

COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 273 urban areas that participated in the 2015 *Cost of Living Index*, the after-tax cost for a professional/managerial **standard of living ranged from more than twice the national average in New York (Manhattan), NY, to more than 20 percent below the national average in McAllen, TX.** The *Cost of Living Index* is published quarterly by C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

Dalton's Cost of Living Index (COLI)

2015 Annual Average Data

National Average for 273 Urban Areas = 100

	Composite Index	Grocery Items	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Misc. Goods & Services
Dalton, GA	90.1	97.3	72.5	97.1	97.4	95.0	69.9

Five Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas

Year End Review 2015

National Average for 273 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan), NY	227.4	1	McAllen, TX	78.3
2	Honolulu, HI	188.2	2	Harlingen, TX	79.7
3	San Francisco, CA	176.4	3	Richmond, IN	81.2
4	New York (Brooklyn), NY	173.2	4	Norman, OK	81.5
5	Hilo, HI	149.0	5	Ashland, OH	82.3
6	Orange County CA	148.6	6	Youngstown-Warren OH	82.8
7	Oakland CA	147.0	7	Idaho Falls ID	83.2
8	Stamford CT	146.9	7	Hattiesburg MS	83.2
9	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA	146.8	7	Jackson MS	83.2
10	San Diego CA	144.8	8	Tupelo MS	84.2
			8	Cookeville TN	84.2
			9	Memphis TN	84.5
			10	Sherman-Denison TX	84.7

The Cost of Living Index measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 50,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and university applied economic centers in each participating urban area.

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