

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 314 urban areas that participated in the second quarter 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 18 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)

Second Quarter 2010

National Average for 314 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan)	209.7	1	Harlingen TX	81.8
2	New York (Brooklyn)	177.7	2	Pryor Creek OK	84.4
3	Honolulu HI	166.7	3	Salina KS	84.6
4	San Francisco CA	162.5	4	Springfield IL	85.6
5	New York (Queens)	155.8	5	McAllen TX	85.9
6	San Jose CA	153.5	6	Wichita Falls TX	85.9
7	Stamford CT	146.5	7	Brownsville TX	86.0
8	Orange County CA	144.8	8	Johnson City TN	86.0
9	Nassau County NY	144.8	9	Cookeville TN	86.2
10	Truckee-Nevada County CA	143.9	10	Pueblo CO	86.4

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.

Spud Speculation

Each quarter, C2ER collects price data from communities across the US for the Cost of Living Index. Doing the data analysis this quarter, we found that the price of potatoes had wide regional variations. Consequently, we decided to focus a portion of this quarter's media release on potato prices.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for a 5-Pound Bag of Potatoes by Average Price

Second Quarter 2010
Average for 314 Urban Areas = \$2.80

Most Expensive Potatoes			Least Expensive Potatoes		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Bradenton FL	\$6.04	1	Los Alamos NM	\$1.50
2	Valdosta GA	\$5.99	2	Cedar City UT	\$1.52
3	Honolulu HI	\$5.95	3	Davenport-Moline-Rock Is IA-IL	\$1.54
4	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$5.09	4	Kansas City MO-KS	\$1.54
5	Pittsburgh PA	\$4.09	5	Vancouver WA	\$1.56

As long as we're discussing potatoes, it only seems appropriate to bring up the price of meat, the other staple of life for us non-vegetarians.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for T-Bone Steaks by Average Price

Second Quarter 2010
National Average for 314 Urban Areas = \$9.14

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$14.35	1	Waterloo-Cedar Falls IA	\$6.62
2	Minneapolis MN	\$13.99	2	Roswell NM	\$6.99
3	St. Paul MN	\$11.99	3	Portland ME	\$6.99
4	Kalamazoo MI	\$11.76	4	Rio Rancho NM	\$7.17
5	Kodiak AK	\$11.49	5	Martinsburg-Berkeley Cty WV	\$7.32

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. Be sure and ask about our new Expanded Excel version which covers more household and income types. 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.