



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

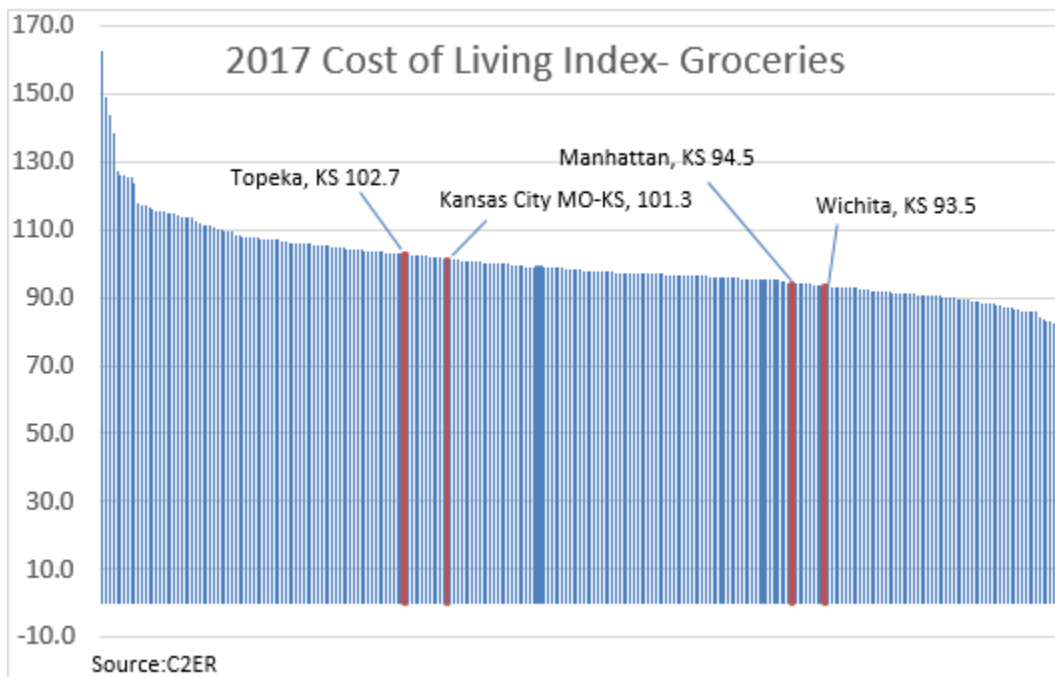
Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

## Cost of Living Grocery Index

2017 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.

One of the index components measures the relative price of groceries between areas. The majority of the areas included in the index, 58 percent, had grocery prices below the national average in 2017. While there were some outliers, grocery prices were fairly consistent across the country, only 34 out of 269 cities had average grocery prices more than 10 percent above the national average. The three Kansas metropolitan areas included in the index, averaged 4.2 percent below the national average when weighted by population. Topeka had the highest individual cost of groceries with an index value of 102.7, while Wichita was at 93.5.



The metropolitan areas of the country with the highest grocery prices were in Hawaii and Alaska, due to high transportation costs. The top ten most expensive urban areas for groceries in 2017 were on average 34.9 percent above the national average. Eight of the ten metropolitan areas with the lowest prices for groceries were in Texas. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2017 for groceries were on average 17.0 percent below the national average.

**Ten Most Expensive Areas-2017**

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	Honolulu HI	162.6
2	Kodiak AK	149.0
3	Juneau AK	144.0
4	New York (Manhattan) NY	138.8
5	Seattle WA	127.1
6	Anchorage AK	126.1
7	Oakland CA	126.0
8	San Francisco CA	125.8
9	New York (Brooklyn) NY	125.4
10	Fairbanks AK	123.8

Source: C2ER

**Ten Least Expensive Urban Areas-2017**

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	Jackson-Madison County TN	79.7
2	Temple TX	80.7
3	Kalamazoo MI	80.9
4	Harlingen TX	82.5
5	Waco TX	83.0
6	McAllen TX	83.2
7	Brazoria County TX	83.5
8	Wichita Falls TX	84.2
9	Corpus Christi TX	85.9
10	San Antonio TX	85.9

Source: C2ER

Within the five-state region surrounding Kansas, the price of groceries was generally below the national average. St. Louis, Missouri, Kansas City, MO-KS, and Topeka, KS were the only metropolitan areas in the region with a cost of groceries above the national average. After a population weighted average Colorado has the highest cost of groceries in our five-state region, but it is still below the national average.

**Cost of Groceries-Five-State Region**

Ranking	State	Weighted Average
1	Colorado	98.0
2	Kansas	95.8
3	Missouri	95.6
4	Nebraska	95.0
5	Oklahoma	91.8

Source: C2ER