

Why I Work 2023 Data Sources

Housing

- **Efficiency, 1 Bedroom, 2 Bedroom (Rentals) ***
 - U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25031: [https://data.census.gov/table?q=B25031&g=040XX00US35\\$1600000&tid=ACSDT5Y2021.B25031](https://data.census.gov/table?q=B25031&g=040XX00US35$1600000&tid=ACSDT5Y2021.B25031)
 - Department of Housing and Urban Development, 50th Percentile Rent Estimates, 2023: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/50per.html>
- **House (Mortgage) ***
 - U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B25088: [https://data.census.gov/table?q=B25088&g=040XX00US35\\$1600000&tid=ACSDT5Y2021.B25088](https://data.census.gov/table?q=B25088&g=040XX00US35$1600000&tid=ACSDT5Y2021.B25088)

Utilities

- **Mobile ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Cellular Phone (CXU270102LB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
 - “Cell Phone Plans in the United States,” Whistle Out, June 2023: <https://www.whistleout.com/CellPhones/Search?phone=Apple-iPhone-14-256GB&minutes=-1&sms=-1&data=-1&phonesub=true&phoneprice=instalments&tab=instalments24>
Purchase of a new iPhone 14, 256GB storage capacity, in 24-month installments, with a post-paid monthly billing plan; included basic unlimited data, messaging, and minutes. Surcharges, taxes, fees, promotional sales, limited time offers, and down payments were not included in the estimates.
- **Internet ***
 - “Fight for Fair Internet: Consumer Reports White Paper of Broadband Pricing,” Consumer Reports, November 17, 2022: <https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/research/fight-for-fair-internet-consumer-reports-white-paper-on-broadband-pricing/>
- **Cable / Streaming ***
 - “Report on Cable Industry Prices,” Federal Communications Commission, February 8, 2018: <https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/reports/cable-industry-prices-reports/report-cable-industry-prices-2018>
 - James K. Willcox, “Guide to Streaming Video Services,” Consumer Reports, July 20, 2023: <https://www.consumerreports.org/electronics-computers/streaming-media/guide-to-streaming-video-services-a4517732799/>
- **Electricity ***
 - Energy Information Administration, Annual Electric Power Industry Report, 2021: <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861/>
 - Energy Information Administration, Electric Sales and Average Price, Table 5A 2021: https://www.eia.gov/electricity/sales_revenue_price/
- **Natural Gas ***
 - Energy Information Administration, Annual Natural Gas Respondent Data, 2021: https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/ngqs/#?report=RP4&year1=2021&year2=2021&company=ID_Name
 - “New Mexico Gas Company, Inc.’s Integrated Resource Plan for the Period of 2020-2030,” New Mexico Gas Company, April 16, 2020: <https://www.nmgco.com/userfiles/files/2020%20IRP%20Report.pdf>
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021 Natural Gas (CXUNATRLGASLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Water ***
 - New Mexico Environment Department, Water and Sewer Rate Surveys, 2021-2022: https://www.env.nm.gov/drinking_water/rates/

Transportation

- **Cars**
 - Edmunds, Cost of Car Ownership, July 2023: <https://www.edmunds.com/tco.html>

*Adjusted for inflation to June 2023; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm>

The Edmunds True Cost to Own® (TCO®) calculator is a tool that looks at the 5-year costs of owning a vehicle, including some you might not have considered. These extra costs include depreciation, interest on your loan, taxes and fees, insurance premiums, fuel costs, maintenance, and repairs.

- **Bus Fare** - Survey of Local Providers

Food

- **Restaurants ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021 Total Food (CXUFOODTOTLLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Eat At Home, Home + Dine Out, Home + Fast Food ***
 - “USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food Report for Low, Moderate, and Liberal Food Plans,” U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 2023: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/CNPP/usda-food-plans-cost-food-reports-monthly-reports>
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Food Away from Home (CXUFOODAWAYLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>

Clothing

- **Retail, Designer, Workwear, Thrifty ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Apparel (CXUAPPARELLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Shoes ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Footwear (CXUFOOTWEARLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Accessories ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Other Apparel Products and Services (CXUOTHAPPRLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>

Healthcare

- **Employer Insurance Plan, Self-pay Insurance Plan ***
 - Kaiser Family Foundation, State Health Facts, Health Insurance Premiums and Deductibles, 2022: <https://www.kff.org/statedata/custom-state-report/?i=32355&g=nm&view=3>
Employer Insurance Plan expense is based on nationwide figures: the average monthly employee contribution premium, for a single person coverage insurance.
Self-pay Insurance Plan expense is based on nationwide figures: the average monthly cost for single person deductible.
- **No Insurance (Doctor Visit + Prescriptions), Dental + Vision Care**
 - The Council for Community and Economic Research, Cost of Living Index, Quarter 1, 2023: <https://www.c2er.org/cost-of-living-index/calculator/>
No Insurance expense is based on state-level figures. The cost per month includes: the cost of an existing patient doctor visit (per month), one over-the-counter headache medicine (per month), and four prescriptions (per year). The figure is the total fee for the procedure, not just the amount of the co-payment.
Dental and vision care expense is also a no insurance option, and state-level figures. The cost per month includes: two dentist cleanings of an existing patient (per year), one eye exam (per year), and one eyeglass prescription (per year). The optometrist visit estimate does not include the cost of glasses or contacts.

Education

- **Certificate, Associate Degree, Bachelor’s Degree, Master’s Degree, Professional Degree**
 - National Center for Education Statistics, College Navigator, 2022-2023: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>
 - FinAid, Loan Payment Calculator, 2023: <https://finaid.org/calculators/loanpayments/>

**Adjusted for inflation to June 2023; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm>*

The nearest in-state school was selected per city: one that offered the chosen programs from start to finish and met the criteria for type of funded school being selected (Public, Private Non-Profit, Private For-Profit). Note, there are no private non-profit certificate or associate degree programs offered in the state. The tuition and fees per school does not consider grants, financial aid, or lottery scholarships. Additional living arrangement expenses were also not included in the total expenses. The loan taken out to cover the total expenses was based on a 10-year student loan at a 6.8% interest rate.

Miscellaneous

- **Gadgets ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Audio and Visual Equipment (CXUTVAUDIOLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Furniture ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Furniture (CXUFURNITURLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Housewares ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021; Small Appliances & Misc. Housewares, Household Textiles, Floor Coverings (CXUSMAPPHWRLB0101M, CXUHHTXTILELB0101M, CXUFLOORCOVLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Pet Care ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021; Pets, Toys, and Pet Playground Equipment (CXUPETSPLAYLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Childcare ***
 - “New Childcare Data Shows Prices Are Untenable for Families,” Department of Labor, The Women’s Bureau, January, 24, 2023: https://blog.dol.gov/2023/01/24/new-childcare-data-shows-prices-are-untenable-for-families?_ga=2.54237355.2018418124.1690818654-2071011185.1686676166
 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Living Wage Calculator, 2022-2023: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/35/locations>

Personal Care

- **Basics, Extras, Luxuries ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021, Personal Care Products and Services (CXUPERSCARELB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Hair + Salon**
 - “Guide to Average Hair Salon Prices in the U.S.,” Style-Seat, August 15, 2022: <https://www.styleseat.com/blog/average-hair-salon-prices/>

Entertainment

- **Activities ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021; Entertainment: Fees and Admissions (CXUFEEADMLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Concerts ***
 - Josh Koebert, “How Much Should Music Lovers of Each Genre Budget for Concerts This Summer? [Data Analysis],” Finance Buzz, July 2023: <https://financebuzz.com/price-of-concert-tickets-by-genre>
- **At Home ***
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2021; Toys, Hobbies, and Playground Equipment (CXUTOYSLB0101M): <https://www.bls.gov/cex/data.htm>
- **Movies ***
 - Brooks Barnes, “Heads Up: A Better Movie Seat May Cost You,” The New York Times, March 5, 2023: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/05/business/media/movie-theaters-ticket-prices.html>

*Adjusted for inflation to June 2023; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index: <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm>