

Cost of Living Index

Report Criteria

The following information was supplied for this report:

Reference: Demo COLI
 Date: August 17, 2010
 Home Location: USA, Houston Tex
 Survey Date: July 01, 2010

Results

Xpatulator.com collects information for approximately 140 different goods and services. We collect the price for the same quantity of each item. The data is thoroughly quality assured and manually checked and moderated by Xpatulator Analysts. For ease of use, the 140 goods and services have been grouped into 13 basket groups. To compare the cost of living, we use the total cost of the basket in each location. The difference in the cost of the basket at the ruling exchange rate is the basis of the cost of living index.

Based on the Home Location and selected Basket Group, the following results are reported.

When comparing the cost of living between 2 locations, the difference in the aggregate cost of all the items in the cost of living index basket are examined in each location, this is done by using the average reported price in each location for the same quantity of each item.

The Cost of Living Indexes for the selected basket group for the Home and Host Location(s) is reported, relative to the Home Location, which has a cost of living index of 100. All other Cost of Living Indexes are expressed as an index (percentage) of the Home Location. For example if a host location has an index of 80 it means that the cost of living is 80% of the cost of living of the home location (i.e. 20% less than the home location). Another host location with a cost of living index of 110, means the cost of living is 110% of the cost of living in the home location (i.e. 10% more than the home location).

The cost of living index is the relative differential of the local cost of the Overall Index Basket and the ruling exchange rate between each location using USA, Houston Tex as the Home Location (USA, Houston Tex = 100).

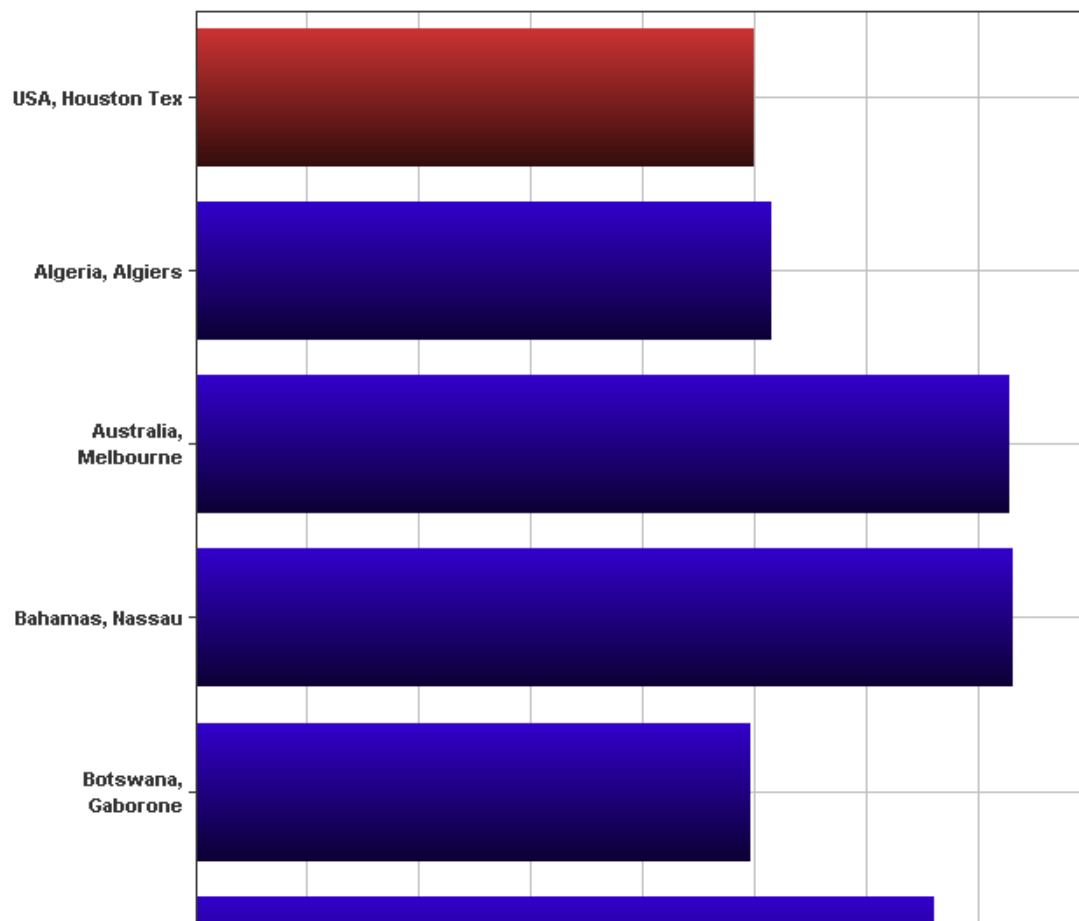
The most expensive location for Overall Index is Bahamas, Nassau, with an index of 146.4. This means that the cost of Overall Index in Bahamas, Nassau is 1.464 times more expensive than USA, Houston Tex. The least expensive location for Overall Index is Libya, Tripoli, with an index of 85.2. This means that the cost of Overall Index in Libya, Tripoli is 0.852 times less expensive than USA, Houston Tex.

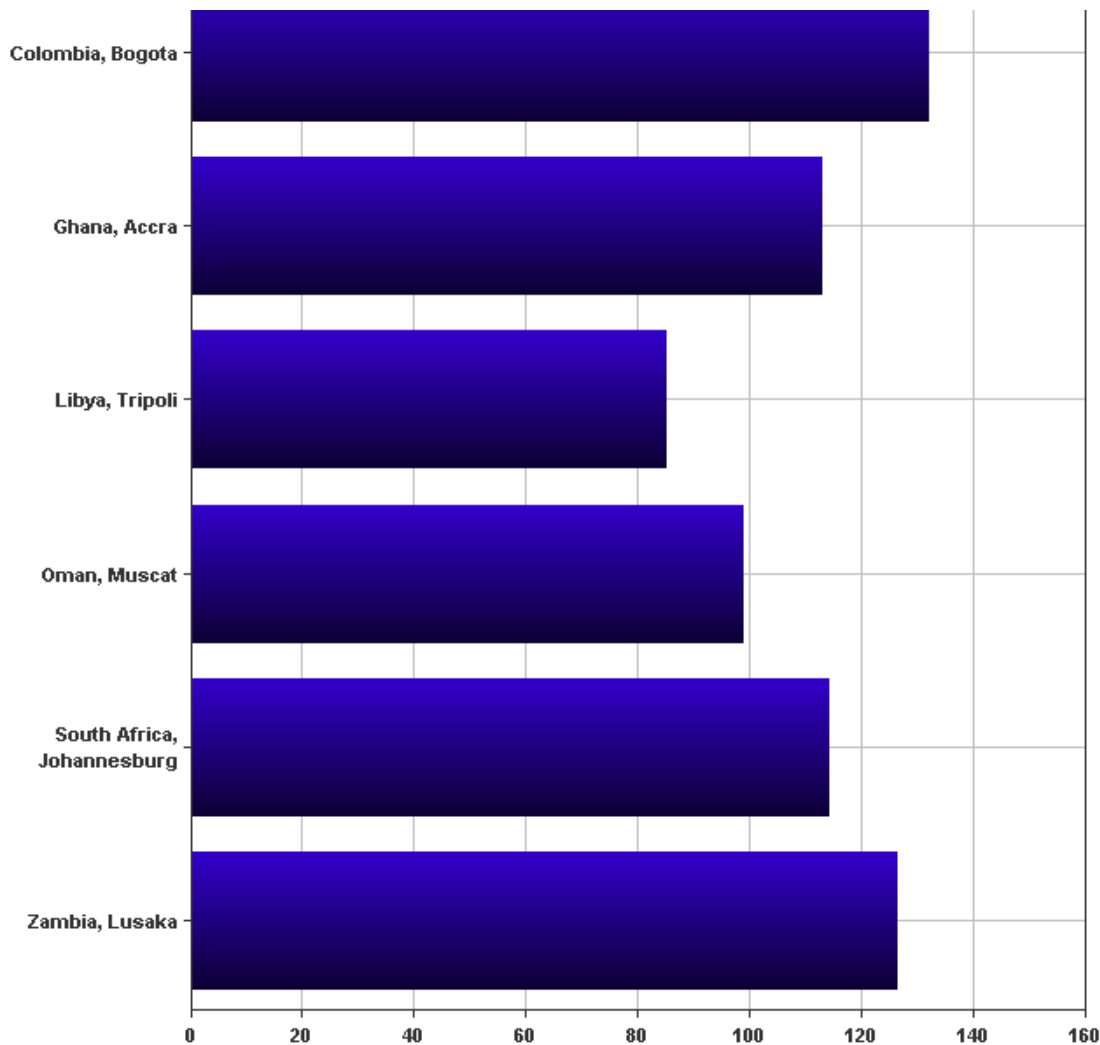
The **Overall Index Basket** consists of:

- Alcohol & Tobacco: Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products (Weight 2.0%):
- Clothing: Clothing and footwear products (Weight 2.5%):
- Communication (Weight 2.0%):
- Education (Weight 5.0%):
- Furniture & Appliances: Furniture, household equipment and household appliances (Weight 5.0%):
- Groceries: Food, non-alcoholic beverages and cleaning material (Weight 16.5%):
- Healthcare: General Healthcare, Medical and Medical Insurance (Weight 5.0%):
- Household: Housing, water, electricity, household gas, household fuels, local rates and residential taxes (Weight 30.0%):
- Miscellaneous: Stationary, Linen and general goods and services (Weight 3.0%):
- Personal Care: Personal Care products and services (Weight 3.0%):
- Recreation and Culture (Weight 6.0%):
- Restaurants, Meals Out and Hotels (Weight 2.0%):
- Transport: Public Transport, Vehicle Costs, Vehicle Fuel, Vehicle Insurance and Vehicle Maintenance (Weight 18.0%):

Location	Overall Index Cost of Living Index	Overall Index Cost of Living Ranking (of 282 Global Locations)	More About The Location
USA, Houston Tex	100	230	USA, Houston Tex
Algeria, Algiers	103.3	214	Algeria, Algiers
Australia, Melbourne	145.6	37	Australia, Melbourne
Bahamas, Nassau	146.4	35	Bahamas, Nassau
Botswana, Gaborone	99.5	231	Botswana, Gaborone
Colombia, Bogota	132.3	82	Colombia, Bogota
Ghana, Accra	113.1	163	Ghana, Accra
Libya, Tripoli	85.2	273	Libya, Tripoli
Oman, Muscat	99.2	234	Oman, Muscat
South Africa, Johannesburg	114.3	160	South Africa, Johannesburg
Zambia, Lusaka	126.6	101	Zambia, Lusaka

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Notes

(1) The cost of living indexes are updated on a quarterly basis.

(2) The Overall Index Basket uses weights which are the result of extensive research of actual spending habits. The weight reflects the proportion of salary spent on each basket by Expatriates. By applying the weight to each index we have reported the overall weighted cost of living index.

(3) There is a relationship between the cost of living index and the exchange rate. Where the home currency has strengthened against the host currency (i.e. the home currency buys more host currency), the host cost of living index will decrease.

(4) Increases in prices in the host location (i.e. inflation) will cause the host cost of living index to increase. Decrease in prices (i.e. deflation) in the host location will cause the host cost of living index to decrease.

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About Xpatulator.com

Xpatulator.com is the most comprehensive source of international cost of living information. We provide free international cost of living overviews and rank information covering 13 cost of living baskets and 282 global locations as well as 3 premium content calculators. Founded in 2007, Xpatulator's mission is to organize the world's cost of living indices, exchange rates and relative hardship and make it accessible and useful to all.

Premium Content Calculators:

Salary Purchasing Power Parity Calculator (SPPP):

The SPPP report calculates how much you need to earn in another location to compensate for a higher cost of living, hardship, and the exchange rate, in order to have the same relative spending power and as a result have a similar standard of living as you have in your current location. Each new SPPP report uses 1 credit (\$99). Recommended for a detailed comparison of 2 locations.

Cost of Living Allowance Calculator (COLA):

The COLA report calculates how much additional allowance (over and above your current salary) you need to earn in another location to compensate for a higher cost of living, hardship and the exchange rate, in order to have the same relative spending power and as a result have a similar standard of living as you have in your current location. Each new COLA report uses 1 credit (\$99). Recommended for calculation of a cost of living allowance for short-term assignments.

Cost of Living Index Calculator (COLI)

The COLI report calculates cost of living indexes for the host locations you select using the home location you specify. You can choose from any one of the 13 baskets or you can choose the overall cost of living index. Each new COLI report uses 1 credit (\$99) allowing you to choose 1 home location and up to 281 available host locations. Recommended for the calculation of 3 or more cost of living indexes using your choice of base city.

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