

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

## ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 315 urban areas that participated in the third 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 almost 16 percent below the national average in Pueblo CO.** 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 2009

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  | 214.7     | 1               | Pueblo CO                      | 84.3      |
| 2              | New York (Brooklyn) NY   | 177.2     | 2               | Douglas GA                     | 84.4      |
| 3              | Honolulu HI              | 166.5     | 3               | Pryor Creek OK                 | 84.4      |
| 4              | San Francisco CA         | 162.9     | 4               | Cookeville TN                  | 84.5      |
| 5              | New York (Queens) NY     | 156.3     | 5               | Harlingen TX                   | 84.5      |
| 6              | San Jose CA              | 153.1     | 6               | Broken Arrow OK                | 84.7      |
| 7              | Orange County CA         | 146.7     | 7               | Fort Smith AR                  | 85.2      |
| 8              | Nassau County NY         | 144.9     | 8               | Martinsville-Henry County VA   | 85.2      |
| 9              | Truckee-Nevada County CA | 144.4     | 9               | Lawton OK                      | 85.9      |
| 10             | Stamford CT              | 143.1     | 10              | Martinsburg-Berkeley County WV | 85.9      |

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 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and 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 component categories – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

## Dairy Fluctuations

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 90,000 prices from communities across the US for the Cost of Living Index. In the course of our work this quarter, we noticed dramatic changes in dairy prices. Consequently, C2ER is featuring communities with the most and least expensive dairy items, specifically milk and eggs. Across the country, prices for both have taken a tumble. Reports are that the recent economic downturn has created problems in the dairy industry.

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for a Half-Gallon of Milk by Average Price

**Third Quarter 2009**  
**Average for 315 Urban Areas = \$1.87**

| Most Expensive Milk |               |            | Least Expensive Milk |                             |            |
|---------------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Ranking             | Urban Areas   | Avg. Price | Ranking              | Urban Areas                 | Avg. Price |
| 1                   | Honolulu HI   | 3.81       | 1                    | Prescott-Prescott Valley AZ | 1.05       |
| 2                   | Wilmington NC | 3.24       | 2                    | Lexington KY                | 1.21       |
| 3                   | Carlsbad NM   | 2.84       | 3                    | Flagstaff AZ                | 1.24       |
| 4                   | Orlando FL    | 2.81       | 4                    | Iowa City IA                | 1.28       |
| 5                   | Valdosta GA   | 2.59       | 5                    | Tucson AZ                   | 1.31       |

Egg production has caught up with demand resulting in much lower prices. Below is a list of the five most expensive, and five least expensive places to buy eggs among our 315 third quarter participants.

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Eggs by Average Price

**Third Quarter 2009**  
**National Average for 315 Urban Areas = \$1.25**

| Most Expensive |                          |            | Least Expensive |                   |            |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Ranking        | Urban Areas              | Avg. Price | Ranking         | Urban Areas       | Avg. Price |
| 1              | Truckee-Nevada County CA | 2.96       | 1               | Sheboygan WI      | 0.73       |
| 2              | San Francisco CA         | 2.63       | 2               | Asheville NC      | 0.74       |
| 3              | Oakland CA               | 2.51       | 3               | McAllen TX        | 0.76       |
| 4              | San Jose CA              | 2.50       | 4               | Appleton WI       | 0.79       |
| 5              | Kodiak AK                | 2.49       | 5               | Elkhart-Goshen IN | 0.82       |

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.