

July 31, 2013



# New York City, Income Inequality Capital Of America, Now Also Facing Soaring Rent Prices: Report

The Huffington Post | By Meredith Bennett-Smith  
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Inhabitants of the City That Never Sleeps may find themselves spending quite a few more evenings tossing and turning after reading a new report detailing the grim realities of soaring rents in a city plagued by income inequality.

[Released on Monday by New York University's Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy](#), the "State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods 2012" report concludes that between 2007 and 2011 the citywide median income decreased while rent prices rose.

To be specific, median monthly gross rent increased by 8.6 percent during the time period, rising from \$1,096 to \$1,191, according to the report. Meanwhile, median household income decreased by 6.8 percent, to \$50,433.

With these numbers, it should not be surprising that close to a third of New York renters spend half -- or more -- of their annual income on housing, [according to the Furman Center](#).

"Given that two-thirds of New Yorkers rent their homes, it's concerning to see that rental housing has become increasingly expensive across the city and increasingly unaffordable to many tenants," Furman Co-director Ingrid Gould Ellen said in a statement released by the Furman Center.

Perhaps more surprising, despite the tough financial climate, people continue to flock to a metropolitan area that in 2011 was given the [dubious title of having the highest rate of income inequality in the U.S.](#)

"The recession did not stop people from moving to New York City; we have seen sustained population growth and the rental vacancy rates remained the lowest among the five largest U.S. cities," Furman Center Director Vicki Been said in a statement.

This sustained growth appears impervious to reality. For example, using data gathered by the the U.S. Census Bureau, The New Yorker calculated that the income gap in Manhattan [is comparable to that of countries like Sierra Leone and Namibia](#).

([Hat tip. Gothamist](#))

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Maybe in 100 years ,Manhattan will be a private island for the rich

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I don't think it will take that long.

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That's what it is now.

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**Whogivesafox**

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The powers that be have sold us out.

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Which is why we can't have Quinn as Mayor. She's the same as Bloomberg who totally sold the city to big money.

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The rent in NYC has always been high. I remember way back in 1977, my friend Sherry and her lover were renting a studio apartment (with a teensie view of Central Park) for \$2100 per month. In 1977! What two twenty year-olds in 1977 can afford that? Sherry and Patti didn't last long there. At the same time, my buddy and I were renting a little two bedroom semi-detached house in Historic Ellicott City, Maryland for \$150 per month. Although I was making only \$2.85/hr as a construction laborer, I could easily afford \$75/month (my share) and survive.

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Some rents were always high, not all. In 1998, a 1 bedroom on Avenue A was \$895. Not cheap, but definitely doable on most NYC incomes.

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**Hellosameness**

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\$1,191 is the median (or was in 2011) I wish I could find a place that cheap.

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In reply to: [Hellosameness](#)



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Not even a closet would rent so low!

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Yeah, surely they mean \$1,191 per week...

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