



Cost of Living in Halifax, NS – 2025 Breakdown & City Comparison

Discover the real cost of living in Halifax and see how Atlantic Canada's largest city compares to Toronto and Montreal in 2025. From housing to groceries, we'll break down what you need to budget for life in this vibrant maritime city.

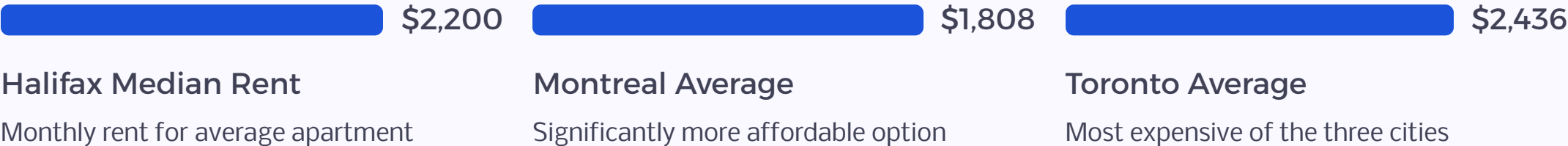
Is Halifax Still Affordable in 2025?

Halifax has experienced significant growth and change over the past few years, transforming from a quiet maritime city into a thriving tech and education hub. With this growth comes the inevitable question: can you still afford to live here?

Today we're diving deep into Halifax's cost of living, comparing real numbers across housing, transportation, food, and lifestyle expenses. We'll see how Halifax stacks up against Canada's most expensive cities and help you determine if this coastal gem fits your budget.

Whether you're considering a move from Toronto's high costs or Montreal's French charm, this comprehensive breakdown will give you the data you need to make an informed decision about calling Halifax home.

How Much Does Rent Cost in Halifax?



Halifax rental prices vary significantly by neighborhood. Downtown core apartments average \$2,250 monthly, while Dartmouth Centre offers more affordable options at \$2,050. The rental market has tightened considerably due to population growth but is now becoming more balanced with new construction.

Halifax sits comfortably in the middle ground—more expensive than Montreal but offering substantial savings compared to Toronto. For those leaving Toronto, you could save nearly \$3,000 annually on rent alone while gaining access to ocean views and shorter commutes.

Can You Afford to Buy a Home in Halifax?

Halifax Home Prices

- Detached home: \$581,900
- Monthly payment: \$3,050 (5% down)
- Condo: \$384,200
- Monthly payment: \$2,015 (5% down)

Comparison Cities

- Toronto detached: \$1.64M (\$7,670/mo)
- Montreal detached: \$953K (\$4,995/mo)



Halifax represents the most accessible path to homeownership among Canada's major cities. With detached homes under \$600,000, first-time buyers can enter the market with reasonable down payments and manageable monthly costs.

What Will You Pay in Property Taxes?



\$4,480

Halifax Annual Tax

On average detached home

\$10,900

Toronto Annual Tax

More than double Halifax rates

\$5,622

Montreal Annual Tax

Higher than Halifax despite lower
assessment values

Halifax's property tax advantage stems from both lower home values and competitive municipal tax rates. The Halifax Regional Municipality maintains efficient services while keeping tax burdens reasonable, making homeownership more sustainable long-term.

This tax savings adds up significantly over time—Halifax homeowners save over \$6,400 annually compared to Toronto, money that can go toward mortgage principal, renovations, or building your emergency fund.

Your Monthly Essentials: Utilities & Internet

Halifax Monthly Costs

- Utilities (heat, electricity, water): \$347 - \$450
- High-speed internet: \$71
- Total essential services: \$418 - \$521

City Comparison

- Montreal utilities: \$92 (much lower heating costs)
- Toronto utilities: \$125 - \$200
- Montreal internet: \$53 (more competitive market)



Halifax's utility costs reflect the maritime climate's heating demands and Nova Scotia Power's rate structure. While higher than other cities, many apartments include heat, and newer buildings offer better energy efficiency to reduce monthly bills.

Feeding Yourself and Your Family



Grocery Budget

Halifax averages \$526 monthly per person for groceries, positioning between Toronto's \$400+ and Montreal's \$350 - \$522 range. Local farmers markets offer fresh seafood and produce at competitive prices.



Dining Out

Coffee costs \$3.50, casual meals range \$15 - \$30, and dinner for two runs \$80 - \$250. Halifax's growing food scene offers excellent value with fresh seafood and local ingredients.



Local Advantage

Halifax's proximity to fishing grounds means exceptional seafood at lower prices than inland cities. Lobster, scallops, and fresh fish cost significantly less than Toronto or Montreal.

While grocery costs fall in the mid-range nationally, Halifax offers unique advantages through local food sources and a growing selection of international grocers serving the city's diverse population.

Getting Around Halifax



Public Transit

Single ride: \$3.00

Monthly pass: \$82.50

Halifax Transit serves the entire regional municipality with frequent downtown routes



Driving Costs

Gas: \$1.46/L (competitive with Toronto)

Car insurance: \$1,066/year

Significantly lower insurance than Toronto's \$2,000+ annually

Halifax offers reasonable transportation costs with reliable public transit and lower car insurance rates. The compact city size means shorter commutes whether you drive or take transit, saving both time and money compared to larger metropolitan areas.

What Families Need to Know: Childcare & Education

Daycare Costs

Halifax: \$500/month (\$24/day)

Montreal subsidized: \$187 - \$205/month

Halifax has the highest daycare costs of the three cities, though still reasonable by national standards

Private Education

Private school tuition starts at \$23,772/year

Lower than Toronto's premium private schools

Excellent public school system reduces need for private options

Family Benefits

Shorter commutes mean more family time

Beach access and outdoor recreation

Strong community feel in most neighborhoods

While childcare costs are higher than Montreal's subsidized system, Halifax families benefit from excellent schools, safe neighborhoods, and abundant outdoor activities that provide natural, low-cost entertainment for children year-round.

Your Halifax Lifestyle Budget



Fitness & Health

Gym memberships: \$15 - \$179/month

Yoga classes: \$26 each

Jiu-jitsu: \$69/month



Entertainment

Movie tickets: \$14.99

Netflix: \$7.99 - \$23.99

Local theater and music venues offer affordable cultural experiences



Outdoor Recreation

Beach access: Free

Hiking trails: Free

Halifax's greatest lifestyle advantage is abundant free outdoor activities year-round

The Halifax Advantage: While costs are moderate compared to major Canadian cities, Halifax offers an unmatched quality of life with ocean access, shorter commutes, strong communities, and a thriving cultural scene. The savings from lower housing and transportation costs often offset higher utilities and childcare expenses.

For those seeking affordable homeownership, reasonable living costs, and access to both urban amenities and natural beauty, Halifax presents a compelling option in Canada's 2025 housing landscape.