



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BOZEMAN COST OF LIVING 4.4% ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR 2009**

**Bozeman, Montana, February 2, 2010** – Prospera Business Network released its *Bozeman Cost of Living* data for 2009 today. The data is compiled for the national *ACCRA Cost of Living Index*. According to the data, in 2009 the after tax cost of living for a professional/managerial household in the City of Bozeman registered at 4.4 percent above the national average. Bozeman's previously reported cost of living for the third quarter of 2009 registered at 5.7 percent above the average and was 7.6 percent above the average for 2008, on an annual basis.

“Bozeman's overall cost of living continues to outpace the rest of Montana with the cost of housing helping to maintain the higher averages,” said Prospera Executive Director Stuart Leidner. “While Bozeman's housing costs are higher than the rest of Montana, our transportation and health care costs are lower than both Missoula and Kalispell, the other two Montana cities that participated in the study. Bozeman's transportation costs are 3.9 percent below the national average and more than 4 percent below both Missoula and Kalispell. While Montana's health care costs are above the national average, we compare favorable to other western states. In Bozeman, our health care costs are just 0.9 percent above the national average, and at least 1.7 percent lower than the other Montana cities in this study.” continued Leidner.

Bozeman's annual cost of living is comparable to Bakersfield, California (4.8 percent above the average); Panama City, Florida (5.3 percent above the average); and Ithica, New York (3.5 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 1.5 percent above the average. Missoula's housing costs were reported at 6 percent below the national average and Kalispell reported housing costs at 0.7 percent below the average.

#### **ABOUT THE ACCRA COST OF LIVING INDEX**

The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* is a national comparison of 322 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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