

The Cost of Living in America

It's not just you - lots of people are struggling to make ends meet in America. And it's not just because of debt. The cost of living in America is remarkably high in many of its major cities, especially when compared to the median income of its citizens. This infographic takes the cost of groceries, housing, utilities, and more in cities across the 50 states and compares them to the national average. It also compares median income in many cities to the national average of \$53,046.

How to read the data

The "Cost of Living Index" is designed to measure differences in the prices of consumer goods and services (excluding travel) across regions. Nationwide, the average is 100. Each index is read as a percentage of the national average.

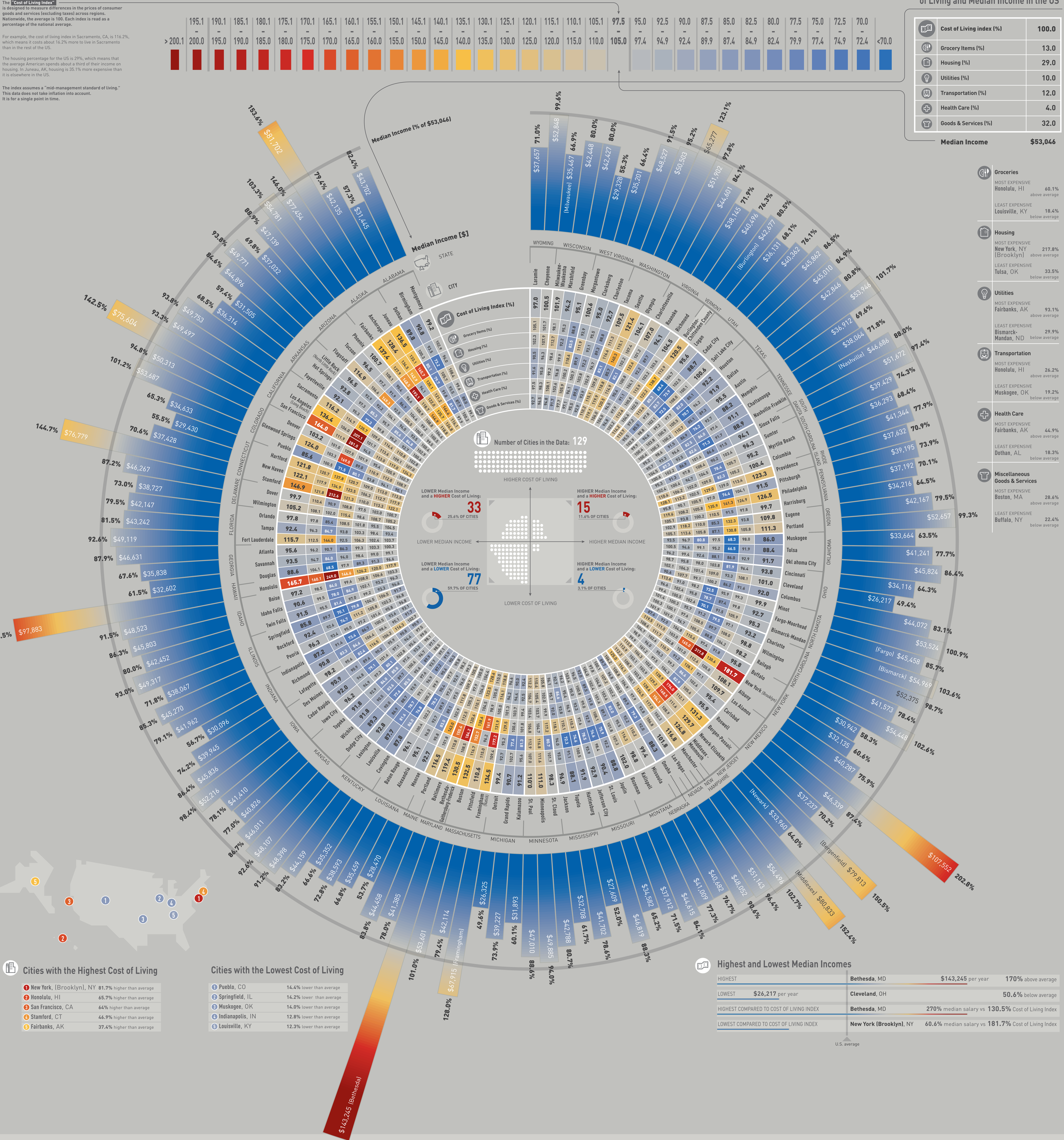
For example, the cost of living in Sacramento, CA, is 116.2%, which means it costs about 16.2% more to live in Sacramento than in the rest of the US.

The housing percentage for the US is 29%, which means that the average American spends about a third of their income on housing. In Juneau, AK, housing is 35.1% more expensive than it is elsewhere in the US.

The index assumes a "mid-management standard of living." This data does not take inflation into account. It is for a single point in time.

A Breakdown of the Average Cost of Living and Median Income in the US

Cost of Living index (%)	100.0
Grocery Items (%)	13.0
Housing (%)	29.0
Utilities (%)	10.0
Transportation (%)	12.0
Health Care (%)	4.0
Goods & Services (%)	32.0
Median Income	\$53,046



Cities with the Highest Cost of Living

1 New York, (Brooklyn), NY	81.7% higher than average
2 Honolulu, HI	65.7% higher than average
3 San Francisco, CA	64% higher than average
4 Stamford, CT	46.9% higher than average
5 Fairbanks, AK	37.4% higher than average

Cities with the Lowest Cost of Living

1 Pueblo, CO	14.4% lower than average
2 Springfield, IL	14.2% lower than average
3 Muskogee, OK	14.0% lower than average
4 Indianapolis, IN	12.8% lower than average
5 Louisville, KY	12.3% lower than average

Highest and Lowest Median Incomes

HIGHEST	Bethesda, MD	\$143,245 per year	170% above average
LOWEST	Cleveland, OH	\$26,217 per year	50.6% below average
HIGHEST COMPARED TO COST OF LIVING INDEX	Bethesda, MD	270% median salary vs 130.5% Cost of Living Index	
LOWEST COMPARED TO COST OF LIVING INDEX	New York (Brooklyn), NY	60.6% median salary vs 181.7% Cost of Living Index	

