

# Russian Housing Shortage

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When you come to think of housing shortages, we often picture a lack of homes being built around cities and metropolitan areas. In Russia, rather than individual homes, the shortage refers to a lack of apartments and more accurately entire apartment buildings. Traditionally speaking, the traditional Russian family resides in apartment style dwellings opposed to the American archetype of the individual home.

Since the 1917 revolutions, the Russian populous has gone from being 80% rural to nearly 85% urban today. This massive and relatively quick influx of people to the cities called for government housing projects focusing on communal style apartments which featured communal kitchens facilities and bathrooms. <sup>1</sup>

But as this was a state sponsored project, development was slow and production never met the demands of the growing urban population. It would not be uncommon to have 24 people sharing a 7 room apartment in the soviet times.



Even today, some analysts call the housing issue in Russia a housing crisis. Even as more apartment are being built, the costs are growing at an unhealthy rate. With the shortage of apartments both old and new, the costs are increasing with demand as more and more apartments <sup>1</sup>become privatized following the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union. This leaves young families in tricky situations as the availability of affordable apartments shrinks until more apartments are built in Russia's urban areas to quell their centuries old housing shortage.

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<sup>1</sup> Gunn, Dairmid. "Russian Properties: A History of Russian Housing." *Healthcare | Expatica Russia*, Expatica, [www.expatica.com/ru/housing/Russian-properties-A-history-of-Russian-housing\\_105578.html](http://www.expatica.com/ru/housing/Russian-properties-A-history-of-Russian-housing_105578.html).