

Mississippi rated most affordable state to live



Bob Bakken

A new report rates Mississippi as the most affordable place to live among the 50 United States.

CNBC's annual report titled, "America's Top States for Business" placed the state number one for affordability.

With price increases and supply disruptions spiking thanks to the economic effects from the coronavirus pandemic, cost of living became one of the 10 categories of competitiveness.

Information for the rankings came from U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics figures, and average prices for selected items, based on the 2020 Average Cost of Living Index by the Council for

Community and Economic Research, or C2ER.

Mississippi became the top-ranked state for affordability with a 75 out of 75 cost-of-living score, a Consumer Price Index that rose 5.8 percent and an average home cost, using Hattiesburg as its center point, of \$247,812.

An average price for a gallon of milk in Mississippi was determined to be \$2.37 and an average monthly energy bill in the state is \$153.76.

The 10 "cheapest states to live" study is posted on the CNBC website.

Here are the top 10 states, as ranked by the CNBC report:

1. Mississippi

2. Kansas
3. Oklahoma
4. Arkansas
5. Missouri
6. Alabama
7. New Mexico
8. Georgia (tied)
8. Tennessee (tied)
10. Indiana

By contrast, the 10 most expensive places to live are:

1. Hawaii
2. New York
3. California
4. Oregon
5. Massachusetts
6. Alaska
7. Maryland
8. Connecticut
9. Rhode Island
10. New Jersey

Another CNBC report is not as kind to Mississippi, as the state overall is ranked



McRae returns \$50,000 to MDOT in Unclaimed Money



MDOT Executive Director Brad White (left) and State Treasurer David McRae (right)

Money to be used for road and bridge projects, improving transportation, and motorist safety

JACKSON, Miss. - State

45th in the country in CNBC's Top States for Business rankings.

The state is ranked seventh for cost of doing business, but is 37th in the Life, Health, and Inclusion category, is 41st in workforce, 42nd in economy, and 43rd

Treasurer David McRae presented Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) Executive Director Brad White with a check for unclaimed money worth more than \$50,000. The funds owed to MDOT were turned over to the State Treasurer's office from banks and other entities after sitting unclaimed for an extended amount of time.

"Taxpayers intended for these funds to be used to re-

pair our roads and bridges and improve the state's infrastructure," said Treasurer McRae. "I am very pleased to have found and returned these funds so they can be invested in the projects that improve the way we live and work in Mississippi."

MDOT has reported they will use the money for road and bridge projects around the state, improving the quality of the transportation system, and safety for motorists.

About one in 10 people have some amount of unclaimed money in the state. To search for unclaimed property in your name, please visit [Treasury.MS.gov](https://www.ms.gov).

For more information about MDOT maintenance and construction projects, visit [MDOTtraffic.com](https://www.mdottraffic.com), download the free MDOT Traffic mobile app, or like and follow [@MississippiDOT](https://www.facebook.com/MississippiDOT) on Facebook and Twitter.

Mississippi Treasurer David McRae is the 55th Treasurer for the State of Mississippi. In this role, he helps manage the state's cash flow, oversees College Savings Mississippi, and has returned more than \$20 million in unclaimed money to Mississippians. For more information, visit [Treasury.MS.gov](https://www.ms.gov).



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H3015_21GEF_C (8/21)