



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Use – 1-24-17

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Metro Has 31st Most Affordable Cost of Living in U.S.

Springdale's metropolitan area enjoys the **31st most affordable cost of living** among the 264 metros researched by The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) in 2016. C2ER annually publishes a cost of living index based on a composite index of six key consumer areas.

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area has a 2016 cost of living index of 86.8, 13.2 percent below the national average. McAllen, TX had the lowest cost of living index last year at 76.4 while the New York (Manhattan) metro had the highest COL at 228.2.

Six areas are measured quarterly from participating metros: the cost of groceries, housing, utilities, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods & services.

Springdale's metro is below the national average (100.0) in each as the chart below shows:

Composite	Groceries	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Health Care	Misc. Goods & Services
86.8	90.2	74.1	95.8	86.3	88.7	92.7

The consumer categories are weighted with miscellaneous goods accounting for 35.2 percent of the index, housing 27.6 percent and groceries 13.6 percent. The Northwest Arkansas region enjoys a more affordable cost of living than other cities often referenced by relocating families:

Metro Area	2016 Composite Index
Joplin, MO	86.9
Springfield, MO	88.3
Waco, TX	88.3
Durham-Chappel Hill, NC	88.5
Tulsa, OK	88.9
Columbus, GA	89.4
Lubbock, TX	89.4
Nashville-Murfreesboro-Franklin, TN	92.1
Dallas-Plano, TX	93.9
Chicago, IL	99.0
Ft. Worth-Arlington, TX	102.3