



2014 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA {Cost of Living Index}

Anchorage Economic Development Corporation collects cost of living data for Anchorage that measures the relative price of consumer goods and services. The Cost of Living Index (COLI) is measured nationally in 281 areas around the country; the average for all areas equals 100.

Anchorage's overall index in 2014 was 128.5, or 128.5 percent of the national average. Another way of looking at it would be to say that **the cost of living in Anchorage is 28.5 percent higher than the average American city.**

Each participant area's index is a percentage of the weighted average for all prices. This index does not measure the change of prices over time (inflation), but rather the relative cost of living compared to the national average.

ANCHORAGE COST OF LIVING {128.5 > 19th}

Anchorage is the 19th most expensive city of the 281 cities that participated in the 2014 COLI survey.

After two years of decreases, the composite index for Anchorage went up in 2014 to 128.5, **2.3 points higher than 2013.**

Of the six component indices, **four have increased over the last year.**

Since 2009, this index has moved between 124.6 and 130.6.

HOUSING {157.8 > 21st}

The relative cost of housing in Anchorage has risen every year since 2009.

At 157.8, the **cost of housing in Anchorage ranks 21st highest in the nation.**

According to the Alaska Multiple Listing Service, the average sales price of a home in Anchorage was \$358,456 in 2014, **a 3.23 percent increase over 2013.**

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation 2014 Rental Market Survey showed average rents in Anchorage increased \$21, or 1.7 percent from 2013.

HEALTH CARE {139.9}

The cost of health care in Anchorage is the **fourth highest in the nation** behind Fairbanks, Juneau and Kodiak.

A **full vision eye exam** in Anchorage is 69.6 percent higher than the national average, a **physician's office visit** is 62.5 percent higher and a **teeth cleaning** is 47.6 percent higher.

GROCERY {123.4 > 10th}

This index increased significantly from last year's eight year low, but is still the **second lowest reading** over this period.

This is a highly volatile index, ranging from 113 to 142.5 since 2007. Some components with the highest relative costs are **bananas** (147.5), **canned peaches** (137.0) and **grated parmesan cheese** (136.0).

None of the twenty-six items priced were below the national average.

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS & SERVICES {122.4 > 7th}

This **index stayed mostly flat** from 2013 to 2014, rising only 0.1 to 122.4.

Anchorage has the 7th highest goods & services index of the 281 communities surveyed.

The highest component index in this category is the price of **a bottle of white wine at 159.6.**

The lowest is the cost of a yearly newspaper subscription at 95.9.

TRANSPORTATION {105.1 > 62nd}

The transportation index has **dropped for the fourth consecutive year** and is now at 105.1.

Nearly 75 percent of this index is set by the cost of unleaded gasoline, which is 9.5 percent higher in Anchorage than the national average.

UTILITIES {97 > 138th}

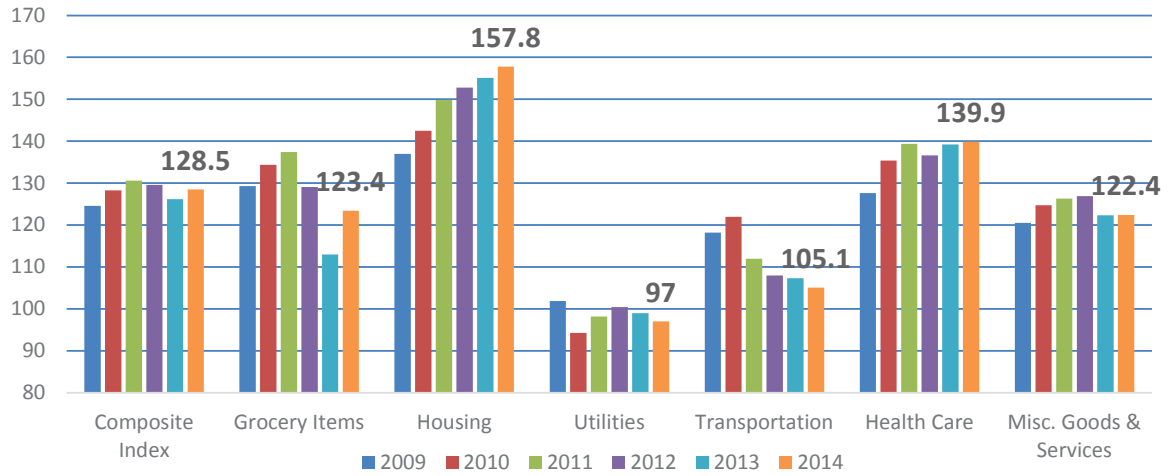
This index is **the only component below 100** at 97. This is two points lower than 2013 and the second year in a row it has decreased. Electrical costs in Anchorage are 89 percent of the national average, and telephone service is 93.8 percent of the average.



AEDC
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation

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ANCHORAGE ANNUAL COLI VALUES, 2009-2014



2014 ANCHORAGE COST OF LIVING INDEX

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	POINT CHG 2007-14	POINT CHG 2013-14
OVERALL INDEX	100%	126	125.5	124.6	128.3	130.6	129.6	126.2	128.5	2.5	2.3
GROCERY ITEMS	13.48%	129.8	142.5	129.3	134.4	137.4	129.1	113	123.4	-6.4	10.4
HOUSING	26.05%	137.9	136.4	137	142.5	149.8	152.8	155.1	157.8	19.9	2.7
UTILITIES	9.95%	106.1	97.7	101.9	94.3	98.2	100.4	99	97	-9.1	-2
TRANSPORTATION	12.63%	103.5	106.9	118.2	122	112	108	107.3	105.1	1.6	-2.2
HEALTH CARE	4.85%	132.5	130.1	127.6	135.4	139.4	136.6	139.2	139.9	7.4	0.7
MISC.	33.01%	126.6	123.7	120.5	124.7	126.3	126.9	122.3	122.4	-4.2	0.1

CITY COMPARISONS & ANCHORAGE RANKING

	COMPOSITE	GROCERY	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
ANCHORAGE, AK	128.5	123.4	157.8	97	105.1	139.9	122.4
COLI RANKING*	19th	10th	21st	138th	62nd	4th	7th
FRESNO, CA	106.1	105.2	102.4	127.5	109.4	102.3	102
DENVER, CO	107.5	98.5	124.4	97.7	101.5	103.8	102.5
HONOLULU, HI	174.9	154.7	267.4	214.3	125.9	112.1	116.9
BOISE, ID	94.7	93.6	86.5	88.6	106.1	103.9	98.8
CHICAGO, IL	116.7	103.5	136.2	101.8	125.7	100.5	108.9
FT. WAYNE, IN	89	92.1	76.4	93.7	99.4	92.3	92.7
BOSTON, MA	137.7	113.9	175	135.6	107.1	120.6	130.1
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	107.9	104.1	115.4	92.6	103.7	100.8	110.4
BOZEMAN, MT	100.8	102	113.2	88	92.5	105.9	96.1
RENO, NV	97.2	106.1	86.3	81.5	107.4	94.7	104.5
FARGO, ND	94	101.7	83.5	92.1	96.6	111.3	97.2
PORTLAND, OR	125.1	114.4	160.9	90.8	111.7	114.3	116.2
PHILADELPHIA, PA	119.5	114.3	135.4	121.8	106.6	98.7	114.8
SEATTLE, WA	126.9	111.7	165.6	98.3	118.1	116.6	113.5
MILWAUKEE, WI	102.1	101.8	104	112.7	98.8	116	96.4
LARAMIE, WY	93.6	98.1	95.1	99	90.6	98.7	88.9

*MOST EXPENSIVE = 1ST, LEAST EXPENSIVE = 281ST