



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AREA COST OF LIVING INDEX AVERAGES FOR 2019

The St. Cloud area experienced a slightly above average cost of living for 2019, according to the Cost of Living Index of 266 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 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 101.4, just 1.4 percent above the national average (100.0) for 2019.

The six component indexes for 2019 for St. Cloud were 117.2 for grocery items, 78.8 for housing, 102.8 utilities, 96.5 for transportation, 119.6 for health care and 111.4 for miscellaneous goods and services.

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Serving the Sauk Rapids and Waite Park Chambers of Commerce

**ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX COMPILATION FOR 2019 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 | 101.4 | 117.2 | 78.8 | 102.8 | 96.5 | 119.6 | 111.4 |
| Minneapolis, MN | 106.2 | 103.3 | 101.7 | 97.6 | 104.3 | 105.5 | 113.7 |
| St. Paul, MN | 107.1 | 103.1 | 104.9 | 96.4 | 103.1 | 106.1 | 114.4 |
| Mankato, MN | 91.4 | 101.6 | 66.5 | 98.4 | 100.7 | 114.8 | 99.6 |
| Cedar Rapids, IA | 95.8 | 94.5 | 82.1 | 102.2 | 96.4 | 107.0 | 103.8 |
| Eau Claire, WI | 96.4 | 93.8 | 77.4 | 108.3 | 107.1 | 111.7 | 104.2 |
| Pierre, SD | 100.7 | 103.9 | 110.6 | 91.9 | 98.3 | 101.0 | 94.6 |

Among the 266 urban areas participating in 2019, 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 | 237.4 |
| San Francisco CA | 196.6 |
| Honolulu HI | 191.8 |
| New York (Brooklyn) NY | 180.4 |
| Washington DC | 159.0 |

Least Expensive Cities to live in the United States

| CITY | ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Harlingen TX | 75.4 |
| McAllen TX | 76.2 |
| Kalamazoo MI | 77.7 |
| Muskogee OK | 79.4 |
| Memphis TN | 80.4 |