

Digging up BC's Economical Real Estate Gems: Big Cities Surprisingly Affordable According to Zolo Report

Dispelling myths of unattainable city living, Kamloops and Kelowna stand as beacons of affordability amidst British Columbia's expensive real estate landscape.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA, April 30, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- In a recent data report, Most



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Jordann Kaye, Spokesperson

Affordable Places to Live in BC, Canadian real estate marketplace Zolo examined 26 cities in British Columbia and ranked them according to affordability. While small and medium-sized cities occupy the majority of the top 10 slots, the results highlighted that larger cities like Kamloops and Kelowna offer a balance of affordability and city size.

Affordability is an essential metric for anyone considering relocating to a new city. British Columbia real estate is the most expensive in the country, with an average home price of \$1,019,917 in March 2024.

The report examined average home prices, incomes, population growth, and unemployment rates in 26 small, medium, and large cities in BC. The cities were scored on how they faired on each variable and then ranked accordingly.

The report revealed that:

- Kamloops, Kelowna, and Nanaimo are the most affordable large cities, with a population of over 100,000
- Prince George, Vernon, and Penticton are the most affordable medium-sized cities, with populations between 30,000 and 100,000
- Fort St. John, Terrace, and Prince Rupert are the most affordable small cities with populations under 30,000

Kamloops and Kelowna Offer Affordable Big City Living

In Zolo's recent report, Kamloops and Kelowna tied for third place out of 26 cities, highlighting that larger cities can be affordable and offer a balance of home prices, income, population growth and unemployment rates.

By contrast, smaller Northern BC cities dropped in affordability, possibly due to a 9% increase in average home prices yearly and a 2.2% year-overyear increase in unemployment.

"For the past four years, Canadians across the country have been flocking to smaller cities in search of affordable living, and this increase in popularity has driven up prices in many of these pint-sized municipalities," says Jordann Kaye, spokesperson for Zolo. "These rising prices eliminate some of the benefits of choosing to put down roots in a small city."

The Top British Columbia Cities for Affordability						
	Affordability Ranking Most to Least	City Size	Average Home Price March 2024	Average Household Income	Home Price-to-Income Ratio	Unemployment Rate March 2024
	Fort St. John BC Northern	Small	\$418,525	\$119,700	4.98	3 9%
2.	Prince George BC Northern	Medium	\$418,525	\$107,200	5.70	9%
	Terrace BC Northern	Small	\$418,525	\$103,400	5.91	I 9%
3.	Kamloops Kamloops	Large	\$576,904	\$103,900	8.15	5 6.9%
3.	Prince Rupert BC Northern	Small	\$418,525	\$111,000	5.53	3 9%
	Kelowna Okanagan	Large	\$747,532	\$106,900	10.3	30 6.9%
7.	Vernon Okanagan	Medium	\$747,532	\$97,100	11.2	21 6.9%
	Powell River Powell River	Small	\$609,282	\$81,100	10.5	58 5.3%
	Nelson Kootenay	Small	\$543,986	\$91,700	17	6.9%
10.	Dawson Creek South Peace River	Small	\$277,850	\$101,000	26	9%
10.	Cranbrook Kootenay	Small	\$543,986	\$101,600	19	6.9%
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Abbotsford-Mission, Port Alberni Least Affordable Cities in BC

The least affordable cities in BC were those with high home prices, relatively lower salaries, high unemployment and slow population growth. The least affordable cities included small and medium-sized cities on Vancouver Island, like Duncan (ranked 22) and Port Alberni (ranked 25). Major cities also ranked low on the list, like Abbotsford-Mission (ranked 25), Victoria (ranked 24), and Vancouver (ranked 23).

About Zolo

Zolo is one of Canada's most popular national real estate marketplaces. Each month, over 10 million home shoppers use Zolo to level up the way they buy, sell, and learn about real estate.

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