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AREA COST OF LIVING INDEX ANNUAL AVERAGE DATA FOR 2011

The St. Cloud area experienced an average cost of living during 2011, according to the Cost of Living Index of 314 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 50,000 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 95.6, 4.4 percent below the national average (100.0) for the quarter.

The six component indexes for 2011 for St. Cloud were 103.9 for grocery items, 78.5 for housing, 102.2 utilities, 101.1 for transportation, 103.3 for health care and 102.4 for miscellaneous goods and services.

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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	95.6	103.9	78.5	102.2	101.1	103.3	102.4
Minneapolis, MN	110.6	108.1	118.7	100.7	104.8	103.2	110.6
St. Paul, MN	110.5	107.1	115.4	101.3	107.6	104.0	112.5
Rochester, MN	104.7	93.3	103.1	114.6	107.9	108.7	105.9
Cedar Rapids, IA	93.6	97.3	78.7	101.3	96.6	94.7	101.6
Eau Claire, WI	90.2	96.9	84.1	79.9	101.0	105.9	90.6
Wausau, WI	96.2	100.5	87.5	106.1	98.1	103.5	97.3

Among the 314 urban areas participating in the 2011 annual 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 19 percent below the national average in Harlingen, TX.

CITY	ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX
New York (Manhattan) NY	218.8
New York (Brooklyn) NY	182.7
Honolulu HI	167.8
San Francisco CA	162.7
New York (Queens) NY	153.9
San Jose CA	150.3
Stamford CT	147.4
Truckee-Nevada County CA	145.5
Washington DC	143.3
Nassau County NY	142.7