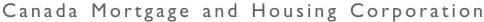
HOUSING MARKET INFORMATION

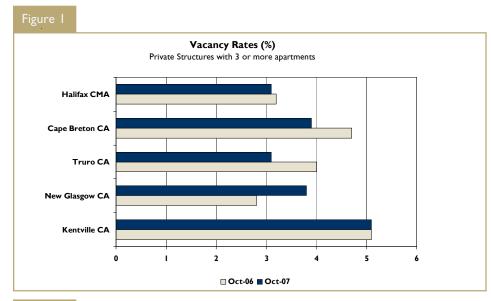
RENTAL MARKET REPORT

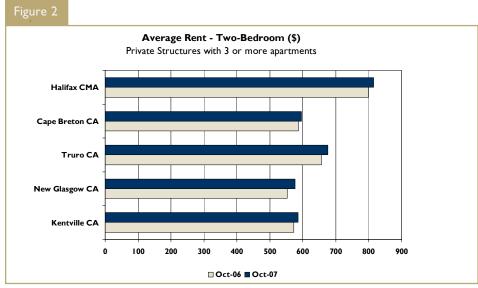
Nova Scotia Highlights*





Date Released: Fall 2007





*Only centres with a population of 10,000 + are included in the survey. Detailed reports are available for CMAs.

Demand Remains Strong for Rental Units in Nova Scotia

- The overall vacancy rate in Nova Scotia edged down a tenth of a percentage point from 3.3 to 3.2 per cent.
- Most of Nova Scotia's urban centres recorded a decline in vacancy rates. Halifax, Cape Breton, and Truro declined 0.1, 0.8 and 0.9 percentage points respectively. New Glasgow was the only area to record an increase in vacancy rate (from 2.8 to 3.8 per cent), while Kentville remained unchanged.
- Average rents in Nova Scotia (based on the fixed sample) rose
 2.1 per cent in 2007 with most areas experiencing very similar rates of average rent growth.
- For the first time, data was collected on the secondary rental market. In the Halifax CMA, 15,321 units were recorded with an overall average monthly rent of \$731.





Overall, there was not a lot of change in the Nova Scotia rental market in 2007 compared to 2006. Average rents increased only slightly in Nova Scotia's urban centres while vacancy rates decreased slightly in most centres. In addition to strong employment, various factors have contributed to sustained demand for rental units. Home prices, both existing and new, continue to rise rapidly as do other costs related to homeownership. Rising prices make renting a welcome alternative for some and a necessary alternative for others.

Perhaps the greatest impact on the demand for rental units, and the least quantifiable, are some of the demographic changes occurring in Nova Scotia. Single-person households are the fastest growing household structure in the province followed closely by two-person household growth. Smaller households result in more households but also result in increased demand for smaller housing units. Rental units often suit that demand. The rise in the number of smaller households. whether it is due to an aging population or changing lifestyle choices, also results in higher demand for rental units. Today's busy young professionals may be looking for a low maintenance apartment close to work and entertainment, while the aging population is also looking for low maintenance living close to restaurants, entertainment and medical care.

These demand factors have resulted in a decline in the vacancy rate in 2007 and rent increases that outpaced the rate of inflation. The overall vacancy rate in Nova Scotia edged down a tenth of a percentage point from 3.3 to 3.2 per cent. The provincial rental market is dominated by Halifax which saw the same

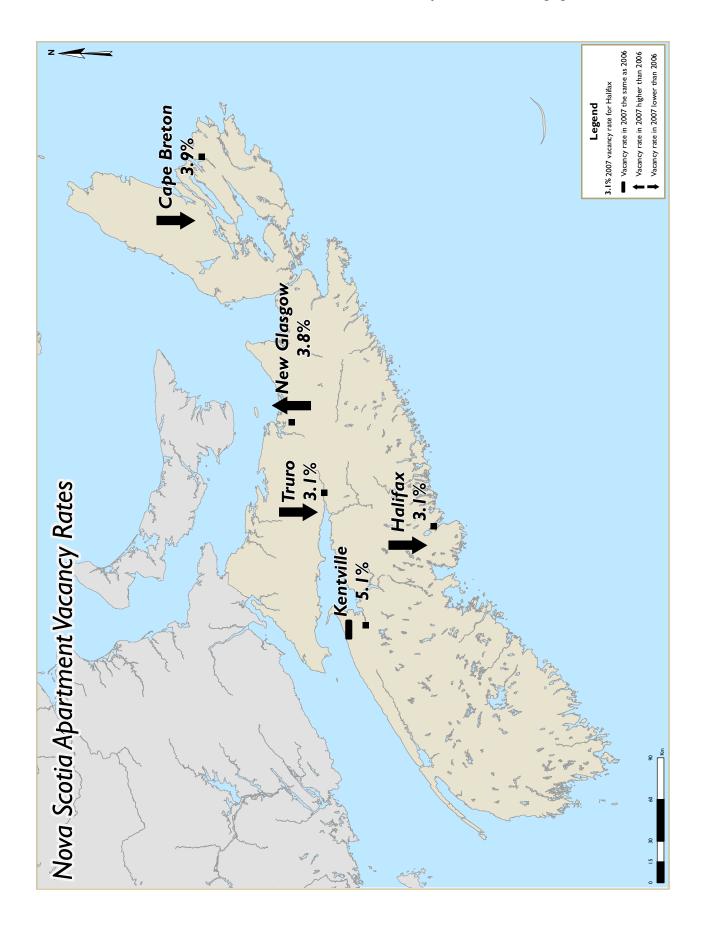
tenth of a percentage point drop from 3.2 to 3.1 per cent.

Most of the other urban centres across the province also experienced a decline in vacancy rates. Only New Glasgow saw rates climb (from 2.8 to 3.8 per cent). Kentville's vacancy rate remained unchanged at 5.1 per cent. Cape Breton saw its vacancy rate drop to 3.9 per cent from 4.7 per cent in 2006, and remains at its lowest level since 1989. As expected, absorption of some new rental stock added in Truro last year, dropped the vacancy rate back down in 2007 to 3.1 per cent, following an increase of 1.7 percentage points in 2006.

Average rents in Nova Scotia rose 2.1 per cent in 2007 with most areas experiencing very similar rates of average rent growth (based on units common to both the 2006 and 2007 surveys). Kentville, Halifax and Cape Breton recorded overall rent increases of 2.4, 2.0 and 1.6 per cent respectively. The smallest increase was in Truro, where existing rental units were forced to compete with several new units (excluded in the fixed sample). The average rent for two bedroom units ranged between \$577 and \$596 in New Glasgow, Kentville and Cape Breton. Truro and Halifax recorded average two bedroom rents of \$676 and \$815 respectively.

The 2007 fall rental market survey marked the first time information on the secondary rental market in the Halifax CMA was gathered. Out of 15,321 units recorded in the survey, 30 per cent were single-detached homes, 40 per cent were semidetached, row or duplex and 30 per cent were classified as other-primarily accessory suites. Average

rent for a single-detached home was \$798 compared to \$737 for semi-detached, row and duplex and \$677 for other.



I.I.I Private Apartment Vacancy Rates (%) by Bedroom Type													
				No	va	Scotia	L						
Bachelor I Bedroom 2 Bedroom 3 Bedroom + Total									tal				
Centre	Oct-0	6	Oct-07	Oct	-06	Oct-07	7	Oct-06	Oct-07	Oct-06	Oct-07	Oct-06	Oct-07
Halifax CMA	1.5	a	3.2 b	2	. 5 a	2.3	a	3.7 a	3.2 a	5.2 b	6.0 c	3.2 a	3.1 a
Cape Breton CA	**		**	4	.9 d	5.5	С	3.8 с	3.2 b	3.1 d	0.7 a	4.7 b	3.9 b
Sydney City	**		**	3	. 7 d	6.0	С	4.1 c	3.3 b	3.6 d	0.9 a	5.0 c	4.1 b
Remainder	**		**		**	4.3	d	3.0 с	3.2 c	0.0 d	0.0 €	4.0 c	3.3 b
Kentville CA	5.6	a	1.8 a	4	. 5 b	5.7	Ь	5.2 a	5.4 a	**	0.0 b	5.1 a	5.1 a
New Glasgow CA	7.1	С	5.5	3	.6 b	3.2	a	2.0 a	3.9 a	0.0 с	3.5 d	2.8 a	3.8 a
Truro CA	**		**	5	.3 b	4.2	Ь	3.0 b	2.3 a	**	**	4.0 b	3.1 b
Nova Scotia 10,000+	2.6	a	3.6 b	2	.7 a	2.6	a	3.6 a	3.2 a	5.0 b	5.6 c	3.3 a	3.2 a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

n/u: No units exist in universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix links for more details

I.I.2 Private Apartment Average Rents (\$) by Bedroom Type										
Nova Scotia Bachelor I Bedroom 2 Bedroom + Total										
Centre	Oct-06		Oct-06		Oct-06			Oct-07	Oct-06	
Halifax CMA	575 a	577 a	648 a	659 a	799 a	815 a	1,029 a	1,065 a	744 a	760 a
Cape Breton CA	434 a	437 a	478 a	484 a	587 a	596 a	672 a	699 a	557 a	567 a
Sydney City	438 a	444 a	494 a	497 a	595 a	609 a	687 a	729 a	568 a	580 a
Remainder	400 c	337 c	445 a	449 a	566 a	562 a	557 a	551 a	526 a	528 a
Kentville CA	434 a	441 a	484 a	497 a	573 a	585 a	594 a	641 a	542 a	556 a
New Glasgow CA	408 b	404 a	450 a	477 a	553 a	577 a	569 b	606 b	516 a	532 a
Truro CA	392 a	429 a	508 a	532 a	657 a	676 a	693 a	704 a	604 a	628 a
Nova Scotia 10,000+	553 a	557 a	629 a	642 a	760 a	777 a	986 a	1,030 a	715 a	732 a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates (cv = coefficient of variation):

a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)

Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable

a – Excellent ($0 \le cv \le 2.5$), b – Very good ($2.5 < cv \le 5$), c – Good ($5 < cv \le 7.5$)

d – Fair (Use with Caution) ($7.5 < cv \le 10$)

^{**} Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable n/u: No units exist in universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

I.I.3 Number of Private Apartment Units Vacant and Universe in October 2007										
by Bedroom Type										
Nova Scotia										
Bachelor I Bedroom 2 Bedroom + Total										
Centre	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total	Vacant	Total
Halifax CMA	78	b 2,471	341 a	14,627	576 a	18,069	181 c	3,036	1,177 a	38,204
Cape Breton CA	**	138	25 c	448	39 b	1,214	l a	136	75 b	1,936
Sydney City	**	130	19 c	318	29 b	886	l a	110	59 b	1,444
Remainder	**	8	6 d	130	II c	328	0 c	26	16 b	492
Kentville CA	1	a 56	20 b	340	43 a	797	0 Ь	51	64 a	1,245
New Glasgow CA	5	с 92	10 a	322	27 a	702	I d	29	44 a	1,146
Truro CA	**	93	28 b	673	35 a	1,529	**	105	75 b	2,400
Nova Scotia 10,000+	102	2,850	424 a	16,411	721 a	22,312	187 с	3,357	1,434 a	44,931

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix links for more details

I.I.4 Private Apartment Availability Rates (%)										
by Bedroom Type										
Nova Scotia										
Bachelor I Bedroom 2 Bedroom 3 Bedroom + Total										tal
Centre	Oct-06	Oct-07								
Halifax CMA	2.1 a	4.2 b	3.0 a	2.9 a	4.3 a	3.7 a	6.1 b	6.3 b	3.8 a	3.6 a
Cape Breton CA	**	**	4.9 d	5.5 c	4.5 c	3.5 b	3.7 d	0.7 a	5.2 b	4.0 b
Sydney City	**	**	3.7 d	6.0 c	4.6 c	3.6 b	3.6 d	0.9 a	5.2 c	4.3 b
Remainder	**	**	**	4.3 d	4.4 d	3.2 c	**	0.0 c	5.2 c	3.3 b
Kentville CA	5.6 a	1.8 a	5.6 a	6.0 b	6.0 a	6.2 a	**	0.0 b	5.9 a	5.7 a
New Glasgow CA	7.1 c	6.6 b	3.6 b	3.2 a	2.2 a	4.0 a	0.0 ∈	3.5 d	2.9 a	4.0 a
Truro CA	**	**	6.2 b	5.5 b	3.2 b	3.1 b	**	**	4.4 b	4.0 b
Nova Scotia 10,000+	3.2 b	4.5 b	3.2 a	3.1 a	4.2 a	3.7 a	5.8 b	5.8 b	3.9 a	3.7 a

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

* Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable

n/u: No units exist in universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)

^{**} Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable **n/u:** No units exist in universe for this category **n/s:** No units exist in the sample for this category **n/a:** Not applicable

a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)

1.1.5 Private Apartment Estimate of Percentage Change (%) of Average Rent by Bedroom Type **Nova Scotia Bachelor** I Bedroom 2 Bedroom 3 Bedroom + Total Oct-05 Oct-06 Oct-05 Oct-06 Oct-05 Oct-06 Oct-05 Oct-06 Oct-05 Oct-06 Centre to Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Halifax CMA 2.1 b 3.0 3.5 c 1.7 2.7 3.2 2.6 b 2.0 2. I b 3.3 ++ ++ 5.5 d ++ 6.5 b 3.2 5.3 Cape Breton CA 1.6 ** ** 5.6 d Sydney City ++ ++ 6.6 b 1.5 3.5 5.3 b 2.4 ** ** ** Remainder ** ** 5.4 d ++ ++ ** ++ Kentville CA 7.0 1.9 2.9 1.9 3.2 0.7 2.7 ++ 4.2 2.4 ** ** ** ** ** ** ** New Glasgow CA ++ ++ ++ Truro CA 5.6 d ++ 3.7 2.2 3.3 b ++ 3.0 ++ 3.2 b 1.0 2.3 b 3.5 c Nova Scotia 10,000+ 2.4 b 3.2 3.0 1.7 2.6 3.2 2.7 2.1

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)

Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable

++ change in rent is not statistically significant. This means that the change in rent is not statistically different than zero (0) n/u: No units exist in universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

^{*}The Estimate of Percentage Change is a measure of the market movement, and is based on those structures that were common to the survey for both years.

5.1* Secondary Rented Unit Average Rents (\$) by Dwelling Type Nova Scotia - October 2007 **Bachelor** I Bedroom 2 Bedroom 3 Bedroom + Total Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Oct-07 Oct-06 Halifax CMA Single Detached n/a n/s n/a n/a n/a 862 n/a 798 ** Semi detached, Row and Duplex n/a n/s n/a n/a 655 n/a 108 n/a 737 Other-Primarily Accessory Suites 513 754 n/a n/s n/a n/a n/a n/a 677 жk Total n/a n/a 516 n/a 728 n/a 847 n/a 731

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates (cv = coefficient of variation):

a – Excellent ($0 \leq cv \leq 2.5$), b – Very good ($2.5 < cv \leq 5$), c – Good ($5 < cv \leq 7.5$)

d – Fair (Use with Caution) ($7.5 < cv \le 10$)

** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable n/u: No units exist in universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

Please click Methodology or Data Reliability Tables Appendix links for more details

5.2* Estimated Number of Households in Secondary Rented Units ^I by Dwelling Type Nova Scotia - October 2007								
			per of Secondary ndary Rented Units ^l					
		Oct-06 Oct-07						
Halifax CMA								
Single Detached		n/a	4,563 b					
Semi detached, Row and Duplex		n/a	6,158 b					
Other-Primarily Accessory Suites		n/a	4,600 d					
Total		n/a	15,321 b					

¹Statistics for secondary rented units exclude apartments in purpose built rental structures with three rental units or more, condominium apartments, units in institutions, and any dwelling whose type could not be identified in the survey.

The following letter codes are used to indicate the reliability of the estimates:

a – Excellent, b – Very good, c – Good, d – Fair (Use with Caution)

** Data suppressed to protect confidentiality or data is not statistically reliable

n/u: No units exist in universe for this category n/s: No units exist in the sample for this category n/a: Not applicable

¹Statistics for secondary rented units exclude apartments in purpose built rental structures with three rental units or more, condominium apartments, units in institutions, and any dwelling whose type could not be identified in the survey.

^{*}CM HC is continuously assessing survey methodologies, weighting and classifications used to ensure accurate results. This examination and the impact of recently released 2006 Census data may result in modification to some statistics previously published.

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TECHNICAL NOTE:

Difference between Percentage Change of Average Rents (Existing and New Structures) AND Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only):

Percentage Change of Average Rents (New and Existing Structures): The increase/decrease obtained from the calculation of percentage change of average rents between two years (example: \$500 in 2006 vs. \$550 in 2007 represents an increase of 10 percent) is impacted by changes in the composition of the rental universe (e.g. the inclusion of newly built luxury rental buildings in the survey, rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants could put upward pressure on average rents in comparison to the previous year) as well as by the rent level movement (e.g. increase/decrease in the level of rents that landlords charge their tenants).

Percentage Change of Average Rents from Fixed Sample (Existing Structures Only): This is a measure that estimates the rent level movement. The estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample for both the 2006 and 2007 Fall Rental Market Surveys. However, some composition effects still remain e.g. rental units renovated/upgraded or changing tenants because the survey does not collect data to such level of details.

METHODOLOGY FOR RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts the **Rental Market Survey** (RMS) every year in April and October to estimate the relative strengths in the rental market. The survey is conducted on a sample basis in all urban areas with populations of 10,000 and more. The survey targets only privately initiated structures with at least three rental units, which have been on the market for at least three months. The survey collects market rent, available and vacant unit data for all sampled structures. Most RMS data contained in this publication refer to privately initiated apartment structures.

The survey is conducted by a combination of telephone interviews and site visits, and information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent. The survey is conducted during the first two weeks of April/October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC's Rental Market Survey provides a snapshot of vacancy and availability rates, and average rents in both new and existing structures. In October 2006, CMHC introduced a new measure for the change in rent that is calculated based on existing structures only. This estimate is based on structures that were common to the survey sample the previous year and the current year of the Rental Market Survey. The change in rent in existing structures is an estimate of the change in rent that the landlords charge and removes compositional effects on the rent level movement due to new buildings, conversions, and survey sample rotation. The estimate of per cent change in rent is available in the Rental Market Report – Canada Highlights, Provincial Highlights, and the local Rental Market Reports. The rent levels in new and existing structures are also published. While the per cent change in rents in existing structures published in the reports are statistically significant, changes in rents that one might calculate based on rent levels in new and existing structures may or may not be statistically significant.

METHODOLOGY FOR SECONDARY RENTAL MARKET SURVEY

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) conducts a survey of the **Secondary Rental Market** (SRMS) in September and October to estimate the relative strengths in the secondary rental market which is defined as those dwellings not covered by the regular RMS. CMHC has identified the following dwelling components to be included in SRMS:

- Rented single-detached houses.
- Rented double (semi-detached) houses (i.e.. Two units of approximate equal size and under one roof that are situated either side-by-side or front-to-back).
- Rented freehold row/town homes.
- Rented duplex apartments (i.e., one-above-other).
- · Rented accessory apartments (separate dwelling units that are located within the structure of another dwelling type).
- Rented condominiums (can be any dwelling type but are primarily apartments).
- One or two apartments which are part of a commercial or other type of structure.

The SRMS has three components which are conducted in selected CMAs:

- A Household Rent Survey of all households to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Rent Survey of households living in condominium apartments to collect information about rents.
- A Condominium Apartment Vacancy Survey of condominium apartment owners to collect vacancy information.

All three surveys are conducted by telephone interviews. For the condominium apartment vacancy survey, information is obtained from the owner, manager, or building superintendent and can be supplemented by site visits if no telephone contact is made. For the other two surveys, information is collected from an adult living in the household. All surveys are conducted in September and October, and the results reflect market conditions at that time.

CMHC publishes the number of units rented and vacancy rates for the condominium vacancy survey. For the condominium rent and household rent surveys, the average rent is published. A letter code representing the statistical reliability (i.e., the coefficient of variation (CV)) for each estimate is provided to indicate the data reliability. In 2007, rented condominium apartments were surveyed in the following CMAs: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal and Québec. Other secondary rental market units were surveyed in Abbotsford, Barrie, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, St. John's, Kelowna, Toronto and Vancouver.

DEFINITIONS

Availability: A rental unit is considered available if the existing tenant has given, or has received, notice to move, and a new tenant has not signed a lease; or the unit is vacant (see definition of vacancy below).

Rent: The rent refers to the actual amount tenants pay for their unit. No adjustments are made for the inclusion or exclusion of amenities and services such as heat, hydro, parking, and hot water. For available and vacant units, the rent is the amount the owner is asking for the unit.

It should be noted that the average rents reported in this publication provide a sound indication of the amounts paid by unit size and geographical sector. Utilities such as heating, electricity and hot water may or may not be included in the rent.

Rental Apartment Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, of which at least one unit is not ground oriented. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count.

Rental Row (Townhouse) Structure: Any building containing three or more rental units, all of which are ground oriented with vertical divisions. Owner-occupied units are not included in the rental building unit count. These row units in some centres are commonly referred to as townhouses.

Vacancy: A unit is considered vacant if, at the time of the survey, it is physically unoccupied and available for immediate rental.

Definitions of Census Areas referred to in this publication are as follows:

A census metropolitan area (CMA) or a census agglomeration (CA) is formed by one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban area (known as the urban core). The census population count of the urban core is at least 10,000 to form a census agglomeration and at least 100,000 to form a census metropolitan area. To be included in the CMA or CA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census place of work data. CMAs and CAs contain whole municipalities or Census Subdivisions.

October 2006 data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2001 Census area definitions. October 2007 data presented in this publication is based on Statistics Canada's 2006 Census area definitions.

Acknowledgement

The Rental Market Survey and the Secondary Rental Market Survey could not have been conducted without the cooperation of the rental property owners, managers, building superintendents and household members throughout Canada. CMHC acknowledges their hard work and assistance in providing timely and accurate information. As a result of their contribution, CMHC is able to provide information that benefits the entire housing industry.

Rental Affordability Indicator

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has developed a new rental affordability indicator to gauge how affordable a rental market is for those households which rent within that market. The level of income required for a household to rent a median priced two-bedroom apartment, using 30 per cent of its income, is calculated. The three-year moving average of median income of households in a centre is then divided by this required income. The resulting number is then multiplied by 100 to form the indicator. A value above 100 indicates that less than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent a two-bedroom apartment, conversely, a value below 100 indicates that more than 30 per cent of the median income is required to rent the same unit. In general, as the indicator increases, the market becomes more affordable; as the indicator declines, the market becomes less affordable.

Median renter household income estimates used in the calculation of the rental affordability indicator are based on results of Statistics Canada's Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics. Results for this survey are available from 1994 to 2005. CMHC has developed forecasts of median renter household incomes for 2006 and 2007.

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