



Economic Development Division
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Business. Life. Balance.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAU CLAIRE’S COST OF LIVING LOW, NATIONAL SURVEY

EAU CLAIRE, WI – According to a report released by the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), Eau Claire has an overall cost of living of 93.9 for the first quarter of 2018. Published since 1968, the *Cost of Living Index* has been the most consistent source of city-to-city cost comparisons available. The national average equals 100 and each participant’s index is a percentage of the average for all places. The lower the cost of living index, the cheaper goods and services are in that area.

Prices of consumer goods and services are collected by Eau Claire’s Economic Development Division three times a year in order to measure regional differences. The composite index is based on six categories – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services. Eau Claire’s composite index improved its relative position from 96.6 in the first quarter of 2017 to 93.9 in 2018.

While everyday living expenses in Eau Claire fall below the national average, they are also the second lowest of the five Wisconsin metro areas participating in the survey. Among the individual categories, Eau Claire stands out nationally and compared to the other Wisconsin metro areas for the low cost indices in the Housing and Grocery Items categories (75.1, and 93.0 respectively).

Q1 Cost of Living Report for 2018
National Average for 263 Urban Areas = 100

<u>Ranking</u>	<u>Participating Urban Areas</u>	<u>Index</u>
1	Wisconsin Rapids	92.2
2	Eau Claire	93.9
3 (tie)	Fond du Lac	95.5
3 (tie)	Milwaukee	95.5
5	Madison	104.4

The full report is available upon request.

About the Economic Development Division:

As a division of the City of Eau Claire, our mission is to grow local businesses, facilitate expansions, and recruit outside businesses to locate in Eau Claire in order to increase quality of living, add well-paying jobs and grow the tax base.

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