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BOZEMAN COST OF LIVING DECLINES TO 3.3% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

Bozeman, Montana, August 13, 2009 – Prospera Business Network released its *Bozeman Cost of Living* data for the second quarter of 2009 today. The data is compiled for the national *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*. According to the data for the second quarter of 2009, the after tax cost of living for a professional/managerial household in the City of Bozeman registered at 3.3 percent above the national average. Bozeman's previously reported cost of living for the first quarter of 2009 registered at 5.2 percent above the average and was 7.6 percent above the average for 2008, on an annual basis.

“Although we see a decline in Bozeman's overall cost of living during the second quarter, Bozeman continues to have the highest overall cost of living and the highest cost of housing in Montana,” said Prospera Program Director Peter Bertelsen. “Bozeman's cost of housing declined from 13 percent to 7.3 percent above the average during the second quarter, but we are still seeing the overall cost of living being driven up by the higher than average cost of housing in Bozeman,” continued Bertelsen.

Bozeman's cost of living is comparable to Denver, Colorado (4.1 percent above the average); Asheville, North Carolina (3.1 percent above the average); and Ithaca, New York (3.5 percent above the average). Of the other two Montana cities in the study, Missoula reported an overall cost of living at 2.4 percent above the national average and Kalispell reported an overall cost of living at 2.2 percent above the average. Missoula's housing costs were reported at 7.9 percent below the national average and Kalispell reported housing costs at just 0.8 percent above the average.

ABOUT THE ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX

The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is a national comparison of 320 urban areas measuring 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 50,000 prices covering almost 60 different items and includes: housing, utilities, groceries, transportation, healthcare, and miscellaneous goods. The *Index* is compiled and published quarterly by C2ER, The Council for Community and Economic Research. Prospera Business Network collects and reports data for the City of Bozeman each quarter.

ABOUT THE C2ER, THE COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

C2ER is a membership organization created in 1961 to promote excellence in community and economic research by working to improve data availability, enhance data quality, and foster learning about regional economic analytic methods. C2ER produces the national *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* to provide a useful and reasonably accurate measure to compare cost of living differences among urban areas. The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is the most reliable source of city-to-city comparisons of a key consumer costs available anywhere. To learn more about C2ER, visit: www.c2er.org

ABOUT PROSPERA BUSINESS NETWORK

Prospera Business Network is a private, non-profit, economic development organization in southwestern Montana. Originally established in 1985 as the Gallatin Development Corporation, Prospera plays a leading role in economic development serving a region that is one of the fastest growing economies in the northern Rocky Mountains. Prospera is dedicated to encouraging and supporting business expansion, retention and relocation by providing business consulting, financing, professional development and economic research. To learn more about Prospera Business Network, visit: www.ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org

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