

Is Today the Right Time to Buy?

Property Type Analysis: Detached Homes

With active listings at historically high levels across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), buyers have a level of choice rarely seen within the GTA. Given the increase in choice, combined with lower average prices and reduced mortgage rates over the past two years, many people are asking, is now the right time to buy?

According to Toronto Regional Real Estate Board (TRREB), the average price for a detached home fell from \$1,471,002 in March 2024 to \$1,342,375 in March 2026* (peak was \$1,790,441 in Feb 2022).

Over the same period of time, a sample 5 year fixed mortgage rate has fallen from around 5.34% to 4.19% (for illustrative purposes only, as lower/higher rates will vary by lender)**.

Sample Financing Costs Based on the Average Price of a Detached Home in the GTA (TRREB DATA)

	"Then" March 2024	vs. "Now" March 2026
Purchase Price	\$1,471,002	\$1,342,375
Less: Down Payment (20%)	\$294,200	\$268,475
Plus: CMHC Fees	not applicable	not applicable
Mortgage Amount (80% LTV)	\$1,176,802	\$1,073,900
Rate - Conventional 5 Year Fixed	5.34%	4.19%
Amortization	30	30
Estimated Monthly Payment	\$6,521	\$5,223
Interest Cost (over 5-year term)	\$299,364	\$213,171
Balance (after 5 years)	\$1,084,885	\$973,709
Approx. Income Range Needed to Qualify (can vary by lender)	\$245,000 to \$277,000	\$202,000 to \$228,000

Let's break this down from a dollars and cents perspective assuming a 5-year fixed mortgage rate and 30-year amortization.

The accompanying table is for illustrative purposes only.

For a customized analysis, please reach out to your Outline Financial mortgage agent, or your real estate agent.

How do mortgage carrying costs compare given the decline in interest rates?

As illustrated in the above chart, the monthly mortgage payment declines from \$6,521 to \$5,223 (-20%) when comparing March 2024 to March 2026.

Total interest paid over the 5-year term declines from \$299,364 to \$213,171, and the mortgage balance at the end of the 5-year term also declines (\$1,084,885 to \$973,709).

How have these lower interest rates impacted your borrowing power?

Based on the average price of a detached home in March 2024 (with 80% financed through a mortgage of \$1,176,802) a buyer needed an approximate household income of between \$245,000 to \$277,000 to qualify. The same buyer looking to purchase an average price detached home in March 2026 (with 80% financed through a mortgage of \$1,073,900) would need a household income of approximately \$202,000 to \$228,000 to qualify.

As every situation is unique, please reach out to an Outline Financial Mortgage agent for a customized analysis of your potential borrowing power and current mortgage rates and products.

*According to TRREB, the average price for Detached home sales across the GTA (Market Watch Report). Speak to your Realtor about average price changes for any TRREB neighbourhood or property type as figures can vary significantly.

**Interest rates are for illustrative purposes only and subject to change (up/down) at any time. Significantly lower rates are available for insured mortgages (<\$1.5M purchase and <20% down payment), and conventional rate specials are also available. Speak to your Outline Financial mortgage agent to learn more.

**While 5-year fixed rates have dropped from approximately 5.34% to 4.19% from March 2024 to March 2026, 5-year variable rates fell from approximately 6.70% in March 2024 to 3.75%, relatively in line with the Bank of Canada rate cuts.

***Qualification range is for illustrative purposes only and March vary by lender. For calculations, qualification includes the stress test and is based on a range of 39% to 44% TDS (Total Debt Service Ratio)

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