



Economic Development Division  
 203 S. Farwell St.  
 Eau Claire, WI 54701  
[www.EauClaireDevelopment.com](http://www.EauClaireDevelopment.com)

*Business. Life. Balance.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mike Schatz, Economic Development Director

Phone: (715) 839-4914

Date: January 27, 2017

**NATIONAL SURVEY REPORTS EAU CLAIRE’S LOW COST OF LIVING**

EAU CLAIRE, WI – Eau Claire has an overall cost of living of 95.0 for 2016, according to the report released by the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). 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.

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 components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care, and miscellaneous goods and services. Eau Claire’s composite index improved its relative position from 97.0 to 95.0 over the past year.

While everyday living expenses in Eau Claire fall well below the national average, they are also some of the lowest of the six Wisconsin metro areas participating in the survey. Among the individual categories, Eau Claire ranks particularly well nationally and compared to the other Wisconsin metro areas in the Housing, Utilities, and Grocery Items categories.

**Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2016  
 National Average for 264 Urban Areas = 100**

<b><u>Ranking</u></b>	<b><u>Participating Urban Areas</u></b>	<b><u>Index</u></b>
1	Green Bay	91.3
2	Wisconsin Rapids	92.2
3	Eau Claire	95.0
4	Fond du Lac	96.8
5	Milwaukee	99.5
6	Madison	106.5

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.

###