

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

## COST OF LIVING INDEX

This report represents the ninth edition of a new format for the Cost of Living Index. Beginning with the fourth quarter of 2007, C2ER has annually published an unweighted average of prices accumulated from the previous three quarters. The data presented represent average prices submitted for the first three quarters of 2015. For further details on the annual average methodology, please visit our website at <http://www.coli.org/Method.asp>

Among the 273 urban areas that participated in the 2015 *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 McAllen, TX.** The *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 Cost of Living Index (COLI) Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2015 National Average for 273 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	227.4	1	McAllen TX	78.3
2	Honolulu HI	188.2	2	Harlingen TX	79.7
3	San Francisco CA	176.4	3	Richmond IN	81.2
4	New York (Brooklyn) NY	173.2	4	Norman OK	81.5
5	Hilo HI	149.0	5	Ashland OH	82.3
6	Orange County CA	148.6	6	Youngstown-Warren OH	82.8
7	Oakland CA	147.0	7	Jackson MS	83.2
8	Stamford CT	146.9	8	Hattiesburg MS	83.2
9	Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-VA	146.8	9	Idaho Falls ID	83.2
10	San Diego CA	144.8	10	Tupelo MS	84.2

The *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.

## Since it is cold and flu season, which communities have the highest and lowest prices of orange juice and Advil?

C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. Two of those items, orange juice and Advil, are essential for those suffering from seasonal bouts of flu and colds. Below is a list of the most, and least, expensive places to buy those items.

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy Orange Juice Averaged over Three Quarters in 2015 Average for 273 Urban Areas in 2015 = \$3.57

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Hilo HI	6.39	1	San Antonio TX	2.88
2	Honolulu HI	5.52	2	Burlington IA	2.95
3	Kodiak AK	5.07	3	Jackson-Madison County TN	2.96
4	Oakland CA	4.75	4	Buffalo NY	3.00
5	Anchorage AK	4.65	5	Detroit MI	3.00

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy Advil Averaged over Three Quarters in 2015 Average for 273 Urban Areas in 2015 = \$9.49

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Hilo HI	12.81	1	Atlanta GA	6.45
2	San Diego CA	12.51	2	Joplin MO	6.81
3	Honolulu HI	12.46	3	Jackson-Madison County TN	7.43
4	Las Vegas NV	12.16	4	Youngstown-Warren OH	7.68
5	Fort Lauderdale FL	12.14	5	Jackson MS	

The quarterly Cost of Living Index is available by subscription at: \$165 per year for the print edition, \$150 per year for the PDF version, or \$250 per year for an electronic (excel) version. Send check, payable to C2ER, P.O. Box 100127, Arlington VA 22210-0407, or subscribe on the Internet at [www.coli.org](http://www.coli.org).

If you need additional information on the Cost of Living Index or other COLI-related products such as the COLI Web Calculator, COLI Historical Index, County-Level Index, or Library Web Application, please contact Jennie Allison at [jallison@crec.net](mailto:jallison@crec.net) or Erol Yildirim at [ey@crec.net](mailto:ey@crec.net) or by phone at 703-522-4980.