

These are the cheapest places to live in Wisconsin

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When it comes to affordability, southern Wisconsin doesn't compete well with the state's northern half.

A new study that measures housing costs relative to income data in cities across the state recently ranked the top 10 most affordable places to live for 2016, and of the 10 destinations on the list, only one was in southeast Wisconsin.

Racine County's village of Sturtevant was the only place in the Milwaukee metro area that made the cut, claiming the No. 2 spot in the ranking. The study — from New York City financial technology company [SmartAsset](#) — takes into account average closing costs, annual property tax, annual homeowner's insurance, average annual mortgage payment and median income in determining which places are the most friendly for your wallet. A bulk of the cities named on the list are in northern and central Wisconsin.

Sturtevant ranked high in median income at \$63,884, compared with top-ranked Merrill and its median income of \$41,378. However, Merrill's costs were much lower, including annual property tax (\$2,034) and average annual mortgage payment (\$4,091), than similar costs in Sturtevant (\$2,988 and \$6,616, respectively).

Here's the top 10 places in the state where it's most affordable to purchase a home:

1. Merrill
2. Sturtevant
3. Marinette
4. Suamico
5. Rothschild
6. [New London](#)
7. Wisconsin Rapids
8. Little Chute
9. Antigo
10. Two Rivers