

Dothan Remains Lowest Cost Of Living Area In State

ACCRA Cost of Living Index

First Quarter 2018

The Dothan Metropolitan Statistical Area remains the lowest cost of living area in the state. Among the 263 urban areas that participated in the first quarter 2018 ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Dothan MSA came in at 84 percent for its total index. This index represents that the overall cost of living for the Dothan area is 16 percent below the national average.

When compared to the eight Alabama urban areas that participated in the 2018 first quarter Index, the Dothan area was the lowest cost area in the state. Moreover, Dothan, Alabama was the lowest cost area when compared to communities in Georgia and Florida. The area also reported the lowest composite index in the state for Utilities and Miscellaneous Goods and Services.

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 60 different items for which prices are collected quarterly by chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and 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 component categories – Housing, Utilities, Grocery Items, Transportation, Health Care and Miscellaneous Goods and Services.

“Data and statistics continue to show that Dothan is a great and inexpensive place to live and work. This index is an invaluable tool that provides apples to apples information on the cost of our community versus other metro areas in the United States,” said Matt Parker, president of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce. He indicated the index 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. 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,” concluded Parker.

ACCRA Cost of Living Index (COLI) First Quarter 2018					
National Average for 263 Urban Areas = 100					
Five Most Expensive Urban Areas			Five Least Expensive Alabama Areas		
Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index	Ranking	Urban Areas	COL Index
1	Manhattan, N.Y.	245.4	1	Dothan, Ala.	84.0
2	San Francisco, Calif.	195.7	2	Decatur-Hartselle, Ala.	85.0
3	Honolulu, HI.	186.3	3	Florence, Ala.	85.6
4	Brooklyn, N.Y.	179.4	4	Anniston, Ala.	86.6
5	Seattle, WA	153.0	5	Montgomery, Ala.	90.9