

# Dothan ranks eighth as a cheap place to live

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Canned tomatoes, the average home and a hospital stay are among the thousands of items that are cheaper on average in Dothan than in most metropolitan areas in the United States.

Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce president Matt Parker said the latest ACCRA Cost of Living Index places Dothan as the eighth least expensive city among 309 ranked urban areas in the U.S.

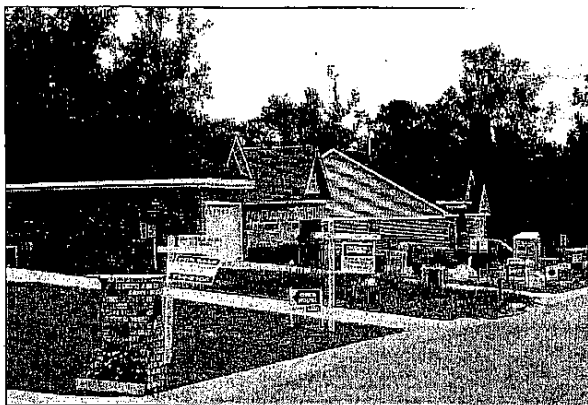
"This is good news as far as being a place to relocate to," Parker said in giving the information to the Dothan City Commission on Tuesday. "We are 14.9 percent below the national average."

The cost of living index ranking is presented quarterly by The Council for Community and Economic Research. Dothan is consistently among the least expensive areas.

The ranking looks at the after-tax cost on 60 different goods and services including a can of tomatoes, the average house, a hospital bed and a dentist visit. The items cover various categories including housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, health care and miscellaneous goods and services.

In the index, the number 100 represents the national average. Dothan's

See **CHEAP**, 3A



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Affordable housing was factored into a cost of living survey conducted by the Council for Community and Economic Research that found Dothan to be the eighth lowest place to live among metro areas in the U.S.

## Cheap

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index number is 85.1. The most expensive city in which to live is Manhattan, N.Y., with an index of 219.

"This is something that continues to highlight our area," Parker said. "Folks continue to move here. We are a preferred area right now. In a difficult economic climate this only enhances

our area. This is real data."

"People can put in Anchorage, Alaska, and Dothan, Ala., and see what the cost differential is."

Dothan is also the lowest cost metro area in the state.

The top five least expensive cities are: Pryor Creek, Okla.; Pueblo, Colo.; Fort Smith, Ark.; Martinsville, Va.; and Ashland, Ohio. The most expensive are Manhattan; Brooklyn, N.Y.; Honolulu, Hawaii; San Francisco; and Queens, N.Y.

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**Matt Parker**  
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce president