

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 298 urban areas participating in the fourth quarter 2005 *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 more than 20 percent below the national average in McAlester OK.** The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is compiled and published quarterly by ACCRA – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

Fourth Quarter 2005

National Average for 298 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	204.3	1	McAlester OK	78.8
2	San Francisco CA	171.4	2	Joplin MO	82.4
3	Honolulu HI	163.2	3	Pryor Creek OK	82.5
4	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	159.0	4	Jonesboro AR	83.5
5	San Jose CA	158.1	5	Nevada MO	84.1
6	Orange County CA	156.1	6	McAllen TX	84.8
7	Stamford CT	150.6	7	Lubbock TX	84.8
8	San Diego CA	150.3	8	Douglas GA	84.9
9	Oakland CA	147.5	9	Palestine-Anderson County TX	85.0
10	Nassau County NY	146.9	10	Fort Smith AR	85.3

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 is the least expensive bottle of wine?

Each quarter, ACCRA collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. This quarter, ACCRA features the communities with the most and least expensive bottle of wine. ACCRA collected data on dry Livingston Cellars or Gallo brand Chablis or Chenin Blanc, 1.5-liter bottle.

**The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for a bottle of wine
in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)
Fourth Quarter 2005
Average for 298 Urban Areas = \$6.42**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	11.86	1	South Bend IN	4.18
2	New York (Queens) NY	10.70	2	Montgomery AL	4.19
3	Anchorage AK	10.52	3	Lafayette IN	4.22
4	Juneau AK	10.25	4	Bloomington IN	4.25
5	Nassau County NY	9.92	5	Janesville WI	4.26

A Closer Look at Indiana

As seen above, Indiana cities rank among the least expensive places to purchase a bottle of wine. What other items are inexpensive in the Hoosier state? Here's a snapshot of prices for five items in Indiana:

Quarter 4, 2005	TBone Steak (price per pound)	Cereal (18 oz., Kellogg's or Post Toasties)	Hamburger (McDonald's Quarter Pounder w. cheese)	Pizza (Pizza Hut or Pizza Inn 11"-12" cheese pizza)	Toothpaste (6 oz. -6.4 oz. tube, Crest or Colgate)
Bloomington IN	\$7.65	\$2.44	\$2.40	\$9.62	\$2.07
Indianapolis IN	\$7.28	\$2.51	\$2.24	\$9.55	\$2.36
South Bend IN	\$8.31	\$2.49	\$2.39	\$8.99	\$2.07
Terre Haute IN	\$6.29	\$2.17	\$2.20	\$9.75	\$2.26
National Mean	\$8.42	\$2.90	\$2.51	\$10.18	\$2.42

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 ACCRA, P.O. Box 100127, Arlington VA 22210-0407, or subscribe on the Internet at www.coli.org.

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