



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BOZEMAN COST OF LIVING INCREASES TO 5.7% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

**Bozeman, Montana, October 28, 2009** – Prospera Business Network released its *Bozeman Cost of Living* data for the third quarter of 2009 today. The data is compiled for the national *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*. According to the data for the third quarter of 2009, the after tax cost of living for a professional/managerial household in the City of Bozeman registered at 5.7 percent above the national average. Bozeman's previously reported cost of living for the second quarter of 2009 registered at 3.3 percent above the average and was 7.6 percent above the average for 2008, on an annual basis.

“Once again, we’re seeing the cost of housing drive up the overall cost of living in Bozeman. Bozeman continues to have the highest cost of housing and the highest overall cost of living in Montana,” said Prospera Program Director Peter Bertelsen. “During the third quarter, Bozeman’s cost of housing increased from 7.3 percent to 8.5 percent above the average,” continued Bertelsen.

Bozeman’s third quarter cost of living is comparable to New Orleans, Louisiana (5.1 percent above the average); Panama City, Florida (5.1 percent above the average); and Reno, Nevada (4.4 percent above the average). Of the other two Montana cities that participate in the study, Missoula reported an overall cost of living at 1.8 percent above the national average and Kalispell reported an overall cost of living at 2.6 percent above the average. Missoula’s housing costs were reported at 6.2 percent below the national average and Kalispell reported housing costs at 1.4 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](http://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](http://www.ProsperaBusinessNetwork.org)

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