

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

## COST OF LIVING INDEX

Among the 288 urban areas that participated in the First Quarter 2014 *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 19 percent below the national average in Norman, OK.** The *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 Cost of Living Index (COLI)

First Quarter 2014

National Average for 288 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	220.3	1	Norman OK	81.2
2	Honolulu HI	175.1	2	Harlingen TX	81.4
3	San Francisco CA	163.9	3	Ashland OH	84.3
4	New York (Brooklyn) NY	163.4	4	Salina KS	84.6
5	Hilo HI	150.6	5	Pueblo CO	84.8
6	San Jose CA	148.3	6	Memphis TN	84.9
7	Orange County CA	143.9	7	Temple TX	85.0
8	Washington DC	139.6	8	Richmond IN	85.4
9	Oakland CA	137.6	9	Jackson MS	86.1
10	Fairbanks AK	136.4	10	Hattiesburg MS	86.2

The *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.

## What Does Breakfast Cost?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 90,000 prices from communities across the U.S. for the Cost of Living Index. With food prices a big part of the national media attention, C2ER decided to once again feature those communities with the most and least expensive food costs as measured by the grocery item index number. C2ER collects data on twenty-six items from a variety of surrogate categories to represent the grocery item component of the index. Doing the data review for the first quarter, C2ER noticed big increases in the price of both pork sausage and eggs. Thinking of the impact this may have on breakfast all over the United States, C2ER decided to highlight the five most and expensive places to buy both based on the price data submitted for the first quarter.

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a 16 oz. Package of Pork Sausage in the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2014

National Average for 288 Urban Areas = 4.11

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Hilo HI	6.64	1	Houston TX	3.04
2	Portland OR	6.59	2	Conroe TX	3.13
3	Oakland CA	5.99	3	San Marcos TX	3.17
4	San Francisco CA	5.99	4	Kalamazoo MI	3.20
5	Kodiak AK	5.49	5	Bowling Green KY	3.23

### The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Dozen Eggs in the Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2014

National Average for 288 Urban Areas = 1.94

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	Hilo HI	3.93	1	Jackson-Madison County TN	1.36
2	Honolulu HI	3.65	2	Twin Falls ID	1.42
3	Boston MA	3.13	3	Conroe TX	1.44
4	Burlington-Chittenden Co VT	2.99	4	Boise ID	1.46
5	San Francisco CA	2.85	5	St. George UT	1.47

The quarterly 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. Be sure and ask about our new County-Level Index covering over 3,000 counties across the U.S. Send check, payable to C2ER, P.O. Box 100127, Arlington VA 22210-0407, or subscribe on the Internet at [www.coli.org](http://www.coli.org).

If you need additional information on the 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@crec.net](mailto:dfrutiger@crec.net) or Erol Yildirim at [ey@crec.net](mailto:ey@crec.net) or by phone at 703-522-4980.