

# Regional Snapshot: The Cost of Living in Metro Atlanta

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## In Summary...

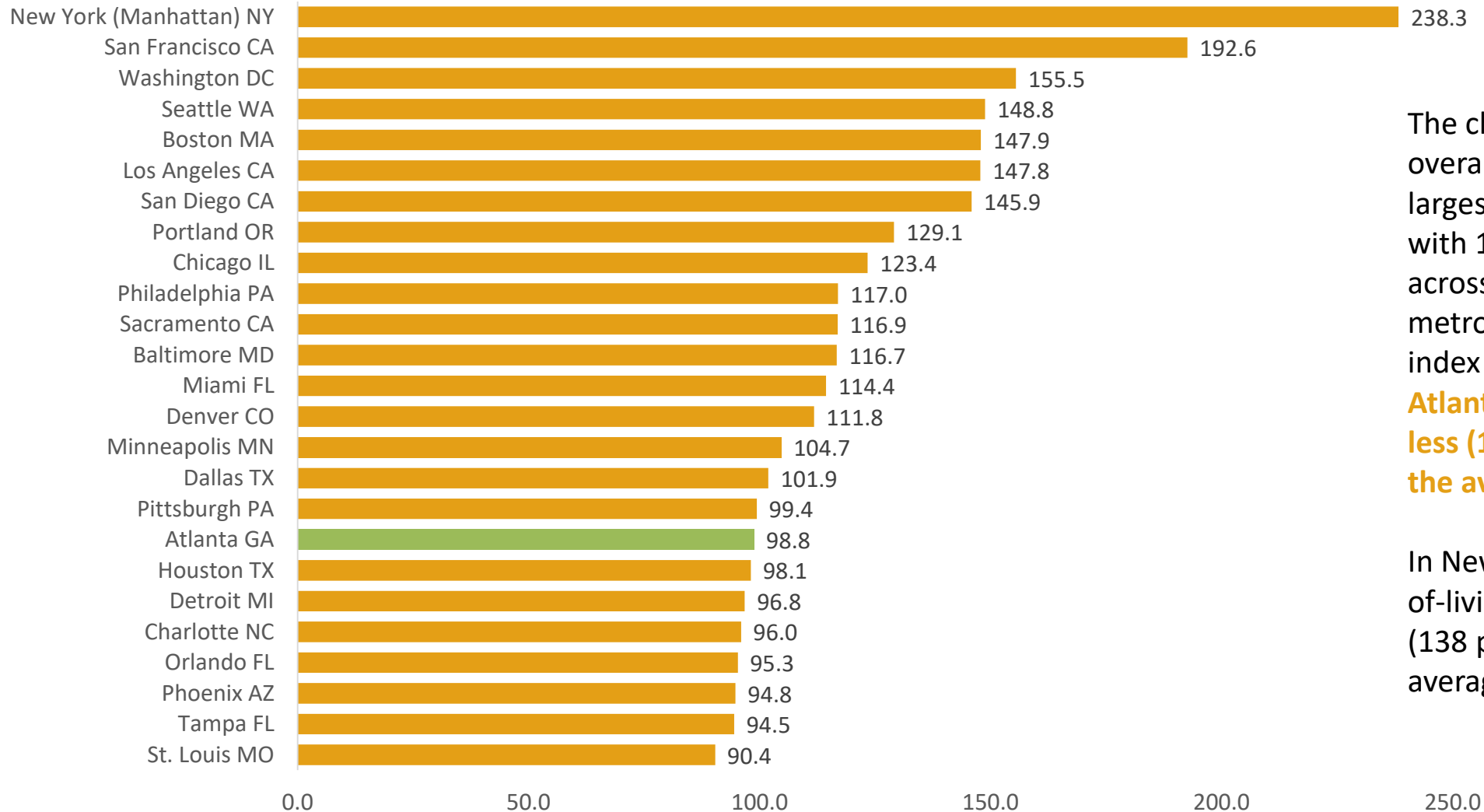
Metro Atlanta's overall cost-of-living is slightly **below** the national average, meaning that it is **less expensive here than in the average metro area**.

When considering individual items, **health care is the most expensive category** in metro Atlanta. Health care in metro Atlanta is **7.5 percent more expensive** than in the average metro area.

Overall, New York is the most expensive metro in which to live. Out of the 25 largest metro areas, **metro Atlanta ranks as the 18th most expensive metro** based on cost-of-living.

If someone in metro Atlanta with a \$50,000 salary were to move to New York, she would need to make around \$120,600 to have the equivalent spending power. To move to San Francisco, she would need about \$97,500; to move to Dallas, she would need \$51,600.

## Cost of Living for 25 Largest Metros



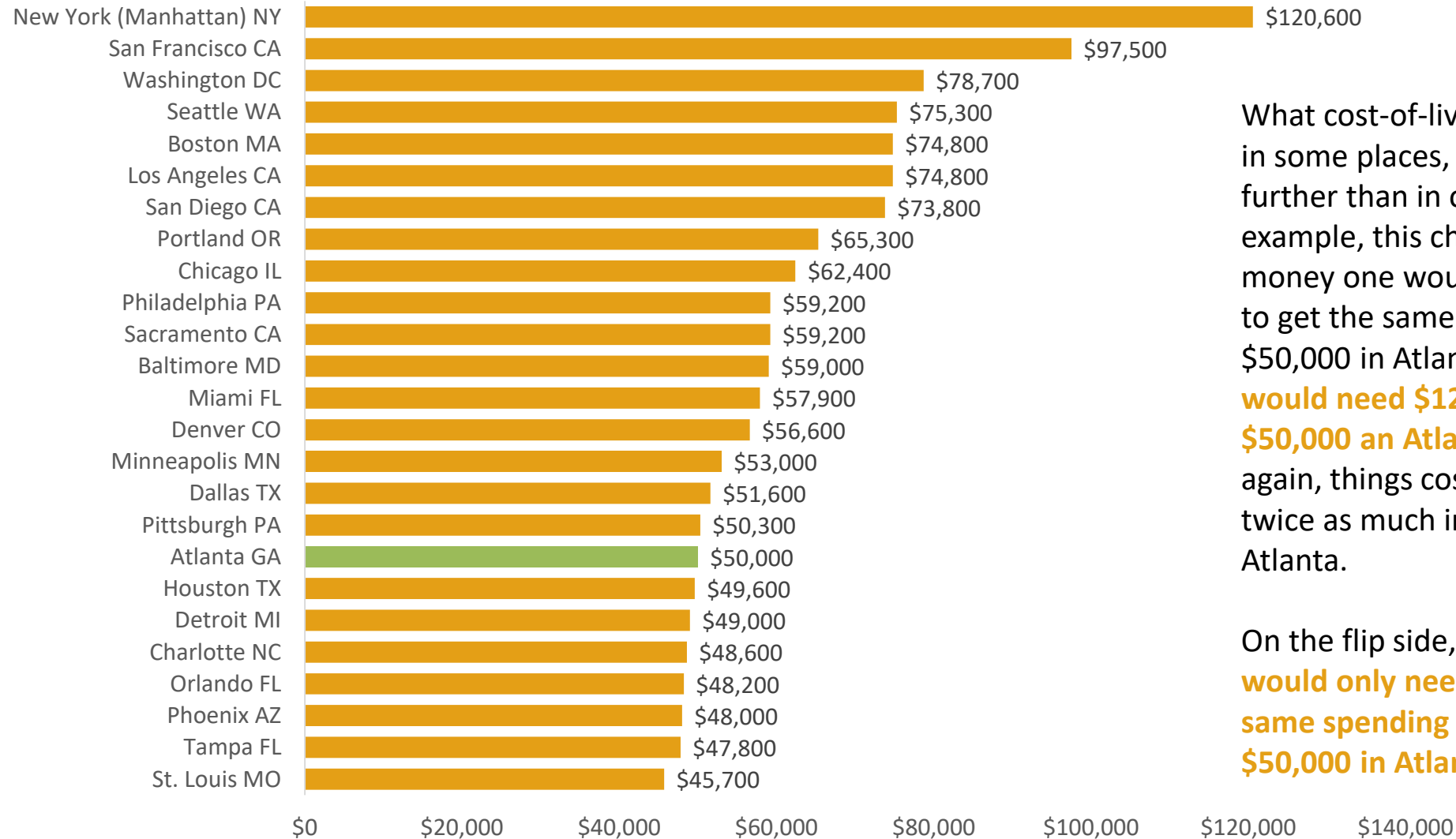
The chart to the left shows the overall cost-of-living for the 25 largest metro areas in the nation, with 100 being the average across all metros. As can be seen, metro Atlanta's cost-of-living index is 98.8, meaning that **Atlanta's cost-of-living is slightly less (1.2 percent) than that of the average metropolitan area.**

In New York, however, the cost-of-living is more than double (138 percent higher) than in the average metro.





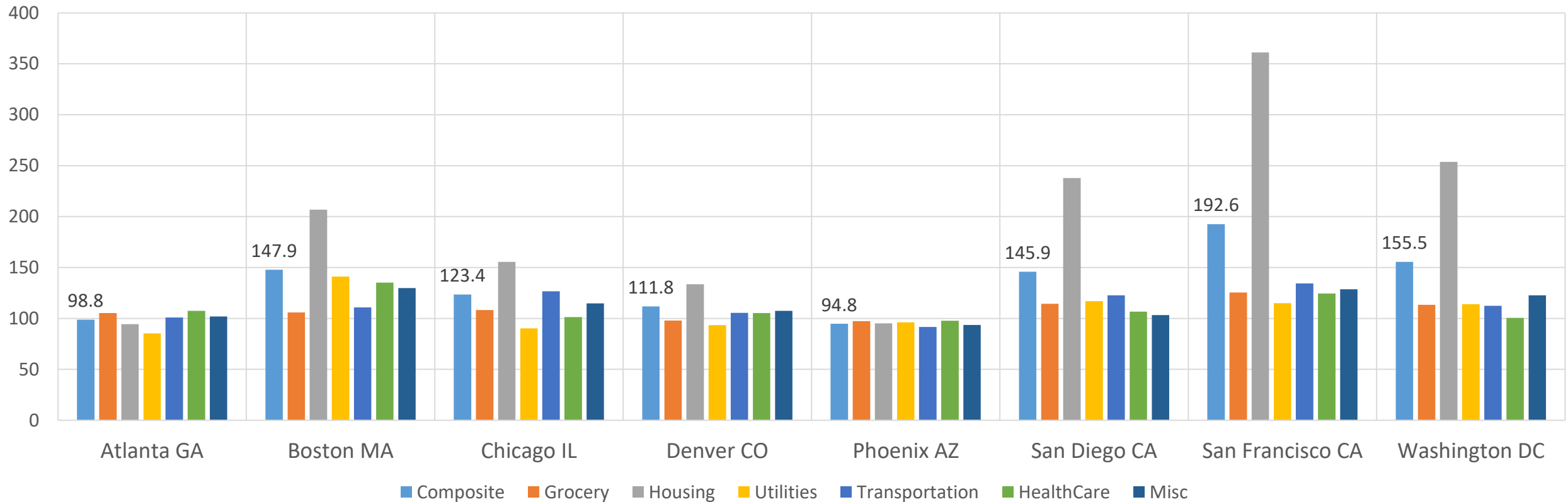
## Income Needed For Equivalent of \$50,000 in Atlanta



What cost-of-living really means is that in some places, your dollar will go a lot further than in other places. For example, this chart shows how much money one would need in other metros to get the same spending power as \$50,000 in Atlanta. So, **in New York, you would need \$120,600 to “equal” the \$50,000 an Atlantan would have.** So, again, things cost on average more that twice as much in New York as they do in Atlanta.

On the flip side, **someone in St. Louis would only need \$45,700 to have the same spending power as someone with \$50,000 in Atlanta.**

# Cost of Living Comparison for Selected Metros



The overall cost-of-living index is constructed by considering costs in six major categories of goods and services – groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. These six categories are then combined into the “composite” index. Again, 100 equals the average metro, so anything higher than 100 means that it is more expensive than in the average metro. This chart looks at seven of Atlanta’s “peer” metros and shows that **Atlanta and Phoenix have similar cost-of-living profiles across all cost categories.**

# Cost of Select Groceries for 25 Largest Metros

Metro	Dozen Eggs	Bread	Coffee	Milk (Half Gal)	Beer
Atlanta GA	\$ 1.58	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.66	\$ 1.98	\$ 9.07
Baltimore MD	\$ 1.26	\$ 3.59	\$ 3.86	\$ 2.89	\$ 10.49
Boston MA	\$ 1.38	\$ 4.06	\$ 3.96	\$ 1.98	\$ 9.97
Charlotte NC	\$ 1.53	\$ 2.97	\$ 3.82	\$ 1.87	\$ 8.92
Chicago IL	\$ 1.65	\$ 2.94	\$ 4.53	\$ 1.95	\$ 8.49
Dallas TX	\$ 1.59	\$ 2.98	\$ 4.40	\$ 1.90	\$ 8.73
Denver CO	\$ 1.83	\$ 3.25	\$ 4.59	\$ 1.72	\$ 8.48
Detroit MI	\$ 1.20	\$ 3.15	\$ 3.89	\$ 1.73	\$ 8.03
Houston TX	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.93	\$ 4.05	\$ 1.55	\$ 8.78
Los Angeles CA	\$ 2.11	\$ 3.11	\$ 6.42	\$ 2.24	\$ 9.88
Miami FL	\$ 1.56	\$ 3.18	\$ 3.72	\$ 2.65	\$ 9.62
Minneapolis MN	\$ 1.89	\$ 2.21	\$ 4.70	\$ 2.30	\$ 8.98
New York (Manhattan) NY	\$ 2.48	\$ 3.86	\$ 5.70	\$ 3.24	\$ 12.32
Orlando FL	\$ 1.85	\$ 3.49	\$ 3.80	\$ 2.43	\$ 10.34
Philadelphia PA	\$ 1.74	\$ 4.13	\$ 4.10	\$ 2.11	\$ 8.63
Phoenix AZ	\$ 1.55	\$ 3.44	\$ 4.98	\$ 1.49	\$ 8.70
Pittsburgh PA	\$ 1.05	\$ 3.98	\$ 4.74	\$ 1.90	\$ 10.08
Portland OR	\$ 1.78	\$ 3.37	\$ 5.88	\$ 2.06	\$ 9.82
Sacramento CA	\$ 1.84	\$ 3.47	\$ 6.40	\$ 2.85	\$ 8.77
San Diego CA	\$ 2.11	\$ 3.49	\$ 6.36	\$ 2.16	\$ 9.88
San Francisco CA	\$ 2.64	\$ 4.12	\$ 6.48	\$ 2.72	\$ 9.48
Seattle WA	\$ 1.68	\$ 4.65	\$ 5.76	\$ 2.03	\$ 10.81
St. Louis MO	\$ 1.55	\$ 2.41	\$ 4.83	\$ 2.49	\$ 8.68
Tampa FL	\$ 1.65	\$ 3.19	\$ 3.83	\$ 2.51	\$ 9.42
Washington DC	\$ 1.83	\$ 3.83	\$ 4.60	\$ 2.45	\$ 9.82

This table shows the relative costs of select grocery items, with **cells in green showing the least expensive metro areas, and cells in red showing the most expensive metros.**

As illustrated in the table, **prices vary widely depending on where you live.** For example, a can (or 'brick') of coffee (11.5-oz. size) costs more than \$6 in San Francisco, but less than \$4 in Miami. In New York, you will pay more than \$12 on average for a six-pack of Heineken, but head west to Detroit, and you'll pay only \$8.03 for the same six-pack.

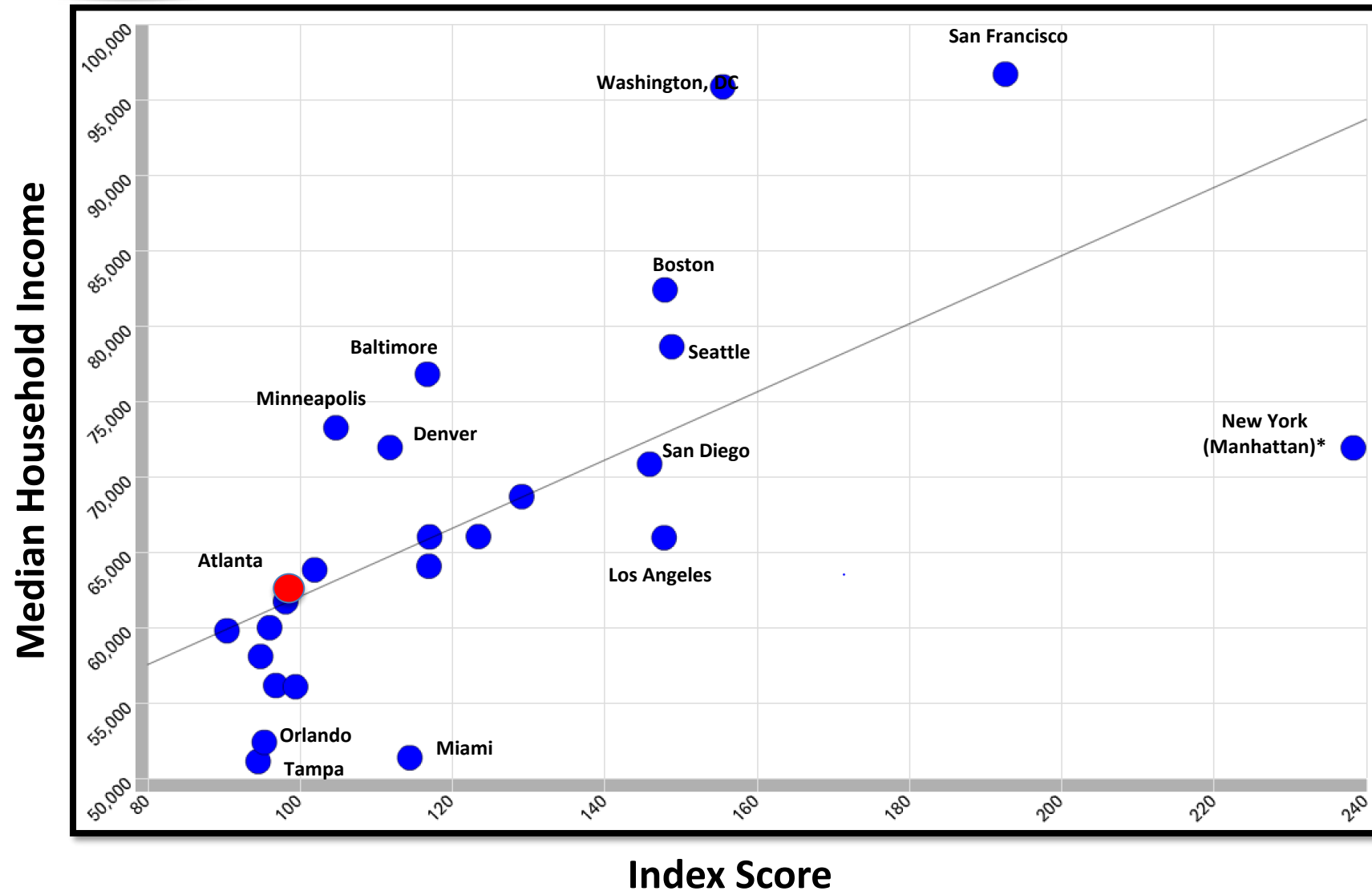
# Housing Costs for 25 Largest Metros

Metro	Apartment Rent	Home Price
Atlanta GA	\$ 1,169	\$ 290,041
Baltimore MD	\$ 1,611	\$ 475,815
Boston MA	\$ 2,742	\$ 604,205
Charlotte NC	\$ 1,061	\$ 267,863
Chicago IL	\$ 1,831	\$ 487,764
Dallas TX	\$ 1,318	\$ 317,177
Denver CO	\$ 1,414	\$ 442,949
Detroit MI	\$ 1,094	\$ 295,582
Houston TX	\$ 1,337	\$ 307,633
Los Angeles CA	\$ 2,633	\$ 786,269
Miami FL	\$ 2,047	\$ 401,772
Minneapolis MN	\$ 1,128	\$ 352,818
New York (Manhattan) NY	\$ 4,559	\$ 1,739,087
Orlando FL	\$ 1,065	\$ 276,775
Philadelphia PA	\$ 1,411	\$ 424,983
Phoenix AZ	\$ 1,032	\$ 317,372
Pittsburgh PA	\$ 1,110	\$ 281,247
Portland OR	\$ 2,482	\$ 507,368
Sacramento CA	\$ 1,820	\$ 410,200
San Diego CA	\$ 2,294	\$ 821,579
San Francisco CA	\$ 4,023	\$ 1,182,092
Seattle WA	\$ 2,366	\$ 649,370
St. Louis MO	\$ 877	\$ 223,050
Tampa FL	\$ 1,008	\$ 227,888
Washington DC	\$ 2,505	\$ 877,550

This table shows the relative costs of housing, with cells in green showing the least expensive metro areas, and cells in red showing the most expensive metros.

St. Louis and Tampa have the least expensive rents and home prices of these 25 metros, while New York and San Francisco have the most expensive housing. Out of the these 25 metros, **metro Atlanta ranks 9<sup>th</sup> for average rents and 6<sup>th</sup> in home price.**

# Relationship Between Income and Cost of Living



While there is an obvious link between cost-of-living and household incomes, the chart above shows where residents get more “bang for their buck”. The line above represents the relationship between median household incomes (vertical axis) and cost-of-living (horizontal axis). In any metro below the line, incomes are stretched to support the cost-of-living. So, in New York, a household income of roughly \$72,000 has to support the highest cost-of-living in the nation\*. In Washington DC, however, even though it too has a high cost-of-living, the roughly \$96,000 median income more easily supports the high cost-of-living. Metro Atlanta falls slightly above the line.

\* The household income for New York is for the entire metro area, while the cost-of-living is just for Manhattan, so the effect is overstated. But this is true for all metros shown – the incomes are for the entire metro area, while the cost-of-living is for the central city.

# If you are Moving From Atlanta to Dallas and have a salary of \$50K...

### Cost of Living Index Calculator

Current Base Salary (\$)

Moving From

Moving To

## COLI Calculator Result

Based on the Income that you entered, if you are earning \$50,000.00 after tax in Atlanta GA, the comparable after-tax income in Dallas TX is \$51,568.83. Below are the index values and average prices of two areas as well as the national average:

If you move from Atlanta GA to Dallas TX	
Groceries will cost:	9.89% less
Housing will cost:	11.12% more
Utilities will cost:	22.27% more
Transportation will cost:	1.68% less
Health will cost:	5.86% less

### Section 1: Index Values

Category (Percent Weight)	Atlanta GA	Dallas TX	National Average
<b>Composite (100%)</b>	98.8	101.9	100.0
<b>Grocery (13.47%)</b>	105.2	94.8	100.0
<b>Housing (28.15%)</b>	94.4	104.9	100.0
<b>Utilities (9.90%)</b>	85.3	104.3	100.0
<b>Transportation (8.99%)</b>	101.0	99.3	100.0
<b>Health (4.57%)</b>	107.5	101.2	100.0
<b>Miscellaneous (34.92%)</b>	102.0	102.3	100.0

### Section 2 - Average Prices

Item	Atlanta GA	Dallas TX	National Average
Apartment Rent	\$1,169	\$1,318	\$1,047
Home Price	\$290,041	\$317,177	\$335,956
Total Energy	\$126.90	\$182.84	\$166.99
Phone	\$27.67	\$28.15	\$28.71
Tire Balance	\$44.65	\$52.22	\$46.33
Gasoline	\$2.32	\$2.09	\$2.25
Optometrist Visit	\$102.23	\$109.38	\$101.93
Doctor Visit	\$105.10	\$106.11	\$108.00
Dentist Visit	\$114.97	\$96.42	\$92.54
Ibuprofen	\$9.38	\$8.87	\$9.29
Lipitor	\$414.55	\$428.97	\$426.17
Pizza	\$9.29	\$9.15	\$9.88
Haircut	\$19.63	\$24.91	\$16.12
Beauty Salon	\$46.88	\$44.84	\$37.58
Dry Cleaning	\$9.80	\$10.03	\$12.46
Man Dress Shirt	\$32.61	\$31.68	\$30.92
Boy Jeans	\$33.76	\$26.69	\$23.45
Women Slacks	\$29.64	\$29.85	\$30.57
Washer Repair	\$65.23	\$61.64	\$73.28
Newspaper	\$32.65	\$31.97	\$21.02
Movie	\$14.93	\$10.58	\$10.29
Bowling	\$4.96	\$6.63	\$4.98
Tennis Balls	\$2.25	\$2.27	\$2.42
Veterinary Services	\$54.36	\$54.81	\$51.43
Beer	\$9.07	\$8.73	\$8.92
Wine	\$9.21	\$7.77	\$8.68

# If you are Moving From Atlanta to Charlotte and have a salary of \$50K...

### Cost of Living Index Calculator

Current Base Salary (\$)

Moving From

Moving To

## COLI Calculator Result

Based on the Income that you entered, if you are earning \$50,000.00 after tax in Atlanta GA, the comparable after-tax income in Charlotte NC is \$48,583.00. Below are the index values and average prices of two areas as well as the national average:

If you move from Atlanta GA to Charlotte NC	
Groceries will cost:	8.46% less
Housing will cost:	8.16% less
Utilities will cost:	16.65% more
Transportation will cost:	4.65% less
Health will cost:	2.23% less

### Section 1: Index Values

Category (Percent Weight)	Atlanta GA	Charlotte NC	National Average
<b>Composite (100%)</b>	98.8	96.0	100.0
<b>Grocery (13.47%)</b>	105.2	96.3	100.0
<b>Housing (28.15%)</b>	94.4	86.7	100.0
<b>Utilities (9.90%)</b>	85.3	99.5	100.0
<b>Transportation (8.99%)</b>	101.0	96.3	100.0
<b>Health (4.57%)</b>	107.5	105.1	100.0
<b>Miscellaneous (34.92%)</b>	102.0	101.2	100.0

### Section 2 - Average Prices

Item	Atlanta GA	Charlotte NC	National Average
<b>Apartment Rent</b>	\$1,169	\$1,061	\$1,047
<b>Home Price</b>	\$290,041	\$267,863	\$335,956
<b>Total Energy</b>	\$126.90	\$154.11	\$166.99
<b>Phone</b>	\$27.67	\$31.00	\$28.71
<b>Tire Balance</b>	\$44.65	\$45.78	\$46.33
<b>Gasoline</b>	\$2.32	\$2.14	\$2.25
<b>Optometrist Visit</b>	\$102.23	\$113.53	\$101.93
<b>Doctor Visit</b>	\$105.10	\$102.91	\$108.00
<b>Dentist Visit</b>	\$114.97	\$113.63	\$92.54
<b>Ibuprofen</b>	\$9.38	\$7.03	\$9.29
<b>Lipitor</b>	\$414.55	\$418.61	\$426.17
<b>Pizza</b>	\$9.29	\$8.52	\$9.88
<b>Haircut</b>	\$19.63	\$17.75	\$16.12
<b>Beauty Salon</b>	\$46.88	\$33.80	\$37.58
<b>Dry Cleaning</b>	\$9.80	\$10.05	\$12.46
<b>Man Dress Shirt</b>	\$32.61	\$36.82	\$30.92
<b>Boy Jeans</b>	\$33.76	\$21.46	\$23.45
<b>Women Slacks</b>	\$29.64	\$33.79	\$30.57
<b>Washer Repair</b>	\$65.23	\$78.00	\$73.28
<b>Newspaper</b>	\$32.65	\$9.16	\$21.02
<b>Movie</b>	\$14.93	\$10.91	\$10.29
<b>Bowling</b>	\$4.96	\$5.78	\$4.98
<b>Tennis Balls</b>	\$2.25	\$2.71	\$2.42
<b>Veterinary Services</b>	\$54.36	\$63.52	\$51.43
<b>Beer</b>	\$9.07	\$8.92	\$8.92
<b>Wine</b>	\$9.21	\$7.87	\$8.68

# If you are Moving From Atlanta to San Francisco and have a salary of \$50K...

### Cost of Living Index Calculator

Current Base Salary (\$)

Moving From

Moving To

## COLI Calculator Result

Based on the Income that you entered, if you are earning \$50,000.00 after tax in Atlanta GA, the comparable after-tax income in San Francisco CA is \$97,469.64. Below are the index values and average prices of two areas as well as the national average:

If you move from Atlanta GA to San Francisco CA	
Groceries will cost:	19.20% more
Housing will cost:	282.52% more
Utilities will cost:	34.70% more
Transportation will cost:	33.07% more
Health will cost:	15.72% more

### Section 1: Index Values

Category (Percent Weight)	Atlanta GA	San Francisco CA	National Average
<b>Composite (100%)</b>	98.8	192.6	100.0
<b>Grocery (13.47%)</b>	105.2	125.4	100.0
<b>Housing (28.15%)</b>	94.4	361.1	100.0
<b>Utilities (9.90%)</b>	85.3	114.9	100.0
<b>Transportation (8.99%)</b>	101.0	134.4	100.0
<b>Health (4.57%)</b>	107.5	124.4	100.0
<b>Miscellaneous (34.92%)</b>	102.0	128.7	100.0

### Section 2 - Average Prices

Item	Atlanta GA	San Francisco CA	National Average
<b>Apartment Rent</b>	\$1,169	\$4,023	\$1,047
<b>Home Price</b>	\$290,041	\$1,182,092	\$335,956
<b>Total Energy</b>	\$126.90	\$235.44	\$166.99
<b>Phone</b>	\$27.67	\$24.12	\$28.71
<b>Tire Balance</b>	\$44.65	\$60.10	\$46.33
<b>Gasoline</b>	\$2.32	\$3.07	\$2.25
<b>Optometrist Visit</b>	\$102.23	\$124.14	\$101.93
<b>Doctor Visit</b>	\$105.10	\$142.61	\$108.00
<b>Dentist Visit</b>	\$114.97	\$122.05	\$92.54
<b>Ibuprofen</b>	\$9.38	\$11.97	\$9.29
<b>Lipitor</b>	\$414.55	\$421.85	\$426.17
<b>Pizza</b>	\$9.29	\$11.98	\$9.88
<b>Haircut</b>	\$19.63	\$25.90	\$16.12
<b>Beauty Salon</b>	\$46.88	\$77.35	\$37.58
<b>Dry Cleaning</b>	\$9.80	\$15.07	\$12.46
<b>Man Dress Shirt</b>	\$32.61	\$43.06	\$30.92
<b>Boy Jeans</b>	\$33.76	\$29.75	\$23.45
<b>Women Slacks</b>	\$29.64	\$53.34	\$30.57
<b>Washer Repair</b>	\$65.23	\$69.92	\$73.28
<b>Newspaper</b>	\$32.65	\$26.00	\$21.02
<b>Movie</b>	\$14.93	\$13.12	\$10.29
<b>Bowling</b>	\$4.96	\$7.52	\$4.98
<b>Tennis Balls</b>	\$2.25	\$3.34	\$2.42
<b>Veterinary Services</b>	\$54.36	\$64.62	\$51.43
<b>Beer</b>	\$9.07	\$9.48	\$8.92
<b>Wine</b>	\$9.21	\$7.02	\$8.68