



Center for Economic Development and Business Research

Third Quarter 2011 ACCRA Cost of Living Index

Released October 2011

The third quarter 2011 ACCRA Cost of Living Index report is now available from C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research. The most expensive of the 309 urban areas participating in the third quarter pricing event was New York (Manhattan), N.Y., with a Cost of Living Index value of 223.9, more than twice the national average of 100. The least expensive urban area was Harlingen, Texas, with an index value of 81.7. Wichita’s Cost of Living Index third quarter was 91.8.

The composite index is based on six component categories – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. In a recent press release, C2ER featured communities with the most and least expensive food costs as measured by 26 items from a variety of categories that comprise the grocery item component of the index. That data is shown in the table below.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Grocery Items by Index Number In the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI) Third Quarter 2011 Average for 309 Urban Areas = 100					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Honolulu, Hawaii	152.9	1	Richmond, Ind.	78.7
2	Kodiak, Alaska	149.5	2	McAllen, Texas	78.9
3	New York (Manhattan), N.Y.	148.9	3	Houston, Texas	79.5
4	Truckee-Nevada County, Calif.	136.9	4	Harlingen, Texas	80.3
5	Anchorage, Alaska	133.5	5	Corpus Christi, Texas	80.3

Source: C2ER – The Council For Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Press Release, Oct. 20, 2011.

Wichita’s index number for grocery items was 89.3, nearly 11 percent below the national average.

Because the price of coffee had wide regional variations third quarter, C2ER highlighted this grocery item in its current press release. Below are the five most expensive and least expensive places to buy coffee among the 309 participating urban areas.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for 11 oz. to 11.5 oz. Cans of Coffee					
Third Quarter 2011					
Average for 309 Urban Areas = \$4.82					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Juneau, Alaska	\$7.29	1	Waco, Texas	\$2.79
2	Honolulu, Hawaii	\$7.22	2	McAllen, Texas	\$3.44
3	Kodiak, Alaska	\$7.14	3	Richmond, Ind.	\$3.50
4	Fairbanks, Alaska	\$6.73	4	Martinsburg, W.Va.	\$3.50
5	Anchorage, Alaska	\$6.66	5	Salina, Kan.	\$3.59
Source: C2ER – The Council For Community and Economic Research, ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Press Release, Oct. 20, 2011.					

The average price of coffee in Wichita was \$4.59, 23 cents below the national average.

To subscribe to the ACCRA Cost of Living Index, go to www.coli.org.