

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 1972, the Honolulu all-items consumer price index stood at 124.4, with the 1967 level equal to 100. The index had increased 2.7 percent in the preceding 12 months, 7.5 percent since December 1970, and 36.3 percent since December 1962. A "moderate" or "intermediate" budget for a four-person family living on Oahu was estimated at \$13,617 as of the autumn of 1972. This family budget was 19 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 average levels reported in 1967, 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 Fall of 1972. 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 1955-1970, 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, 1969, 1970, and 1971.

Data on prices and living costs are summarized in *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1972*, Section 12.

Table 103.—AVERAGE EXPENDITURES, INCOME, AND SAVINGS OF URBAN FAMILIES AND SINGLE CONSUMERS, FOR OAHU: 1961

Item	Average per family (dollars)
Expenditures for current consumption	6,746
Food and beverages	1,909
Tobacco	88
Housing, total	1,729
Shelter, fuel, light, refrigeration, and water	1,093
Household operations	383
Housefurnishings and equipment	238
Clothing, materials, services	577
Personal care	207
Medical care	403
Recreation	306
Reading and education	212
Automobile purchase and operation	875
Other transportation	253
Other expenditures	187
Gifts and contributions	458
Personal insurance	545
Money income before taxes	9,217
Money income after taxes	7,950
Other money receipts	169
Net change in assets and liabilities	+472
Account balancing difference	-102

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Consumer Expenditures and Income. Honolulu, Hawaii, 1961* (BLS Report No. 237-78, November 1963), p. 2. Based on a sample of 215.

Table 104.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR HONOLULU: 1940 TO 1973
(All items combined. 1967 average =100)

Year	Annual average	March	June	September	December
1940	40.5	40.1	—	40.8	—
1941	42.9	41.3	—	43.7	—
1942	48.5	47.1	—	49.6	—
1943	52.2	52.0	52.5	52.4	52.4
1944	53.2	52.1	53.5	53.5	53.9
1945	54.4	54.2	54.4	54.6	54.7
1946	58.3	54.4	55.3	60.7	66.8
1947	67.3	65.8	66.5	68.3	69.1
1948	70.9	70.0	69.7	71.9	73.2
1949	69.7	70.0	69.0	70.8	66.6
1950	66.9	66.1	66.2	67.5	68.3
1951	71.0	70.9	70.7	71.3	72.6
1952	73.1	72.3	72.6	73.8	74.2
1953	73.7	72.7	73.8	74.3	73.9
1954	74.4	74.5	73.9	74.7	74.8
1955	75.4	75.4	75.1	75.8	76.0
1956	76.4	76.4	76.1	76.5	77.4
1957	79.0	77.3	77.5	80.5	82.0
1958	82.8	82.8	82.0	83.3	83.3
1959	84.2	84.0	83.7	84.5	85.5
1960	86.3	85.8	86.2	86.6	87.3
1961	88.6	87.7	88.6	89.2	89.8
1962	90.6	90.1	90.0	91.2	91.3
1963	92.6	92.9	92.6	92.6	92.8
1964	92.9	93.2	92.4	92.9	93.7
1965	94.6	94.2	94.1	94.7	96.2
1966	97.3	96.6	96.8	97.9	98.8
1967	100.0	98.9	99.7	100.6	101.8
1968	103.8	102.8	103.4	104.6	105.7
1969	108.5	107.2	108.2	109.6	111.0
1970	114.2	113.2	114.4	114.9	115.7
1971	118.9	116.7	118.5	121.2	121.1
1972	122.8	122.4	122.2	123.1	124.4
1973	—	126.0	127.5	—	—

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 1964-1972 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 un-surveyed 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 1967 (ann. ave.) base by DPED.

Table 105.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR HONOLULU: 1943 TO 1972
(1967=100)

Group	March 1943	December 1953	December 1963	December 1971	December 1972
All items ¹	52.0	73.9	92.8	121.1	124.4
Food	—	—	92.3	120.9	126.8
At home	49.6	74.4	92.5	118.1	124.4
Away from home	—	—	91.5	129.0	133.5
Housing	—	—	89.9	122.8	126.0
Shelter	—	—	86.2	128.0	132.0
Rent	—	—	93.5	125.9	129.3
Homeownership	—	—	81.8	129.4	133.8
Fuel and utilities	71.3	89.9	99.7	108.8	110.8
Gas and electricity	—	—	100.6	104.3	106.2
Household furnishings, operation	—	—	96.3	113.5	114.7
Apparel and upkeep	71.2	84.3	94.5	119.1	120.7
Men's and boys'	—	—	98.6	112.6	114.5
Women's and girls;	—	—	90.8	124.0	123.8
Footwear	—	—	93.6	113.5	115.5
Transportation	43.1	74.1	99.3	121.7	123.1
Private	—	—	97.6	123.3	125.0
Public	—	—	108.3	112.9	113.0
Health and recreation	—	—	92.3	119.9	122.2
Medical care	43.0	68.3	87.4	126.0	129.9
Personal care	46.3	61.9	96.1	118.1	121.1
Reading and recreation	46.6	68.8	96.6	120.4	121.6
Other goods and services	—	—	89.9	113.5	114.8

¹Excludes food away from home and shelter before 1963.

Source: Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, records; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index-Pacific Cities and U.S. Average* (monthly) and records. The indexes for 1943 and 1953, originally on a March 1943 base, have been shifted to a 1967 base by the Hawaii State Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Table 106.—COMPARATIVE FAMILY BUDGETS FOR HONOLULU: 1945 TO 1972

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
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
1971: Autumn	8,990	13,108	19,700	125	119	124
1972: Autumn	9,118	13,617	20,579	123	119	124
RETIRED COUPLE						
1966: Autumn	—	4,434	—	—	115	—
1967: Spring	3,110	4,429	7,219	116	115	120
1969: Spring	3,401	4,884	7,849	116	115	118
1970: Spring	3,562	5,166	8,312	115	115	117
1971: Autumn	3,875	5,538	8,621	117	116	116

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Relative Differences in the Cost of Selected Goods and Services in Honolulu and Los Angeles, March 1945* (May 10, 1946); "Measuring Comparable Living Costs in Cities of Diverse Characteristics," *Monthly Labor Review*, October 1956; *City Worker's Family Budget, Autumn 1966* (Bulletin No. 1570-1), pp. 12-13; *Retired Couple's Budget, Autumn 1966* (Bulletin No. 1570-4), pp. 6-7; *Three Standards of Living for an Urban Family of Four Persons, Spring 1967* (Bulletin No. 1570-5), pp. 24, 33, 35, and 37; *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, 1967-68* (Bulletin No. 1570-6); *Three Budgets for an Urban Family of Four Persons, 1969-70* (Supplement to Bulletin 1570-5), pp. 10-15, 25, and 28-30; *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple . . . 1969-70* (Supplement to Bulletin No. 1570-6), pp. 10-15, 24, 26-29; *Autumn 1971 Urban Family Budgets and Geographical Comparative Indexes* (release, April 27, 1972); *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1971* (release, May 16, 1972); *Autumn 1972 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas* (release, June 15, 1973).

Table 107.—ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR THREE LEVELS OF LIVING FOR A FOUR-PERSON FAMILY ON OAHU: AUTUMN 1972

Item	Cost of budget (dollars)			Percent of urban U.S. average		
	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget
Total budget ¹	9,118	13,617	20,579	123	119	124
Total consumption	7,288	10,445	14,713	121	116	118
Food	2,490	3,139	4,036	121	117	120
At home	2,208	2,685	3,231	125	120	121
Away from home	282	454	805	98	104	114
Housing ²	2,198	3,481	5,404	141	124	128
Shelter ³	1,785	2,803	4,042	148	127	136
Renter costs ⁴	1,785	2,247	3,289	148	144	134
Homeowner costs ⁵	—	2,988	4,175	—	123	136
Housefurnishings & operations	413	678	1,215	118	114	107
Transportation ⁶	621	1,163	1,548	114	119	122
Automobile owners	878	1,163	1,548	122	113	122
Clothing	697	966	1,370	104	101	98
Personal care	220	290	411	113	111	111
Medical care ⁷	656	660	687	104	104	104
Other family consumption ⁸	406	746	1,257	107	106	108
Other items ⁹	402	627	1,080	110	109	112
Social security & disability payments	468	468	468	118	97	97
Personal income taxes	960	2,077	4,318	161	151	163

¹Among the 40 metropolitan areas for which separate data were reported, Honolulu ranked second at all three levels, behind Anchorage.

²Housing includes shelter, housefurnishings and household operations. The higher budget also includes an allowance for lodging away from Oahu.

³The average costs of shelter were weighted by the following proportions: lower budget, all families living in rented dwellings; intermediate budget, 25 percent in rented dwellings; higher budget, 15 percent renters.

⁴Includes average contract rent, heating fuel, gas, electricity, water, specified equipment, and insurance on household contents.

⁵Includes interest and principal payments plus taxes; insurance on house and contents; water, refuse disposal, heating fuel, gas, electricity, and specified equipment; and home repair and maintenance costs.

⁶Based on 65 percent of the lower budget families and all of the intermediate and higher budget families owning automobiles.

⁷Based on 30 percent of all families paying full cost of medical insurance 26 percent paying half cost, and 44 percent covered by noncontributory insurance plans (paid by employer).

⁸Includes reading, recreation, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, education, and miscellaneous expenditures.

⁹Includes gifts and contributions, life insurance, and occupational expenses.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Autumn 1972 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas* (release, June 15, 1973).