

Spending: How do you stack up?



Life is pricey, no doubt. We all have expenses we face month in and month out: mortgage or rent, cable and Internet service, the daycare bill. But do you know how your expenses might compare with your neighbors—or to someone on the other side of the country? Here's a snapshot of some of the ways Americans are spending their cash.

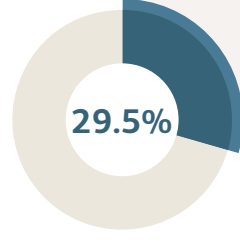
Housing



Average total monthly cost for housing, including property taxes if applicable

\$47,585

Average down payment for homes nationwide in the last quarter of 2014

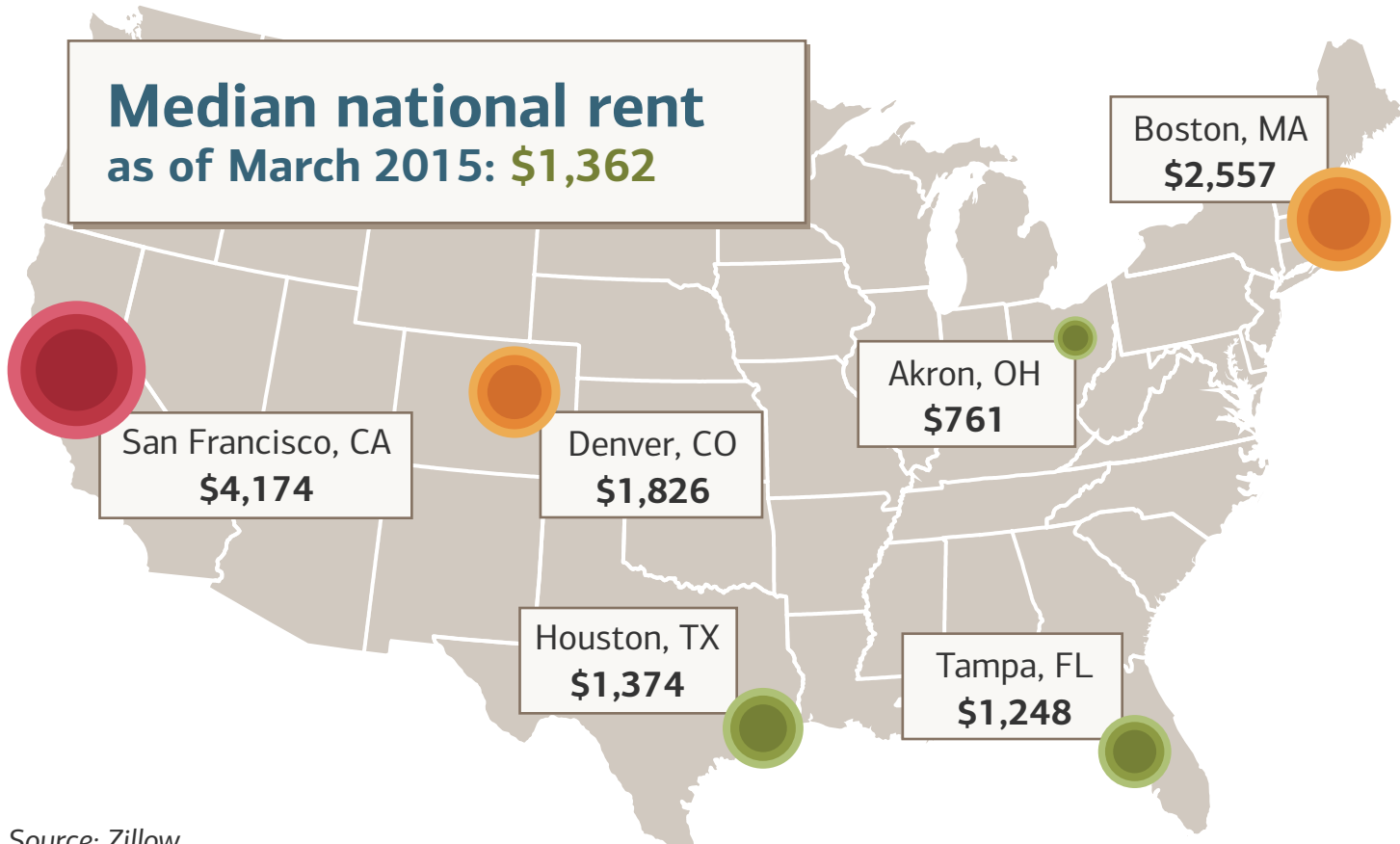


Average portion of total income that's spent on rent



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Lending Tree, Zillow

Median national rent as of March 2015: **\$1,362**



Source: Zillow

Transportation



\$750: Total monthly transportation spending

(including car or public transportation, gas, insurance and other related expenses)



\$482: Average **new car loan payment**

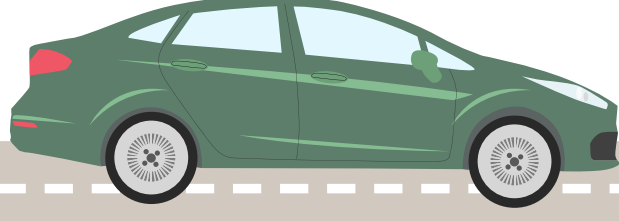


\$164: Expected **monthly spending on gas** per household in 2015



\$85: Average monthly **insurance cost for a mid-sized sedan**

Sources: BLS, Edmunds, AAA, U.S. Energy Information Administration

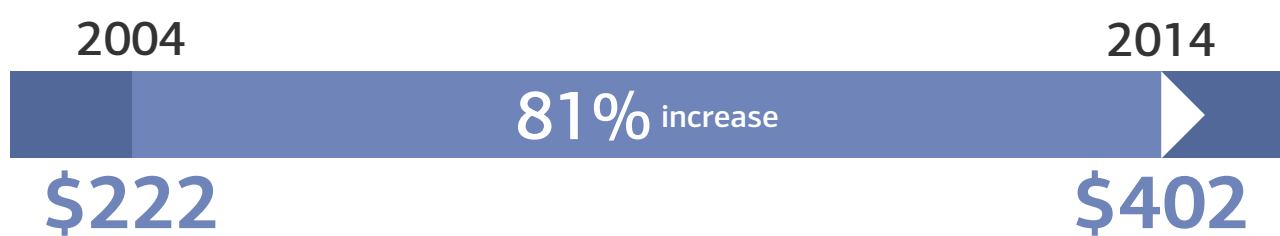


\$ Gas Prices



Source: AAA as of May 11, 2015

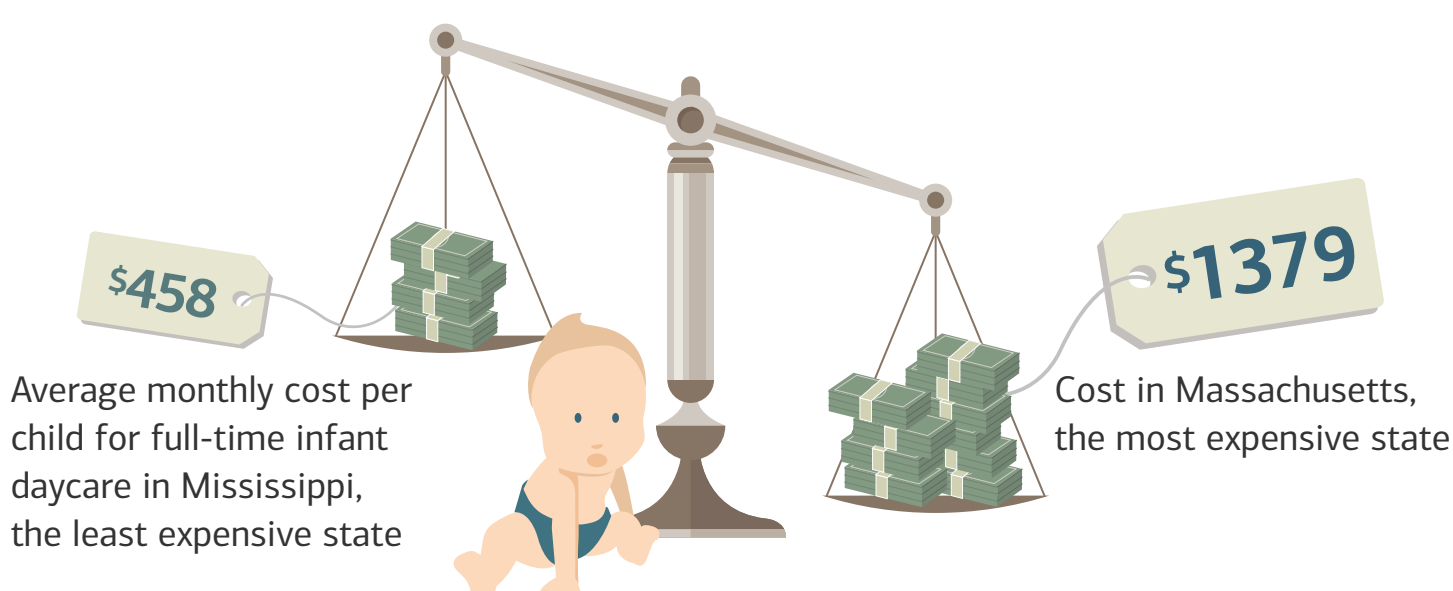
Health care



Average monthly contribution to workplace insurance premiums (family coverage)

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation

Child care



Source: Child Care Aware America

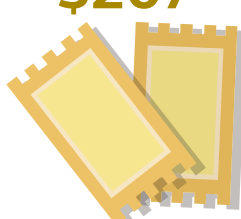
Other things we spend on each month

\$618



A "moderate" bill for a couple for **food consumed at home**

\$207



Average amount Americans spend on **entertainment**, including going to movies and sporting events and buying TVs and video games

\$107



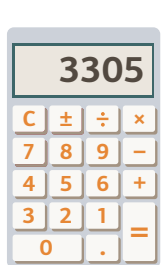
Average **cable bill** at one major provider

\$58



Average **contribution to religious organizations**

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, BLS, Quartz



Want to rein in your spending or get a handle on money management? Learn more about the steps to better money habits and come up with a budget that works.

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