Report: Greenville ranks high in affordable living

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A report from a Virginia-based research firm shows that Greenville continues to offer an affordable quality of life, according to the Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce.

The AACRA Cost of Living Index, released Tuesday by the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), said the after-tax cost for a professional /managerial standard of living in Greenville is 89.2 percent of the national average.

The study is used to measure 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, C2ER said.

The national average for the 309 urban areas that participated in the index is 100.

Hank Hyatt, vice president of economic development for the Greenville chamber, said the results continue to show that there are" some good things out there in terms of what we've got available for the business community and folks moving here for the quality of life.

"And they've got that at a decent price. We're very competitive cost wise," he said.

As part of the study, chambers and economic development groups in the urban areas go out once a quarter to price 60 different things such as grocery items, doctor visits, mortgage rates, utility rates, and gas, Hyatt said. The results are sent to C2ER.

Manhattan, New York was ranked the most expensive city with a 219.3 cost of living index, while Pryor Creek was at the top for least expensive with an index of 83.1.

Tampa's index was 95.2, while San Francisco was 164.9.

Those cities, along with New York, joined Greenville in being a top-ranked city of the future by Foreign Direct Investment magazine.