



Greater St. Louis Cost of Living

St. Louis enjoys a significantly lower cost of living compared to U.S. averages, especially for an area its size. The Council for Community and Economic Research has produced its ACCRA Cost of Living Index for decades to measure the relative cost of U.S. metropolitan areas. The following table lists the St. Louis, MO-IL MSA cost indexes.

COST OF LIVING – ST. LOUIS, MO-IL MSA, 2017 AVERAGE

Metro Area	100% Composite Index	Grocery Items	Housing	Util-ities	Trans- port- ation	Health Care	Misc. Goods and Services
St. Louis	90.0	102.3	71.3	113.3	94.8	96.0	91.3

Note: U.S. metro average cost of living = 100.

Source: "ACCRA Cost of Living Index, 2017 Average Annual Data" Council for Community and Economic Research, Jan. 2017.

Average Housing Costs

The Council for Community and Economic Research has produced its ACCRA Cost of Living Index for decades to measure the relative cost of U.S. metropolitan areas. The housing index measures the cost of a new 2,400 square foot, 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with an attached 2 car garage suitable for a management household. This index correlated with an average St. Louis area home price of \$214,260 for the year 2016. St. Louis is again well below the U.S. metro average of \$326,999 for the same period.

Another component of the ACCRA Housing Index is the monthly rental price for a relatively newly built, 950 square foot apartment with two bedrooms and 1 ½-2 bathrooms, suitable for a management level couple. Monthly rent for such an apartment averaged \$864 in the St. Louis area in 2016 as compared with the U.S. average of \$1,008.¹

ACCRA HOUSING PRICES – 2016 ANNUAL AVERAGE

Metro Area	New Home Price	Apartment Rent
St. Louis	\$214,260	\$864
U.S. Metros	\$326,999	\$1,008

Source: "ACCRA Cost of Living Index, 2016 Average Annual Data" Council for Community and Economic Research, Jan. 2017.

¹ "ACCRA Cost of Living Index, 2016 Average Annual Data" Council for Community and Economic Research, Jan. 2017. M:\ED\RESEARCH\RESEARCH TOPICS\Cost of Living & Inflation\St. Louis MSA Cost of Living 2017.docx