



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

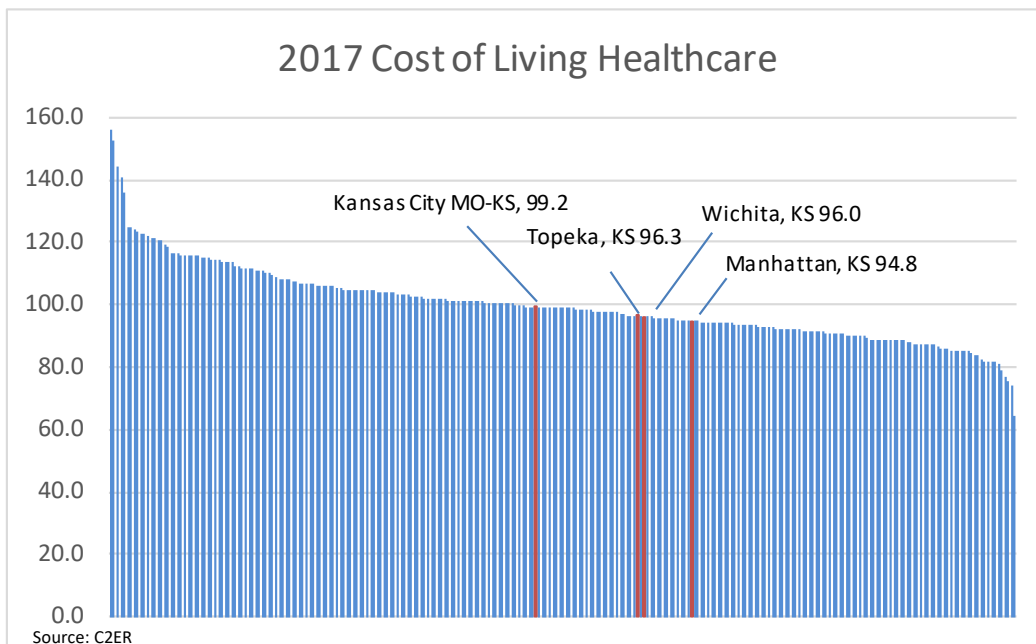
Center for Economic Development  
and Business Research

## Cost of Living Health Care 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 health care between areas. The majority of the areas included in the index, 55 percent, had health care prices below the national average in 2017. The 45 percent of areas above the national average did not stray too far above the average; in fact healthcare had a much lower ceiling than housing and groceries and the most expensive areas for healthcare were less than 60 percentage points above the average. The three metropolitan areas located completely in Kansas which were included in the index averaged 4 percent below the national average when weighted by population.



Many of the metropolitan areas of the country with the highest health care prices were in Alaska and Washington. The top ten most expensive urban areas for health care in 2017 were on average 35 percent above the national average. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2017 for health care were on average 22.2 percent below the national average.

Ten Most Expensive Areas-2017

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	Juneau AK	156.2
2	Fairbanks AK	152.3
3	Anchorage AK	144.3
4	Kodiak AK	141.0
5	Boston MA	135.8
6	San Francisco CA	124.9
7	Seattle WA	124.6
8	St. Cloud MN	124.3
9	Oakland CA	123.5
10	Moses Lake WA	123.0

Source: C2ER

Ten Least Expensive Urban Areas-2017

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	San Juan PR	64.4
2	McAllen TX	74.0
3	Richmond IN	75.8
4	Wilkes-Barre PA	77.0
5	Florence AL	78.9
6	Anniston-Calhoun County AL	80.8
7	Columbia-Maury County TN	81.4
8	Statesboro-Bulloch County GA	81.6
9	Jonesboro AR	81.9
10	Nashville-Murfreesboro TN	81.9

Source: C2ER

Health care costs within the five-state region surrounding Kansas were generally below the national average. Colorado and Nebraska were both above the national average when weighted by population. Kansas' healthcare costs are 3.9 percent below the national average when weighted by population.

Ranking	State	Weighted Average
1	Colorado	105.3
2	Nebraska	101.2
3	Missouri	98.2
4	Kansas	96.1
5	Oklahoma	91.8

Source: C2ER \*Based only on reported MSA's