

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 308 urban areas that participated in the first quarter 2010 *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 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)

First Quarter 2010

National Average for 308 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	218.0	1	Pryor Creek OK	84.3
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	182.8	2	Cookeville TN	84.8
3	Honolulu HI	163.0	3	Fort Smith AR	85.2
4	San Francisco CA	162.1	4	Pueblo CO	85.9
5	New York (Queens) NY	159.5	5	Douglas GA	86.0
6	Truckee-Nevada County CA	148.6	6	Harlingen TX	86.1
7	Nassau County NY	147.2	7	Muskogee OK	86.4
8	Orange County CA	146.5	8	McAllen TX	86.5
9	Stamford CT	145.9	9	Johnson City TN	86.6
10	Fairbanks AK	139.9	10	Conway AR	86.8

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 90,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and 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 component categories – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

Sugar Prices

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 90,000 prices from communities across the US for the Cost of Living Index. According to media sources, the price of sugar is at its highest price since the end of World War II. Production facilities abroad have driven prices up. Consequently, C2ER is featuring communities with the most and least expensive 5 pound packages of sugar. Across the country, prices for sugar have risen dramatically.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for a 5-Pound Bag of Sugar by Average Price

First Quarter 2010 Average for 308 Urban Areas = \$2.20					
Most Expensive Sugar			Least Expensive Sugar		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Kodiak AK	3.52	1	Seguin TX	1.45
2	New York (Manhattan) NY	3.35	2	Fort Worth TX	1.67
3	New York (Brooklyn) NY	3.28	3	Richmond VA	1.74
4	Honolulu HI	3.05	4	Richmond IN	1.77
5	Fairbanks AK	2.97	5	Dallas TX	1.77

As long as we're discussing sugar, it only seems appropriate to bring up the price of toothpaste.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Toothpaste by Average Price

First Quarter 2010 National Average for 308 Urban Areas = \$2.56					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	4.69	1	Cookeville TN	1.65
2	New York (Queens) NY	4.49	2	Indiana County PA	1.72
3	Augusta-Aiken GA-SC	3.86	3	Fort Lauderdale FL	1.78
4	Truckee-Nevada County CA	3.84	4	McAllen TX	1.79
5	Kodiak AK	3.73	5	Corpus Christi TX	1.82

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$165 per year for the print version and \$150 per year for the PDF. The electronic version is available for \$250 per year. 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.