



## First-time homebuyers: Struggling to secure the American dream

by: Andrea Gallagher

April 25, 2025

New homeownership became less affordable across much of the United States over the last five years.

---

[Read TEN magazine's interactive article on the challenges facing first-time homebuyers.](#)

### Summary

When Brandy Harper got divorced, she decided to look for a home of her very own to share with her twin teenage sons and their dog, Hippo.

She spent close to a year looking for a house in Lincoln, Nebraska, and had three main criteria: a dining room, a front porch and three bedrooms. She also wanted to live on a quiet street with no traffic. In the end, she ended up with none of those things, however she is happy to be on the other side of the homebuying process.

“I would normally say not to settle, as in some ways I did with the home I purchased, but in the end we have a safe and secure home that fits our needs,” she said.

The challenges facing people in Harper’s situation were explored by the Kansas City Fed in a January 2025 [Economic Bulletin](#). The article, by Research Associate Chase Farha, Associate Economist John McCoy and Advanced Economics Specialist David Rodziewicz, found that over the last five years, house prices and higher financing costs have outpaced wage gains in the United States, making new homeownership less affordable in many parts of the country.

---

## Author



### Andrea Gallagher

#### Senior Public Affairs Specialist

Andrea Gallagher is the Senior Public Affairs Specialist at the Omaha Branch. In this role, she creates internal and external content, as well as supporting the Regional, Public and Community Affairs division. Previously, Gallagher worked as a reporter for ten years, then moved into public relations and college communications before joining the Bank. She received her B.A. in journalism from Creighton University.

---