



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 318 urban areas that have participated in the second quarter 2008 *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*, the after-tax cost for a professional/managerial **standard of living ranged from more than twice the national average in New York (Manhattan) NY to almost 20 percent below the national average in Joplin MO.** The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is published quarterly by C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

Second Quarter 2008

National Average for 318 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	220.3	1	Pryor Creek OK	82.4
2	San Francisco CA	170.9	2	Joplin MO	82.5
3	Honolulu HI	161.7	3	Seguin TX	84.5
4	New York (Queens) NY	157.7	4	Harlingen TX	85.6
5	San Jose CA	156.8	5	Garden City KS	85.7
6	Nassau County NY	151.8	6	Muskogee OK	85.7
7	Orange County CA	150.1	7	McAllen TX	85.8
8	Stamford CT	148.5	8	Ashland OH	85.8
9	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	148.1	9	Cookeville TN	86.1
10	Oakland CA	147.6	10	Palestine-Anderson County TX	86.2

The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services, excluding taxes and non-consumer expenditures, for professional and managerial households in the top income quintile. It is based on more than 50,000 prices covering almost 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

Who has the least expensive groceries?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. This quarter, C2ER features the communities with the most and least expensive groceries as measured by the grocery index number. C2ER collects data on 26 separate items to represent the grocery component of the index.

**The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Groceries by Index Number
in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)
Second Quarter 2008
National Average for 318 Urban Areas = 100**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Kodiak AK	154.3	1	Round Rock TX	78.2
2	Honolulu HI	154.1	2	McAllen TX	78.3
3	New York (Manhattan) NY	145.2	3	Seguin TX	80.1
4	Anchorage AK	143.3	4	San Marcos TX	81.1
5	San Jose CA	140.0	5	Dyersburg TN	81.5

It's Summer, Let's Have a Cookout

In honor of the summer season, we've created a special index devoted to items needed for a modest back yard cookout: ground beef, chicken, potato chips, and Coke.

**The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for a Barbecue
Second Quarter 2008
National Average for 318 Urban Areas = 100**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Kodiak AK	158.6	1	Manhattan KS	72.7
2	New York (Manhattan) NY	155.7	2	Dyersburg TN	74.2
3	St. Paul MN	150.9	3	Arlington TX	74.9
4	Anchorage AK	149.1	4	Joplin MO	78.1
5	Minneapolis MN	146.1	5	Louisville KY	79.3

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$140 per year (print or PDF version) or \$250 per year (electronic version). Send check, payable to C2ER, P.O. Box 100127, Arlington VA 22210-0407, or subscribe on the Internet at www.coli.org.

If you need additional information on the ACCRA Cost of Living Index or other COLI-related products such as the COLI Web Calculator and the COLI Historical Index, please contact Dean Frutiger at dfrutiger@c2er.org or Erol Yildirim at ey@c2er.org or by phone at 703-522-4980.