## IS BUYING A HOUSE AFFORDABLE IN WHATCOM?

The Housing Affordability Index (HAI) measures the ability of a middle income family to carry the mortgage payments on a median price home. Affording a home in Whatcom has changed over time, but has consistently been hard for first-time buyers. And, while the decline in home values during the recession made affording a home easier for a time, housing has gotten increasingly unaffordable over the last few years.

