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PRESS RELEASE - **For Immediate Release**

COST OF LIVING INDEX QUARTERLY UPDATE

The Texarkana USA Chamber of Commerce participates each quarter in a cost of living survey with the Council for Community and Economic Research. This survey is used as a comparison guide for individual and business relocations. Furthermore it is used by prospective businesses in their site selection process.

Among the 265 urban areas participating in the first quarter 2017 *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 more than 20 percent below the national average in McAllen, TX.** The *Cost of Living Index* is published quarterly by C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

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 90,000 prices covering 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, and university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

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

The Texarkana USA Chamber of Commerce conducts the quarterly survey as part of their economic development office. The local Chamber represents over 850 businesses, organizations and professionals in the region encompassing Bowie County, Texas, and Miller County, Arkansas. For additional information on being a member of the Chamber, the economic development programs, and visitor information, contact the Chamber at 903-792-7191 or info@texarkana.org or 819 N. State Line Avenue, Texarkana, TX 75501.

The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas in the Cost of Living Index (COLI)

First Quarter 2017

National Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	230.8	1	McAllen TX	76.1
2	San Francisco CA	188.5	2	Kalamazoo MI	78.5
3	Honolulu HI	187.7	3	Harlingen TX	78.5
4	New York (Brooklyn) NY	180.9	4	Conway AR	79.1
5	Washington DC	153.3	5	Tupelo MS	80.7
6	Orange County CA	153.0	6	Richmond IN	80.9
7	Boston MA	148.6	7	Knoxville TN	81.9
8	Oakland CA	148.5	8	Hattiesburg MS	82.8
9	Los Angeles-Long Beach CA	146.3	9	Ashland OH	83.0
10	Seattle WA	145.1	10	Burlington IA	83.4

The Cost of Living index for Texarkana USA was 86.9.

What Do Groceries Cost?

Each quarter, C2ER collects more than 90,000 prices from communities across the US for the Cost of Living Index. With food prices a big part of the national media attention, C2ER decided to once again feature those communities with the most and least expensive food costs as measured by the grocery item index number. C2ER collects data on twenty-six items from a variety of surrogate categories to represent the grocery item component of the index.

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

First Quarter 2017

Average for 265 Urban Areas = 100

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	Index
1	Honolulu HI	165.7	1	Temple TX	80.5
2	Kodiak AK	149.4	2	Twin Falls ID	80.6
3	Juneau AK	140.7	3	Brazoria County TX	80.7
4	Anchorage AK	130.6	4	Kalamazoo MI	81.7
5	New York (Manhattan) NY	129.0	5	Harlingen TX	82.2

Texarkana USA had an index of 96.0 for groceries.