



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

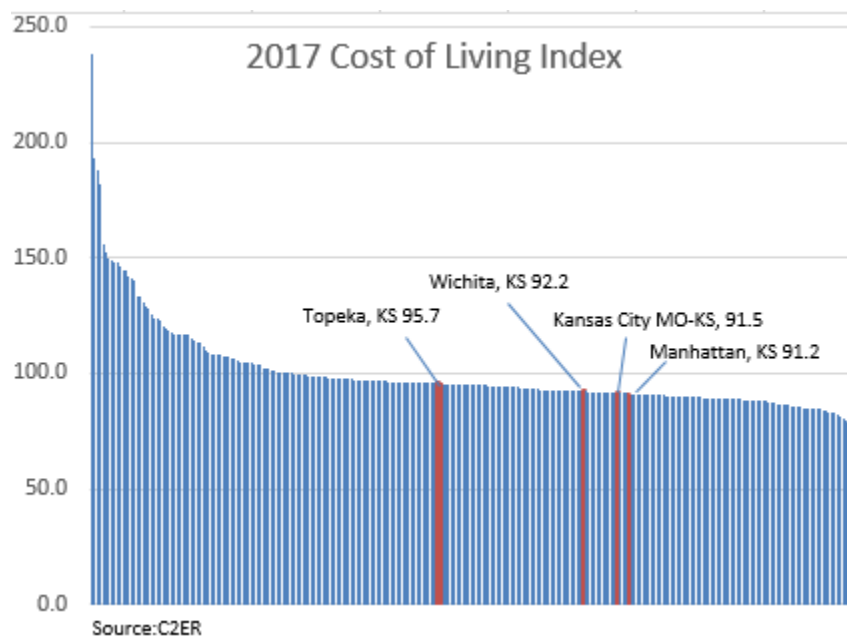
Center for Economic Development
and Business Research

Cost of Living Composite 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 269 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, 74 percent, had a cost of living below the national average in 2017. However, the 26 percent of areas above the national average were often significantly higher than the national average. The four Kansas metropolitan areas included in the index averaged 92.9 or 7.1 percentage points below the national average.



The metropolitan areas of the country with the highest cost of living are on the East Coast and West Coast with the exception of Honolulu, Hawaii. The top ten most expensive urban areas in remained relatively unchanged except Los Angeles, California moved into the top ten this year. The average cost of living in these cities is over 70 percentage points above the national average.

The metropolitan areas with the lowest cost of living tend to be in the Midwest and the South. McAllen, Texas is the cheapest city for the third year in a row. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2017 were on average 19.9 percent below the national average.

Ten Most Expensive Areas-2017

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	238.6
2	San Francisco CA	192.9
3	Honolulu HI	188.3
4	New York (Brooklyn) NY	182.0
5	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA	155.7
6	Orange County CA	152.6
7	Oakland CA	149.5
8	Seattle WA	149.0
9	Boston MA	148.2
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	148.0

Source: C2ER

Ten Least Expensive Urban Areas-2017

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	McAllen TX	76.1
2	Conway AR	78.2
3	Harlingen TX	78.6
4	Richmond IN	79.0
5	Kalamazoo MI	79.5
6	Tupelo MS	80.1
7	Wichita Falls TX	81.7
8	Knoxville TN	82.2
9	Hattiesburg MS	82.7
10	Ashland OH	82.9

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. The cost of living in the three Kansas metropolitan areas was 7 percentage points below the national average, while the two Nebraska metropolitan areas were 7.3 percent below the national average. The three Missouri metropolitan areas had an average cost of living 10.3 percent below the national average. The two Oklahoma metropolitan areas had the lowest average cost of living at 11.55 percent below the national average.

