



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wilmington Cost of Living Remains Below Average**

Wilmington, N.C. —The costs associated with living in Wilmington are slightly below that of the average city according to the results of the 2nd quarter 2013 national ACCRA cost of living survey. The overall composite index for Wilmington is 97.3, based on a national average index of 100. The Cost of Living Index measures the differences in the cost of consumer goods and services between cities for a middle-class standard of living.

304 urban areas in the United States participated in the most recent study. Manhattan was the most expensive city, with an index of 218.9, more than twice the national average. Harlingen, Texas was the least expensive metro area, with an index of 81.1.

The full study results are based on more than 90,000 prices covering 60 different items that are priced by area chambers of commerce, economic development groups, or similar organizations in each urban area during the same 3-day time frame. Each community is given a composite index in which the average score is 100, derived from six categories.

Wilmington’s 2nd quarter 2013 component scores, compared to other southern cities, for these categories are shown below.

City	Composite	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Healthcare	Goods & Services
Wilmington, NC	97.3	103.1	84.4	110.8	96.4	107.0	100.3
Raleigh, NC	92.6	102.0	75.5	106.1	96.0	98.7	96.5
Charlotte, NC	95.0	99.4	83.7	107.3	100.7	97.2	96.3
Asheville, NC	102.4	97.5	105.4	105.8	99.8	111.7	100.7
Charleston, SC	99.6	104.8	87.2	113.6	96.5	107.5	103.3
Washington, D.C.	140.9	110.9	246.3	106.0	107.1	100.2	95.0
Norfolk, VA	99.9	93.2	92.6	108.0	98.6	102.7	106.4

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