

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

This report represents the third 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 2009. For further details on the annual average methodology, please visit our website at <http://www.coli.org/Method.asp>

Among the 322 urban areas that have participated in the 2009 *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 16 percent below the national average in Pryor Creek OK**. 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 2009
National Average for 322 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	217.2	1	Pryor Creek OK	83.6
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	177.8	2	Douglas GA	84.3
3	Honolulu HI	166.3	3	Pueblo CO	84.3
4	San Francisco CA	162.9	4	Martinsville-Henry County VA	84.9
5	New York (Queens) NY	157.2	5	Fort Smith AR	84.9
6	San Jose CA	155.0	6	Broken Arrow OK	85.4
7	Stamford CT	146.8	7	Ashland OH	85.5
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	146.6	8	Paris TX	86.1
9	Orange County CA	146.0	9	Martinsburg-Berkeley Cty WV	86.2
10	Nassau County NY	144.2	10	Mason City IA	86.3

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 three times a year 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.

Which grocery items prices had the highest average percentage change from quarter one 2009 through quarter three 2009?

C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. Over the first three quarters of 2009, a half gallon of milk and eggs had the largest price differential. Milk registered a 14 percent difference from the first quarter to the third quarter and eggs a 28 percent change. Below is a listing of the most, and least, expensive places to buy those items.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Half Gallon of Milk Averaged over Three Quarters in 2009 Average for 322 Urban Areas in 2009 = \$1.99

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Honolulu HI	\$3.64	1	Cincinnati OH	\$1.40
2	Orlando FL	\$3.00	2	Prescott-Prescott Valley AZ	\$1.45
3	Wilmington NC	\$2.96	3	Dayton OH	\$1.45
4	Kodiak AK	\$2.92	4	Louisville KY	\$1.46
5	Anchorage AK	\$2.64	5	Twin Falls ID	\$1.46

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Dozen Eggs Averaged over Three Quarters in 2009 Average for 322 Urban Areas in 2009 = \$1.53

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Truckee-Nevada County CA	\$3.26	1	Augusta-Aiken GA-SC	\$0.93
2	Kodiak AK	\$2.93	2	Rochester NY	\$1.08
3	Honolulu HI	\$2.83	3	Covington KY	\$1.10
4	Fresno CA	\$2.76	4	Jackson-Madison Cty TN	\$1.10
5	San Jose CA	\$2.76	5	Columbus OH	\$1.11

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$165 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 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.