



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

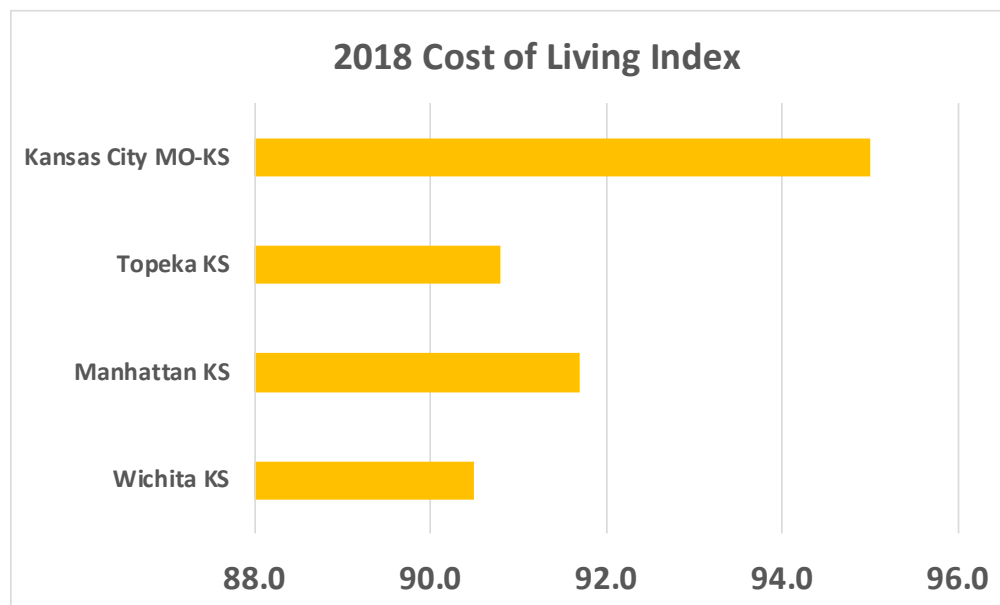
Center for Economic Development
and Business Research

Cost of Living Composite Index

2018 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 270 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, 73 percent, had a cost of living below the national average in 2018. However, the majority of areas above the national average were within 25 percentage points of the national average. Only 21 metro areas had a cost of living more than 25 percent higher than the average. The four Kansas metropolitan areas included in the index averaged 93.6 or 6.4 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 average cost of living in these cities is over 74 percentage points above the national average.

The metropolitan areas with the lowest cost of living tend to be in the Midwest and the South. Harlingen, TX had the lowest cost of living at almost 25 percentage points below the national average. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2018 were on average 19.7 percent below the national average.

Top Ten Most Expensive Areas

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	248.5
2	San Francisco CA	196.3
3	Honolulu HI	189.7
4	New York (Brooklyn) NY	181.7
5	Washington DC	162.6
6	Seattle WA	154.8
7	Oakland CA	154.5
8	Arlington VA	153.1
9	New York (Queens) NY	152.6
10	Boston MA	150.0

Top Ten Least Expensive Areas

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	Harlingen TX	75.8
2	McAllen TX	77.4
3	Richmond IN	79.6
4	Kalamazoo MI	79.6
5	Memphis TN	80.6
6	Knoxville TN	81.7
7	Muskogee OK	81.8
8	Conway AR	81.9
9	Joplin MO	82.3
10	Wichita Falls TX	82.3

Within the five-state region including Kansas and the surrounding states, 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.

