

The Cost of Living in Ho Chi Minh City - Information for prospective teachers

The following comments about the cost of living in HCMC is extracted from the website www.xpatulator.com in December 2012

Overall Cost Of Living

The cost of living in Ho Chi Minh City is low compared to other places. The cost of living comparison to other places, uses local prices for defined quantities of the same goods and services at or near each location, converted to a single currency. The prices are grouped together into basket groups and the cost of living index calculated for each basket.

Ho Chi Minh City is currently ranked 622 out of 780 places (rank 1 is most expensive: rank 780 is least expensive). The current cost of living rank for each basket, together with selected local benchmark prices converted to US Dollars are as follows:

Alcohol & Tobacco costs are average compared to other places for items such as beer, spirits, wine and cigarettes. There are 391 places that are more expensive, and 388 places that are less expensive for alcohol and or tobacco.

Benchmark price in a store for a midrange bottle of wine is \$16.67, domestic/local beer (500ml) \$1.00, imported/international beer (330ml) \$1.43 and a pack of 20 cigarettes is \$1.10.

Clothing costs are low compared to other places for items such as business, casual and children's clothing and footwear. There are 546 places that are more expensive, and 233 places that are less expensive for clothing. Benchmark price for an international brand of mens jeans is \$32, a quality international brand of running shoes \$24, mens leather shoes suitable for office wear \$18 while a medium size international summer dress from a global chain store is \$39.

Communication costs are very low compared to other places for various communication costs such as home telephone rental, internet subscription, mobile tariff and data costs. There are 756 places that are more expensive, and 23 places that are less expensive for communication.

Benchmark price for a monthly standard plan internet subscription is \$21, while the benchmark mobile tariff is \$0.07 per minute.

Education costs are low compared to other places for items such as creche / pre-school fees, primary school fees, high school fees and tertiary study fees. There are 614 places that are more expensive, and 165 places that are less expensive for education.

Benchmark annual private international school fees (excluding extras) \$12,244 for Primary School, and \$14,818 for High School.

Furniture & Appliance costs are very low compared to other places for items such as dining table and chairs, home entertainment, kitchen appliances, and sofa. There are 752 places that are more expensive, and 27 places that are less expensive for furniture and appliances.

Benchmark price for a Blu-ray player is \$98, and \$972 for a 46 inch LED HD TV.

Grocery costs are low compared to other places for items such as consumables, cleaning products, dairy, fresh fruit & vegetables, general food products, snacks, soft drinks. There are 539 places that are more expensive, and 240 places that are less expensive for groceries.

Benchmark price in a major international retail store for 1 kg apples is \$1.85, 1 kg oranges \$1.85, 1 head lettuce \$0.90, 1 kg potatoes \$0.80, 1 kg boneless, skinless, chicken breast \$5.00, 1 kg cheddar cheese \$6.30, 1 dozen large eggs \$1.69, 500g loaf white bread \$1.23, 1 L full cream milk \$1.71, and 1.5 L water \$1.00.

Healthcare costs are low compared to other places for doctor visit, hospital stay, non-prescription medicine, and medical insurance. There are 587 places that are more expensive, and 192 places that are less expensive for healthcare.

Benchmark price for a private practice Doctor visit for an uninsured patient is \$62, and a private hospital stay per day including nursing care, medications, diagnostic tests, food, and related costs is \$1,822.

Household Accommodation costs are high compared to other places for items such as apartment purchase, mortgage rate, rental, and utilities. There are 194 places that are more expensive, and 585 places that are less expensive for household accommodation. **Please note that the school provides accommodation for teachers in addition to a salary.**

Benchmark rental for a secure upmarket unfurnished apartment (3 bedrooms) is \$2,722 in a central location, and \$1,278 in a suburban location, per month, excluding utilities.

Miscellaneous costs are low compared to other places for items such as dry cleaning, linen, magazines, newspapers, office supplies, and postage stamps. There are 614 places that are more expensive, and 165 places that are less expensive for miscellaneous items.

Benchmark price for dry cleaning (1 mens 2 pc suit) is \$5.33, while an international newspaper is \$1.64.

Personal Care costs are low compared to other places for items such as cosmetics, hair care, and toiletries. There are 510 places that are more expensive, and 269 places that are less expensive for personal care. Benchmark cost for a mens haircut and blow dry is \$22, while a womens hair colour, cut and blow dry - medium length is \$111.

Recreation and Culture costs are very low compared to other places for items such as books, cinema, sport and theatre tickets. There are 747 places that are more expensive, and 32 places that are less expensive for recreation and culture.

Benchmark price for a latest release international cinema ticket (average of on and off peak where applicable) for one adult is \$3.50, and an international fitness club membership for one adult is \$45 per month.

Restaurants, Meals Out and Hotel costs are very low compared to other places for items such as hotel daily room rates, meals and beverages in restaurants, and take away food and beverages. There are 684 places that are more expensive, and 95 places that are less expensive for restaurants, meals out and hotels.

Benchmark price for a cappuccino (regular, medium) is \$2.30, coke/pepsi (330ml) \$0.56, burger meal (international franchise or similar) \$3.42, and a meal out (for 2 mid-range restaurant) \$12.00.

Transport costs are very low compared to other places for items such as fuel (petrol/gasoline), public transport, vehicle purchase and maintenance. There are 624 places that are more expensive, and 155 places that are less expensive for transport.

Benchmark average price over the last year for highest available octane petrol / gasoline (1L) is \$1.05, while the benchmark purchase price including taxes/duties for a compact / small / economy sedan (1.4 L) is \$39,000.