



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

This report represents the fifth 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 2011. For further details on the annual average methodology, please visit our website at <http://www.coli.org/Method.asp>

Among the 314 urban areas that have participated in the 2011 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 19 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 2011
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	218.8	1	Harlingen TX	81.0
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	182.7	2	Pueblo CO	85.4
3	Honolulu HI	167.8	3	McAllen TX	85.4
4	San Francisco CA	162.7	4	Temple TX	85.6
5	New York (Queens) NY	153.9	5	Memphis TN	85.9
6	San Jose CA	150.3	6	Cookeville TN	86.0
7	Stamford CT	147.4	7	Richmond IN	86.3
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	145.5	8	Waco TX	86.3
9	Washington DC	143.3	9	Ardmore OK	86.3
10	Orange County CA	142.7	10	Sherman-Denison TX	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 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.

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@crec.net or Erol Yildirim at ey@crec.net or by phone at 703-522-4980.