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AREA COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 2010

The St. Cloud area experienced an average cost of living during the *first* quarter of 2010, according to the Cost of Living Index of 308 urban areas. The ACCRA Cost of Living Index is compiled and published quarterly by C2ER - The Council for Community and Economic Research.

The 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 almost 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing any measurable difference, according to ACCRA.

The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

The "all items" index for St. Cloud was 98.9, 1.1 percent below the national average (100.0) for the quarter.

The six component indexes for St. Cloud were 100.7 for grocery items, 81.9 for housing, 120.9 utilities, 101.8 for transportation, 102.6 for health care and 105.3 for miscellaneous goods and services.

ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX FIRST QUARTER, 2010
FOR MINNESOTA AND OTHER UPPER MIDWEST CITIES
OF COMPARABLE SIZE TO ST. CLOUD

	All Items	Grocery Items	Housing	Util- ities	Trans- porta- tion	Health Care	Misc. Goods/ Services
St. Cloud, MN	98.9	100.7	81.9	120.9	101.8	102.6	105.3
Minneapolis, MN	109.7	110.6	115.9	104.1	101.8	105.4	109.2
St. Paul, MN	107.3	107.6	108.0	103.6	102.4	106.7	109.8
Rochester, MN	98.8	89.1	88.9	105.5	104.3	110.3	106.2
Dubuque, IA	95.2	97.3	86.7	103.2	93.3	96.3	100.0
Eau Claire, WI	95.8	100.5	90.0	81.7	106.5	106.9	98.2
Wausau, WI	95.7	93.9	89.9	100.4	96.8	101.6	99.1

Among the 308 urban areas participating in the *first* quarter report, 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, OK.

CITY	ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX
New York (Manhattan) NY	218.0
New York (Brooklyn) NY	182.8
Honolulu HI	163.0
San Francisco CA	162.1
New York (Queens) NY	159.5
Truckee-Nevada County CA	148.6
Nassau County NY	147.2
Orange County CA	146.5
Stamford CT	145.9
Fairbanks AK	139.9