

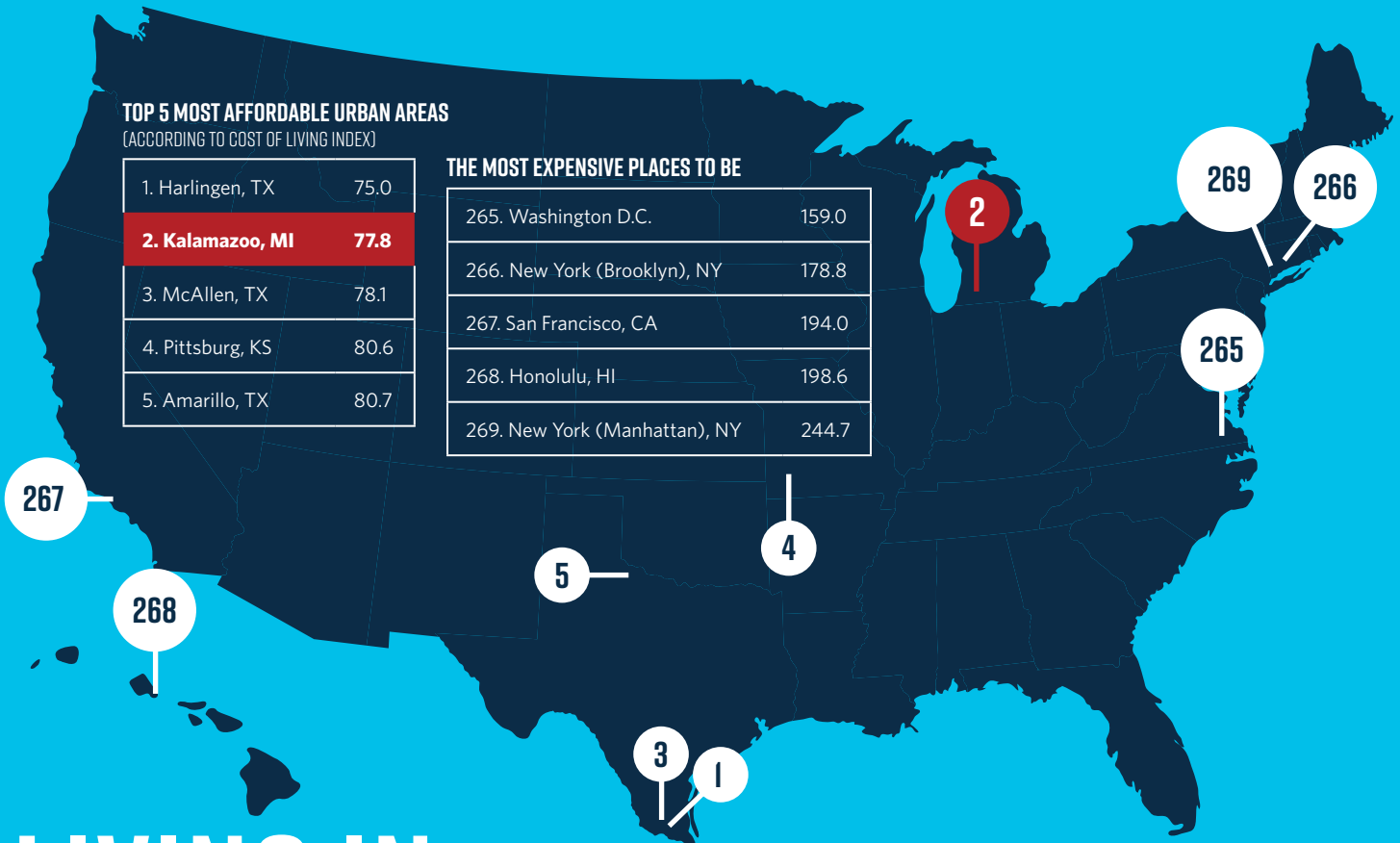
COST OF LIVING

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

1. Harlingen, TX	75.0
2. Kalamazoo, MI	77.8
3. McAllen, TX	78.1
4. Pittsburg, KS	80.6
5. Amarillo, TX	80.7

THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLACES TO BE

265. Washington D.C.	159.0
266. New York (Brooklyn), NY	178.8
267. San Francisco, CA	194.0
268. Honolulu, HI	198.6
269. New York (Manhattan), NY	244.7



LIVING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

**LOOKING FOR AN AFFORDABLE PLACE TO LAY OUT YOUR “HOME, SWEET HOME” WELCOME MAT?
IF SO, SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN IS A GREAT CHOICE.**

Among the 269 urban areas that participated in the 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 25 percent below in Harlingen, Texas. Southwest Michigan’s geographical center—Kalamazoo, Michigan—continues to rank as one of the most affordable places to live in the nation boasting a cost of living that is 22.2 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 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 second lowest cost of living in the nation as confirmed by the COL Index. Affordable housing in the Kalamazoo area is the top driver for landing it at the top of the list, as well as low prices at the grocery store and for 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
Kalamazoo-Portage, MI	77.8	74.6	50.9	99.0	96.68	93.3	87.3
Knoxville, TN	83.3	86.0	68.5	94.3	96.8	92.1	88.9
Fort Wayne, IN	86.8	86.1	61.7	92.5	106.0	98.6	99.0
Niles-Benton Harbor, MI	87.4	91.7	68.3	108.8	96.9	95.7	91.7
Springfield, MO	88.6	101.5	72.4	86.6	89.3	101.2	94.9
Peoria, IL	90.1	95.9	79.0	100.2	103.4	89.5	90.5
Huntsville, AL	91.8	96.9	70.1	96.1	96.0	97.4	104
Greenville, SC	92.2	101.9	75.5	95.4	96.0	95.9	99.2
Omaha, NE	93.6	98.5	86.2	95.6	95.1	94.8	94.4
Winston-Salem, NC	94.2	101.1	79.6	93.8	99.6	116.5	98.7
Grand Rapids, MI	94.5	89.1	88.7	100.6	106.9	94.7	96.6
Cleveland, OH	96.0	103.5	83.3	95.1	99.8	109.7	100.4
Buffalo, NY	96.7	94.2	95.0	97.0	97.9	85.5	100.3
Boise, ID	99.3	93.5	99.6	83.1	108.8	98.2	103.3
National Average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Austin, TX	101.8	92.2	109.8	95.0	89.6	108.6	103.2
Detroit, MI	102.7	99.6	98.8	96.4	106.9	95.6	108.7
Minneapolis, MN	105.1	102.6	103.1	97.3	100.5	102.2	111.2
Chicago, IL	123.9	107.2	163.0	92.7	113.6	98.9	113.9
San Diego, CA	142.9	114.4	212.0	125.8	136.1	108.3	110.4
Boston, MA	150.0	113.2	224.4	122.3	108.5	120.6	127.4
San Francisco, CA	194.0	130.5	357.1	137.9	148.3	124.7	125.9
Manhattan, NY	244.7	148.1	542.3	98.3	131.7	109.8	132.8

SOURCE: The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)
Cost of Living Index — 2020 Annual Average Data, Published February 2021.

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 variety of items in Kalamazoo as compared with the cost for the same item in other metropolises.

HOME (ABOUT 2,400 SQUARE FEET)



\$190,567 KALAMAZOO, MI	\$229,431 MOBILE, AL
	\$303,827 TOPEKA, KS
	\$380,418 ATLANTA, GA

TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT (MONTHLY RENT)



\$555 KALAMAZOO, MI	\$786 CHAMPAIGN, IL
	\$972 SOUTH BEND, IN
	\$1,257 ANCHORAGE, AK

DOCTOR'S VISIT



\$102.79 KALAMAZOO, MI	\$112.21 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
	\$118.17 STAMFORD, CT
	\$126.71 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

MCDONALD'S QUARTER-POUNDER WITH CHEESE



\$3.79 KALAMAZOO, MI	\$4.93 DES MOINES, IA
	\$5.39 MADISON, WI
	\$5.66 SAN FRANCISCO, CA

DROP-IN YOGA CLASS



\$16.39 KALAMAZOO, MI	\$17.00 ALBANY, NY
	\$21.00 BOSTON, MA
	\$22.57 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

ANNUAL VETERINARY SERVICE EXAM



\$55.55 KALAMAZOO, MI	\$57.56 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
	\$64.50 PORTLAND, OR
	\$80.12 WASHINGTON DC

NOTE: The Cost of Living Index measures regional differences in the cost of housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care, and consumer goods and services. It is based on more than 90,000 prices covering almost 60 different items for which prices are collected three times a year by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and university applied economic centers in each participating urban area.