



**WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

*Center for Economic Development
and Business Research*

Cost of Living Index

First Quarter 2015

The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) released its first quarter 2015 Cost of Living Index for 265 urban areas. The table below shows the most and least expensive urban areas that participated in the pricing event for the first quarter of 2015.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas In the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2015 National Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan), NY	223.7	1	McAllen, TX	77.2
2	Honolulu, HI	190.4	2	Harlingen, TX	79.7
3	New York (Brooklyn), NY	175.3	3	Youngstown-Warren, OH	82.0
4	San Francisco, CA	173.2	4	Pueblo, CO (tie)	82.4
5	Truckee-Nevada County, CA	157.5	4	Idaho Falls, ID (tie)	82.4
6	Hilo, HI	151.2	5	Richmond, IN	82.5
7	Orange County, CA	146.8	6	Norman, OK	82.8
8	Stamford, CT	144.9	7	Ashland, OH	83.0
9	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA	143.3	8	Tupelo, MS	83.4
10	Oakland, CA	143.1	9	Ardmore, OK	83.6
			10	Hattiesburg, MS	84.0

Wichita's Cost of Living Index for first quarter 2015 was 90.8, nearly 9 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 identified the five most and least expensive urban areas for purchasing groceries. The grocery item index number used to determine those areas is based on 26 items from a variety of surrogate categories used to represent the grocery item component of the composite index.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas for Grocery Items by Index Number In the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2015 Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Hilo, HI	157.5	1	Youngstown-Warren, OH	77.9
2	Honolulu, HI	154.3	2	Waco, TX	78.6
3	Kodiak, AK	142.6	3	McAllen, TX	78.7
4	Truckee-Nevada County, CA	132.9	4	Harlingen, TX	82.1
5	New-York (Brooklyn), NY	131.8	5	Temple, TX	82.8

The grocery index number for Wichita first quarter was 93.9, 6.1 percent below the national average.

With The Oscars ceremony happening during the first quarter and as the cinema being a leisure activity for a significant share of Americans, C2ER decided to find the five most and least expensive places to buy a ticket to an indoor, first run, Saturday evening movie. Those places are shown in the table below.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for a Saturday night movie ticket First Quarter 2015 Average for 265 Urban Areas = \$9.87					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Stamford, CT	14.75	1	Thomasville-Lexington, NC	5.50
2	Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA	14.20	2	Charleston-N Charleston, SC	6.92
3	New-York (Brooklyn), NY	14.00	3	Benton Harbor, MI (tie)	7.00
4	New York (Manhattan), NY	13.83	3	Enid, OK (tie)	7.00
5	Chicago, IL	13.75	4	Monroe, LA	7.25
			5	Lake Charles, LA (tie)	7.38
			5	Corpus Christi, TX (tie)	7.38

The price of a ticket to an indoor, first run, Saturday evening movie in Wichita in the first quarter of 2015 was \$9.10, 77 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.