



PRESS RELEASE -For Immediate Release
COST OF LIVING INDEX

This report represents the eighth edition of a new format for the Cost of Living Index. Beginning with the fourth quarter of 2007, C2ER has annually published an unweighted average of prices accumulated from the previous three quarters. The data presented represent average prices submitted for the first three quarters of 2014. For further details on the annual average methodology, please visit our website at <http://www.coli.org/Method.asp>.

Among the 281 urban areas that participated in the 2014 *Cost of Living Index*, 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 20 percent below the national average in Harlingen, TX.** The *Cost of Living Index* is published quarterly by C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

**The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas
in the Cost of Living Index (COLI)**
Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2014
National Average for 281 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive COL Ranking			Least Expensive COL Ranking		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	222.6	1	Harlingen TX	81.4
2	Honolulu HI	174.9	2	Norman OK	83.7
3	New York (Brooklyn) NY	169.8	3	Ashland OH	84.0
4	San Francisco CA	167.5	4	Idaho Falls ID	84.2
5	Hilo HI	153.0	5	McAllen TX	84.3
6	Orange County CA	147.5	6	Pueblo CO	84.8
7	Stamford CT	145.2	7	Richmond IN	85.1
8	Nevada County CA	144.9	8	Cookeville TN	85.2
9	Washington DC	141.6	9	Memphis TN	85.6
10	Oakland CA	140.0	10	Hattiesburg MS	85.9

The *Cost of Living 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 chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences in the index numbers should not be interpreted as significant.

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