



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

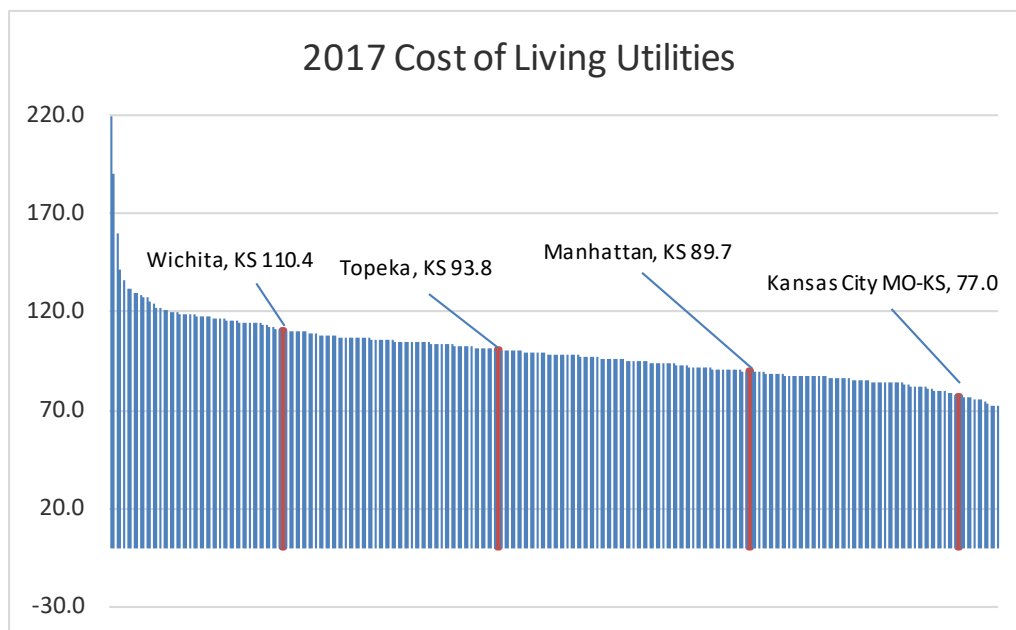
Center for Economic Development
and Business Research

Cost of Living Utility 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 utilities between areas. The majority of the areas included in the index, 53 percent, had utility prices below the national average in 2017. The three Kansas metropolitan areas included in the index averaged 15.5 percent below the national average when weighted by population, Wichita was the only Kansas metropolitan area above the national average.



The metropolitan areas of the country with the highest utility prices were in Hawaii and Alaska. The top ten most expensive urban areas for utilities in 2017 were on average 49.9 percent above the national average. The ten least expensive urban areas in 2017 for housing were on average 25.7 percent below the national average.

Ten Most Expensive Areas-2017

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	Fairbanks AK	219.3
2	Honolulu HI	190.1
3	San Juan PR	159.9
4	Boston MA	141.8
5	Bakersfield CA	136.5
6	Manchester NH	132.0
7	Anniston-Calhoun County AL	131.9
8	Beaumont TX	129.6
9	Corpus Christi TX	129.4
10	Joplin MO	128.9

Source: C2ER

Ten Least Expensive Urban Areas-2017

Ranking	Urban Area	COLI
1	Lincoln NE	72.1
2	Pueblo CO	72.1
3	Brazoria County TX	72.5
4	Provo-Orem UT	73.0
5	Tupelo MS	74.1
6	Shreveport-Bossier City LA	75.1
7	Salt Lake City UT	75.7
8	Colorado Springs CO	75.9
9	Spokane WA	76.1
10	Ogden UT	76.5

Source: C2ER

Within the five-state region surrounding Kansas, the price of utilities was generally below the national average. Oklahoma was the only state in the region with a cost of utilities above the national average at 15.2 percentage points above the average.

Ranking	State	Weighted Average
1	Oklahoma	115.2
2	Missouri	94.2
3	Colorado	93.3
4	Kansas	84.5
5	Nebraska	76.1

Source: C2ER *Based only on reported MSA's