

# Cost of Living & Average Income

The goals of many people include earning enough money to purchase a home, save for retirement, live well, and take yearly vacations. How much do these goals cost in each state? How far will a person's income stretch to buy these things in each state? The cost of living among the states vary! Are you living in a high cost state? Are you living in a low cost state?

## High Cost of Living States (U.S. Average is 100%)

118.1%	Washington, D.C.
116.8%	Hawaii
115.7%	New York
114.5%	New Jersey
112.4%	California
110.3%	Maryland
110.8%	Connecticut
107.1%	Massachusetts
105.7%	Alaska
105.2%	New Hampshire
103.8%	Washington
102.6%	Virginia
102.0%	Colorado
101.9%	Delaware
101.2%	Vermont
0.7%	Illinois



90.6%	Nebraska
90.7%	Kansas
91.4%	Indiana
91.4%	Louisiana
91.5%	North Dakota
91.7%	North Carolina
92.0%	Georgia
93.4%	Wisconsin
93.4%	Idaho
94.1%	Michigan
94.2%	Montana
95.0%	New Mexico
96.2%	Wyoming
96.4%	Arizona
96.6%	Texas
97.0%	Utah
97.1%	Maine
97.6%	Minnesota
97.7%	Nevada
98.2%	Pennsylvania
98.7%	Rhode Island
99.0%	Oregon
99.1%	Florida



Source: U.S. Department of Census

**A second factor to consider** is the average income of workers in each state. The average income among the states vary! Are workers in your state paid higher or lower than the U.S. average yearly income of \$50,392?

## Low Cost of Living States (U.S. Average is 100%)

86.7%	Mississippi
87.5%	Arkansas
87.8%	Alabama
88.0%	South Dakota
88.7%	Kentucky
89.9%	West Virginia
89.3%	Ohio
89.4%	Missouri
90.1%	Oklahoma
90.2%	Tennessee
90.3%	Iowa
90.5%	South Carolina



## Average Yearly Income by State

\$50,392	Average Yearly Income for U.S.
\$39,976	Alabama
\$56,042	Alaska
\$41,633	Arizona
\$40,791	Arkansas
\$58,272	California
\$53,504	Colorado
\$70,121	Connecticut
\$49,125	Delaware
\$45,858	Florida
\$43,270	Georgia



\$51,939	Hawaii
\$40,507	Idaho
\$52,808	Illinois
\$44,165	Indiana
\$45,996	Iowa
\$47,603	Kansas
\$39,393	Kentucky
\$43,491	Louisiana
\$45,072	Maine
\$59,524	Maryland
\$65,890	Massachusetts
\$45,255	Michigan
\$53,043	Minnesota
\$36,346	Mississippi
\$43,907	Montana
\$50,395	Nebraska
\$44,626	Nevada
\$57,574	New Hampshire
\$62,554	New Jersey
\$39,023	New Mexico



\$60,991	New York
\$43,303	North Carolina
\$54,643	North Dakota
\$45,615	Ohio
\$43,449	Oklahoma
\$46,361	Oregon
\$52,096	Pennsylvania
\$51,503	Rhode Island
\$40,421	South Carolina
\$48,281	South Dakota
\$42,266	Tennessee
\$46,942	Texas
\$42,043	Utah
\$51,114	Vermont
\$54,244	Virginia
\$56,283	Washington
\$37,924	West Virginia
\$47,850	Wisconsin
\$56,724	Wyoming



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### QUICK CHECK:

- List 4 goals of many people.
- Does the cost of living vary among states?
- What percent of the U.S. average does it cost to live in:
  - Hawaii?
  - California?
  - Alaska?
  - Colorado?
  - Illinois?
- What percent of the U.S. average does it cost to live in:
  - Mississippi?
  - Missouri?
  - Wisconsin?
  - Utah?
  - Oregon?
- Is your state a high or low cost state?
  - For your state, what is cost of living percent?
  - By what percent is this above or below the U.S. average of 100%?
- What is a second factor to consider?
- Does average income among states vary?
- What is the average yearly income for the U.S.?
- List the 5 states with the highest average yearly income along with the income amount.
- List the 5 states with the lowest average yearly income along with the income amount.
- If a worker earns the average yearly income for the U.S. of \$50,392:
  - How much does that worker earn weekly? (Divide \$50,392 by 52 weeks in a year)
  - How much does that worker earn for a 40 hour work week? (Divide weekly pay by 40)
- If a worker earns the average yearly income for Connecticut:
  - How much does that worker earn weekly?
  - How much for a 40 hour work week?
- If a worker earns the average yearly income for Mississippi:
  - How much does that worker earn weekly?
  - How much for a 40 hour work week?
- After reading cost of living and average income information, which state or states would you like to live in during your working career?
  - Give a reason for your answer.
- Which state or states would you like to live in during your retirement years?
  - Give a reason for your answer.