



NEWS RELEASE

September 27, 2010

Contact:

David McKeehan (978) 353-7607

Fitchburg-Leominster Area Still Most Affordable in New England!

The Fitchburg-Leominster Area has the most affordable cost of living in New England according to the most recent cost of living data from the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). Each quarter, C2ER compiles the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI) which measures regional differences in the cost of consumer goods and services in the United States. They compile more than 90,000 prices from communities across the nation for the cost of living survey.

The North Central Massachusetts Economic Development Council (NCMEDC) participates on behalf of the 26 communities of North Central Massachusetts with the COLI and has done so for almost twenty years. “Our involvement and participation with the cost of living index over the last 20+ years has provided the region with key cost of living data which enables us to compare the region with other regions across the nation”, said David McKeehan, president of the Development Corporation which staffs the Council.

The data was collected by Fitchburg State University’s Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI), founded in 2009. REDI provides detailed, independent, and innovative research and sponsors events serving the 26 cities and towns of North Central Massachusetts.

According to the recent data, if you’re looking for the least expensive urban area in the United States, you should go to Pryor Creek, Oklahoma. The most expensive urban area to live is New York (Manhattan), New York. But if you’re planning on living in any urban area in New England, than the Fitchburg-Leominster region is the most affordable.

Of those reporting, the Fitchburg-Leominster Area is the least expensive urban area in New England. With the national average for the 315 urban areas reporting on the cost of living index being 100, the Fitchburg-Leominster area

came in at 103.8; New York (Manhattan), New York at 209.7; and Pryor Creek, Oklahoma at 84.4.

The cost of living composite index is based on six components: housing; utilities; grocery items; transportation; health care; and miscellaneous goods and services.

With only 3.8 points over the national average, the Fitchburg-Leominster Metro Area is the least expensive urban area to live in New England.

“This data continues to support our region’s official marketing brand “Massachusetts Made Affordable.”, said McKeehan. “When compared to Boston and other key New England metro areas, the Fitchburg-Leominster area is the most affordable while still providing a high quality of life and economic opportunity?”

To see how any other market region in the U.S. compares to North Central Massachusetts, go to the Council’s website at www.ncmedc.com and click on the “Cost of Living Calculator”. There you will see why the NCMEDC’s logo proudly proclaims that North Central is “*Mass Made Affordable*”.

**Urban Cost of Living Composite Index for
New England Regions (2nd Quarter 2010)**

Ranked from most affordable to least affordable

1. Fitchburg/Leominster, MA 103.8 (Metro Composite Index Score)*
2. Pittsfield, MA 109.6
3. Portland, ME 113.8
4. New Haven, CT 122.3
5. Nashua, N.H. 114.5
6. Providence, R.I. 122.9
7. Hartford, CT 120.2
8. Burlington, VT 119.8
9. Boston, MA 131.1
10. Stamford, CT 146.5

*National average Metro Composite Index Score is 100 for the 315 metro areas participating in the 2nd Quarter 2010 ACCRA Cost of Living Index.