



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development
and Business Research

Index Reveals Higher Prices Nationally for Coffee and Potatoes

In January, The Council for Community and Economic Research released its fourth quarter 2011 ACCRA Cost of Living Index report, which presents an unweighted average of data accumulated from the first three pricing periods of the year. The table below lists the ten most expensive and least expensive urban areas from among the 314 areas that participated in the 2011 ACCRA pricing events.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas In the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI) Year-End Review of Three Quarters in 2011 National Average for 314 Urban Areas = 100					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	218.8	1	Harlingen TX	81.0
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	182.7	2	Pueblo CO	85.4
3	Honolulu HI	167.8	3	McAllen TX	85.4
4	San Francisco CA	162.7	4	Temple TX	85.6
5	New York (Queens) NY	153.9	5	Memphis TN	85.9
6	San Jose CA	150.3	6	Cookeville TN	86.0
7	Stamford CT	147.4	7	Richmond IN	86.3
8	Truckee-Nevada County CA	145.5	8	Ardmore OK	86.3
9	Washington DC	143.3	9	Waco TX	86.3
10	Orange County CA	142.7	10	Fayetteville AR	86.4

The fourth quarter annual average Cost of Living Index for Wichita was 92.2.

The composite index, which was used in the table above, is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services. After analyzing the more than 50,000 prices collected across the United States, C2ER determined that from first to third quarter, an 11- to 11.5-ounce can of coffee and a five-pound bag of potatoes had the largest price differentials among the grocery items that were priced. The national average price of coffee for the 314 urban areas increased 20.2 percent from first to third quarter, while a five-pound bag of potatoes increased 13.6 percent. The tables below show the most expensive and least expensive areas in which to buy these two items.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy an 11- to 11.5-ounce Can of Coffee Averaged over Three Quarters in 2011 Average for 314 Urban Areas in 2011 = \$4.41					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Honolulu HI	\$6.83	1	Waco TX	\$2.94
2	Juneau AK	\$6.29	2	Richmond IN	\$3.17
3	Fairbanks AK	\$6.02	3	McAllen TX	\$3.22
4	Truckee-Nevada County CA	\$6.02	4	Round Rock TX	\$3.27
5	Anchorage AK	\$6.00	5	Corpus Christi TX	\$3.30

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places to Buy a Five-Pound Bag of Potatoes Averaged Over Three Quarters in 2011 Average for 314 Urban Areas in 2011 = \$3.04					
Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Price
1	Honolulu HI	\$5.42	1	Harlingen TX	\$1.51
2	Jacksonville NC	\$4.70	2	McAllen TX	\$1.74
3	Bradenton FL	\$4.60	3	Klamath Falls OR	\$1.75
4	Quincy IL	\$4.24	4	Waco TX	\$1.81
5	Jackson-Madison County TN	\$4.20	5	Salt Lake City UT	\$1.83

The annual average price of an 11- to 11.5-ounce can of coffee in Wichita in 2011 was \$4.29, while the price of a five-pound bag of potatoes was \$2.46. From first to third quarter, Wichita's coffee price increased 12.2 percent, while the price of potatoes decreased 6.8 percent.

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$165 per year (print or PDF version) or \$250 per year (electronic version). Send check, payable to C2ER, P.O. Box 100127, Arlington, VA 22210-0407, or subscribe online at www.coli.org.