



2015 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 273 areas around the country; the average for all areas equals 100.

Anchorage's overall index in 2015 was 132.4, or 132.4 percent of the national average. Another way of looking at it would be to say that **the cost of living in Anchorage is 32.4 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 {132.4 > 14th}

Anchorage is the 14th most expensive city of the 273 cities that participated in the 2015 COLI survey. In 2015, the composite index for Anchorage went up to 132.4, **3.9 points higher than 2014.**

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

Since 2009, this index has moved between 124.6 and 132.4.

HOUSING {163.9 > 16th}

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

At 163.9, the **cost of housing in Anchorage ranks 16th highest in the nation.**

According to the Alaska Multiple Listing Service, the average sales price of a home in Anchorage was \$366,585 in 2015, **a 2.3 percent increase over 2014.**

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation 2015 Rental Market Survey showed average rents in Anchorage increased \$1,312 for a 2 bedroom apartment with a local vacancy rate of 3.9%.

HEALTH CARE {139.4}

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

A **full vision eye exam** in Anchorage is 91.6 percent higher than the national average, a **physician's office visit** is 64.9 percent higher and a **teeth cleaning** is 45.5 percent higher.

GROCERY {122.8 > 13th}

This index decreased slightly from 123.4 in 2014, but is still tracking **below the average for the last 9 years.** This is a highly volatile index, ranging from 113 to 142.5 since 2007. Some components with the highest relative costs are **bananas** (150.9), **canned peaches** (135.9) and **grated parmesan cheese** (133.2).

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

MISCELLANEOUS GOODS & SERVICES {121.8 > 10th}

This **index stayed mostly flat** from 2014 to 2015, declining only 0.6 to 121.8.

However, **Anchorage has the 10th highest goods & services index** of the 273 communities surveyed.

The highest component index in this category is the price of **two pieces of deep fried chicken at 158.0.**

The lowest is the cost of a yearly newspaper subscription at 91.2.

TRANSPORTATION {118.3 > 21st}

The transportation index spiked in 2015, showing the **largest increase of the six indicators**, and is now at 118.3.

Nearly 75% of this index is set by the cost of unleaded gasoline, which is 25.1 percent higher than the national average.

UTILITIES {104.8 > 69th}

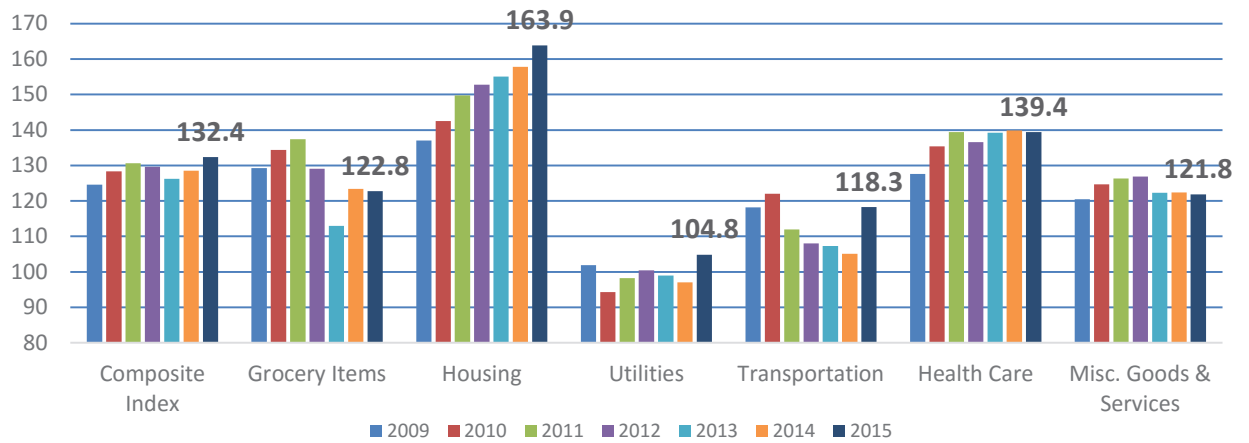
This index rose to its highest level since 2007, at 104.8 for 2015. This is a 7.8 percent increase over 2014, the second largest increase of the six indicators. Total energy costs in Anchorage (electricity and natural gas) are 119.1 percent of the national average, and telephone service is 84.4 percent of the average.



AEDC
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation

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ANCHORAGE ANNUAL COLI VALUES, 2009-2014



2015 ANCHORAGE COST OF LIVING INDEX

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	POINT CHG 2007-15	POINT CHG 2014-15
OVERALL INDEX	100%	126	125.5	124.6	128.3	130.6	129.6	126.2	128.5	132.4	6.4	3.9
GROCERY ITEMS	13.48%	129.8	142.5	129.3	134.4	137.4	129.1	113	123.4	122.8	-7.0	-0.6
HOUSING	26.05%	137.9	136.4	137	142.5	149.8	152.8	155.1	157.8	163.9	19.9	6.1
UTILITIES	9.95%	106.1	97.7	101.9	94.3	98.2	100.4	99	97	104.8	-1.3	7.8
TRANSPORTATION	12.63%	103.5	106.9	118.2	122	112	108	107.3	105.1	118.3	14.8	13.2
HEALTH CARE	4.85%	132.5	130.1	127.6	135.4	139.4	136.6	139.2	139.9	139.4	6.9	-0.5
MISC.	33.01%	126.6	123.7	120.5	124.7	126.3	126.9	122.3	122.4	121.8	-4.8	-0.6

CITY COMPARISONS & ANCHORAGE RANKING

	COMPOSITE	GROCERY	HOUSING	UTILITIES	TRANSP.	HEALTH CARE	MISC.
ANCHORAGE, AK	132.4	122.8	163.9	104.8	118.3	139.4	121.8
COLI RANKING*	14th	13th	16th	69th	21st	3rd	10th
TUCSON, AZ	92.8	96.7	83.2	91.4	96.9	103.5	97.1
DENVER, CO	109.6	99.2	130.2	94.5	98.4	107.7	105.0
HONOLULU, HI	188.2	158.9	301.4	217.4	134.4	105.4	123.5
BOISE, ID	90.8	84.5	79.8	85.1	105.4	105.5	97.6
CHICAGO, IL	116.2	116.7	135.7	104.2	114.5	99.1	106.0
FT.WAYNE, IN	86.2	89.5	69.7	94.8	90.9	91.8	93.9
BOSTON, MA	144.3	105.0	193.7	151.7	110.0	130.4	129.2
MINNEAPOLIS, MN	108.2	108.0	111.8	93.0	112.1	105.6	108.9
BOZEMAN, MT	102.7	103.9	112.9	85.4	97.9	104.8	100.2
RENO, NV	104.8	105.9	94.6	96.9	117.9	101.3	111.7
FARGO, ND	99.1	109.7	92.4	98.3	98.5	114.9	99.0
PORTLAND, OR	129.5	115.5	166.8	83.5	119.0	110.5	123.9
HOUSTON, TX	98.2	85.6	105.2	97.1	91.0	91.4	100.9
SEATTLE, WA	140.3	124.6	183.9	107.7	121.1	120.5	128.9
MILWAUKEE, WI	100.3	101.3	99.4	108.2	97.9	117.3	96.8
LARAMIE, WY	92.8	96.8	88.9	100.2	92	100.8	91.5

*MOST EXPENSIVE = 1ST, LEAST EXPENSIVE = 273RD