

C2ER THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH - From the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

First Quarter 2011

National Average for 312 Urban Areas = 100

(Comparing the Houston, Texas and its lower cost-of-living rating to the 1 – 10th Ranked Most Expensive Urban Areas)

RANK	URBAN AREAS	100 % Composite Index	13.31% Grocery Items	29.27% Housing	10.22% Utilities	9.86% Transportation	4.23% Healthcare	33.11% Miscellaneous Goods & Services
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	218.4	154.8	397.7	158.9	119.7	130.3	144.3
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	185.6	127.2	329.0	158.3	108.9	113.3	122.7
3	Honolulu HI	170.6	155.3	256.4	160.6	128.1	122.2	122.7
4	San Francisco, CA	163.6	113.1	279.4	90.8	110.9	112.7	126.1
5	New York (Queens) NY	156.9	130.7	235.6	159.2	109.3	113.2	116.8
6	San Jose CA	150.0	110.0	237.9	137.9	118.7	116.3	105.6
7	Stamford CT	147.4	118.5	210.0	139.5	109.3	113.2	121.7
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	145.2	128.3	199.4	124.2	120.2	112.6	122.1
9	Orange County CA	143.3	106.8	230.9	107.7	114.7	108.3	104.5
10	Washington DC	141.0	110.7	230.9	100.7	108.0	102.0	100.8
N/A	Houston –Sugar Land–Baytown TX (Metro) Houston, TX	90.5	83.9	84.2	88.3	94.8	98.1	97.2

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(Comparing the Houston, Texas and its lower cost-of-living rating to the 1 – 10th Ranked Most Expensive Urban Areas)

RANKING	URBAN AREAS	COL INDEX (100% COMPOSITE)
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	218.4
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	185.6
3	Honolulu HI	170.6
4	San Francisco, CA	163.6
5	New York (Queens) NY	156.9
6	San Jose CA	150.0
7	Stamford CT	147.4
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	145.2
9	Orange County CA	143.3
10	Washington DC	141.0
N/A	Houston –Sugar Land–Baytown TX (Metro) Houston, TX	90.5

A CLOSER LOOK AT GROCERY STORE ITEMS – HOUSTON, TEXAS COMPARED TO TEN MOST EXPENSIVE URBAN AREAS

Texas cities frequently rate among the least expensive in the index and prices are often below the national average for items found in the grocery store. Here's a snapshot of prices for items in Houston, Texas.

(First Quarter 2011 Average Prices compared to ten most expensive areas).

RANKING	URBAN AREA	T-BONE STEAK	TUNA	HGAL MILK	DOZEN EGGS	BREAD
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$12.99	\$1.63	\$2.23	\$2.77	\$2.08
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	\$9.89	\$1.03	\$2.13	\$2.37	\$1.53
3	Honolulu HI	\$8.99	\$1.26	\$3.71	\$3.19	\$3.33
4	San Francisco, CA	\$8.74	\$0.87	\$2.01	\$2.42	\$1.70
5	New York (Queens) NY	\$10.32	\$1.37	\$2.19	\$2.09	\$2.22
6	San Jose CA	\$9.39	\$0.73	\$2.07	\$2.28	\$1.64
7	Stamford CT	\$9.22	\$1.22	\$1.93	\$2.43	\$1.46
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	\$9.69	\$1.32	\$1.92	\$2.43	\$2.37
9	Orange County CA	\$9.79	\$0.85	\$2.11	\$2.55	\$1.45
10	Washington DC	\$10.23	\$0.99	\$2.49	\$2.49	\$1.50
N/A	Houston TX	\$7.28	\$0.68	\$2.10	\$1.56	\$0.91

The ACCRA Cost of Living Index measures differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top quintile. It is based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small difference should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

Visit www.coli.org to Compare Affordable Houston Cost of Living to COL in Other Major Metropolitan Areas/Cities