

# REGIONAL SCORECARD

## TOP 5 MOST AFFORDABLE URBAN AREAS (ACCORDING TO COST OF LIVING INDEX)

1. McAllen, TX	75.2
2. Harlingen, TX	75.6
<b>3. Kalamazoo, MI</b>	<b>78.4</b>
4. Muskogee, OK	80.0
5. Richmond, IN	80.2

## THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLACES TO BE

253. Washington D.C.	160.7
254. New York (Brooklyn), NY	180.5
255. San Francisco, CA	194.7
256. Honolulu, HI	197.6
257. New York (Manhattan), NY	80.2

255

256

1

2

4

3

5

257

254

253

# LIVING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

## LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO HANG YOUR PROVERBIAL HAT? IF SO, SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN IS A GREAT CHOICE.

Among the 257 urban areas that participated in the first quarter 2020 Cost of Living (COL) Index published by the Council for Community and Economic Research, the after-tax cost for a professional/managerial standard of living ranged from more than twice the national average in downtown Manhattan to almost 25 percent below in McAllen, Texas. Southwest Michigan's geographical center—Kalamazoo, Michigan—ranks in the top three most affordable urban areas in the nation and boasts a cost of living that is 21.6 percent less than the national average.

# HOW DO WE STACK UP?

Cost of living is often top of mind for those considering a relocation for work or family. Employers too should gather location intelligence on the communities in which they operate or are considering for investment.

While other communities advertise a low cost of living, Southwest Michigan makes that claim based on fact: the community has the third lowest cost of living in the nation as confirmed by the COL Index. Affordable housing in the region's geographic center—Kalamazoo-Portage MI Metro—is the top driver for landing it at the pinnacle of the list, as well as low prices at the grocery store and miscellaneous expenses like hamburgers, pizza, movie tickets and more!

Take a look at how the community's overall cost of living compares to peer regions across reported categories.



LOCATION	OVERALL	GROCERY	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSPORTATION	HEALTH-CARE	MISCELLANEOUS
<b>Kalamazoo-Portage, MI</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>51.2</b>	100.1	97.8	93.8	<b>88.1</b>
Knoxville, TN	83.2	85.2	67.7	94.6	90.3	93.5	88.3
Fort Wayne, IN	85.8	86.5	58.1	92.5	103.8	98.3	99.0
Niles-Benton Harbor, MI	87.2	99.2	66.3	109.6	97.4	95.6	91.9
Springfield, MO	87.8	102.6	69.8	87.7	90.4	99.6	93.9
Peoria, IL	88.6	94.7	75.4	97.6	101.9	91.7	90.2
Winston-Salem, NC	89.8	100.0	68.1	96.7	76.8	118.4	100.8
Omaha, NE	93.3	97.6	86.9	95.5	95.9	95.4	95.1
Greenville, SC	93.5	102.8	78.3	94.3	98.0	97.1	99.8
Huntsville, AL	93.9	94.7	72.2	96.0	100.3	103.6	106.9
Grand Rapids, MI	94.1	90.4	87.3	99.8	108.2	95.0	95.6
Cleveland, OH	95.9	105.0	82.6	92.8	101.1	109.8	100.4
Buffalo, NY	96.3	91.7	96.5	94.0	96.9	84.7	99.9
Chicago, IL	98.7	98.6	97.9	89.0	111.1	110.8	97.2
National Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Boise, ID	100.1	95.5	98.3	83.1	104.1	100.4	106.9
Detroit, MI	100.6	98.4	95.8	92.7	109.0	94.2	105.8
Austin, TX	100.7	90.4	104.5	94.9	88.8	106.4	105.7
Minneapolis, MN	105.7	103.3	102.5	97.0	102.0	104.1	112.6
San Diego, CA	141.1	113.8	208.3	125.6	130.6	107.1	110.7
Boston, MA	148.8	110.7	219.6	121.9	113.9	122.9	128.3
San Francisco, CA	194.7	132.7	355.3	1039.3	142.3	124.0	131.5
Manhattan, NY	245.7	144.0	553.2	100.3	128.5	109.4	133.2

**SOURCE:** The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) Cost of Living Index — Quarter 1, 2020, Published May 2020.

**NOTE:** Peer communities were selected based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to industry representation, university presence, population, geographic location and index participation.

# HOW MUCH?

JUST FOR FUN, WE FOUND THE AVERAGE COST FOR A...



**HOME**  
(ABOUT 2,400 SQUARE FEET)

**\$239,443**  
MOBILE, AL

**\$347,296**  
TUSCON, AZ

**\$351,588**  
ATLANTA, GA

**\$186,113**  
KALAMAZOO, MI



**TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT**  
(MONTHLY RENT)

**\$757**  
CHAMPAIGN, IL

**\$964**  
SOUTH BEND, IN

**\$1,293**  
ANCHORAGE, AK

**\$563**  
KALAMAZOO, MI



**DOCTOR'S VISIT**

**\$104.86**  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

**\$111.61**  
CINCINNATI, OH

**\$112.67**  
DENVER, CO

**\$99.25**  
KALAMAZOO, MI



**MCDONALD'S QUARTER-POUNDER WITH CHEESE**

**\$4.47**  
MADISON, WI

**\$5.39**  
MADISON, WI

**\$5.83**  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA

**\$3.79**  
KALAMAZOO, MI



**DROP-IN YOGA CLASS**

**\$21.00**  
BOSTON, MA

**\$20.73**  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

**\$17.30**  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

**\$16.33**  
KALAMAZOO, MI



**ANNUAL VETERINARY SERVICE EXAM**

**\$57.56**  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

**\$80.12**  
WASHINGTON DC

**\$64.50**  
PORTLAND, OR

**\$55.55**  
KALAMAZOO, MI