Section 14

PRICES

This section presents indexes of consumer prices for Honolulu and for the United States, the implicit price deflator for gross state product, and comparisons of Honolulu living costs with those in other 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. Current data for Honolulu and other cities are published in *CPI Detailed Report*, issued monthly by BLS.

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. Unofficial estimates by the Bank of Hawaii had been discontinued but were recently restored for 1982-1998. 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, was most recently published for 1996. These studies are subject to technical limitations and must be interpreted with considerable caution.

No composite wholesale or producer price index is available for Hawaii. Average wholesale prices of agricultural products are reported in *Statistics of Hawaiian 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.

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: 1998*, Section 15. Long-term trends for Hawaii are traced in *Historical Statistics of Hawaii*, Section 5.