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CONTACT: Teresa Bohnen

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### AREA COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 2018

The St. Cloud area experienced a slightly above average cost of living during the third quarter for 2018, according to the Cost of Living Index of 268 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 three times a year 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 101.3, just 1 percent above the national average (100.0) for the quarter.

The six component indexes for the third quarter of 2018 for St. Cloud were 120.4 for grocery items, 75.5 for housing, 102.2 utilities, 98.5 for transportation, 124.2 for health care and 112.2 for miscellaneous goods and services.

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ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX COMPILATION FOR THIRD QUARTER DATA FOR  
2018 FOR MINNESOTA AND OTHER UPPER MIDWEST CITIES  
OF COMPARABLE SIZE TO ST. CLOUD

	All Items	Grocery Items	Housing	Utilities	Transport ation	Health Care	Misc. Goods/ Services
<b>St. Cloud MN</b>	<b>101.3</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>75.5</b>	<b>102.2</b>	<b>98.5</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>112.2</b>
Minneapolis, MN	107.0	105.0	102.8	98.1	106.2	106.7	114.0
St. Paul, MN	107.3	104.2	103.5	96.6	107.5	107.7	114.6
Mankato, MN	97.3	101.6	72.8	100.1	100.2	111.1	112.0
Cedar Rapids, IA	94.7	96.5	85.5	109.1	96.4	95.1	96.9
Eau Claire, WI	94.4	95.9	75.9	103.8	106.8	114.7	100.3
Pierre, SD	98.0	103.3	109.1	92.1	93.8	95.9	90.0

Among the 268 urban areas participating in the third quarter of 2018, the after-tax cost for professional/managerial standard of living ranged from more than twice the national average in New York (Manhattan) NY to more than 25 percent below the national average in Harlingen TX.

Most Expensive Cities to live in the United States

CITY	ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX
New York (Manhattan) NY	240.6
San Francisco CA	191.4
Honolulu HI	188.9
New York (Brooklyn) NY	177.3
Washington DC	161.0

Least Expensive Cities to live in the United States

CITY	ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX
Harlingen TX	76.5
McAllen TX	76.9
Richmond IN	79.0
Kalamazoo MI	79.4
Muskogee OK	79.7