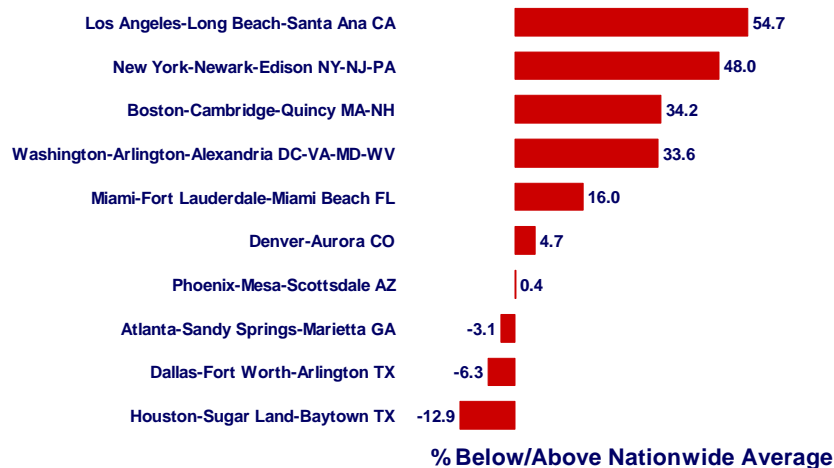


Living Cost Comparisons

Houston offers a low cost of living.

Cost of Living Comparisons: Selected MSAs

Index: Average of 311 Urban Areas = 100



Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Second Quarter 2006

Click [here](#) for more data

- Bargain housing prices and a low tax burden keep living expenses in Houston below those in most other major metropolitan areas.
- The ACCRA Cost of Living Index shows that Houston's overall after-taxes living costs are 13 percent below the nationwide average, largely due to housing costs that are 28 percent below the average.
- In the context of the 24 metropolitan areas with more than 2 million population that participated in the second quarter 2006 ACCRA survey, Houston's cost-of-living advantage is even more pronounced. Houston's housing costs are 48 percent below the average for the large metro areas, and its overall costs are 24 percent below the average for this group.
- Houston has the lowest housing prices among these 24 large metros. Houston's grocery prices, 25 percent below the major metro average, are also the lowest within this group; its utility costs are 4 percent below the major-metro average; its transportation costs are 6 percent below the average; its health care costs are 9 percent below the average; and its costs for miscellaneous goods and services are 13 percent below the average.