

# 2013 SNAPSHOT

## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY



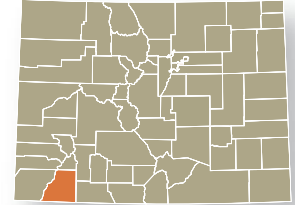
**THE PITON FOUNDATION**  
at Gary Community Investments



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La Plata County

Housing consumes one of the highest shares of household budgets. Since coming out of the recession many households are experiencing challenges due to rising costs in housing. This brief presents the state of housing affordability in La Plata County. Analysis was conducted to determine the availability, or lack of housing that is affordable, by income level. Ultimately, it identifies the potential revenue implications to government in the form of lost spending opportunity on taxable-based goods.



### Population & Households

	2010	2013	2010-2013 Growth
<b>Total Population</b>	51,473	53,284	1,811
<b>Total Households</b>	21,144	21,853	709
<b>Housing Units</b>	25,918	26,455	537

**New Households to New Housing Ratio\* = 1.3**

\*In stable markets one would expect new households and new housing to track closely to each other.

Source: Census 2010; US Census Bureau, Colorado State Demography Office, Draft 2013 Estimates

### Housing Inventory

**Total Units**  
26,455

**Vacancy Rate**  
18.4%

**Subsidized Units\***  
594

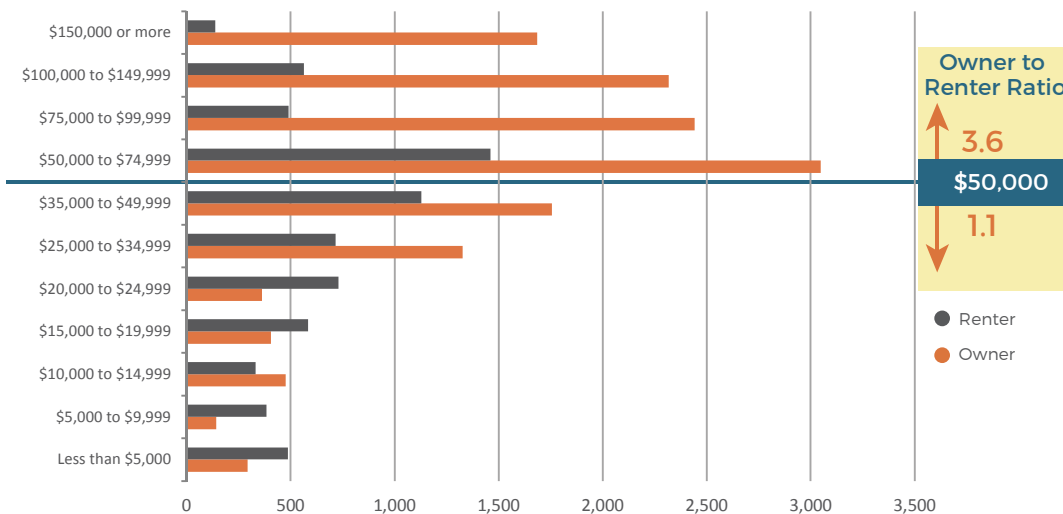
**Subsidized Share**  
2.2%

\*Publically funded rental units, no vouchers.

### Owner vs. Renter Dynamic

It is helpful to look at the ratio of owners to renters above and below a moderate income level (e.g. \$50,000) to understand at a high level both the tendencies of households to own or rent, and the type and availability in housing stock to either own or rent. Typically households that earn more own their own homes, while households that earn less rent. The results in the chart below should be used as framing for the information on page 2.

#### La Plata County Tenure by Household Income 2013



Source: American Community Survey 2013 (1-year); US Census Bureau

### Household Composition



**62%**  
Families



**27%**  
Single



**20%**  
18 and younger



**13%**  
Over 65

### Forecast

By 2035, La Plata County will add  
**33,788 residents,**  
or a **66% increase**  
since 2010

Source: Colorado State Demography Office, Population Forecast



### The Housing Gap

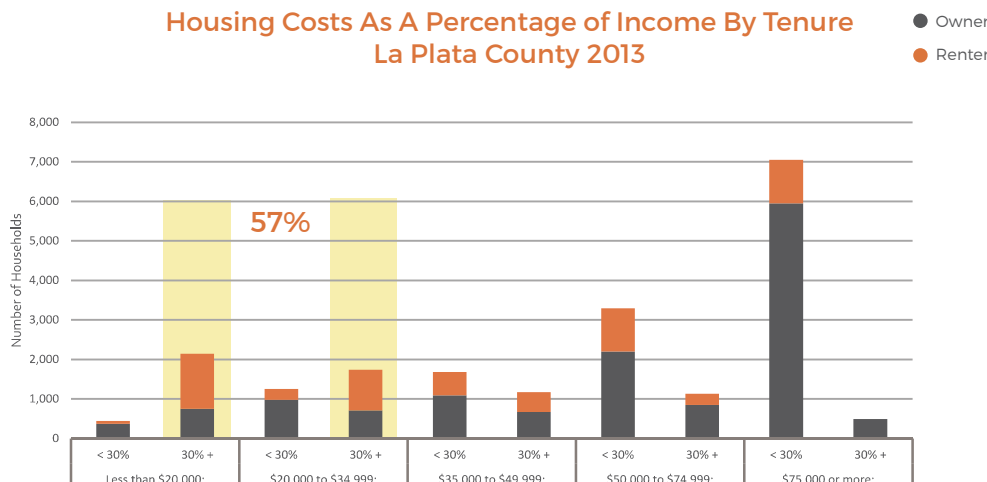
Income Level (AMFI) \$73,400	La Plata County		Colorado*	
	Units: Surplus <Deficit> Renters	Owners	Units: Surplus <Deficit> Renters	Owners
Below 30%	<972>	2,737	<99,841>	124,839
31 - 50%	10	861	<2,520>	71,787
51 - 80%	1,089	<34>	144,099	78,240
81 - 100%	269	153	32,783	62,021
101 - 120%	188	<63>	10,462	33,483
Over 120%	<553>	<3,632>	<72,991>	<363,124>

Source: American Community Survey 2013 (1-year); US Census Bureau | \*Colorado AMFI = \$71,100

The figures in the table above are based on an analysis of what households are paying at their current location. It accounts for owner households that locked into payments years ago, and now reflect a very affordable payment. The rental figures are more timely.

### Housing Cost-Burdened Picture

Housing Costs As A Percentage of Income By Tenure  
La Plata County 2013



Source: American Community Survey 2013 (1-year); US Census Bureau

The number of households that are housing cost-burdened has impact on many levels. For the household, the lower the income level the higher the pressure to cut out other basic needs such as health care, food, and apparel and services. From the perspective of government finance, this crowding out matters. This translates to the revenue implications below, in the form of crowded-out spending. Each additional dollar a household spends on housing represents a potential reduction of the local sales tax base.

### Revenue Implications

**Crowded-Out Household Spending:** Additional dollars spent on housing that could otherwise go to taxable-based goods.

**\$19 million**

La Plata County

**\$2 billion**

Colorado

Source: Analyst calculation from 2013 American Community Survey and 2012/2013 Consumer Expenditure Survey data

### Household Income Distribution

Income Level (AMFI) \$73,400	Share of Households
Below 30%	13.2%
31 - 50%	12.6%
51 - 80%	19.2%
81 - 100%	10.4%
101 - 120%	9.3%
Over 120%	35.2%

Source: American Community Survey 2013 (1-year); US Census Bureau

AMFI: Area Median Family Income

### Housing Cost-Burdened Households Earning <\$50,000

**2 in 10 of all households**

In La Plata County in 2013,



or **5,057 households**

Source: Analyst calculation from 2013 American Community Survey and 2012/2013 Consumer Expenditure Survey data

**Housing Cost-Burdened Household:** Any household that spends more than 30% of its income on housing.

### The Cost of Housing

Median Home Values

**\$324,000**

County

vs.

**\$240,500**

State

Median Rent

**\$376 vs. \$971**

County

State

Source: American Community Survey 2013 (1-year); US Census Bureau