

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.

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

The City Workers Family Budget, 1967, published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics gives the cost of a "standard package" of goods and services for a city worker's four-person family in 39 cities throughout the United States.

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.

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 26. -- COMPARISON OF COST OF LIVING FOR HONOLULU
AND OTHER CITIES WITH WASHINGTON, D. C.:
1962, 1964, 1965, AND 1966

Location	1962	1964	1965	1966
Washington, D. C.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Honolulu, Hawaii.....	114.9	115.8	114.1	115.6
San Juan, Puerto Rico...	112.3	104.5	105.8	105.0
St. Croix, Virgin Is....	--	104.5	101.9	102.9
St. Thomas, Virgin Is...	115.3	106.3	104.4	104.5
Anchorage, Alaska.....	143.2	137.8	NS ¹	NS
Fairbanks, Alaska.....	146.5	142.4	NS	NS
Juneau, Alaska.....	132.8	129.3	NS	NS

1. Not surveyed in 1965, 1966.

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

Table 27. -- CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR HONOLULU AND U. S. CITIES
 AVERAGE: 1958 TO 1967
 (Dec. 1963 = 100)

Year	All items		Food at home	
	Honolulu	All cities	Honolulu	All cities
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
1966...	104.9	--	106.3	--
1967...	107.8	--	108.1	--

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, monthly releases (average and base shifted by DPED); Honolulu 1964-1967 from Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Monthly Report.

Table 28. -- COMPARATIVE COST OF LIVING FOR A CITY WORKER'S FOUR-PERSON FAMILY BUDGET, HONOLULU AND SELECTED CITIES: 1966

Item	Urban U.S. Aug.	Honolulu	San Francisco	Los Angeles	Dallas	Chicago	New York	Boston
Total Cost of Budget....	\$9,191	\$11,190	\$9,886	\$9,445	\$8,472	\$9,506	\$10,195	\$10,141
Food.....	2,143	2,551	2,188	2,100	2,021	2,153	2,380	2,317
Housing.....	2,214	2,845	2,408	2,164	1,891	2,549	2,655	2,732
Shelter.....	1,773	2,256	1,919	1,698	1,421	2,075	2,181	2,245
Housefurnishings.....	265	314	286	280	254	258	266	260
Hsld. Operations.....	216	278	203	186	217	215	207	227
Transportation.....	815	993	896	873	821	770	731	812
Clothing.....	756	737	819	794	702	770	789	756
Personal Care.....	214	222	253	231	214	229	217	210
Medical Care.....	468	469	550	626	478	484	497	471
Other family consumption	719	806	745	725	734	729	763	746
Reading.....	65	70	72	72	66	71	73	73
Recreation.....	306	354	333	324	304	307	308	297
Education.....	55	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Tobacco.....	134	137	114	107	150	153	154	143
Alcohol.....	72	83	73	73	73	67	73	78
Miscellaneous.....	87	102	93	89	81	91	95	95
Gifts and Insurance.....	413	458	432	420	397	426	438	438
Occupational Expenses...	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80
Social Security & Dis...	289	277	351	351	277	277	295	277
Personal Taxes.....	1,080	1,748	1,164	1,080	856	1,038	1,351	1,300

Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, City Workers Family Budget, Autumn 1966.