



From the Desk of Ian D Scofield

Title: Prices Of Cigarettes By State

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Cigarettes have an average cost of \$5.51 with the price in most states being between six and eight dollars. This number is taken from the combined prices of all of the states but the actual numbers varying greatly with the most expensive cigarettes costing on average \$12.85 (New York). Overall smoking is an expensive habit and in one year in New York it is possible to spend over \$4,690 for cigarettes alone.

The main reason for the extreme prices of cigarettes in New York is the cigarette tax. The state imposed a tax that comes out to \$4.35 on every pack of 20. In addition to the cigarette tax there is a New York state sales tax which adds on \$1.60 to the price. The cost mentioned earlier of \$12.50 is just an average of the state's cigarette prices and some researchers have found prices all the way up to over \$14 a pack. Some people speculate these high prices are to help dissuade people from purchasing cigarettes and to start on healthier habits.

If you are looking to live in a state where cigarettes won't cost you that much money you would be best advised to move over to Missouri or Virginia. Both state's average price for cigarettes is \$5.25, which is actually a 10% decrease from the 2014 cost in Virginia. Missouri also has the lowest state excise tax at only \$0.17 per pack.

Kentucky formerly had the lowest price on a pack of cigarettes at just under \$5 but they lost their ground and a pack there now costs \$5.40. Some other states such as Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, and South Dakota, have reduced in price. Arizona has the lowest drop in price, the cost of cigarettes was reduced by 17% or \$1.60. California and Iowa tie for second largest price reduction at 13%. Despite the reductions in prices no state saw prices as low as the lowest 2014 prices.

Over half of the states saw price increases. 62%, or 32 states, saw increases in the cost of cigarettes. The largest increase was 36% in Minnesota that comes to a \$2.15 cent increase. The smallest increase seen was .01% or \$0.03

Some smokers find that they save up to 50% on cigarettes by buying in bulk but the best way to get affordable cigarettes is to buy them at duty free locations. These locations allow you to save as much as 78% of your normal money spent on cigarettes.

In every state the cost to buy cigarettes for 20 years is over \$38,000; that is enough money to buy a new car or in some states put a down payment on a house. None of these numbers take into

account the medical costs of smoking cigarettes. The average yearly treatment for lung cancer in the United States is over \$8,000 and to start treatment costs over \$60,000.

Regular smokers are going to be upset as the prices on average in the United States have risen. Experts and researchers think that they are only going to continue to rise which will upset many smokers. The majority of prices used for the averages in each state come from convenience stores and fuel stations from the most populated areas in the states. There is a chance that some of the states offer cheaper prices outside of the cities but don't get your hopes up, no one surveyed had cigarettes offered for under \$5.

State	Cost	State	Cost	State	Cost	State	Cost
Alabama	\$5.51	Kentucky	\$5.40	North Carolina	\$5.45	West Virginia	\$5.43
Alaska	\$9.79	Louisiana	\$5.44	North Dakota	\$5.33	Wisconsin	\$8.82
Arizona	\$8.05	Maine	\$7.37	Ohio	\$6.03	Wyoming	\$5.41
Arkansas	\$6.07	Maryland	\$7.75	Oklahoma	\$6.29		
California	\$5.89	Massachusetts	\$9.95	Oregon	\$5.69		
Colorado	\$5.65	Michigan	\$8.00	Pennsylvania	\$6.85		
Connecticut	\$9.52	Minnesota	\$8.10	Rhode Island	\$8.95		
Delaware	\$6.35	Mississippi	\$6.34	South Carolina	\$5.85		
Florida	\$6.30	Missouri	\$5.25	South Dakota	\$6.08		
Georgia	\$6.39	Montana	\$6.46	Tennessee	\$5.30		
Hawaii	\$9.55	Nebraska	\$6.23	Texas	\$6.69		
Idaho	\$5.41	Nevada	\$6.15	Utah	\$6.89		
Illinois	\$11.50	New Hampshire	\$6.64	Vermont	\$9.62		
Indiana	\$5.97	New Jersey	\$8.20	Virginia	\$5.25		
Iowa	\$6.29	New Mexico	\$7.67	Washington	\$9.30		

Kansas	\$5.83	New York	\$12.85	Washington DC	\$7.99		
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