



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AREA COST OF LIVING INDEX AVERAGES FOR THIRD QUARTER OF 2020

St. Cloud, Minn. – The St. Cloud area experienced a slightly above average cost of living for the third quarter of 2020, according to the Cost of Living Index of 273 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 101.1, just 1.1 percent above the national average (100.0) for the quarter.

The six component indexes for the third quarter of 2020 for St. Cloud were 109.9 for grocery items, 81.8 for housing, 100.6 utilities, 95.6 for transportation, 120.4 for health care and 111.8 for miscellaneous goods and services.

**ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX COMPILATION FOR THIRD QUARTER DATA
FOR 2020 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
St. Cloud, MN	101.1	109.9	81.8	100.6	95.6	120.4	111.8
Minneapolis, MN	104.9	101.6	102.8	97.9	102.7	102.7	110.5
St. Paul, MN	105.4	101.4	103.3	96.5	103.6	102.7	111.7
Mankato, MN	89.7	96.7	70.5	96.9	96.4	119.8	94.5
Cedar Rapids, IA	97.9	97.5	86.8	106.2	104.5	109.6	101.2
Eau Claire, WI	95.4	96.2	78.2	106.3	105.1	111.8	101.1
Pierre, SD	103.4	100.5	126.8	89.7	92.4	96.7	93.8

Among the 273 urban areas participating in the third quarter of 2020, 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 20 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	248.6
Honolulu HI	199.3
San Francisco CA	194.5
New York (Brooklyn) NY	180.2
Washington DC	159.5

Least Expensive Cities to Live in the United States

CITY	ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX
Harlingen TX	75.6
McAllen TX	77.6
Kalamazoo MI	77.9
Amarillo TX	80.4
Pittsburg KS	80.6

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
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