

The logo for GoodRx, featuring the word "GoodRx" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The "R" is stylized with a small "x" as a subscript. The logo is centered within a solid yellow square.

## **GoodRx Quarterly Report: Q2 2019**

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**GoodRx Research**

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Over the past few years, frustration over the high cost of prescription drugs has swept across America. The White House has promised numerous executive orders and bold new steps. Congress has produced dozens of bills promising a variety of fixes and tweaks to the system. Most importantly, Americans have made clear that they are fed up with unaffordable healthcare and they want to see change—now.

So, for all this talk, what has actually happened? So far, very little.

Despite all the attention, prescription drug prices aren't dropping. In fact, they have stabilized, according to the GoodRx Quarterly Report, an in-depth analysis of fill trends and drug prices in America. In the second quarter of 2019, prices for most drugs didn't budge much at all, either up or down.

On the one hand, that's not surprising: All the noise around drug prices has convinced drug manufacturers to keep prices steady, and not do anything to draw too much attention.

On the other hand, is that really all we can expect when the nation demands change? That prices stay the same? After all, flat prices are not a solution—they just freeze the problem for a spell. So until something bigger happens in D.C. or elsewhere, the outrage will still be out there.

Our report walks through the current state of drug prices in the U.S., and identifies several drugs that have, in fact, seen price increases. It also highlights regions in the U.S. where prices are tracking higher than the national average. Lastly, it points to a few bright spots, such as drugs that have new, generic versions on the market; generics are usually significantly cheaper than the original brand drug.

We'll continue to monitor drug prices—both what's happening in D.C. and what's going on in your local pharmacy. And we'll always be looking for ways to help Americans save.

**- Doug Hirsch, co-CEO GoodRx**

This version of the quarterly report mainly focuses on data from the second quarter of 2019 (April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019).

Among our top findings:

- The average list price (the price set by the manufacturer) for all brand and generic drugs were basically flat, falling by just 0.34% during the second quarter of 2019.
- Myalept, Ravicti, and Actimmune were the three most expensive prescription medications in the U.S. during Q2. Oxervate, approved in 2018, is available in pharmacies and is now the fourth most expensive drug with a price of \$47,200 for a 30-day supply.
- Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco continue to be the most expensive cities for prescription medications, with prices 10% higher than the national average.

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## Most expensive prescription drugs in the U.S.

The following were the most expensive drugs in the United States during Q2, based on their list price—the official price of a drug assigned by the manufacturer. This list contains medications that are available in pharmacies and excludes drugs that are administered by a healthcare provider.

While a majority of these medications treat relatively rare conditions, some—such as Sabril (vigabatrin), which treats epilepsy—target more common conditions.

### The 20 Most Expensive Prescription Medications in the U.S.

Drug	Manufacturer	List price*
<a href="#">Myalept</a>	Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	\$64,859
<a href="#">Ravicti</a>	Horizon Pharma	\$52,756
<a href="#">Actimmune</a>	Horizon Pharma	\$47,962
<a href="#">Oxervate</a>	Dompé	\$47,200
<a href="#">Daraprim</a>	Vyera Pharmaceuticals	\$45,000
<a href="#">Cinryze</a>	Shire	\$44,141
<a href="#">Takhzyro</a>	Shire	\$44,140
<a href="#">Chenodal</a>	Retrophin, Inc	\$42,570
<a href="#">Juxtapid</a>	Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	\$40,671

<a href="#">H.P. Acthar</a>	Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals	\$38,892
<a href="#">Tegsedi</a>	Akcea Therapeutics	\$34,600
<a href="#">Firazyr</a>	Shire	\$33,443
<a href="#">Vitrakvi</a>	Bayer and Loxo Oncology, Inc	\$32,800
<a href="#">Sovaldi</a>	Gilead	\$28,000
<a href="#">Viekira Pak</a>	Abbvie	\$27,773
<a href="#">Viekira XR</a>	Abbvie	\$27,773
<a href="#">Orfadin</a>	Apotek Produktion & Laboratorier AB	\$27,247
<a href="#">Sabril</a>	Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals	\$26,301
<a href="#">Tibsovo</a>	Agios Pharmaceuticals	\$26,115
<a href="#">Cerdelga</a>	Sanofi Genzyme	\$26,000

\*Prices reflect list prices for each medication's most common 30-day prescription.

Compared to [Q1](#), drugs on this list have shuffled around a bit due to some price changes and new generics.

- Oxervate just hit pharmacies this year, and it has made its way onto the list with a price of \$47,200 per month.
- On April 15, Firazyr increased in list price by 3% and now costs \$33,443 for a 30-day supply.
- Cuprimine (which made last quarter's list of most expensive drugs) went generic on May 17, and patients can now get the rheumatoid arthritis drug for around \$6,000 for a 30-day supply.

For more information on these expensive medications and ways to save, read our blog post [here](#).

## Most popular drugs in the U.S.

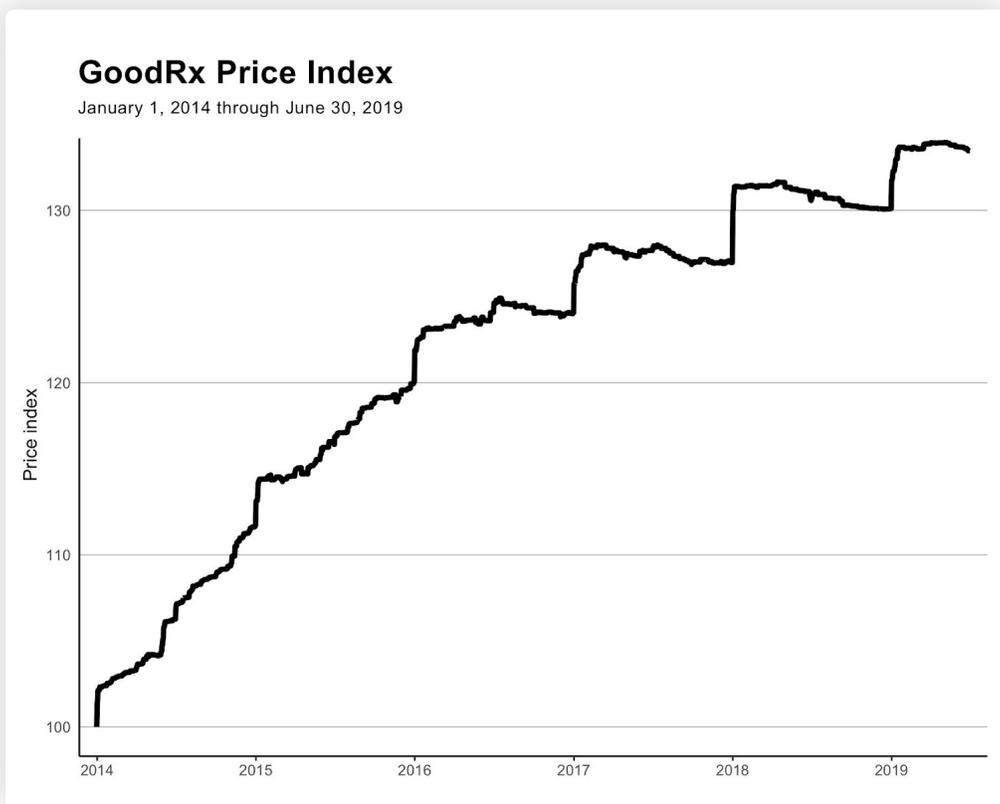
The following 10 prescription medications were the most popular during the second quarter of 2019 based on a representative sample of fills at U.S. pharmacies. These drugs are all generics that cost less than \$30 for a monthly supply, and they paint a picture of the common health issues that Americans face.

1. [Atorvastatin \(Lipitor\)](#)
2. [Levothyroxine \(Synthroid\)](#)
3. [Lisinopril \(Prinivil, Zestril\)](#)
4. [Gabapentin \(Neurontin\)](#)
5. [Amlodipine \(Norvasc\)](#)
6. [Albuterol \(Ventolin, Accuneb, Proair, Proventil\)](#)
7. [Hydrocodone/acetaminophen \(Vicodin, Norco\)](#)
8. [Omeprazole \(Prilosec\)](#)
9. [Amoxicillin \(Amoxil\)](#)
10. [Losartan \(Cozaar\)](#)

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## Increases in list price

According to the GoodRx List Price Index, a measure of overall drug prices, the average list price for all brand and generic medications dropped by 0.34% during Q2. This year, prices have increased by 1.31% overall, well below the inflation rate of 1.76%.



*\*A price index value equal to 130 indicates an increase in drug prices of 30% since December 31, 2013.*

Compared to Q1, Q2 is generally a slow month for price increases. In fact, from April 1, 2018 to June 30, 2018, only 82 brand drugs saw an increase, while [500 drugs](#) increased in price during the first quarter of 2019.

This past quarter, manufacturers such as Shire Pharmaceuticals and Merck increased their drugs by upwards of 3%.

Below are 10 popular drugs that increased in price this past quarter.

<b>Drug</b>	<b>Manufacturer</b>	<b>Percent increase</b>	<b>List price per unit</b>
<a href="#">GenVisc 850</a>	OrthogenRx	135.1%	\$159.60 per 2.5 ml syringe
<a href="#">Cotempla XR</a>	Neos Therapeutics Brands, LLC	8.4%	\$12.36 per 17.3 mg orally disintegrating tablet
<a href="#">Nuedexta</a>	Avanir Pharmaceuticals	6.9%	\$19.57 per 20 mg/10 mg tablet
<a href="#">Abilify Maintena</a>	Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals Inc.	5.0%	\$2,274.73 for one 400 mg vial
<a href="#">Isentress</a>	Merck	5.0%	\$26.24 per 400 mg tablet
<a href="#">Cabometyx</a>	Exelixis, Inc.	4.5%	\$639.73 per 60 mg tablet
<a href="#">Xiidra</a>	Shire Pharmaceuticals	3.0%	\$8.70 per 5% ampule
<a href="#">Vyvanse</a>	Shire Pharmaceuticals	3.0%	\$10.13 per 40 mg tablet
<a href="#">Gattex</a>	Shire Pharmaceuticals	3.0%	\$39,271.88 per 5 mg vial
<a href="#">Firazyr</a>	Shire Pharmaceuticals	3.0%	\$3,715.83 per 30 mg/3 ml syringe

While the average list price dropped during Q2, on July 1, prices increased for 37 additional brand drugs. These hikes are unfortunate, but they are expected. In general, manufacturers increase the price of their drugs at the beginning and middle of the year—around January 1 and July 1.

For a full rundown of drugs that increased in price this July, read our blog post [here](#).

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## Drugs that went generic

A number of drugs went generic in Q2, meaning that more expensive brand-name medications now have cheaper alternatives. In some instances, filling a generic instead of a brand name can mean a difference of hundreds of dollars per prescription, whether you're insured or paying the retail price.

Here are some popular brands that went generic during Q2.

Brand	Generic	Release date	Available in pharmacies?	What is it for?
<a href="#">Revatio</a> (oral suspension)	sildenafil	May 31	Yes	Pulmonary hypertension, erectile dysfunction
<a href="#">Cuprimine</a>	penicillamine	May 7	Yes	Kidney stones, rheumatoid arthritis, Wilson's disease
<a href="#">Tracleer</a>	bosentan	April 26	Yes	Pulmonary hypertension
<a href="#">Banzel</a>	rufinamide	April 23	No	Lennox-Gastaut syndrome
<a href="#">Mifeprex</a>	mifepristone	April 10	Yes	Birth control
<a href="#">Lotemax</a>	loteprednol	April 17	Yes	Eye inflammation and infections

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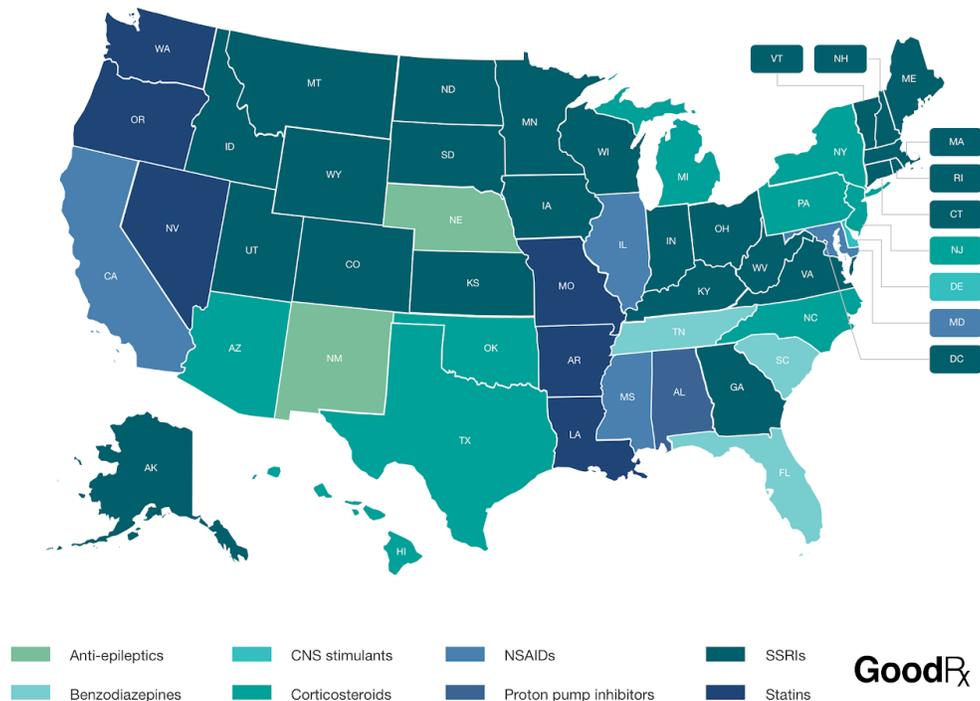
## Most popular medication class in each state

Drugs that work similarly, have a similar chemical makeup, or affect the brain and the body in similar ways are grouped into classes. The differences in fill trends for these classes provide insight into the conditions that affect certain populations and reveal an interesting picture of the U.S.

During Q2, the most frequently prescribed class in twenty five states was SSRIs, followed by corticosteroids (popular in nine states) and statins (popular in six states).

## Most Popular Drug Classes by State

The most prescribed classes in each of the 50 states (Q2, 2019)



### SSRIs

*(Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Wyoming)*

SSRIs, also known as selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, are used to treat mood disorders like depression and anxiety, eating disorders, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). Popular drugs in this class include Zoloft (sertraline), Prozac (fluoxetine), and Lexapro (escitalopram).

### Corticosteroids

*(Arizona, Hawaii, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas)*

Corticosteroids treat a variety of conditions such as asthma, eczema, psoriasis, and allergies. Popular drugs in this class include prednisone, Kenalog (triamcinolone), Cutivate (fluticasone propionate), and Medrol (methylprednisolone).

## **Statins**

*(Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada, Oregon, West Virginia)*

Statins, like Lipitor (atorvastatin), Zocor (simvastatin), and Crestor (rosuvastatin) lower cholesterol levels and are used to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

## **NSAIDs**

*(California, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi)*

NSAIDs, also known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, reduce pain, decrease inflammation, and prevent blood clots. Drugs in this class, such as ibuprofen, Naprosyn (naproxen), and Voltaren Gel (diclofenac sodium) treat a wide range of symptoms and diseases including fever, arthritis, and pain.

## **Benzodiazepines**

*(Florida, South Carolina, Tennessee)*

Benzodiazepines treat anxiety, panic disorder, and epilepsy. They slow down the central nervous system and relax muscles. Popular benzodiazepines include Xanax (alprazolam), Klonopin (clonazepam), and Ativan (lorazepam).

## **Anti-epileptics**

*(Nebraska, New Mexico)*

Antiepileptics like Neurontin (gabapentin), Topamax (topiramate), and Lamictal (lamotrigine) reduce irregular brain impulses and treat epilepsy, postherpetic neuralgia, and bipolar disorder.

## **Central nervous system stimulants**

*(Delaware)*

Central nervous system stimulants are used to treat ADHD, narcolepsy, and binge eating disorder, and they are sometimes used as a weight loss aid. Popular drugs in this class include Adderall (amphetamine salt combo), Vyvanse, and Ritalin (methylphenidate).

## **Proton pump inhibitors**

*(Alabama)*

Proton pump inhibitors like Prilosec (omeprazole), Protonix (pantoprazole), and Nexium (esomeprazole) are used to treat heartburn, gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), and ulcers.

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## Most and least expensive cities in the U.S.

We all know that prescription medications are expensive. But as it turns out, the city you live in may determine how much you pay for your medication.

The following were five of the most and five least expensive cities in the U.S. for drugs during Q2.

### 5 of the Most Expensive Cities for Drugs

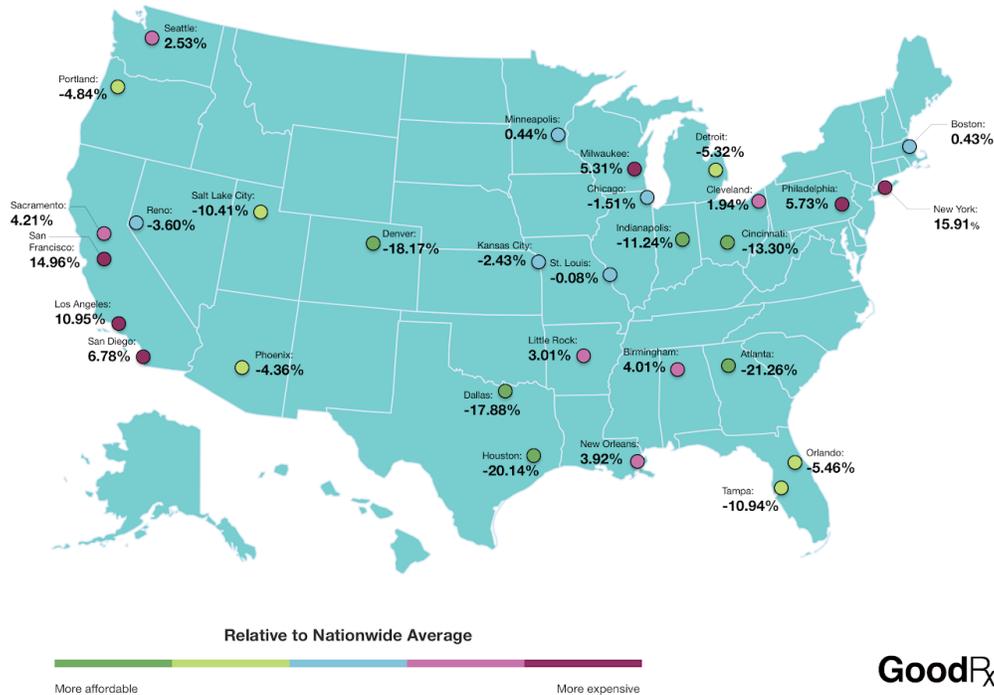
City	Percent above national average
New York, New York	+15.91%
San Francisco, California	+14.96%
Los Angeles, California	+10.95%
San Diego, California	+6.78%
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	+5.73%

### 5 of the Least Expensive Cities for Drugs

City	Percent below national average
Atlanta, Georgia	-21.26%
Houston, Texas	-20.14%
Denver, Colorado	-18.17%
Dallas, Texas	-17.88%
Cincinnati, Ohio	-13.30%

## Most Expensive Cities for Drugs

The most expensive cities to live in with regards to medication (Q2, 2019)



## The 10 most prescribed drugs by specialty

The drugs prescribed by some of the most common practitioner specialties provide insight into the conditions that affect certain populations. While some of the most common medications appear throughout these lists, some new ones on the list—like Revatio (sildenafil) for erectile dysfunction, Adderall (amphetamine salt combo) for ADHD, and Omnicef (cefdinir) for bacterial infections—are more popular for certain practitioners.

### General practitioners

General practitioners (GPs) provide care to patients of all sexes and ages. They treat acute and chronic illnesses in addition to providing health education and preventative care.

1. [Amoxicillin \(Amoxil\)](#)
2. [Hydrocodone/acetaminophen \(Vicodin, Norco, Lortab\)](#)
3. [Clindamycin \(Cleocin, Evoclin\)](#)
4. [Ibuprofen](#)
5. [Phentermine \(Adipex-P\)](#)
6. [Acetaminophen/codeine \(Tylenol with Codeine\)](#)
7. [Azithromycin \(Zithromax\)](#)
8. [Amphetamine salt combo \(Adderall\)](#)
9. [Chlorhexidine \(Peridex, Periogard\)](#)
10. [Penicillin v potassium \(Veetids\)](#)

## **Pediatricians**

Unlike general practitioners, pediatricians care for infants, children, and adolescents up to 21 years old.

1. [Methylphenidate ER \(Concerta\)](#)
2. [Amphetamine salt combo XR \(Adderall XR\)](#)
3. [Amoxicillin \(Amoxil\)](#)
4. [Oseltamivir \(Tamiflu\)](#)
5. [Dexmethylphenidate er \(Focalin XR\)](#)
6. [Cefdinir \(Omnicef\)](#)
7. [Amphetamine salt combo \(Adderall\)](#)
8. [Montelukast \(Singulair\)](#)
9. [Azithromycin \(Zithromax\)](#)
10. [Amoxicillin/potassium clavulanate \(Augmentin\)](#)

## **Internist**

Internists are similar to GPs, but they are only trained to care for adults. You can think of them as an “adult pediatricians.”

1. [Sildenafil \(Revatio\)](#)
2. [Atorvastatin \(Lipitor\)](#)
3. [Amlodipine \(Norvasc\)](#)
4. [Lisinopril \(Prinivil, Zestril\)](#)
5. [Levothyroxine \(Synthroid, Euthyrox, Levo-T\)](#)
6. [Phentermine \(Adipex-P\)](#)
7. [Amphetamine salt combo \(Adderall\)](#)
8. [Hydrocodone/acetaminophen \(Vicodin, Norco, Lortab\)](#)
9. [Alprazolam \(Xanax\)](#)
10. [Zolpidem \(Ambien\)](#)

*Methodology:*

*Co-contributors: Jeroen van Meijgaard, PhD, Clement B. Feyt, MPH, and Ryan Farrell*

***Most popular drugs:*** *This list of popular medications is based on a nationally representative sample of U.S. prescription fills from April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019—not fills using GoodRx. The sample only includes data from retail community pharmacies (which include independent pharmacies, chain pharmacies, supermarket pharmacies, or mass merchandiser pharmacies) that have state licenses to distribute prescription medications to the general public.*

***Most expensive medications:*** *Prices in this analysis are the list price, which is the price the pharmaceutical company assigns as an official price for a drug, as of June 30, 2019. To compile the list, we identified the most expensive drugs by list price, excluded drugs that were administered under the supervision of a healthcare provider, and obtained typical fill quantities using our data and information from drug manufacturer websites to compare the monthly price of these drugs. Using the official manufacturer list price, we calculated the total cost of a one-month supply given a typical dosing schedule. For drugs where there was a large effective dosing range, or where patient weight determined dosing, we selected a dosing quantity based on claim volume.*

***List price changes:*** *Prices in this analysis are the list price, which is the price the pharmaceutical company assigns as an official price for a drug, as of June 30, 2019. This list excludes any generic medications, over-the-counter medications, and medications that are administered under the supervision of a healthcare provider.*

***List price index:*** *This index is based on published list prices set by the manufacturers of prescription drugs, and the prescription drug mix as dispensed by community retail pharmacies. The earliest date for which the list price index is calculated is Dec. 31, 2013, using the prescription drug mix dispensed in the fourth quarter of 2013 and published list prices from Dec. 31, 2013. The base of the index is set equal to 100 on Dec. 31, 2013. A price index value equal to 125 indicates an increase in drug prices of 25% since Dec. 31, 2013.*

***Most prescribed class in each state:*** *These numbers are based on a representative sample of prescription fills at U.S. pharmacies. They reflect overall U.S. prescriptions—not fills using GoodRx. The data comes from several sources, including pharmacies and insurers, and provides a representative sample of nationwide U.S. prescription drug volume. The data reflects the absolute volume of prescription fills for all forms of a medication, so a 30-day prescription and a 90-day prescription both count as one fill. The data is from the past 12 months, from April 1, 2019, to June 30, 2019.*

**Most and least expensive cities:** *This data represents the cash prices for the 500 most commonly prescribed medications in 30 of the most populated cities in the U.S. over the last 12 months (ending June 30, 2019). These numbers are based on a representative sample of U.S. prescription fills (not fills using GoodRx) and come from several sources, including pharmacies and insurers.*

**Top drugs by specialty:** *This data reflects fills from GoodRx claims from April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019 for general practitioners, pediatricians, and internal medicine doctors.*