



## **GoodRx Quarterly Report: Q1 2019**

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**GoodRx Research**

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In an effort to continue to shed light on drug prices and increase transparency, we are excited to present the first ever GoodRx Quarterly Report—an in-depth analysis on the fill trends and drug prices that affect Americans.

This version of the quarterly report mainly focuses on data from the first quarter of 2019 (January 1, 2019 - March 31, 2019).

Among our top findings:

1. Drugs continue to get more expensive. During the first quarter of 2019, the average list price, the price set by the manufacturer, for all brand and generic drugs increased by 2.9%.
2. Over 500 brand name medications saw a list price increase in January, 2019.
3. The 20 most expensive medications in the US all cost more than \$25,000 for a monthly supply.
4. Prices for drugs in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco were as much as 17% higher than the national average during Q1.

## Most popular drugs in the US

The following 10 prescription medications were the most popular during the first quarter of 2019 based on a representative sample of fills at US pharmacies. These drugs are all generics that cost less than \$30 for a monthly supply, and 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. Hydrocodone/acetaminophen (Vicodin, Norco)
7. Amoxicillin (Amoxil)
8. Omeprazole (Prilosec)
9. Metformin (Glucophage)
10. Losartan (Cozaar)

## Most expensive drugs in the US

The following are the most expensive drugs in the United States, based on their list price—the official price of a drug assigned by the manufacturer. While a majority of these medications treat relatively rare conditions, some—like Remodulin, which treats pulmonary arterial hypertension—target more common conditions. The following 20 drugs are all priced well over \$25,000 for a monthly supply.

### The 20 most expensive drugs

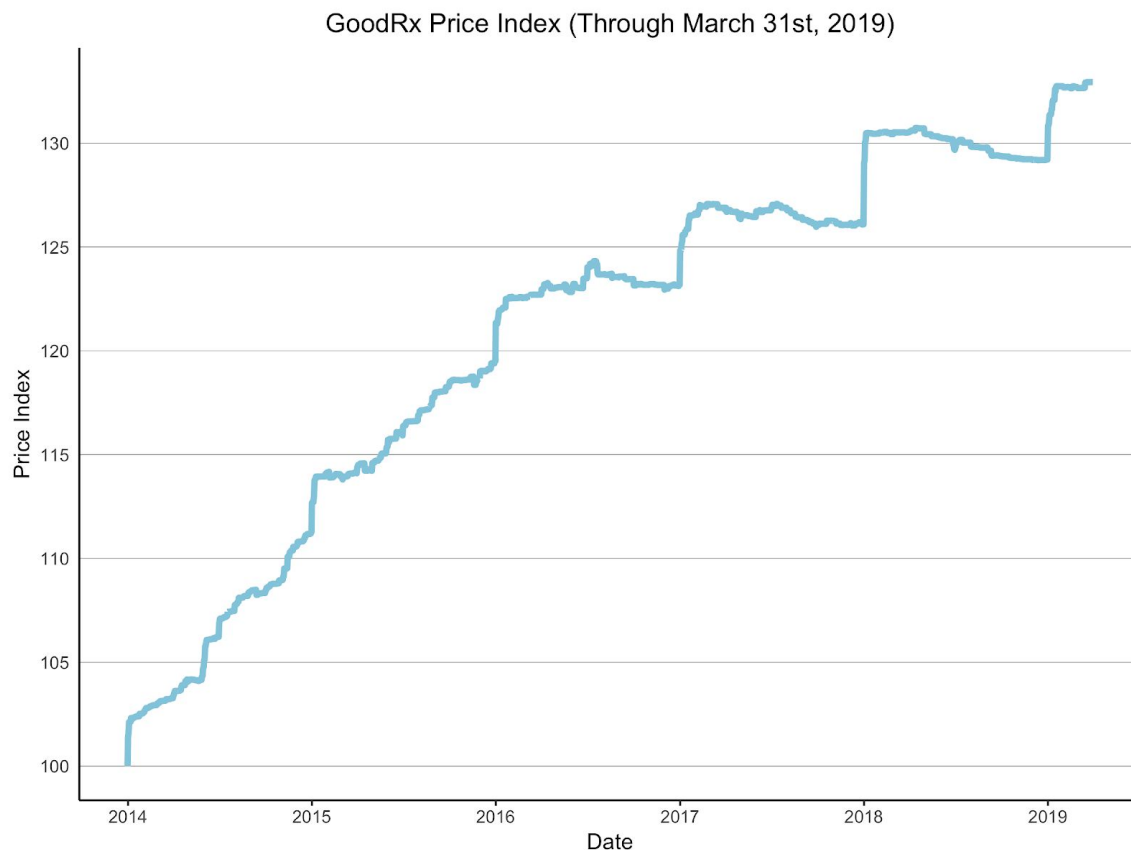
Drug	Manufacturer	List price
Actimmune	Horizon Pharma	\$52,322
Myalept	Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	\$46,328
Daraprim	Vyera Pharmaceuticals	\$45,000
Cinryze	Shire	\$44,141
Takhzyro	Shire	\$44,140
Chenodal	Retrophin, Inc	\$42,570
Juxtapid	Aegerion Pharmaceuticals	\$40,671
H.P. Acthar	Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals	\$38,892
Tegsedi	Akcea Therapeutics	\$34,600
Ravicti	Horizon Pharma	\$33,572
Vitrakvi	Bayer and Loxo Oncology, Inc	\$32,800
Firazyr	Shire	\$32,468
Cuprimine	Valeant Pharmaceuticals	\$31,426
Sovaldi	Gilead	\$28,000
Viekira Pak	Abbvie	\$27,773
Viekira XR	Abbvie	\$27,773
Orfadin	Apotek Produktion & Laboratorier AB	\$27,247
Tibsovo	Agios Pharmaceuticals	\$26,115
Cerdelga	Sanofi Genzyme	\$26,000
Remodulin	United Therapeutics	\$25,466

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

## Increases in list price

Despite continuous effort by lawmakers to ease the rising cost of drug prices, manufacturers continue to increase the prices for their medications.

According to the GoodRx List Price Index, during the first quarter of 2019, the average list price for all brand and generic prescription medications increased by 2.9%, after a huge spike on the during the first week of January.



Every January, a large proportion of manufacturers raise the list prices for their drugs, which explains the large spike in average list price at the beginning of the year. During the first quarter of 2019, over 500 prescription medications saw an increase in list price.

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

Drug	Manufacturer	Percent increase	Price per unit
Cosentyx	Novartis	9.9%	\$5178.91 per 150 mg/ml syringe
Entresto	Novartis	9.9%	\$8.49 per 24 mg/26 mg tablet
Daytrana	Noven Therapeutics	9.9%	\$12.20 per 30 mg patch
Xtampza ER	Collegium Pharmaceutical, Inc.	9.9%	\$8.32 per 18 mg tablet
Bystolic	Allergan	9.7%	\$4.87 per 2.5 mg tablet
Lumigan	Allergan	9.5%	\$78.79 per 2.5 ml eye dropper
Restasis	Allergan	9.5%	\$101.40 per 5.5 ml bottle of solution
Xeljanz	Pfizer	9.4%	\$74.68 per 5 mg tablet
Afrezza	MannKind Corporation	9.0%	\$5.41 per cartridge
Qnasl	Teva Pharmaceuticals	9.0%	\$26.27 per 80 mcg inhaler

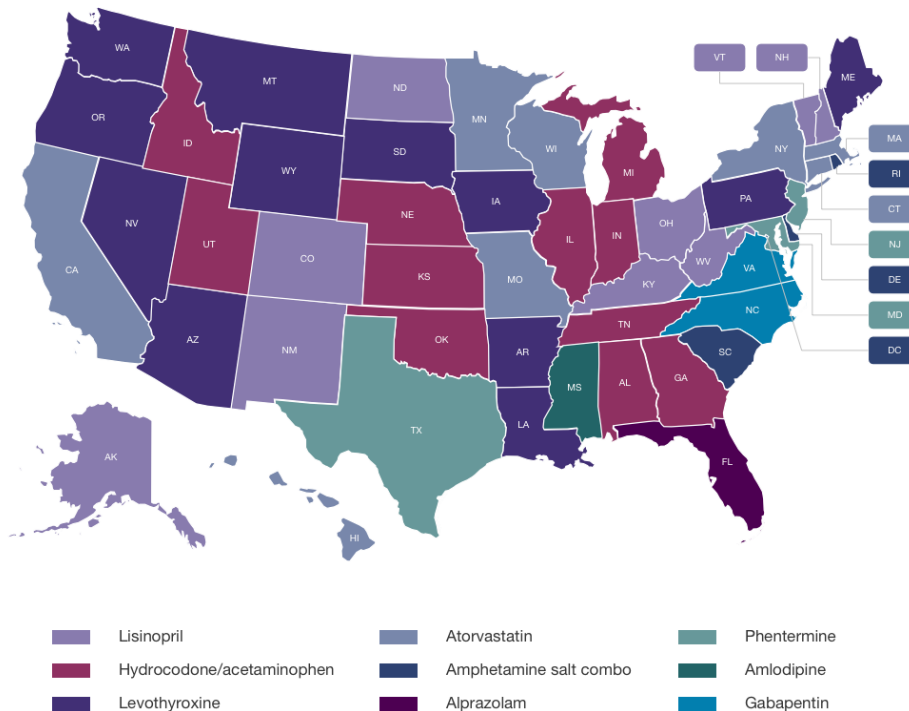
The large number of drugs that increased in price by over 9.0% is not a coincidence. As the conversation regarding drug prices has heated up over the past couple of years, manufacturers have slowly taken a pledge to keep price increases below 10% annually—but they continue to push the limit and raise prices by 9.9%.

## Most prescribed drug in each state

A breakdown of the most popular prescription medications by state reveals an interesting picture of the United States. The most frequently prescribed drug in more than 12 states during Q1 of 2019 was levothyroxine for hypothyroidism, followed by the opioid, hydrocodone/acetaminophen (prescribed most frequently in 11 states), and lisinopril for heart failure (prescribed most frequently in 10 states).

## The United States of Drugs

The most prescribed medication in each of the 50 states (Q1, 2019)



Data represents volume of US prescriptions by state filled at pharmacies during 12 months ending {{Day/Month/Year}}. Data comes from several source, including pharmacies and insurers, and provides a representative sample of nationwide US prescription drug volume.

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Here's a breakdown by each drug:

**Levothyroxine (most popular in AR, AZ, IA, LA, ME, MT, NV, OR, PA, SD, SA, WY)**

Also known as brand-name Synthroid, levothyroxine is a synthetic hormone used to treat hypothyroidism, a condition where the thyroid gland produces low amounts of thyroid hormone. Levothyroxine is continuously one of the most popular medications in the country, with more than [120 million prescriptions](#) written for the drug in the US each year.

**Hydrocodone/acetaminophen (most popular in AL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KS, MI, NE, OK, TN, UT)**

Even after years of daily headlines about the deadly opioid epidemic and tighter restrictions on prescription fills, opioids are still widely prescribed. Hydrocodone/acetaminophen is the most prescribed pain medication in the US, and is the most popular drug in 11 states.

**Lisinopril (most popular in AK, CO, KY, ND, NH, NM, OH, PA, WV, VT)**

Lisinopril is a first-line therapy for high blood pressure and heart failure. Since it is relatively affordable and has modest side effects, lisinopril works well for a lot of people. It is the most popular drug in 10 states.

**Atorvastatin (most popular in CA, CT, HI, MA, MN, MO, NY, WI)**

Atorvastatin was the most frequently filled drug nationwide this quarter, and is the most popular drug in eight states. Used to lower levels of cholesterol and triglycerides to reduce the risk of heart attack or stroke, it is affordable and has few side effects.

**Amphetamine salt combo (most popular in DE, SC, DC, RI)**

Most commonly referred to as Adderall, amphetamine salt combo is used to treat attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, a condition characterized by hyperactivity and impulsivity. Like other medications on this list, amphetamine salt combo has high abuse potential.

**Phentermine (most popular in MD, NJ, TX)**

Phentermine, also known under the trade name Adipex-P, is used to decrease appetite. While it is the most popular weight loss medication in the US, and the most filled drug in Maryland, New Jersey, and Texas, it is not among the 10 most popular drugs nationwide.

**Alprazolam (most popular in FL, MS)**

While alprazolam, also known as Xanax, isn't among the top 10 most popular drugs nationwide, it is the most frequently filled drug in Florida and Mississippi. Used for anxiety, alprazolam is a benzodiazepine, an addictive class of medications mainly used to treat anxiety and panic disorder.

**Gabapentin (most popular in NC, VA)**

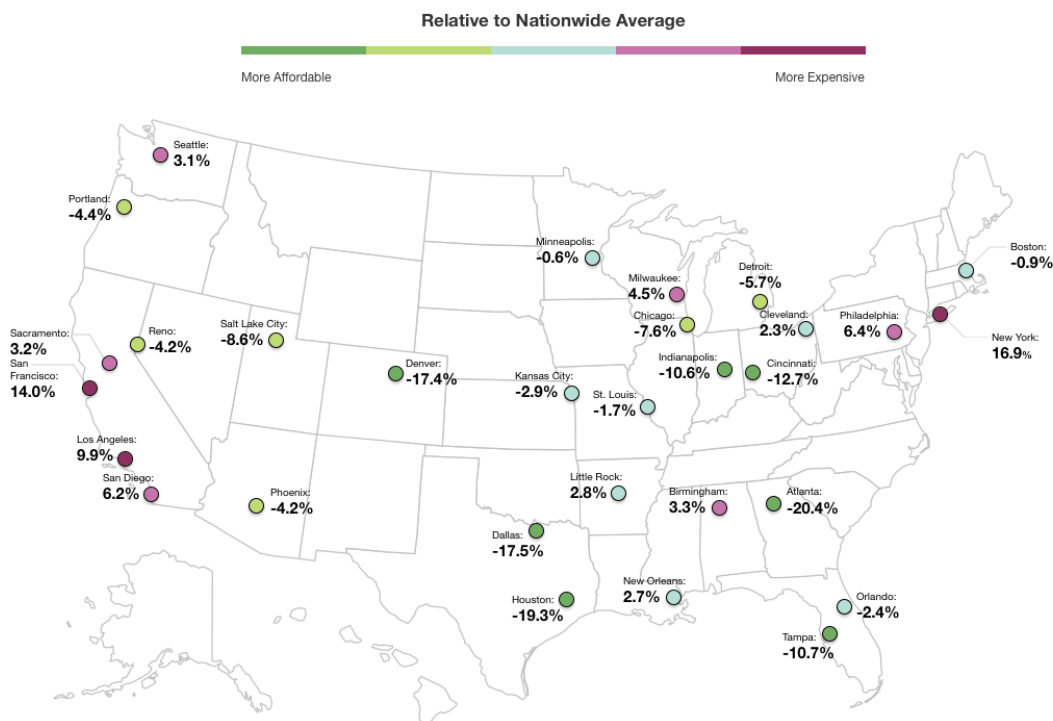
Gabapentin is used to treat seizures in adults with epilepsy and nerve pain. While it is not an opioid, it has recently been linked to [misuse and can lead to overdose deaths](#).

# Most and least expensive cities in the US

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. For instance, during the first quarter of 2019, drugs were as much as 17% more than the national average in New York, New York and as little as 20% less in Atlanta, Georgia.

## Most Expensive Cities for Drugs

The most expensive cities to live in with regards to medication (Q1, 2019)



The data represents cash prices of the 500 most commonly prescribed medications in 30 of the most populated cities in the US over the last 12 months through March 2019. These numbers are based on a representative sample of US prescription fills (not fills using GoodRx) and comes from several sources including pharmacies and insurers.

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Here's a breakdown on 10 of the most expensive cities and the 10 of the least expensive cities in the US for drugs:

**10 of the most expensive cities for drugs**

<b>City</b>	<b>Percent above national average</b>
New York, New York	+16.90%
San Francisco, California	+14.00%
Los Angeles, California	+9.90%
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	+6.40%
San Diego, California	+6.20%
Milwaukee, Wisconsin	+4.50%
Birmingham, Alabama	+3.30%
Sacramento, California	+3.20%
Seattle, Washington	+3.10%
Little Rock, Arkansas	+2.80%

**10 of the least expensive cities for drugs**

<b>City</b>	<b>Percent below national average</b>
Atlanta, Georgia	-20.40%
Houston, Texas	-19.30%
Dallas, Texas	-17.50%
Denver, Colorado	-17.40%
Cincinnati, Ohio	-12.70%
Tampa, Florida	-10.70%
Indianapolis, Indiana	-10.60%
Salt Lake City, Utah	-8.60%
Chicago, Illinois	-7.60%
Detroit, Michigan	-5.70%

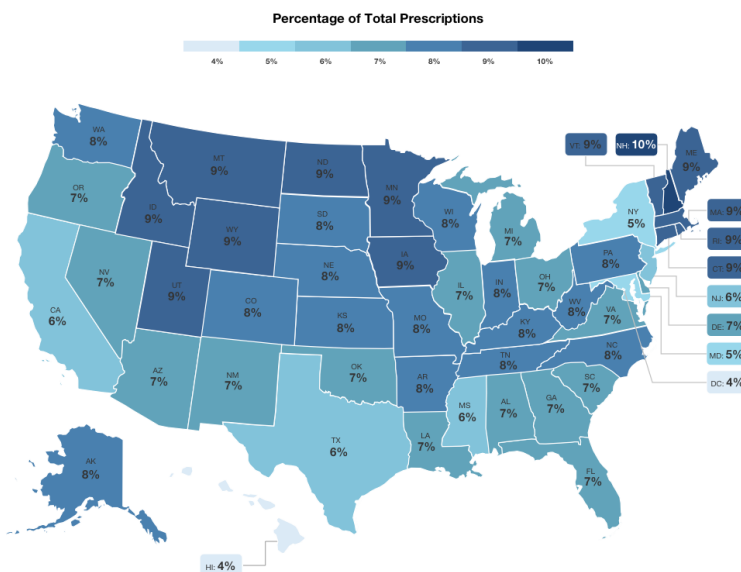
## Depression and anxiety in the US

Prescriptions for depression and anxiety medications are on the rise among Americans—and parts of the country appear to be coping with higher rates than others.

In the analysis, we looked at the proportion of depression and anxiety medications filled out of all prescriptions filled during the year (ending March 2019). In most of New England, for instance, depression and anxiety medications accounted for 8% or more of all prescriptions filled, while in California and Texas the fill rate for depression and anxiety medications was just 6%. Nationwide, an average of nearly 7% of filled prescriptions were for anxiety or depression medications, and in much of the country, the proportion of anxiety and depression medications filled has increased in recent years.

### Depression and Anxiety Medications by State

Proportion of anxiety and depression drugs among overall prescriptions

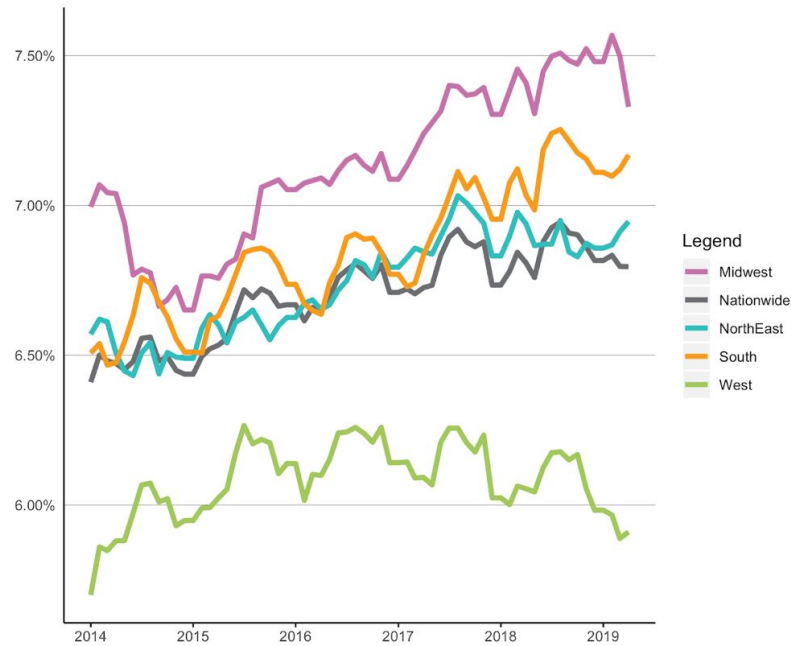


These numbers are based on a representative sample of US prescription fills (not fills using GoodRx) and comes from several sources including pharmacies and insurers, providing a representative sample of nationwide US prescription drug volume.

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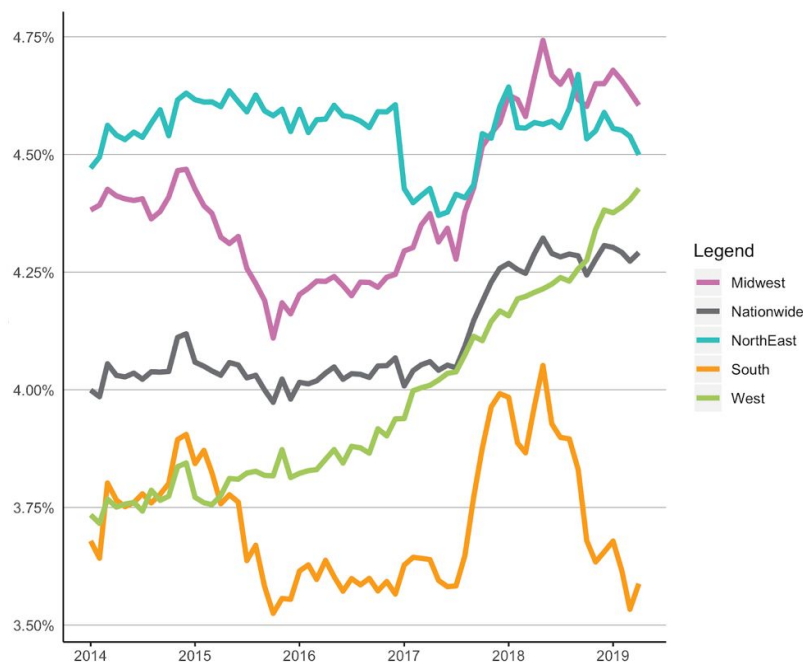
Anxiety and depression are closely related but distinct conditions; people coping with these conditions are often prescribed several medications before finding an effective therapy. These medications include commonly prescribed drugs like diazepam (Valium) and alprazolam (Xanax) for anxiety and sertraline (Zoloft) and fluoxetine (Prozac), for both anxiety and depression.

### Anxiety and Depression Medication Fill Rates



Of all depression and anxiety medications, sertraline (Zoloft) was the most widely filled during the year, accounting for over 4.5% of all prescription fills in some regions. Zoloft is an SSRI (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor) used to treat depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and social anxiety.

### Sertraline (Zoloft) Fill Rates



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*Methodology:*

**Most popular drugs:** *This list of popular medications is based on a nationally representative sample of US prescription fills from January 1, 2019 to March 31, 2019, not fills using GoodRx. The sample only includes data from retail community pharmacies (which include independent pharmacies, chain pharmacies, supermarket pharmacies, or a mass merchandiser pharmacies) that are that have state licenses to distribute prescription medications to the general public."*

**Most expensive medications:** *Prices in this analysis are the list price, the price the pharmaceutical company assigns as an official price for a drug, as of March 31, 2019. To compile the list, we identified the most expensive drugs by list price, excluded drugs that are administered under the supervision of a healthcare provider, and obtained typical fill quantities using our data and information from the 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 is a large effective dosing range, or where patient weight determines dosing, we selected a dosing quantity based on claim volume.*

**List price changes:** *Prices in this analysis are the list price, the price the pharmaceutical company assigns as an official price for a drug, as of March 31, 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 as 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 December 31, 2013, using the prescription drug mix dispensed in the fourth quarter of 2013 and published list prices from December 31, 2013. The base of the index is set equal to 100 on December 31, 2013. A Price Index Value equal to 125 indicates an increase in drug prices of 25% since December 31, 2013.*

**Most prescribed drug in each state:** *These numbers are based on a representative sample of prescription fills at US pharmacies. They reflect overall US prescriptions, not fills using GoodRx. The data comes from several sources, including pharmacies and insurers, and provides a representative sample of nationwide US 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 January 1, 2018 to March 31, 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 US over the last 12 months (ending March 2019). These numbers are based on a representative sample of US prescription fills (not fills using GoodRx) and comes from several sources, including pharmacies and insurers.

**Anxiety and depression:** Data used to calculate fill rates in this analysis are based on a representative sample of US prescription fills (not fills using GoodRx) and come from several sources, including pharmacies and insurers, providing a representative sample of nationwide US prescription drug volume. The four US regions mapped in the analysis are adapted from US Census Bureau definitions.

Anxiety-only drugs: [alprazolam](#), [alprazolam ER](#), [Ativan](#), [buspirone](#), [chlordiazepoxide](#), [clorazepate](#), [diazepam](#), [Effexor XR](#), [lorazepam](#), [meprobamate](#), [perphenazine/amitriptyline](#), [Tranxene](#), [Valium](#), [Xanax](#)

Depression-only drugs: [bupropion](#), [bupropion SR](#), [Celexa](#), [chlordiazepoxide/amitriptyline](#), [citalopram](#), [desvenlafaxine ER](#), [desvenlafaxine succinate ER](#), [doxepin](#), [Effexor](#), [Fetzima](#), [fluoxetine](#), [Khedezla](#), [Pexeva](#), [Pristiq](#), [Prozac](#), [venlafaxine](#), [Viibryd](#), [Wellbutrin](#), [Wellbutrin SR](#), [Wellbutrin XL](#)

Overlapping drugs: [Cymbalta](#), [duloxetine](#), [escitalopram](#), [Lexapro](#), [paroxetine](#), [paroxetine ER](#), [Paxil](#), [Paxil CR](#), [sertraline](#), [venlafaxine ER](#), [Zoloft](#)