



## PRESS RELEASE

801 W. Riverside, Suite 100, Spokane, WA 99201

Phone: 509.624.1393 or 1.800.SPOKANE

Fax: 509.747.0077

[www.greaterspokane.org](http://www.greaterspokane.org)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 9, 2011

### CONTACT:

Maria Vandervert, Greater Spokane Incorporated

509.321.3629

[mvandervert@greaterspokane.org](mailto:mvandervert@greaterspokane.org)

Patrick Jones, EWU

509.358.2266

[dpjones@mail.ewu.edu](mailto:dpjones@mail.ewu.edu)

### **Spokane Remains a Great Place to Live With Low Cost of Living**

(Spokane, WA)— Out of the 305 national urban areas that participate in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Spokane's cost of living remains below the national average.

The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) recently published the Quarter 2 2011 ACCRA Cost of Living Index. Figures for Spokane show that it is below the national average in the following categories: grocery items, housing, utilities, transportation and misc. goods and services. Overall, the composite index for Spokane is 91.3, which is 8.7 percent lower than the national average.

Spokane's cost of living is the lowest in comparison to our peer communities. Peer communities include Mobile, Ala.; Tucson, Ariz.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Raleigh-Cary, N.C.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Reno-Sparks, Nev.; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City, Utah and Tacoma, Wash.

Peer communities are chosen based on similarities to our region in population, employment and key industry clusters.

When determining moving from one city to another, a Cost of Living Calculator, provided by C2ER, shows the difference affecting personal costs between the two compared cities. A Cost of Living Calculator is available [here](#).

The index is based on more than 90,000 prices covering almost 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, or university applied economic centers in each participating urban area. Greater Spokane Incorporated, in partnership with Eastern Washington University's Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis, collected the data used for representation of the Spokane region.

For more information on how Spokane compared to other communities, [visit our website](#).

### **About Greater Spokane Incorporated**

Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI) is committed to accelerating regional economic prosperity throughout the Spokane region – an area that serves as the business and cultural hub of the Inland Northwest and supports a population of 1.4 million. GSI is the area's only Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council, providing leadership to build a stronger economy since 1881. GSI is funded by more than 1,400 private-sector member investors; Washington State; Spokane County; and the cities of Spokane; Spokane Valley; Liberty Lake; Cheney; Airway Heights; Medical Lake; and Newport. For more information, visit [www.greaterspokane.org](http://www.greaterspokane.org) or contact us at 509-624-1393, or 1-800-SPOKANE.

**About the EWU Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis**

The Eastern Washington University Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis was established in 2002 to provide interdisciplinary research in social, economic and public policy questions for the region EWU serves. In addition to its work on the Spokane International Airport economic impact analysis, the Institute also regularly publishes research monographs which are distributed to elected officials, community groups, opinion makers, economic development groups and others who might find the data useful for planning, providing services and for other purposes. For more information, visit <http://www.ewu.edu/x4901.xml>.

###