



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

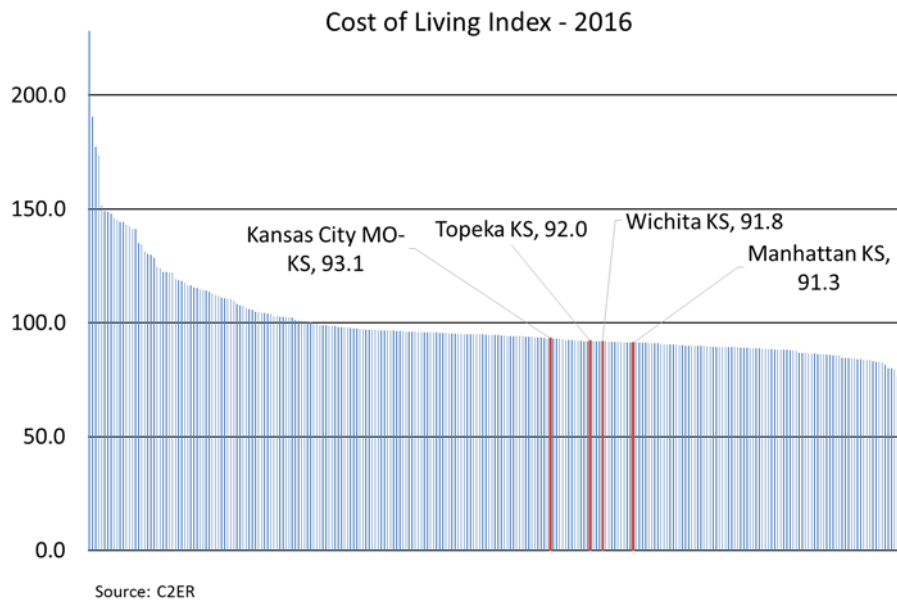
Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

## Cost of Living Composite Index

2016 Annual Average

The Cost of Living Index, from The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. This index includes more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items collected each quarter. The index measures the relative price levels in participating areas. The average for all participating places equals 100, and each area's index is a percentage of the average for all areas.

The majority of the areas included in the index, 72 percent, had a cost of living below the national average in 2016. However, the 28 percent of places with a cost of living above the national average were well above the national average. The four Kansas metropolitan areas included in the index averaged eight percent below the national average.



The metropolitan areas of the country with the highest cost of living are on the East Coast and West Coast. The top ten most expensive urban areas in 2016 were on average 65.8 percent above the national average. The metropolitan areas with the lowest cost of living tend to be in the Midwest and the South. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2016 were on average 18.8 percent below the national average.

Ten Most Expensive Urban Areas - 2016

Ranking	Urban Areas	COLI
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	228.2
2	Honolulu HI	190.5
3	San Francisco CA	177.4
4	New York (Brooklyn) NY	173.6
5	Orange County CA	151.6
6	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA	149.2
7	Oakland CA	148.7
8	Boston MA	148.1
9	Stamford CT	145.9
10	Seattle WA	145.1

Source: C2ER

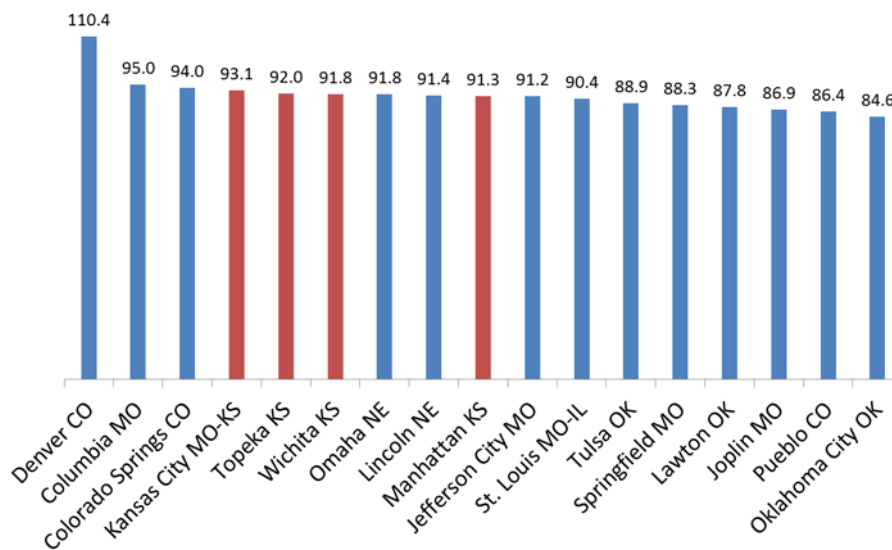
Ten Least Expensive Urban Areas - 2016

Ranking	Urban Areas	COLI
1	McAllen TX	76.4
2	Harlingen TX	79.4
3	Richmond IN	79.9
4	Kalamazoo MI	80.1
5	Ashland OH	81.5
6	Cleveland TN	82.7
7	Tupelo MS	82.8
8	Martinsville-Henry County VA	82.8
9	Memphis TN	83.0
10	Knoxville TN	83.8

Source: C2ER

Within the five-state region surrounding Kansas, the cost of living was generally below the national average. Denver, Colorado was the only metropolitan area in the region with a cost of living above the national average. Across the three metropolitan areas in Colorado, the cost of living averaged, when weighted by population, 6.2 percent above the national average. The cost of living in the three Kansas metropolitan areas was 8.2 percent below the national average, closely followed by the two Nebraska metropolitan areas at 8.3 percent below the national average. The five Missouri metropolitan areas had a weighted average cost of living 8.7 percent below the national average. The three Oklahoma metropolitan areas had the lowest weighted average cost of living at 13.5 percent below the national average.

Cost of Living Index - 2016



Source: C2ER