



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

This report represents a new format for the ACCRA Cost of Living Index. For the first time, C2ER publishes an unweighted average of data accumulated from the three pricing periods throughout 2007. For further details on the annual average methodology, please visit our website at <http://www.coli.org/Method.asp>

Among the 303 urban areas that have participated in the 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 almost 20 percent below the national average in Joplin MO.** 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 2007
National Average for 303 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	212.8	1	Joplin MO	81.0
2	San Francisco CA	168.5	2	Lancaster SC	82.3
3	Honolulu HI	163.1	3	Harlingen TX	83.5
4	Orange County CA	155.0	4	Cookeville TN	83.9
5	San Jose CA	154.2	5	McAllen TX	84.1
6	Nassau County NY	153.1	6	Pryor Creek OK	84.8
7	New York (Queens) NY	148.6	7	Douglas GA	85.1
8	Stamford CT	147.6	8	Palestine-Anderson County TX	85.3
9	Oakland CA	146.6	9	Salina KS	85.5
10	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	144.6	10	Brownsville TX	85.9

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 2007 through quarter three 2007?

C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. Over the first three quarters of 2007, milk and eggs had the largest price differential. Each item registered an 18 percent difference from the first quarter to the third quarter. 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 2007 Average for 303 Urban Areas in 2007 = \$2.13

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Honolulu HI	\$3.43	1	Twin Falls ID	\$1.52
2	Tacoma WA	\$2.82	2	Dayton OH	\$1.57
3	Fresno CA	\$2.71	3	Green Bay WI	\$1.61
4	Kodiak AK	\$2.70	4	Marshfield WI	\$1.61
5	Slidell-St Tammany Parish LA	\$2.70	5	Covington KY	\$1.65

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Dozen Eggs Averaged over Three Quarters in 2007 Average for 303 Urban Areas in 2007 = \$1.52

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Oakland CA	\$3.54	1	Joplin MO	\$0.83
2	San Francisco CA	\$3.20	2	Jefferson City MO	\$0.85
3	Kodiak AK	\$3.05	3	Louisville KY	\$0.87
4	Honolulu HI	\$2.80	4	Dyersburg TN	\$0.89
5	Glenwood Springs CO	\$2.67	5	Waterloo-Cedar Falls IA	\$0.91

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 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.