



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

This report represents the fourth edition of a new format for the ACCRA Cost of Living Index. Beginning with the fourth quarter of 2007, C2ER publishes an unweighted average of data accumulated from the three pricing periods during the previous year. The data presented represents average prices submitted for the first three quarters of 2010. For further details on the annual average methodology, please visit our website at <http://www.coli.org/Method.asp>

Among the 318 urban areas that have participated in the 2010 *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 over 17 percent below the national average in Harlingen TX.** 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) Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2010 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	216.4	1	Harlingen TX	82.8
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	181.5	2	Pryor Creek OK	84.4
3	Honolulu HI	165.6	3	McAllen TX	85.0
4	San Francisco CA	163.8	4	Pueblo CO	85.5
5	New York (Queens) NY	158.8	5	Cookeville TN	85.7
6	San Jose CA	156.0	6	Springfield IL	85.7
7	Stamford CT	146.8	7	Brownsville TX	85.7
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	146.7	8	Muskogee OK	86.0
9	Orange County CA	146.2	9	Fort Smith AR	86.1
10	Nassau County NY	145.5	10	Wichita Falls TX	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 three times a year by chambers of commerce,

economic development organizations or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences in the index numbers should not be interpreted as significant.

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

Which grocery items prices had the highest average percentage change from quarter one 2010 through quarter three 2010?

C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. Over the first three quarters of 2010, a dozen eggs and a head of lettuce had the largest price differentials. Eggs registered a 16 percent difference from the first quarter to the third quarter and lettuce a 12 percent change. Below is a listing of the most, and least, expensive places to buy those items.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Dozen Eggs Averaged over Three Quarters in 2010 Average for 318 Urban Areas in 2010 = \$1.33

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Kodiak AK	\$ 3.01	1	Covington KY	\$ 0.96
2	Honolulu HI	\$ 2.75	2	Dubuque IA	\$ 0.98
3	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$ 2.67	3	Cookeville TN	\$ 0.99
4	Truckee-Nevada County CA	\$ 2.61	4	Clarksville TN	\$ 0.99
5	Fairbanks AK	\$ 2.43	5	Columbus OH	\$ 1.02

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy Lettuce Averaged over Three Quarters in 2010 Average for 318 Urban Areas in 2010 = \$1.30

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$ 2.16	1	Covington KY	\$ 0.89
2	Philadelphia PA	\$ 1.93	2	McAllen TX	\$ 0.92
3	Lancaster PA	\$ 1.92	3	Corpus Christi TX	\$ 0.94
4	Newark-Elizabeth NJ	\$ 1.91	4	San Antonio TX	\$ 0.95
5	Albany NY	\$ 1.88	5	Temple TX	\$ 0.97

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$165 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.