



**WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

*Center for Economic Development
and Business Research*

Cost of Living Index

First Quarter 2014

The Council for Community and Economic Research released its first quarter Cost of Living Index for 288 urban areas. The table below shows the most and least expensive urban areas that participated in the recent pricing event.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas In the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2014 National Average for 288 Urban Areas = 100					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan), NY	220.3	1	Norman, OK	81.2
2	Honolulu, HI	175.1	2	Harlingen, TX	81.4
3	San Francisco, CA	163.9	3	Ashland, OH	84.3
4	New York (Brooklyn), NY	163.4	4	Salina, KS	84.6
5	Hilo, HI	150.6	5	Pueblo, CO	84.8
6	San Jose, CA	148.3	6	Memphis, TN	84.9
7	Orange County, CA	143.9	7	Temple, TX	85.0
8	Washington, DC	139.6	8	Richmond, IN	85.4
9	Oakland, CA	137.6	9	Jackson, MS	86.1
10	Fairbanks, AK	136.4	10	Hattiesburg, MS	86.2

Wichita's Cost of Living Index for first quarter was 89.7, more than 10 percent below the national average.

The Cost of Living Index 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. It is based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items that are priced each quarter. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The composite index is based on six component categories – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services. When analyzing the most current price data, C2ER discovered significant increases in the price of pork sausage and eggs. The tables below present the most and least expensive urban areas for purchasing these two items.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a 16 oz. Package of Pork Sausage In the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2014 National Average for 288 Urban Areas = \$4.11					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Hilo, HI	\$6.64	1	Houston, TX	\$3.04
2	Portland, OR	\$6.59	2	Conroe, TX	\$3.13
3	Oakland, CA	\$5.99	3	San Marcos, TX	\$3.17
4	San Francisco, CA	\$5.99	4	Kalamazoo, MI	\$3.20
5	Kodiak, AK	\$5.49	5	Bowling Green, KY	\$3.23

The price of a 16 oz. package of pork sausage in Wichita first quarter was \$3.39, 72 cents below the national average.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Dozen Eggs In the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2014 National Average for 288 Urban Areas = \$1.94					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Hilo, HI	\$3.93	1	Jackson-Madison Cou., TN	\$1.36
2	Honolulu, HI	\$3.65	2	Twin Falls, ID	\$1.42
3	Boston, MA	\$3.13	3	Conroe, TX	\$1.44
4	Burlington-Chittenden Cou., VT	\$2.99	4	Boise, ID	\$1.46
5	San Francisco, CA	\$2.85	5	St. George, UT	\$1.47

The price of a dozen eggs in Wichita first quarter was \$1.80, 14 cents below the national average.

The quarterly Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$165 per year for the print version and \$150 per year for the PDF. The electronic version is available for \$250 per year. To subscribe, or learn more about the Index and C2ER, visit their website at www.coli.org.