

The US Department of Agriculture's Expenditures on Children by Families report provides estimates of the cost of raising children from birth through age 17 for different budgetary components.

How much will it cost to raise your kid?

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

# The Cost of Raising a Child: \$233,610

Where does the money go?

- 18% Food
- 29% Housing
- 15% Transportation
- 9% Health Care
- 6% Clothing
- 16% Child Care & Education
- 7% Misc.

Annual Housing Cost per Child

- Urban \$3,900
- Rural \$2,400

Annual Food Costs by Age

Age in years	0-2	2-5	5-8	8-11	11-14	14-17
Urban West	11,500	12,200	12,600	12,700	12,700	12,700
Urban Midwest	11,500	12,200	12,600	12,700	12,700	12,700
Urban South	11,500	12,200	12,600	12,700	12,700	12,700
Urban East	11,500	12,200	12,600	12,700	12,700	12,700
Rural Areas	11,500	12,200	12,600	12,700	12,700	12,700

Cost by Region

- Urban Midwest: \$264,090
- Urban West: \$227,400
- Urban South: \$245,460
- Urban East: \$232,050
- Rural Areas: \$193,020

Not including the annual cost of college: \$45,370 Private, \$20,090 Public. \*Includes room and board.

\*U.S. average for middle-income, married-couple families. Total costs are from birth through age 17. Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Misc. Pub. No. 1528-2015.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**18%**  
of the total cost to raise a child goes towards **food**

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015

**15%**  
of the total cost to raise a child goes towards **transportation**

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015

**29%**  
of the total cost to raise a child goes towards **housing**

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015

**9%**  
of the total cost to raise a child goes towards **health care**

USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015



**6%**  
of the total cost to raise a child  
goes towards **clothing**

USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015



**16%**  
of the total cost to raise a child  
goes towards **child care & education\***

\*For those with the expense.

USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015



**7%**  
of the total cost to raise a child goes  
towards **recreation, entertainment,  
and other costs**

USDA, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
Source: Expenditures on Children by Families, 2015

How much will it cost you to  
raise your child?