

# BUSINESS COSTS

Compared with other major U.S. regions, Greater New Orleans has a cost of doing business that makes it one of the most affordable locations around. Wage levels are up to 40% less than those found in other major markets across the country, utilities are below the national average, and Class A office space can be secured for as low as \$13 psf.

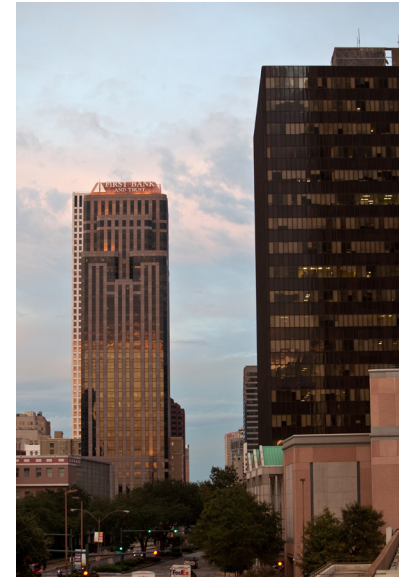
## Commercial Real Estate

The Greater New Orleans region has a strong offering of available and affordable commercial real estate options, making the area an attractive location for relocation and expansion moves.

### Q2 2014

Industrial		Office		Metro	
Vacancy	6.5%	Vacancy		10.9%	
Net Absorption	+336,086	Net Absorption		+200,750	
Total Inventory	64M ft <sup>2</sup>	Total Inventory		47M square feet	
				<b>Class A</b>	<b>Class B</b>
Average Rental Rate	\$5.36/ft <sup>2</sup>	Average Rental Rate		\$19.08/ft <sup>2</sup>	\$14.86/ft <sup>2</sup>

Source: CoStar



## THE BOTTOM LINE

Regardless of company-type, every business takes on similar economic burdens: real estate, utilities, taxes, and more. Despite these similarities, the end result differs based on location.

The difference shines through when determining how much those costs will impact operations. Greater New Orleans leads the nation for economic, as ranked by KPMG, because of the region's commitment to growing a vibrant marketplace for several industries.

## Economic Affordability



METROS (Population 1 to 2 Million)	Cost Index
New Orleans, Louisiana	94.1
Nashville, Tennessee	94.9
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	95.1
Raleigh, North Carolina	95.6
Memphis, Tennessee	95.8
Indianapolis, Indiana	96.2
Salt Lake City, Utah	96.6
Austin, Texas	96.8
Buffalo, New York	96.9
Providence, Rhode Island	97.7

Figures given are effective tax rate.  
Source: KPMG

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