

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 314 urban areas that participated in the third 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 just over 20 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)

Third 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) NY	207.9	1	Harlingen TX	79.9
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	181.3	2	McAllen TX	83.2
3	Honolulu HI	167.8	3	Brownsville TX	84.3
4	San Francisco CA	162.0	4	Pueblo CO	84.3
5	New York (Queens) NY	158.5	5	Springfield IL	84.8
6	San Jose CA	152.4	6	Wichita Falls TX	85.5
7	Truckee-Nevada County CA	147.4	7	Pryor Creek OK	85.6
8	Orange County CA	145.7	8	Muskogee OK	85.6
9	Oakland CA	144.0	9	Commerce-Hunt County TX	85.8
10	Nassau County NY	144.0	10	Fort Smith AR	85.8

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.

The Incredible Egg

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, once again, the price of a simple dozen eggs had wide regional variations. Consequently, we decided to focus a portion of this quarter's media release on egg prices.

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

Third Quarter 2010
Average for 314 Urban Areas = \$1.33

Most Expensive Eggs			Least Expensive Eggs		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Kodiak AK	\$ 2.99	1	Buffalo NY	\$ 0.79
2	Honolulu HI	\$ 2.87	2	Dubuque IA	\$ 0.83
3	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$ 2.60	3	Wausau WI	\$ 0.84
4	Truckee-Nevada County CA	\$ 2.41	4	Cookeville TN	\$ 0.86
5	Nassau County NY	\$ 2.39	5	Lawrence KS	\$ 0.89

As long as we're discussing eggs, it only seems appropriate to bring up the price of Lipitor™, to keep our cholesterol in check from all the eggs.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Lipitor™ by Average Price

Third Quarter 2010
National Average for 314 Urban Areas = \$150.20

Most Expensive Lipitor™			Least Expensive Lipitor™		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Janesville WI	\$ 169.00	1	Nashville-Franklin TN	\$ 113.98
2	Atlanta GA	\$ 168.39	2	Raleigh NC	\$ 120.00
3	Juneau AK	\$ 168.38	3	Philadelphia PA	\$ 123.67
4	Nassau County NY	\$ 167.99	4	Akron OH	\$ 128.15
5	Harrisonburg VA	\$ 167.50	5	Columbus OH	\$ 129.83

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.