



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Wilmington Cost of Living Remains Steady and Below Average**

Wilmington, N.C. —The costs associated with living in Wilmington remain slightly below that of the average city according to the results of the 3rd quarter 2013 national ACCRA cost of living survey. The overall composite index for Wilmington is 97.7, based on a national average index of 100. Wilmington’s 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013 index score was 97.3. Local data for the survey is collected by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and submitted to ACCRA.

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.

306 urban areas in the United States participated in the most recent study. Manhattan was the most expensive city, with an index of 221.3, more than twice the national average. Norman, Oklahoma was the least expensive metro area, with an index of 82.4.

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: housing, utilities, grocery items, transportation, healthcare, and miscellaneous goods and services.

Wilmington’s 3rd quarter 2013 component scores, compared to other southern cities, for these categories are shown below.

**Cost of Living Comparison for Select Southern Cities: Third Quarter 2013**

City	Composite	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Healthcare	Good & Services
Wilmington, NC	97.7	104.2	89.8	110.2	96.5	107.0	96.6
Raleigh, NC	94.6	101.0	83.2	104.6	100.1	99.1	95.5
Charlotte, NC	96.1	107.3	84.4	109.6	96.1	96.9	96.9
Asheville, NC	105.2	99.0	115.9	106.1	96.6	110.3	101.2
Charleston, SC	100.8	104.6	93.1	113.8	92.1	98.1	105.2
Washington, DC	141.6	111.2	251.1	95.1	105.7	97.3	97.4
Norfolk, VA	99.4	91.5	98.0	108.5	95.4	104.0	102.0