

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

## ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 309 urban areas that have participated in the first quarter 2009 *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 just over 17 percent below the national average in Pryor Creek, OK.** 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)

First Quarter 2009

National Average for 309 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	219.3	1	Pryor Creek OK	83.1
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	180.4	2	Pueblo CO	83.7
3	Honolulu HI	165.5	3	Fort Smith AR	83.7
4	San Francisco CA	164.9	4	Martinsville-Henry County VA	84.2
5	New York (Queens) NY	159.2	5	Ashland OH	84.6
6	San Jose CA	158.5	6	Martinsburg-Berkeley County WV	84.8
7	Truckee CA	148.7	7	Mason City IA	85.0
8	Stamford CT	147.9	8	Dothan AL	85.1
9	Orange County CA	145.5	9	Tupelo MS	85.3
10	Nassau County NY	143.0	10	Jonesboro AR	85.5

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 90,000 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 90,000 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) First Quarter 2009 Average for 309 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Kodiak AK	153.4	1	McAllen TX	78.2
2	Honolulu HI	152.8	2	Waco TX	78.9
3	New York (Manhattan) NY	145.1	3	Louisville KY	80.1
4	Truckee CA	135.2	4	Round Rock TX	81.9
5	Juneau AK	132.7	5	Corpus Christi TX	82.5

## New Item Prices

C2ER periodically modifies the basket of goods and services to make sure that the uniqueness, availability and the representation of items accurately reflect the consumption pattern of professional and managerial households. One of the items modified in 2009 was canola oil, replacing shortening in the grocery list. Below is a list of the five most expensive, and five least expensive places to buy canola oil among 309 urban areas.

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Canola Oil First Quarter 2009 National Average for 309 Urban Areas = \$3.60

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	New York (Brooklyn) NY	\$6.14	1	Akron OH	\$2.19
2	Oakland CA	\$5.85	2	Midland TX	\$2.64
3	Truckee CA	\$5.82	3	Covington KY	\$2.67
4	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$5.69	4	Hastings NE	\$2.70
5	San Francisco CA	\$5.47	5	Johnstown PA	\$2.72

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$165 per year for the print version and \$150 per year for the PDF. The electronic version is available for \$250 per year. 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.