

COST OF LIVING

The Honolulu Consumer Price Index measures the change in cost for a "market basket" of goods and services customarily purchased by families of wage earners and clerical workers in Honolulu. Components of the "market basket" are determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, in conformance with standard practices used for urban areas throughout the country.

Since December 1963, Honolulu has been included in the cities surveyed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the determination of the national average cost of living index. The December 1963=100 base has been used since that time. In prior years, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations published a quarterly consumer price index and food index for Honolulu with a December 1943=100 base.

The Western Regional Office of the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes a monthly comparison of prices for selected food items in Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Portland.

It should be emphasized that consumer price indexes for each city show only how prices have changed in that city since a certain date. They are not intended to be used to measure differences in living costs between cities.

The Federal Civil Service Commission surveys Federal workers periodically in areas where cost of living allowances traditionally have been paid. They evaluate typical expenses in these locations with those in Washington, D. C.

Table 25 -- COMPARISON OF COST OF LIVING FOR HONOLULU
AND OTHER CITIES WITH WASHINGTON, D. C.:
1962, 1964, AND 1965

Location	1962	1964	1965
Washington, D. C.	100.0	100.0	100.0
Honolulu, Hawaii	114.9	115.8	114.1
San Juan, Puerto Rico	112.3	104.5	105.8
St. Croix, Virgin Is.	--	104.5	101.9
St. Thomas, Virgin Is.	115.3	106.3	104.4
Anchorage, Alaska	143.2	137.8	NS ¹
Fairbanks, Alaska	146.5	142.4	NS
Juneau, Alaska	132.8	129.3	NS

1. Not surveyed in 1965.

Source: U. S. Civil Service Commission, various studies on living costs for Federal employees in "white collar" classifications.

Table 26 -- CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR HONOLULU AND U. S. CITIES AVERAGE:
 1950 TO 1965
 (Dec. 1963 = 100)

Year	All Items		Food at home	
	Honolulu	All cities	Honolulu	All cities
1950	71.3	77.9	72.5	84.0
1951	75.6	84.1	79.1	93.4
1952	77.8	86.0	82.0	95.2
1953	78.6	86.9	81.0	93.3
1954	79.3	87.0	81.4	92.9
1955	80.4	86.7	82.2	91.0
1956	81.5	88.0	82.5	91.5
1957	84.1	91.1	83.8	94.5
1958	88.0	93.6	88.8	98.7
1959	89.7	94.3	90.6	96.2
1960	91.8	95.8	93.2	96.9
1961	94.1	96.8	95.1	97.9
1962	96.7	98.0	97.3	98.5
1963	99.8	99.2	100.2	99.8
1964	100.3	100.5	100.8	101.0
1965	102.1	102.1	103.7	103.4

Source: United States data from Bureau of Labor Statistics, Monthly Labor Review (base shifted to Dec. 1963 = 100 by Department of Planning and Economic Development); Honolulu 1950 to 1963 from Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, State of Hawaii, monthly releases (average and base shifted by DPED); Honolulu 1964-1965 from Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Monthly Report.