



DOTHAN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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## ACCRA Cost of Living Index *First Quarter 2009*

**DOTHAN, Ala.** - Among the 309 urban areas that have participated in the first quarter 2009 ACCRA *Cost of Living Index*, the after-tax cost for a professional/managerial standard of living ranged from more than twice the national average in New York (Manhattan) NY to just over 14.9 percent below the national average in Dothan, Ala. The ACCRA *Cost of Living Index* is published quarterly by C2ER – The Council for Community and Economic Research.

### The Ten Most and Least Expensive Urban Areas in the ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI)

**First Quarter 2009**  
**National Average for 309 Urban Areas = 100**

Most Expensive			Least Expensive		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	New York (Manhattan) NY	219.3	1	Pryor Creek OK	83.1
2	New York (Brooklyn) NY	180.4	2	Pueblo CO	83.7
3	Honolulu HI	165.5	3	Fort Smith AR	83.7
4	San Francisco CA	164.9	4	Martinsville-Henry County VA	84.2
5	New York (Queens) NY	159.2	5	Ashland OH	84.6
6	San Jose CA	158.5	6	Martinsburg-Berkeley County WV	84.8
7	Truckee CA	148.7	7	Mason City IA	85.0
8	Stamford CT	147.9	<b>8</b>	<b>Dothan AL</b>	<b>85.1</b>
9	Orange County CA	145.5	9	Tupelo MS	85.3
10	Nassau County NY	143.0	10	Jonesboro AR	85.5

Continued

The *ACCRA Cost of Living Index* measures 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 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. Small differences should not be interpreted as showing a measurable difference.

The composite index is based on six components – housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

“We are extremely pleased to be the eighth lowest area in the country to live with the results of the first quarter index for 2009,” said Matt Parker, president of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. “This index is an invaluable tool that provides apples to apples information on cost of our community versus other metro areas in the United States. It is helpful for individuals relocating to our area for a variety of reasons tied to retirement or employment or those individuals seeking information on general health care costs, transportation and miscellaneous services. The Dothan area has consistently been in the top 25 lowest cost areas with its participation of this index and being eighth lowest in this first quarter index for 2009 is a boost for our area. We thank our staff and the Council for Community and Economic Research for the opportunity to take part in this index each quarter and provide up to date information on costs for our region. We are also the lowest cost area in the state in comparison to other Alabama metro areas,” indicated Parker.

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