

SECTION 9

PRICES

This section presents indexes of consumer prices for Honolulu and a comparison of Honolulu family budgets with those in other metropolitan areas.

In December 1970, the Honolulu all-items consumer price index stood at 124.7, with the December 1963 level equal to 100. The index had increased 4.2 percent in the preceding 12 months, 9.5 percent since December 1968, and a third since December 1960. A "moderate" or "intermediate" budget for a four-person family living on Oahu was estimated at \$12,776 as of the Spring of 1970. This family budget was 20 percent higher than the corresponding urban United States average, and was second only to Anchorage among major American metropolitan areas.

The Honolulu consumer price index has been compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics at three-month intervals since December 1963. This index measures the average change in prices of goods and services purchased by urban wage earner and clerical families and single persons living alone. Prices are expressed as a percent of the levels reported in December 1963, the base date.

Current data for Honolulu and other cities are published in the *Monthly Labor Review* and *The Consumer Price Index*, issued monthly by BLS. A similar series for Honolulu was maintained by the Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations from March 1943 to December 1963, using March 1943 as the base date.

Comparisons of living costs between Honolulu and various Mainland communities have most recently been made for the Spring of 1970. These data were compiled and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Similar comparisons go back to 1847, and include a Honolulu-Los Angeles comparison for 1945, Honolulu-Washington comparisons for 1951 and 1955-1968, and a 40-area comparison for various dates since Autumn 1966. Budget costs for a retired couple have been prepared by BLS for Honolulu and the Mainland as of 1966, 1967, and 1969.

Data on prices and living costs are summarized in *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1970*, Section 12.

Table 62.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR HONOLULU: 1940 TO 1970

(All items combined. December 1963=100)

Year	Annual average	March	June	September	December
1940	43.6	43.2	—	44.0	—
1941	46.2	44.5	—	47.1	—
1942	52.3	50.8	—	53.5	—
1943	56.3	56.0	56.6	56.5	56.5
1944	57.3	56.2	57.7	57.7	58.1
1945	58.6	58.4	58.6	58.8	59.0
1946	62.8	58.6	59.6	65.4	72.0
1947	72.5	70.9	71.7	73.6	74.5
1948	76.4	75.4	75.1	77.5	78.9
1949	75.1	75.5	74.4	76.3	71.8
1950	72.1	71.2	71.3	72.8	73.6
1951	76.5	76.4	76.2	76.8	78.2
1952	78.8	77.9	78.3	79.5	80.0
1953	79.4	78.4	79.5	80.1	79.7
1954	80.2	80.3	79.7	80.5	80.6
1955	81.3	81.3	80.9	81.7	81.9
1956	82.4	82.3	82.0	82.5	83.4
1957	85.1	83.3	83.5	86.8	88.4
1958	89.2	89.2	88.4	89.8	89.8
1959	90.8	90.5	90.2	91.1	92.2
1960	93.0	92.5	92.9	93.3	94.1
1961	95.5	94.5	95.5	96.1	96.8
1962	97.6	97.1	97.0	98.3	98.4
1963	99.8	100.1	99.8	99.8	100.0
1964	100.2	100.5	99.6	100.2	101.0
1965	102.0	101.5	101.4	102.1	103.7
1966	104.9	104.1	104.4	105.5	106.5
1967	107.8	106.6	107.5	108.4	109.7
1968	111.9	110.8	111.5	112.8	113.9
1969	117.0	115.6	116.6	118.1	119.7
1970	123.1	122.0	123.3	123.9	124.7

Source: Semi-annual data for 1940-1942 from studies by Eugene Danaher cited in Hawaii Employers Council, *Cost of Living in Honolulu, 1940-1948* (April 1948), pp. 5 and 7; quarterly data for 1943-1963 from Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, unpublished summary table (revised by DLIR from previously published values); annual and quarterly data for 1964-1970 from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index* (monthly); annual averages for 1940-1963 computed by Hawaii State Department of Planning and Economic Development, using estimates for unsurveyed months (Jan., Feb., April, May, July, August, Oct. Nov.) based on linear interpolation. Data for 1940-1963 (originally on a March 1943 base) shifted to a December 1963 base by DPED.

Table 63.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR HONOLULU: 1943 TO 1970

(December 1963=100)

Group	1943: March	1950: Dec.	1960: Dec.	1965: Dec.	1969: Dec.	1970: Dec.
ALL ITEMS	56.0	73.6	94.1	103.7	119.7	124.7
Food	—	—	—	105.1	120.8	123.6
At home	53.6	75.2	94.7	105.4	118.8	119.7
Away from home	—	—	—	104.2	127.1	135.5
Housing	—	—	—	105.3	124.5	130.8
Shelter	—	—	—	107.8	134.5	142.4
Rent	—	—	—	103.7	121.2	129.2
Homeownership	—	—	—	110.6	143.7	151.6
Fuel, utilities	71.5	76.7	101.1	99.4	100.6	101.3
Gas, electricity	—	—	—	99.9	99.8	101.8
Household furnishings, operation	—	—	—	101.5	109.6	114.5
Apparel and upkeep	75.3	86.4	98.2	102.7	117.9	124.5
Men's and boys'	—	—	—	100.5	114.3	115.9
Women's and girls'	—	—	—	105.5	121.1	132.9
Footwear	—	—	—	101.6	116.0	123.0
Transportation	43.4	56.3	84.4	98.1	109.7	114.7
Private	—	—	—	99.7	114.0	119.7
Public	—	—	—	90.5	89.0	90.5
Health and recreation	—	—	—	104.3	120.1	125.4
Medical care	49.2	69.9	94.1	105.7	131.5	139.6
Personal care	48.2	61.7	89.9	102.2	110.4	119.1
Reading, recreation	48.2	66.6	91.8	100.4	113.7	117.9
Other goods, services	—	—	—	109.6	122.0	124.3

Source: Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, quarterly releases (as revised); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index* (monthly). The 1943-1960 indexes, originally on a March 1943 base, have been shifted to a December 1963 base by the Hawaii State Department of Planning and Economic Development.

TABLE 64.—COMPARATIVE FAMILY BUDGETS FOR HONOLULU: 1847 TO 1970

Category and date	Cost of budget (dollars)			Percent of U.S. urban average ¹		
	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget
1847	—	—	—	—	200	—
1945: March	—	—	—	—	125	—
1951	—	—	—	—	115	—
URBAN FAMILY OF FOUR PERSONS						
1966: Autumn	—	11,190	—	—	122	—
1967: Spring	7,246	10,902	16,076	122	120	123
1969: Spring	8,135	12,118	18,315	124	120	126
1970: Spring	8,597	12,776	19,311	124	120	125
RETIRED COUPLE						
1966: Autumn	—	4,434	—	—	115	—
1967: Spring	3,110	4,429	7,219	116	115	120
1969: Spring	3,365	4,755	7,858	116	113	119

¹The comparison for 1945 is with Los Angeles; for 1951, with Washington, D.C.

Source: Honolulu Redevelopment Agency, *Redevelopment and Housing Research*, No. 21, June 1962, p. 49, and Supplemental Research Notes for November 1967, pp. 1-2; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *City Worker's Family Budget, Autumn 1966* (Bull. No. 1570-1), pp. 12-13; *Retired Couple's Budget, Autumn 1966* (Bull. No. 1570-4), pp. 6-7; *Three Standards of Living for an Urban Family of Four Persons*, Spring 1967 (Bull. No. 1570-5), pp. 24, 33, 35, and 37; *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, 1967-68* (Bull. No. 1570-6), p.21; "Three Budgets for an Urban Family of Four Persons, Final Spring 1969 Cost Estimates" (release, Dec. 1970); "Three Budgets for An Urban Retired Couple, Preliminary Spring 1969 Cost Estimates" (release); "Living Costs in Pacific Cities, Spring 1970" (release, Dec. 21, 1970).

Table 65.—ANNUAL COSTS OF BUDGETS FOR THREE LIVING STANDARDS FOR A FOUR PERSON FAMILY ON OAHU: SPRING 1969

Item	Annual budget costs (dollars)		
	Lower standard	Moderate standard	Higher standard
Food	2,156	2,698	3,467
Food at home	1,922	2,321	2,800
Food away from home	234	377	667
Housing: total	1,905	2,995	4,664
Renter families	1,905	2,545	4,055
Homeowner families	—	3,145	4,771
Transportation	535	1,012	1,347
Clothing	631	872	1,235
Personal care	189	249	353
Medical care	566	570	593
Other family consumption	357	653	1,100
Gifts, contributions, life insurance	309	473	868
Occupational expenses	57	90	95
Social security and disability payments	374	374	374
Personal taxes	1,056	2,132	4,219
Cost of budget: total	8,135	12,118	18,315
Renter families	8,135	11,481	17,374
Homeowner families	—	12,330	18,480
PERCENT OF URBAN U.S. AVERAGE			
Food	121	118	120
Housing: total	138	124	129
Transportation	110	115	118
Clothing and personal care	106	103	100
Medical care	107	107	107
Other family consumption	109	107	109
Total budget	124	120	126
Renter families	124	122	123
Homeowner families	—	120	126

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, San Francisco, *Three Budgets for an Urban Family of Four Persons: Final Spring 1969 Cost Estimates* (December 1970).