18,056

Rent or own?: Own
 Who pays the rent/mortgage?: Danny Tanner, sportscaster; Jesse Katsopolis, advertising; Joey Gladstone, entertainer/comedian; Rebecca Donaldson-Katsopolis, television host
 Total Household Income: \$435,380

"Full House" wasn't quite full of enough earners. Danny, Jesse, Joey, and Becky *still* wouldn't be able to afford their mortgage or rent payments despite the help of four

incomes. That's even factoring in a somewhat generous income for Joey, using the average entertainer/performer's earnings.

One of TV's most iconic homes, the gorgeous Victorian is located in the desirable San Francisco neighborhood of Lower Pacific Heights. It was [listed for sale](#) in June 2024 at \$6.5 million, offering four bedrooms, four bathrooms, and over 3,700 square feet of living space. It was renovated in 2019.

Affordability aside, this would have been an exceptionally tight squeeze with up to nine characters living there at once. However, like the Banks family and other Golden State residents on the big and small screen, they enjoy relatively low California property taxes of 0.75%

Salary needed to buy: \$1,749,810

Could the characters afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$773,810

Could the characters afford to rent this property?: No

Friends

Address: [136 Waverly Place, Apartment 12A, New York, NY 10014](#) (Stand-in for 90 Bedford St., New York, NY 10014)

Listing Price Estimate: \$2,650,000

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$18,256

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$7,500

Rent or own?: Rent

Who pays the rent?: Monica Geller, chef; Rachel Green, waitress

Total Household Income: \$120,920

Another much-beloved TV setting, this two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment is located in New York City's West Village, just a few blocks from Carrie Bradshaw's previously mentioned home. As can be common, show producers took some license with the size of the unit, which far exceeds anything in the real Bedford Street building used for exterior shots. However, [others nearby](#) give a good sense of what a similarly large apartment would cost.

Luckily for the characters, the apartment is rent controlled on the show, something Monica reveals she lucked into via her grandmother. However, it would be next to impossible for the two to afford it at market rate in real life, with annual rent taking up about three-quarters of their household income.

Meanwhile, it seems even more unlikely that either a chef or waitress could pull together the hefty 20% down payment of \$530,000 and the sky-high monthly costs required to purchase the home.

Salary needed to buy: \$782,379
Could the characters afford to buy this property?: No
Salary needed to rent: \$321,429
Could the characters afford to rent this property?: No

A Family Affair

Home Alone

Address: [671 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093](#)
Listing Price Estimate: \$5,250,000
Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$39,869
Monthly Rent Estimate: \$36,458

Rent or own?: Own
Who pays the mortgage?: Peter McCallister, executive/CEO; Kate McCallister, fashion designer
Total Household Income: \$391,800

It may be hard to believe that a family could lose track of one of their kids when leaving home for vacation, much less do it twice. But the biggest plot hole in the “Home Alone” universe may be how the McAllisters paid for their stately, spacious property.

Surrounded by similarly gorgeous, high-end homes, it’s easy to see why the Wet Bandits would target this suburban Chicago neighborhood for their crimes. The five-bedroom, six-bathroom house sprawls more than 9,000 square feet on a half-acre lot. It was renovated in 2018, removing most remnants of the ‘80s-heavy look from the film, but it

is still recognizable in spaces like the impressive foyer. It went up for sale in summer 2024 with an asking price of \$5.25 million.

Unfortunately, that's far beyond what a typical family like the McCallisters could afford. Even pulling in close to \$400,000 between the family's two earners, they're over a million dollars a year short of the salary needed to buy or rent the home. There are some indications, though, that Peter is more successful than a typical executive, potentially putting the property in the realm of affordability.

Still, the family would also face hurdles from Illinois' hefty property taxes, which have the second-highest effective rate in the country at 2.08%.

Salary needed to buy: \$1,708,683
Could the characteres afford to buy this property?: No
Salary needed to rent: \$1,562,500
Could the characters afford to rent this property?: No

The Brady Bunch

Address: [11222 Dilling St., Studio City, CA 91602](#)
Listing Price Estimate: \$3,318,400
Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$20,844
Monthly Rent Estimate: \$11,061

Rent or own?: Own
Who pays the mortgage?: Mike Brady, architect; Carol Brady, stay-at-home mom/real estate agent
Total Household Income: \$184,300

Here's the story of a family named Brady, who were living in a home they certainly couldn't afford.

The Brady parents peaked at around \$184,300 in annual income, with substantially less in the original episodes when Carol didn't work. Like many other TV families, their mortgage payments would exceed their entire household income, and rent would take up nearly three-quarters (72%) of it. That doesn't leave much left over for six kids plus a live-in maid.

The family home is located in the Studio City/North Hollywood neighborhood of Los Angeles and sold in September 2023 for \$3.2 million, far lower than the asking price of \$5.5 million. The five-bed, five-bath property sprawls more than 5,000 square feet, raising some serious questions about why the Brady kids slept three to a room, even with Alice under the same roof. Although the inside has been updated and remodeled several times in the five decades since the show aired, the outside remains quite close to the way it looked on the iconic series.

Salary needed to buy: \$893,318
Could the characters afford to buy this property?: No
Salary needed to rent: \$474,057
Could the characters afford to rent this property?: No

Modern Family

Address: [10336 Dunleer Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90064](#)
Listing Price Estimate: \$3,169,700
Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$19,910
Monthly Rent Estimate: \$10,566

Rent or own?: Own
Who pays the mortgage?: Phil Dunphy, real estate agent; Claire Dunphy, stay-at-home mom/executive
Total Household Income: \$372,340

Critics and fans praised “Modern Family” for its humor and portrayal of diverse family dynamics, but the reviews would be a lot less rosy if they considered how realistic the living situations were.

When Claire wasn’t working in the earlier seasons, the Dunphy family survived on Phil’s relatively modest real estate agent salary, which averages just \$71,110 in the Los Angeles area. When she did go back to work, Claire brought in a hefty income from a mean executive salary of \$301,230. Even if Phil was substantially more successful than a typical real estate agent, it would likely be tough for him to reach the half-million dollars or more the family would need to purchase the house.

Renting is much more possible. With Claire’s executive salary, Phil would only have to earn about 2x as much as the typical real estate agent to hit the required income.

This four-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bathroom home last sold in 2014 for \$2.15 million while the show was still being produced. Since then, it has appreciated over a million dollars.

Salary needed to buy: \$853,288

Could the characters afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$452,814

Could the characters afford to rent this property?: Maybe

Roseanne

Address: [619 S. Runnymede Ave., Evansville, IN 47714](#) (Stand-in for 714 Delaware St., Lanford, IL)

Listing Price Estimate: \$232,700

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$1,222

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$1,077

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Roseanne Conner, line worker; Dan Conner, manager

Total Household Income: \$112,060

“Roseanne” was famous for its depiction of blue-collar, working-class America, a notable departure from many past and current sitcoms that featured unrelatable jobs and unaffordable financial situations.

This realistic portrayal extends to the Conners’ living situation. They’re one of just two famous TV and movie homes on our list that could actually be owned by their real-life counterparts. However, it’s possible that Dan may earn less than the mean manager's salary of \$74,800, potentially making the home less affordable than it might appear.

Although the show takes place in fictional Lanford, Illinois, the home used in establishing shots is located in the real Evansville, Indiana, a decent stand-in for estimating the cost of living. It’s worth noting that the show was also created by Evansville native Matt Williams, suggesting that the location isn’t a coincidence. The four-bedroom, two-bathroom property sold in April 2024 for \$230,000, well below the [median home sale price](#) of \$420,800 nationwide.

Salary needed to buy: \$63,951
Could the characters afford to buy this property?: Yes
Salary needed to rent: \$46,171
Could the characters afford to rent this property?: Yes

That '70s Show

Address: [2735 S. 16th St., Sheboygan, WI 53081](#) (Stand-in for 416 Marie Drive, Point Place, WI 53140)
Listing Price Estimate: \$274,900
Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$1,901
Monthly Rent Estimate: \$996

Own or rent?: Own
Who pays the mortgage?: Red Forman, store manager; Kitty Forman, nurse
Total Household Income: \$225,750

Like “Roseanne,” the Formans live in a fictional town closely modeled after a real one. Context clues suggest Point Place is located in eastern Wisconsin and is relatively accessible to Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Sheboygan. We used the latter town as a comparison, selecting a [three-bedroom, two-bath home](#) with enough space for Red, Kitty, Eric, and his older sister, Laurie, as well as a “large retro entertaining area” in the basement.

Although Red faces some job security issues early in the series when he’s laid off from a local auto parts plant, he also enjoys a relatively high-paying and stable job as a store manager later on. In any case, Kitty’s nurse salary would seemingly be more than enough to cover their housing expenses due to the area’s low cost of living.

This is particularly true when it comes to the cost of insurance, which is among the more affordable nationwide (\$1,154 annually on a \$300,000 home), though the average statewide effective property tax rate is quite high at 1.61%.

Salary needed to buy: \$81,468
Could the characters afford to buy this property?: Yes
Salary needed to rent: \$42,686
Could the characters afford to rent this property?: Yes

Kid Tested, Realtor Approved

The Goonies

Address: [368 38th St., Astoria, OR 97103](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$1,591,900

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$10,032

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$6,317

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Irving Walsh, museum curator

Total Household Income: \$46,230

Just a stone's throw from the scenic Columbia River, it's understandable why a country club would see the neighborhood surrounding this three-bedroom, two-bathroom house as a top target for expansion.

Although it may be less obvious than some others, Mikey's house from "The Goonies" may be near the top of the list when it comes to unaffordability. Without outside help or an inheritance, it's highly unlikely a museum curator could afford a similar home in Astoria. The annual payments for the [million-dollar mortgage](#) principal, interest, taxes, and insurance are roughly 3x the typical curator's salary. That doesn't even consider how he'd save the nearly \$320,000 required for the 20% down payment.

Even renting would be an impossibility without cashing in some of One-Eyed Willy's treasure, requiring a salary of approximately 6x the typical curator's to comfortably pay the rent.

At least Oregon offers cheap home insurance (\$986 per year on a \$300,000 property) and a modest 0.93% statewide effective property tax, on average.

Salary needed to buy: \$429,925

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$270,731

Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

10 Things I Hate About You

Address: [2715 N. Junett St., Tacoma, WA 98407](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$2,210,500

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$14,035

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$7,085

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Walter Stratford, obstetrician

Total Household Income: \$380,480

Overprotective Walter Stratford was capable of scheming to keep his daughters from dating for a while, but he apparently wouldn't have been able to keep a roof over their heads.

Despite his relatively high salary as a doctor, the family would be more than \$200,000 short of where it would need to be to purchase the five-bed, four-bath Washington home.

It last sold for around \$1.5 million in 2018 but has grown in value significantly as the nationwide real estate market has spiked in recent years. Even modest home insurance rates (\$1,337 annually on a \$300,000 home) and statewide effective property tax rates of 0.87% aren't enough to push the Stratfords over the line into homeownership.

This is one of the relatively rare cases where the would-be occupant could comfortably afford to rent the home but would still likely be far off from buying it on a single income. It's possible the girls' absent mother played some part in helping purchase the property, but without her, there are major questions about affordability.

Salary needed to buy: \$601,491

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$303,640

Could the character afford to rent this property?: Yes

Sixteen Candles

Address: [3022 Payne St., Evanston, IL 60201](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$1,973,300

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$14,986

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$10,000

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Jim Baker, insurance executive

Total Household Income: \$116,710

The home from this teen comedy classic is located in the Chicago suburbs, a favorite setting for legendary director John Hughes. Unlike some famous movie and TV homes, many scenes from *Sixteen Candles* were actually shot inside and around the property instead of soundstages or Hollywood backlots.

It spans 5,000 square feet of interior space, including five bedrooms and six bathrooms. Unfortunately, that's still not enough space to keep Sam from sleeping on the couch when her extended family arrives. It was fully renovated shortly before it was last sold in 2022 for just over \$1.6 million.

Although Jim Baker pulls in a respectable six-figure salary, it's far short of what would be needed to pay for a nearly \$2 million home, especially when he's on the hook for his eldest daughter's \$7,000 wedding – equivalent to more than [\\$21,000 today](#). Even the rent would surpass his total annual income, potentially forcing them to celebrate Sam's 17th birthday somewhere else – if they remember, of course.

Salary needed to buy: \$642,237

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$428,571

Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

Real Estate Romance

The Notebook

Address: [204 Martins Point Road, Wadmalaw Island, SC 29487](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$2,527,400

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$16,133

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$11,701

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Noah Calhoun, mill worker

Total Household Income: \$49,550

With a love story like this, what's a few hundred thousand dollars here or there? Although Noah and Allie's life in this incredible property is primarily a result of the sweat equity the former put into restoring it, it's nevertheless somewhat unrealistic financially.

Even in the home's unrestored, dilapidated state, it's still not clear whether a mill worker making less than \$50,000 annually would qualify for a loan. The film offers some explanation for this, with Noah's father providing a significant contribution by selling his own home.

On the one hand, Noah and Allie would benefit from South Carolina's ultra-low statewide effective property tax rate of 0.57%. On the other, the Palmetto State's low-lying, coastal location means elevated home insurance premiums, averaging \$2,360 for a \$300,000 home. Naturally, this spacious plantation property would also benefit from expensive flood insurance due to its waterfront location.

Salary needed to buy: \$691,422

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$501,468

Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

Twilight

Address: [184 S. 6th St., Saint Helens, OR 97051](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$523,900

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$3,301

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$1,984

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Charlie Swan, chief of police

Total Household Income: \$100,890

There's a big-screen switcheroo with this home, with the town of Saint Helens, Oregon, standing in for the story's actual spooky setting of Forks, Washington, which is located

about 230 miles north. Both states are relatively close when it comes to property taxes and insurance, with Oregon having slightly higher taxes and lower insurance rates.

Homeownership can be hard to afford for single parents, even on a police chief's salary in a relatively rural area. Charlie's roughly \$100,000 salary would likely fall a bit short of what he'd need to buy the home on his own. However, he could comfortably rent the place for himself and Bella, clearing the income threshold by more than \$15,000.

The four-bedroom, two-bathroom house last sold in 2018 for \$363,000 and has appreciated significantly in price since.

Salary needed to buy: \$141,490

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$85,049

Could the character afford to rent this property?: Yes

Sleepless in Seattle

Address: [2460 Westlake Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98109](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$1,737,500

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$11,032

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$5,569

Rent or own?: Unknown

Who pays the rent/mortgage?: Sam Baldwin, architect

Total Household Income: \$92,500

One of the more unique famous movie and TV homes, the floating house from "Sleepless in Seattle" is true waterfront living, offering three bedrooms and two bathrooms on the city's Lake Union.

Based strictly on income, Sam earns just a fraction of what he'd need to afford the home today, either as a renter or owner. However, the recent widower may have had some life insurance money from his wife, making it more plausible to own or rent. He may also have had some help from Annie if she moved in after they fell in love, considering typical reporters in the area make nearly as much as architects, \$85,980 annually.

The floating home presents a unique insurance situation, but Sam would only face moderate property taxes in Washington, with a statewide effective average of 0.87%.

Salary needed to buy: \$472,785
Could the character afford to buy this property?: No
Salary needed to rent: \$238,668
Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

More Than Meets the Eye

Breaking Bad

Address: [3828 Piermont Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111](#)
Listing Price Estimate: \$352,700
Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$2,251
Monthly Rent Estimate: \$1,633

Rent or own?: Own
Who pays the mortgage?: Walter White, chemistry teacher; Skyler White, bookkeeper
Total Household Income: \$110,940

Despite a promising start in the scientific world, Walter White has settled into a totally unremarkable life teaching high school chemistry in Albuquerque, where he lives with his wife Skyler and son Walt Junior.

Although Skyler works at times, finances are likely tight around the White household when she doesn't, based on Walt's modest \$66,180 salary. However, the \$44,760 she brings in as a bookkeeper after Walt is diagnosed with cancer likely provides some significant help. Whether or not the Whites could afford to buy or rent their home hinges on any contribution from Skyler, as well as any other outside income that *may or may not* exist.

Like the show, the four-bedroom property includes a pool, though it's not clear if it also features a crawl space, which would be handy for discreetly storing large amounts of anything you need kept out of the way. New Mexico's statewide effective property tax is just 0.67%, though average insurance costs are fairly high at \$2,058 annually for a \$300,000 property.

Walt's behavior has been somewhat unusual lately, but that's not unexpected for someone dealing with an unexpected health crisis. Still, something seems a bit *off* about this family's financial situation.

Salary needed to buy: \$96,480

Could the characters afford to buy this property?: Maybe

Salary needed to rent: \$69,980

Could the characters afford to rent this property?: Maybe

The Sopranos

Address: [14 Aspen Drive, North Caldwell, NJ 07006](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$2,157,900

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$16,011

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$11,988

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Tony Soprano, waste management

Total Household Income: \$144,780

Tony Soprano is living the American dream in northern New Jersey: a self-made man earning a respectable income from work in waste management, along with some side businesses he operates with family and friends.

Tony, his wife Carmela, daughter Meadow, and son A.J. live in a gorgeous, sprawling six-bedroom, six-bathroom home with 6,100 square feet of living space and a swimming pool. It's not clear exactly how they could afford such an opulent home on Tony's salary, as Carmela doesn't work. Looking strictly at the numbers, it would be unlikely a waste management professional would be able to buy or even rent this home unless they're earning far more than average.

There have always been rumors around the neighborhood that Tony's income might not be quite on the level. But he's such a dedicated family man that they're hard to believe.

Tony might not be the only Garden State resident potentially doing something illegal just to pay for his property taxes. New Jersey's statewide effective average is 2.23%, the highest in the country.

Salary needed to buy: \$686,210
Could the character afford to buy this property?: No
Salary needed to rent: \$513,786
Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

Mrs. Doubtfire

Address: [2640 Steiner St., San Francisco, CA](#)
Listing Price Estimate: \$5,332,800
Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$33,497
Monthly Rent Estimate: \$25,000

Own or rent?: Own
Who pays the mortgage?: Daniel Hillard, voice actor; Miranda Hillard, interior designer
Total Household Income: \$184,300

As laugh-out-loud funny as Robin Williams could be, San Francisco housing prices are no joke. That's especially true for this household, which experienced varying levels of income, based on Daniel's inconsistent earnings and Miranda's apparently more-successful-than-average designer work.

A 3,300-square-foot, four-bedroom, four-bathroom home in San Francisco's Pacific Heights neighborhood certainly doesn't come cheap. It's grown in value by more than a million dollars since it was last sold for \$4.15 million in 2016. At least effective property taxes are relatively low, averaging 0.75% statewide.

In any case, it's unlikely they could have afforded to buy or rent this property while together, and it would have been even more difficult after the two separated. Somehow, Miranda can still afford a housekeeper, who seems very qualified for the job and is great with the kids.

Salary needed to buy: \$1,435,598
Could the characters afford to buy this property?: No
Salary needed to rent: \$1,071,429
Could the characters afford to rent this property?: No

Scary-Expensive Homes

Poltergeist

Address: [4267 Roxbury St., Simi Valley, CA 93063](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$1,056,900

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$6,639

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$3,523

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the mortgage?: Steven Freeling, real estate agent

Total Household Income: \$71,110

Steven Freeling worked for the real estate developer who created the fictional community of Cuesta Verde, portrayed by real-life Simi Valley, California. An insider deal might be the only way to explain how the family could afford it — especially if the developer knows something they don't. Annual payments as an owner would exceed Steve's total salary, and he'd still need to make more than 2x the typical agent's income to comfortably rent the home.

Inside, there's plenty of room for paranormal activities with four bedrooms and two and-a-half bathrooms spanning nearly 2,400 square feet. Somewhat chillingly, there's also an in-ground pool, just like in the film. Although the property presents some unique challenges, it also offers the opportunity to host plenty of guests who enjoy everything from taking a swim to just watching TV.

Salary needed to buy: \$284,519

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$150,986

Could the character afford to rent this property?: Maybe

The Conjuring

Address: [1677 Round Top Road, Burrillville, RI 02830](#)

Listing Price Estimate: \$1,006,200

Monthly Payments (Principal, Interest, Taxes, Insurance): \$7,007

Monthly Rent Estimate: \$4,658

Rent or own?: Own

Who pays the rent/mortgage?: Roger Perron, truck driver

Total Household Income: \$57,140

This is a particularly terrifying example, not just because of how unaffordable the home would be for the Perrons. “The Conjuring” was based on [events that supposedly happened](#) in this actual home.

Owning this home and supporting a family on a single truck driver’s salary may have been possible at the time of the events in the early 1970s, but it’s certainly not the case today. This might be for the best, considering this property’s unpleasant history that presents problems far bigger than a typical historic house.

The home is built on an 8.5-acre lot and comes with three bedrooms and two bathrooms. It sold for over \$1.5 million in 2022, doubtlessly earning a premium for its notoriety from a brave buyer. The property came with an unusual stipulation that it [shouldn’t be lived in year-round](#), with the buyer explaining it’s because “the energy is so powerful.”

On a more earthly level, living in Rhode Island isn’t cheap. The statewide effective property tax rate is 1.4%, while home insurance on a typical \$300,000 property costs \$1,961 annually.

Salary needed to buy: \$300,314

Could the character afford to buy this property?: No

Salary needed to rent: \$199,643

Could the character afford to rent this property?: No

Rankings by Category

Most Affordable Homes to Buy

(Percentage of Necessary Income Earned)

1. "That '70s Show" - 277.1%
2. "Roseanne" - 175.2%
3. "Breaking Bad" - 115%
4. "Twilight" - 71.4%
5. "10 Things I Hate About You" - 63.3%



Most Affordable Homes to Rent

(Percentage of Necessary Income Earned)

1. "That '70s Show" - 528.9%
2. "Roseanne" - 242.7%
3. "Breaking Bad" - 158.5%
4. "10 Things I Hate About You" - 125.3%
5. "Twilight" - 118.6%



Least Affordable Homes to Buy

(Percentage of Necessary Income Earned)

1. "The Notebook" - 7.2%
2. "The Goonies" - 10.8%
3. "The Fresh Prince" - 12.5%
4. "Mrs. Doubtfire" - 12.8%
5. "Sex and the City" - 14.2%



Least Affordable Homes to Rent

(Percentage of Necessary Income Earned)

1. **"The Notebook"** - 9.9%
2. **"The Goonies"** - 17.1%
3. **"Mrs. Doubtfire"** - 17.2%
4. **"Sex and the City"** - 17.5%
5. **"The Sopranos"** - 21.1%



Most Income Required to Buy

1. "The Fresh Prince" - \$2,818,095
2. "Full House" - \$1,749,810
3. "Home Alone" - \$1,708,683
4. "Mrs. Doubtfire" - \$1,435,598
5. "The Brady Bunch" - \$893,318



Least Income Required to Buy

1. "Roseanne" - \$63,951
2. "That '70s Show" - \$81,468
3. "Breaking Bad" - \$96,480
4. "Twilight" - \$141,490
5. "Poltergeist" - \$284,519



Most Income Required to Rent

1. "Home Alone" - \$1,562,500
2. "The Fresh Prince" - \$1,495,478
3. "Mrs. Doubtfire" - \$1,071,429
4. "Full House" - \$773,810
5. "The Sopranos" - \$513,786



Least Income Required to Rent

1. "That '70s Show" - \$42,686
2. "Roseanne" - \$46,171
3. "Breaking Bad" - \$69,980
4. "Twilight" - \$85,049
5. "Poltergeist" - \$150,986



Methodology

Data used in the above calculations came from the Federal Reserve, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Zillow, Redfin, Realtor.com, Bankrate, the Tax Foundation, Rocket Mortgage, and Home Bay.

To calculate the principal and interest, we assumed a 20% down payment, an interest rate of 6.87%, and no private mortgage insurance. Rent was estimated using the Zillow estimated home value and the area's price-to-rent ratio, along with comparable rental listings when available.

Additional statistics and details on various media properties came from Architectural Digest, Curbed Seattle, Deadline, Decider, Distractify, Duck In, Explore Georgia, ForRent.com, House Beautiful, House Digest, House Magazine, Lighter Side of Real Estate, Los Angeles Magazine, MovieMaps, New York Cliche, the New York Post, the Providence Journal, The Real Deal, Screen Rant, The Smithsonian, That '70s Show Wiki, Town and Country, Travel and Leisure, Trip Advisor, Trulia, The Velvet Rope, and Wikipedia.

About Clever

Since 2017, [Clever Real Estate](#) has been on a mission to make selling or buying a home easier and more affordable for everyone. Twelve million annual readers rely on Clever's library of educational content and data-driven research to make smarter real estate decisions — and to date, Clever has helped consumers save more than \$82 million on realtor fees. Clever's research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Business Insider*, *Inman*, *Housing Wire*, and many more.

More Research from Clever

First-Time Buyers Must Earn \$120,000 to Afford the Average House (2024 Data)

Buying a home in 2024 can often require a six-figure salary. Find out how much income you need to afford the average home in your area.

The True Cost of Selling a Home in 2024

Selling a home was more expensive than expected for 40% of sellers, fueling a surge of regrets. Find out how sellers would have acted differently if they'd known the true costs.

Home Prices vs. Inflation: Why Americans Can't

Afford a House in 2024

Americans remain nervous about inflation, but home prices have risen much faster historically. Learn how home prices outpace other costs.

Articles You May Like

5 Best Discount Real Estate Agents Near Me

Working with a local discount real estate broker can put thousands of dollars back in your pocket when you buy or sell a house. Here's how to find them!

How to Sell and Buy a House at the Same Time

If you're selling and buying a house at the same time, here are a few strategies that can make the process easier and more affordable.

The 7 Best Flat Fee MLS Listing Services

The best flat fee MLS listing service gets your home on the multiple listing service for a flat rate — while also providing important benefits like lead forwarding and 25+ photos.

FAQs

What's the lowest-priced famous movie or TV home?

+

What's the highest-priced famous movie or TV home?



Which TV or movie characters could afford their homes?



Better real estate agents at a better rate

Enter your zip code to see if Clever has a partner agent in your area

Enter your zip code



Find Agents

If you don't love your Clever partner agent, you can request to meet with another, or shake hands and go a different direction. We offer this because we're confident you're going to love working with a Clever Partner Agent.

Contact

Explore

1-833-225-3837

Sell Your Home

save@listwithclever.com

Buy A Home

Careers

Agents

Write For Us

Clever Real Estate Reviews

Accessibility Statement

Resources

Sell Your Home and Save

Follow

About Us

Low Commission Real Estate

Facebook

Frequently Asked Questions

Agents

Twitter

Real Estate Blog

1% Commission Real Estate

Instagram

Real Estate Terms

Agents

Linkedin

Flat Fee Real Estate

News

Rental Property Calculator

Average Real Estate

Commission

Flat Fee MLS Listings

© 2026 Clever Real Estate – All Rights Reserved

Privacy Policy | Terms & Conditions | Consent to Contact Customer | TREC Consumer Protection Notice | Information About Brokerage Services