



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

## ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 315 urban areas that have participated in the third 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 Douglas, GA.** 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)

Third Quarter 2008

National Average for 315 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	224.2	1	Douglas GA	82.8
2	San Francisco CA	173.6	2	Joplin MO	83.2
3	Honolulu HI	163.6	3	Clarksville TN	84.3
4	San Jose CA	157.4	4	Pryor Creek OK	84.4
5	New York (Queens) NY	156.2	5	Muskogee OK	85.2
6	Orange County CA	152.2	6	Tupelo MS	85.5
7	Nassau County NY	151.2	7	Fort Smith AR	86.2
8	Oakland CA	146.5	8	Harlingen TX	86.4
9	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	146.5	9	Mason City IA	86.5
10	Stamford CT	146.1	10	Martinsville-Henry County VA	86.5

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)  
Third Quarter 2008  
National Average for 315 Urban Areas = 100**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Honolulu HI	150.4	1	Joplin MO	79.4
2	New York (Manhattan) NY	144.6	2	McAllen TX	80.1
3	Kodiak AK	143.4	3	San Antonio TX	80.5
4	Anchorage AK	138.7	4	Round Rock TX	81.2
5	San Jose CA	133.3	5	Iowa City IA	82.1

## Pampering the Pooch

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, there are 74.8 million owned dogs in the U.S. Thirty-nine percent of all households own at least one dog. In honor of this statistic, we are publishing our list of the least and most expensive places for veterinary services.

**The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Veterinary Services  
Third Quarter 2008  
National Average for 315 Urban Areas = \$40.47**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$83.00	1	Marshfield WI	\$22.08
2	Hilton Head Island SC	\$73.00	2	Hickory NC	\$23.40
3	Cookeville TN	\$68.33	3	Minot ND	\$23.50
4	Joplin MO	\$65.00	4	Williamsport-Lycoming Co PA	\$25.83
5	Stamford CT	\$63.65	5	Sumter SC	\$26.50

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](http://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](mailto:dfrutiger@c2er.org) or Erol Yildirim at [ey@c2er.org](mailto:ey@c2er.org) or by phone at 703-522-4980.