

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 1973, the Honolulu all-items consumer price index stood at 132.8, with the 1967 level equal to 100. The index had increased 6.8 percent in the preceding 12 months, 9.7 percent since December 1971, and 43.1 percent since December 1963. Prices rose most rapidly during 1973 for food (up 15.2 percent) and least for gas and electricity (up 1.5 percent). A "moderate" or "intermediate" budget for a four-person family living on Oahu was estimated at \$14,937 as of the autumn of 1973. This family budget was 18 percent higher than the corresponding urban United States average, and was second only to Anchorage among major American metropolitan areas. Hawaii–Mainland differentials were greatest for rents and personal income taxes and least for clothing, medical care, and food away from home.

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 1973. 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, and annually since 1969.

In addition to these data, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes monthly and annual data on average prices for a wide variety of foods, and periodic data on a number of non-food items (most recently in *Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities and Services, Fall 1971*, issued in 1973.) Still another useful source is *Prices Paid by Farmers: Family Living and Farm Production, 1970-71*, issued by the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture in January 1973.

Data on prices and living costs are summarized in *Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1973*, Section 12.

✓ Revised + incl. U.S. ✓
Table 110.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR HONOLULU: 1940 TO 1974
 (All items combined. 1967 average = 100.)

Year	Annual average	Year	Annual average	Year	Annual average	Year	Annual average
1940	40.5	1945	54.4	1950	66.9	1955	75.4
1941	42.9	1946	58.3	1951	71.0	1956	76.4
1942	48.5	1947	67.3	1952	73.1	1957	79.0
1943	52.2	1948	70.9	1953	73.7	1958	82.8
1944	53.2	1949	69.7	1954	74.4	1959	84.2

Year	Annual average	March	June	September	December
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	128.3	126.0	127.5	129.6	132.8
1974	141.8	137.7	141.4 141.2	145.5 145.3	148.2

Source: Computed from data in the Hawaii Employers Council, *Cost of Living in Honolulu, 1940-1948* (April 1948), pp. 5 and 7, and the Hawaii Territorial Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, unpublished revised indexes for 1943-1963; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index* (monthly) and records.

Table 111.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, FOR HONOLULU: 1943 TO 1973
(1967 average = 100)

Group	March 1943	Dec. 1953	Dec. 1963	Dec. 1972	Dec. 1973	Percent change, 1972 to 1973
All items	52.0	73.9	92.8	124.4	132.8	6.8
Food .....	...	...	92.3	126.8	146.1	15.2
Food at home	49.6	74.4	92.5	124.4	145.3	16.8
Cereals and bakery products .....	...	...	91.5	109.1	143.5	31.5
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	...	...	90.1	128.1	157.7	23.1
Dairy products .....	...	...	92.9	120.7	137.0	13.5
Fruits and vegetables .....	...	...	93.7	139.5	138.7	-0.6
Other foods at home .....	...	...	96.8	119.2	135.7	13.8
Food away from home .....	...	...	91.5	133.5	148.2	11.0
Housing .....	...	...	89.9	126.0	131.4	4.3
Shelter ¹ .....	...	...	86.2	132.0	138.0	4.5
Rent .....	...	...	93.5	129.3	136.6	5.6
Homeownership ² .....	...	...	81.8	133.8	139.0	3.9
Fuel and utilities ³	71.3	89.9	99.7	110.8	113.5	2.4
Gas and electricity .....	...	...	100.6	106.2	108.9	2.5
Household furnishings and operation .....	...	...	96.3	114.7	119.9	4.5
Apparel and upkeep ⁴	71.2	84.3	94.5	120.7	127.5	5.6
Men's and boys' .....	...	...	98.6	114.5	121.2	5.9
Women's and girls' .....	...	...	90.8	123.8	128.9	4.1
Footwear .....	...	...	93.6	115.5	124.5	7.8
Transportation	43.1	74.1	99.3	123.1	125.8	2.2
Private .....	...	...	97.6	125.0	127.3	1.8
Public .....	...	...	108.3	113.0	117.4	3.9
Health and recreation .....	...	...	92.3	122.2	126.3	3.4
Medical care	43.0	68.3	87.4	129.9	137.1	5.5
Personal care	46.3	61.9	96.1	121.1	124.5	2.8
Reading and recreation	46.6	68.8	96.6	121.6	124.3	2.2
Other goods and services ⁵ .....	...	...	89.9	114.8	117.9	2.7

¹Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

²Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance and maintenance and repairs.

³Also includes telephone, water, and sewage not shown separately.

⁴Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

⁵Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and funeral, legal, and bank service charges.

Source: Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, records; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index* (monthly) and records.

111A. Food Price Indexes, for Honolulu: ~~1973 to 197~~ 1975 (by Month)

REV + incl. U.S. monthly for 1973 + 1974

Table 112.—AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD, FOR HONOLULU: 1890 TO 1973
(Annual averages unless otherwise specified. Prices in cents.)

Food and unit	1890	1900	1910 ¹	1930 ²	1943	1950	1960	1970	1973
Cereals and bakery products:									
Flour lb. ³	3.0	2.5	3.5	5.7	6.6	11.8	15.2	15.0	18.1
Rice lb. ⁴	5.2	7.0	5.0	6.1	9.0	9.8	12.8	14.5	17.7
Bread, white lb.	...	...	...	10.6	10.0	16.3	19.7	29.7	33.8
Meat, poultry, fish:									
Steak, round lb.	10.0	14.9	15.0	32.7	56.2	86.7	95.5	128.5	171.0
Rib roast lb.	12.5	16.5	20.0	32.8	46.4	74.2	94.6	143.6	171.7
Chuck roast lb.	10.0	14.8	15.0	25.0	40.1	66.4	70.4	79.8	110.4
Hamburger lb.	...	...	...	...	31.7	59.6	76.6	86.5	108.5
Beef liver lb.	...	...	...	...	47.9	77.5	82.8	86.9	101.2
Veal cutlets lb.	12.5	20.0	25.0	...	69.8	94.3	98.1	...	208.5
Pork chops lb.	25.0	20.0	25.0	43.4	49.0	73.3	88.5	152.9	173.7
Ham, whole lb.	20.0	17.4	23.0	...	50.6	71.3	72.8	85.4	105.8
Bacon lb.	20.0	18.5	27.0	54.4	57.6	75.7	85.8	108.9	135.9
Chicken ⁵ lb.	...	...	...	51.9	70.0	79.8	85.9	68.4	90.4
Fish, fresh ⁶ lb.	...	...	...	...	40.0	66.4	74.5	89.4	138.8
Dairy products:									
Milk, fresh, delivered qt. ⁷	...	12.0	...	20.3	20.0	28.0	32.1	37.4	44.4
Milk, evaporated 14½ oz. ⁸	...	...	...	10.1	11.8	14.2	18.3	21.9	25.4
Butter lb.	38.8	32.1	43.3	53.4	61.6	81.0	86.1	95.5	97.5
Fruits and vegetables:									
Apples lb.	...	...	...	...	15.8	17.2	25.2	37.6	40.1
Bananas lb.	...	...	...	4.4	7.6	11.5	16.3	26.3	29.8
Papayas lb.	...	...	...	...	6.0	8.1	13.8	21.8	33.4
Potatoes lb. ⁴	2.5	2.5	4.0	4.5	6.7	6.8	13.1	19.3	21.5
Onions lb.	5.0	5.0	...	4.0	9.6	8.1	11.4	19.4	26.8
Cabbage lb.	...	...	...	6.3	8.2	7.8	10.9	12.0	18.4
Tomatoes lb.	...	...	...	...	20.2	26.7	35.4	47.3	56.9
Peas, green #303 can ⁹	...	...	15.0	18.8	18.2	23.3	26.0	32.9	37.2
Tomatoes #2½ can ¹⁰	...	...	12.5	14.7	22.3	27.4	31.8	40.1	42.6
Dried beans lb.	5.0	5.0	6.1	14.1	...	...	...	26.4	42.4
Other foods at home:									
Eggs, grade A, large doz.	50.0	42.9	55.0	49.3	84.6	87.7	74.3	76.2	94.1
Margarine lb.	...	...	...	...	32.7	34.1	33.1	38.1	43.9
Sugar lb. ¹¹	6.0	6.9	7.0	6.2	7.0	9.5	11.8	13.7	16.4
Coffee lb. ¹²	35.0	30.0	25.0	40.9	38.0	90.5	93.0	103.7	121.1

¹January to June, except dried beans (September 1911).

²April.

³For 1943 and later years, price per pound for 5-lb. quantities.

⁴For 1970 and later years, price per pound for 10-lb. quantities.

⁵For 1930, "hens"; for 1943-1960, "roasting chicken"; for 1970 and later years, "frying chicken, whole or cut-up."

⁶For 1943-1960, average for fresh aku and fresh akule; for 1970 and later years, fresh or frozen mahimahi.

⁷Quality unspecified for 1900 and 1930; grade A for 1943-1960; price per quart for ½-gallon cartons, Vit. D, 1970 and later years.

⁸Price for 1930 refers to 16 oz. can.

⁹Size unspecified for 1910; #2 can, 1930-1950; #303 can, 1960 and later years.

¹⁰Size unspecified for 1910; #2 can, 1930; #2½ can, 1943 and later years.

¹¹For 1970 and later years, price per pound for 5-lb. quantities.

¹²Island coffee, roasted and ground, 1890-1910; not specified, 1930; 53 percent Mainland and 47 percent Island coffee, 1943; Mainland coffee, 1950-1960; unspecified 1-lb. can, 1970 and later years.

Source: *Report of the Commissioner of Labor on Hawaii* for 1905 (pp. 309-317) and 1910 (pp. 135-141); *Labor Conditions in Hawaii: Report of the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, 1915*, pp. 176-181; *Labor Conditions in the Territory of Hawaii, 1929-1930* (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 534), pp. 128-129; Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, records; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Estimated Retail Food Prices by Cities* for 1970 and 1973.

Table 113.—COMPARATIVE FAMILY BUDGETS FOR HONOLULU: 1966 TO 1973

Type of family and date	Cost of budget (dollars)			Percent of U.S. urban average		
	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget	Lower budget	Intermediate budget	Higher budget
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
1973: Autumn	9,924	14,937	21,901	121	118	120
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
1972: Autumn	3,927	5,633	8,717	114	113	113
1973: Autumn	4,221	6,038	8,844	112	112	110

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *City Worker's Family Budget, Autumn 1966* (Bull. No. 1570-1); *Retired Couple's Budget, Autumn 1966* (Bull. No. 1570-4); *Three standards of living for an Urban Family of Four Persons, Spring 1967* (Bull. No. 1570-5); *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, 1967-68* (Bull. No. 1570-6); *Three Budgets for an Urban Family of Four Persons, 1969-70* (Supplement to Bull. 1570-5); *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple . . . 1969-70* (Supplement to Bull. 1570-6); *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); *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1972* (release, August 10, 1973); *Autumn 1973 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas* (release, June 16, 1974); *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1973* (release, August 27, 1974).

Table 114.—ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR THREE LEVELS OF LIVING FOR A FOUR-PERSON FAMILY ON OAHU: AUTUMN 1973

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	9,924	14,937	21,901	121	118	120
Total consumption	7,801	11,212	15,463	119	115	115
Food	2,826	3,586	4,614	116	113	115
At home	2,516	3,087	3,729	119	114	115
Away from home	310	499	885	96	103	113
Housing ²	2,298	3,709	5,460	141	128	125
Shelter ³	1,871	3,008	4,347	148	132	142
Renter costs ⁴	1,871	2,355	3,445	148	144	134
Homeowner costs ⁵ .....	...	3,225	4,506	...	129	143
Housefurnishings & operations	427	701	1,256	117	112	106
Transportation ⁶	623	1,164	1,549	111	115	118
Automobile owners	879	1,164	1,549	118	110	118
Clothing	721	1,000	1,417	104	100	97
Personal care	227	299	423	111	109	109
Medical care ⁷	694	698	727	105	105	105
Other family consumption ⁸	412	756	1,273	106	105	107
Other items ⁹	422	661	1,125	110	108	110
Social security & disability payments	579	632	632	118	98	98
Personal income taxes	1,122	2,432	4,681	155	151	152

¹Among the 40 metropolitan areas for which separate indexes were reported, Honolulu ranked second at the lower and intermediate levels, behind Anchorage, and fourth at the higher level, behind Anchorage, New York and Boston.

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

³The average cost 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 non-contributory 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 1973 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas* (release, June 16, 1974).