



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

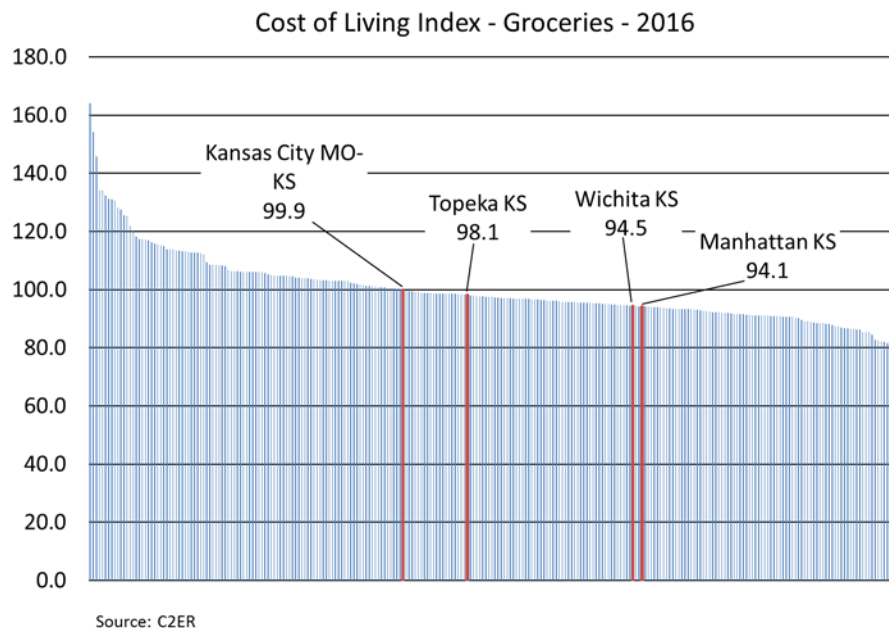
Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

## Cost of Living Grocery 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.

One of the index components measures the relative price of groceries between areas. The majority of the areas included in the index, 61 percent, had grocery prices below the national average in 2016. However, the 39 percent of places with grocery prices above the national average were well above the national average. The three Kansas metropolitan areas included in the index, averaged 4.7 percent below the national average when weighted by population.



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 2016 were on average 38.6 percent above the national average. Six of the ten metropolitan areas with the lowest prices for groceries were in Texas. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2016 for groceries were on average 18.0 percent below the national average.

Ten Most Expensive Urban Areas - 2016

Ranking	Urban Areas	COLI
1	Honolulu HI	164.1
2	Kodiak AK	154.2
3	Hilo HI	145.9
4	Stamford CT	134.2
5	Juneau AK	134.1
6	Anchorage AK	132.4
7	Oakland CA	131.2
8	San Francisco CA	131.0
9	New Haven CT	130.6
10	New York (Manhattan) NY	128.2

Source: C2ER

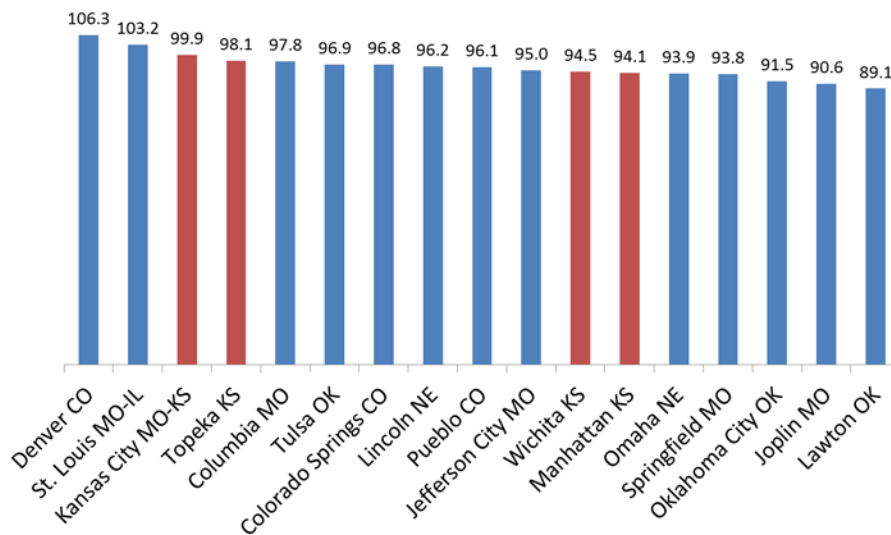
Ten Least Expensive Urban Areas - 2016

Ranking	Urban Areas	COLI
1	Jackson-Madison County TN	78.9
2	Temple TX	79.0
3	Waco TX	81.4
4	San Antonio TX	81.5
5	Twin Falls ID	82.0
6	Harlingen TX	82.0
7	McAllen TX	82.4
8	Kalamazoo MI	82.7
9	Round Rock TX	84.4
10	Louisville KY	85.3

Source: C2ER

Within the five-state region surrounding Kansas, the price of groceries was generally below the national average. Denver, Colorado and St. Louis, Missouri were the only metropolitan areas in the region with a cost of groceries above the national average. Across the three metropolitan areas in Colorado, the cost of groceries averaged, when weighted by population, 4.0 percent above the national average. The five Missouri metropolitan areas had a weighted average cost of groceries 0.5 percent above the national average. The cost of groceries in the three Kansas metropolitan areas was 4.7 percent below the national average, followed by the two Nebraska metropolitan areas at 5.5 percent below the national average. The three Oklahoma metropolitan areas had the lowest weighted average cost of groceries at 6.5 percent below the national average.

Cost of Living Index - Groceries - 2016



Source: C2ER