

Center for Business and Economic Research

College of Business Administration
University of Louisiana – Monroe
Monroe, Louisiana 71209-4866

Press Release

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ULM Center for Business and Economic Research and the Council for Community and Economic Research release 2008-3rd -quarter cost-of-living (and annual average) comparisons for Monroe and 315 other metropolitan areas in the United States.

Results from the 3rd quarter (2008) cost of living survey for 315 metropolitan areas in the United

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Who has the least expensive groceries?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 50,000 prices from communities across the US for the COLI. This quarter, C2ER features the communities with the most and least expensive groceries as measured by the grocery index number. C2ER collects data on 26 separate items to represent the grocery component of the index.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Groceries by Index Number in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

Third Quarter 2008

National Average for 315 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Honolulu HI	150.4	1	Joplin MO	79.4
2	New York (Manhattan) NY	144.6	2	McAllen TX	80.1
3	Kodiak AK	143.4	3	San Antonio TX	80.5
4	Anchorage AK	138.7	4	Round Rock TX	81.2
5	San Jose CA	133.3	5	Iowa City IA	82.1

Pampering the Pooch

According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, there are 74.8 million owned dogs in the U.S. Thirty-nine percent of all households own at least one dog. In honor of this statistic, we are publishing our list of the least and most expensive places for veterinary services.

The Five Most and Least Expensive Places for Veterinary Services

Third Quarter 2008

National Average for 315 Urban Areas = \$40.47

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price	Ranking	Urban Areas	Avg. Price
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	\$83.00	1	Marshfield WI	\$22.08
2	Hilton Head Island SC	\$73.00	2	Hickory NC	\$23.40
3	Cookeville TN	\$68.33	3	Minot ND	\$23.50
4	Joplin MO	\$65.00	4	Williamsport-Lycoming Co PA	\$25.83
5	Stamford CT	\$63.65	5	Sumter SC	\$26.50

The quarterly ACCRA Cost of Living Index is available by subscription for \$140 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 on the Internet at www.coli.org.

If you need additional information on the ACCRA Cost of Living Index or other COLI-related products such as the COLI Web Calculator and the COLI Historical Index, please contact Dean Frutiger at dfrutiger@c2er.org