

Section 14

PRICES

This section presents indexes of consumer prices for Honolulu and for the United States, the implicit price deflator for gross domestic product, and comparisons of Honolulu living costs with those in other U.S. urban areas and cities in foreign countries. Other statistics on prices are reported in Sections 7, 16, 17, 18, 21, and 23.

The Honolulu Consumer Price Index has been compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) since December 1963. This index measures the average change in prices of goods and services purchased by urban households. Prices are expressed as a percent of the average levels reported in the base period, 1982-1984.

Official comparisons of Honolulu and Mainland living costs are no longer being made on a regular basis. The annual four-person family budgets estimated by the BLS for Honolulu and the Mainland were discontinued after 1981. The unofficial estimates by the Bank of Hawaii were available for 1982-1998 but have seemingly also been discontinued. A comparison of prices in Hawaii and Washington, D.C., compiled for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management as a basis for cost of living adjustments for Federal employees is also included. These studies are subject to technical limitations and must be interpreted with considerable caution. Comparative indexes have been compiled by the U.S. Department of Defense for military personnel assigned to or in Hawaii on temporary duty.

No composite wholesale or producer price index is available for Hawaii. Average wholesale prices of agricultural products are reported in *Statistics of Hawaii Agriculture*, issued by the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service, and in various other publications of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture. Wholesale price statistics of other commodities are seldom available. Periodic comparisons of individual or groups of products and services are sometimes compiled.

Data on prices and living costs for the nation as a whole and other areas are summarized in the *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2011*, Section 14. Long-term trends for Hawaii are traced in *Historical Statistics of Hawaii*, Section 5.