

Cost of Living Data Series

Missouri had the sixth lowest cost of living in the United States for the third quarter in 2024. In general, the most expensive areas to live were Hawaii, Alaska, the Northeast, and the West Coast. The least expensive areas were the Midwest and Southern states.

MERIC derives the cost of living index for each state by averaging the indices of participating cities and metropolitan areas in that state. Missouri’s cost of living index for the third quarter 2024 was 89.0.

Cities across the nation participate in the Council for Community & Economic Research (C2ER) survey on a volunteer basis. Price information in the survey is governed by C2ER collection guidelines which strive for uniformity.

2024 Third Quarter Average Cost of Living

Rank	State	Index	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health	Misc.
1	West Virginia	84.8	98.4	61.3	96.4	93.1	96.8	91.2
2	Kansas	86.7	94.6	70.7	100.8	92.2	92.6	90.3
3	Mississippi	87.5	96.8	72.2	89.4	90.1	95.6	93.8
4	Oklahoma	87.9	96.5	74.7	96.5	90.6	99.3	90.5
5	Alabama	88.8	97.8	71.4	100.5	90.3	90.1	95.8
6	Missouri	89.0	97.0	78.6	98.0	88.3	91.6	91.7
7	Arkansas	89.0	95.5	75.2	90.4	91.5	85.8	97.1
8	Tennessee	90.0	97.1	82.8	86.0	88.1	87.6	94.8
9	Iowa	90.4	96.5	75.4	92.9	98.2	96.7	96.3
10	Indiana	91.3	97.0	77.3	92.1	101.6	97.7	96.1
11	Georgia	91.5	97.4	79.2	100.4	95.7	97.9	94.8
12	North Dakota	92.1	96.1	79.8	81.2	100.2	105.7	99.2
13	Michigan	92.3	98.7	78.5	98.6	100.6	90.6	97.2
14	South Dakota	92.3	98.4	89.7	85.5	96.0	101.2	91.3
15	Texas	92.6	95.9	81.3	107.3	92.4	94.9	96.5

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16	Nebraska	92.8	99.3	79.5	87.1	97.4	101.4	99.8
17	Kentucky	92.9	99.5	77.8	85.7	100.0	101.4	101.0
18	New Mexico	92.9	97.4	84.9	82.9	89.8	105.1	99.5
19	Louisiana	93.5	96.6	84.4	81.1	97.4	95.2	101.5
20	Montana	94.0	98.7	84.6	83.0	101.8	96.6	99.8
21	Ohio	94.9	98.5	87.6	95.6	96.9	97.1	98.2
22	Pennsylvania	94.9	99.1	83.5	104.4	103.9	91.7	97.7
23	South Carolina	95.2	99.6	86.4	99.3	94.2	93.4	100.0
24	Minnesota	95.3	102.0	80.3	98.0	98.3	104.9	102.0
25	Wyoming	95.4	100.6	90.1	92.0	95.0	100.5	97.9
26	Illinois	95.5	98.3	84.2	99.4	107.7	100.6	98.2
27	North Carolina	97.6	98.9	95.6	95.4	91.7	104.3	100.1
28	Maryland	98.9	102.4	82.2	113.1	103.0	92.2	107.3
29	Wisconsin	99.3	98.1	98.5	86.4	101.7	105.4	102.3
30	Nevada	100.1	103.4	106.8	96.6	115.1	84.1	91.3
31	Delaware	100.2	102.1	96.5	97.3	103.0	101.5	102.2
32	Virginia	100.5	99.2	103.8	98.9	96.3	106.3	99.2
33	Idaho	102.0	101.9	99.1	77.7	109.2	101.4	108.7
34	Florida	102.4	106.7	107.7	98.6	98.4	95.3	99.4
35	Puerto Rico	102.5	110.0	102.4	148.1	93.8	71.0	94.4
36	Colorado	102.7	100.7	107.6	88.6	100.8	103.5	103.7
37	Utah	109.5	98.6	129.7	101.7	113.4	89.8	100.9
38	Oregon	110.0	103.0	131.7	90.9	113.3	112.0	98.4
39	New Hampshire	111.5	100.3	116.2	121.3	104.1	110.3	112.5
40	Connecticut	111.7	102.5	117.2	135.2	105.5	112.3	107.0

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41	Rhode Island	112.4	102.7	114.4	141.2	96.7	107.1	113.2
42	Arizona	112.8	101.7	136.0	108.3	102.0	89.7	106.2
43	Maine	113.5	101.4	135.8	111.0	107.7	112.9	102.6
44	Washington	113.6	103.5	126.7	94.4	119.9	116.4	109.7
45	Vermont	114.1	106.4	133.1	110.7	95.4	113.3	108.5
46	New Jersey	114.8	103.6	138.2	100.7	106.4	106.7	107.6
47	New York	123.4	103.8	170.2	97.5	108.3	111.6	105.9
48	Alaska	123.4	125.1	117.8	157.4	115.7	146.4	117.6
49	District of Columbia	138.1	104.7	213.0	100.5	108.4	114.8	112.5
50	California	144.7	112.4	209.1	137.7	130.2	106.5	116.8
51	Massachusetts	146.9	104.5	226.0	146.1	109.5	130.1	113.6
52	Hawaii	184.6	135.9	302.6	210.0	133.7	123.7	124.9
**	U.S.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

All of the participating Missouri cities had a composite index below the national average for the third quarter in 2024. The city with the lowest cost of living index for this time period was Joplin with an index of 85.2. The city

Cost of Living Indices for Participating Missouri Cities - Third Quarter 2024

Metro	Index	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Transport.	Health	Misc.
Joplin MO	85.2	94.6	68.1	108.3	81.3	94.5	89.4
Missouri	89.0	97.0	78.6	98.0	88.3	91.6	91.7
Springfield MO	89.6	96.2	79.7	83.0	89.8	97.3	95.5
St. Louis MO-IL	89.7	99.3	78.9	97.2	95.1	83.4	91.8
Kansas City MO-KS	90.1	98.1	84.2	104.7	88.8	83.4	88.9
Columbia MO	90.5	96.7	82.1	96.8	86.7	99.4	93.1

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