



PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 302 urban areas participating in the third 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 almost 20 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)

Third Quarter 2007

National Average for 302 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	213.0	1	Joplin MO	82.0
2	San Francisco CA	166.4	2	Cookeville TN	83.8
3	Honolulu HI	164.4	3	McAllen TX	84.5
4	Orange County CA	154.9	4	Clarksville TN	85.4
5	San Jose CA	153.8	5	Brownsville TX	85.5
6	Nassau County NY	153.5	6	Pryor Creek OK	85.6
7	New York (Queens) NY	149.9	7	Douglas GA	85.9
8	Stamford CT	148.3	8	Knoxville TN	86.0
9	Oakland CA	147.0	9	Lubbock TX	86.3
10	San Diego CA	138.9	10	Palestine-Anderson County TX	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 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 orange juice?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. In honor of cold and flu season, C2ER is reporting the communities with the most and least expensive orange juice. C2ER collected data on 64 oz. (1.89 liters) Tropicana or Florida Natural Brands.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy Orange Juice Third Quarter 2007 Average for 302 Urban Areas = \$3.30

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Oakland CA	\$5.79	1	St. Joseph MO	\$2.13
2	Honolulu HI	\$5.76	2	Joplin MO	\$2.23
3	San Jose CA	\$5.57	3	Round Rock TX	\$2.66
4	Anchorage AK	\$4.99	4	Ardmore OK	\$2.69
5	Portland OR	\$4.59	5	Cedar Rapids IA	\$2.71

A Closer Look at Our Three New Participating Areas

Lewiston, ME, Minneapolis, MN and Wooster, OH are new urban areas that participated in the index. Here's a snapshot of prices for five selected items:

Quarter 3, 2007	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
Lewiston, ME	\$0.90	\$752	\$29.45	\$101.91	\$3.22
Minneapolis, MN	\$0.71	\$1,099	\$24.88	\$71.58	\$1.92
Wooster, OH	\$0.89	\$568	\$26.15	\$68.99	\$2.15
National Average	\$0.75	\$780	\$26.04	\$78.65	\$2.28

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 Erol Yildirim at ey@c2er.org or Dean Frutiger at dfrutiger@c2er.org or by phone at 703-522-4980.