



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 293 urban areas participating in the first quarter 2007 *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 18.4 percent below the national average in Joplin MO.** The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is compiled and 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)

First Quarter 2007

National Average for 293 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	213.7	1	Joplin MO	81.6
2	San Francisco CA	172.1	2	Lancaster SC	83.6
3	Honolulu HI	165.3	3	Harlingen TX	83.8
4	San Jose CA	156.8	4	McAllen TX	84.4
5	Orange County CA	155.6	5	Salina KS	84.6
6	Nassau County NY	150.4	6	Cookeville TN	84.7
7	Stamford CT	146.9	7	Pryor Creek OK	85.2
8	Oakland CA	146.7	8	Ardmore OK	85.9
9	New York (Queens) NY	145.2	9	Douglas GA	85.9
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	145.2	10	Dothan AL	86.1

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 quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations or 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 components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

Where's the most expensive milk?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. This quarter, C2ER features the communities with the most and least expensive milk item. C2ER collected data on a half-gallon carton of whole milk prices from grocery stores.

**The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Half-Gallon Whole Milk
in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)
First Quarter 2007
Average for 293 Urban Areas = \$1.96**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Honolulu HI	\$2.74	1	Twin Falls ID	\$1.39
2	San Francisco CA	\$2.71	2	Green Bay WI	\$1.40
3	Juneau AK	\$2.67	3	Syracuse NY	\$1.45
4	Charlotte NC	\$2.60	4	Portland OR	\$1.45
5	Greenville NC	\$2.57	5	Ithaca NY	\$1.45

A Closer Look at Denver CO

Denver typically rates around the national average in the index. Here's a snapshot of prices for five items:

	Tuna 6 oz. can Startkist or Chicken of the Sea	Apartment Rent 2 Bedroom 2 baths, 950 sq. ft.	Telephone Residential Line	Optometrist Visit Full vision eye exam	Tennis Balls Can of three Wilson or Penn
Quarter 1, 2007					
Denver	\$0.70	\$762.00	\$24.58	\$83.29	\$2.23
National Average	\$0.73	\$794.00	\$25.92	\$79.01	\$2.29

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$140 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 Cost of Living Index, please contact Erol Yildirim at ey@accra.org or by phone (703) 522-4980.

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