

# PRICES

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

In March 1975, the Honolulu all-items consumer price index stood at 151.4, with the 1967 level equal to 100. The index had increased 9.9 percent in the preceding 12 months, 20.2 percent since March 1973, and 62.4 percent since March 1964. Prices have risen most rapidly since 1967 for food (up 73.6 percent) and least for public transportation (up 23.9 percent). A "moderate" or "intermediate" budget for a four-person family living on Oahu was estimated at \$17,019 as of the Autumn of 1974. 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. Hawaii-Mainland differentials were greatest for rents and personal income taxes and least for clothing, social security payments, 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 family budgets between Honolulu and various Mainland communities have most recently been made for the Fall of 1974. 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 1955-1974, 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: 1974*, Section 14.

**Table 172.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL ITEMS COMBINED), FOR HONOLULU:  
 QUARTERLY, 1958 TO 1975  
 (1967 average = 100)**

Year	Annual average	March	June	September	December
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 .....	128.3	126.0	127.5	129.6	132.8
1974 .....	141.8	137.7	141.2	145.3	148.2
1975 .....		151.4	153.6		

Source: Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, unpublished revised indexes for 1958-1963; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index* (monthly) and records.

**Table 173.—CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES, BY COMMODITY GROUPS, FOR HONOLULU:  
ANNUAL AVERAGES, 1964 TO 1974  
(1967=100)**

Group	1964	1969	1971	1972	1973	1974
All items .....	92.9	108.5	118.9	122.8	128.3	141.8
Food .....	93.0	108.4	118.1	123.2	135.2	158.7
Food at home .....	93.2	107.3	115.0	120.5	133.8	159.2
Cereals and bakery products .....	92.3	102.1	104.9	106.1	117.9	175.5
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	90.3	107.5	116.4	124.7	146.5	159.0
Dairy products .....	92.4	106.5	114.1	118.3	127.8	150.6
Fruits and vegetables .....	96.3	113.3	125.3	130.6	134.7	153.4
Other foods at home .....	97.4	106.4	112.5	117.3	127.1	157.6
Food away from home .....	92.0	111.6	126.9	130.8	139.0	156.6
Housing .....	90.5	109.6	120.3	124.3	128.8	138.6
Shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	86.6	112.6	125.1	129.6	135.1	142.4
Rent .....	94.1	109.3	124.0	127.7	133.1	142.9
Homeownership <sup>2</sup> .....	82.1	114.6	125.8	130.9	136.5	142.2
Fuel and utilities <sup>3</sup> .....	99.7	100.2	107.2	110.1	112.2	127.7
Gas and electricity .....	100.6	100.2	104.2	104.9	106.9	135.9
Household furnishings and operation .....	97.4	105.2	111.9	114.5	117.3	132.1
Apparel and upkeep <sup>4</sup> .....	95.6	109.4	117.6	120.5	124.1	133.3
Men's and boys' .....	99.0	110.3	111.5	113.9	116.7	127.5
Women's and girls' .....	92.4	108.3	121.5	124.3	126.2	130.7
Footwear .....	94.3	106.6	115.1	115.3	120.8	132.1
Transportation .....	97.5	107.2	120.6	123.0	123.9	135.1
Private .....	96.7	108.7	122.6	124.8	125.5	137.8
Public .....	101.5	99.3	109.4	112.9	114.9	120.3
Health and recreation .....	92.7	108.1	118.3	121.2	124.1	134.3
Medical care .....	88.9	113.2	124.7	127.5	133.3	147.0
Personal care .....	96.3	104.5	117.3	120.4	122.7	137.2
Reading and recreation .....	96.8	106.6	117.1	121.8	122.7	134.3
Other goods and services <sup>5</sup> .....	89.8	106.3	113.2	113.9	116.5	118.5

<sup>1</sup>Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup>Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance and maintenance and repairs.

<sup>3</sup>Also includes telephone, water, and sewage not shown separately.

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

<sup>5</sup>Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and funeral, legal, and bank service charges.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Consumer Price Index* (monthly) and records.

**Table 174.—AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD, FOR HONOLULU: 1970 TO 1975**  
(In cents)

Food and unit	1970, ave. <sup>1</sup>	1971, ave.	1972, ave.	1973, ave.	1974, ave.	1975, May
Cereals and bakery products:						
Flour, white, all purpose . . . . . 5 lb.	74.9	75.5	78.5	90.4	126.8	130.9
Rice, short grain . . . . . 10 lb.	144.7	142.4	146.9	176.8	351.0	342.9
Bread, white . . . . . lb.	29.7	29.3	30.2	33.8	47.2	51.7
Meats, poultry and fish:						
Steak, round, U.S. Choice . . . . . lb.	128.5	135.2	143.8	171.0	193.1	195.8
Rib roast, U.S. Choice . . . . . lb.	143.6	151.5	164.7	171.7	196.8	193.8
Chuck roast, U.S. Choice . . . . . lb.	79.8	80.5	90.2	110.4	120.5	117.0
Hamburger . . . . . lb.	86.5	85.7	79.6	108.5	125.7	117.2
Beef liver . . . . . lb.	86.9	89.5	91.3	101.2	116.1	114.9
Veal cutlets . . . . . lb.	...	...	180.8	208.5	...	...
Pork chops . . . . . lb.	152.9	147.0	147.7	173.7	184.4	195.7
Ham, whole, smoked . . . . . lb.	85.4	77.1	79.2	105.8	124.4	132.4
Bacon . . . . . lb.	108.9	93.8	100.6	135.9	148.2	177.6
Frying chicken, whole or cut-up . . . . . lb.	68.4	70.0	72.1	90.4	91.2	93.6
Mahimahi, fresh or frozen . . . . . lb.	89.4	115.6	158.1	138.8	127.9	197.8
Dairy products:						
Milk, fresh, vit. D, grocery . . . . . ½ gal.	67.0	70.9	74.7	82.1	94.5	104.1
Milk, evaporated . . . . . 14½-oz. can	21.9	22.6	23.3	25.4	32.0	34.4
Butter . . . . . lb.	95.5	97.3	96.5	97.5	101.0	106.1
Fruits and vegetables:						
Apples, all purpose . . . . . lb.	37.6	38.8	37.4	40.1	45.2	52.1
Bananas . . . . . lb.	26.3	27.6	29.7	29.8	32.1	37.5
Papayas . . . . . lb.	21.8	29.7	34.6	33.4	35.3	39.8
Potatoes . . . . . 10 lb.	193.0	189.1	195.0	215.4	295.2	263.0
Onions, yellow . . . . . lb.	19.4	20.4	22.3	26.8	26.6	35.4
Cabbage . . . . . lb.	12.0	17.7	17.9	18.4	22.2	22.3
Tomatoes . . . . . lb.	47.3	53.5	56.6	56.9	62.5	72.1
Peas, green . . . . . #303 can	32.9	34.4	36.2	37.2	41.3	50.1
Tomatoes . . . . . #2½ can	40.1	41.2	41.7	42.6	50.7	62.8
Dried beans . . . . . lb.	26.4	30.4	35.9	42.4	97.8	63.1
Other foods at home:						
Eggs, grade A, large . . . . . dozen	76.2	65.9	72.5	94.1	97.0	87.0
Margarine . . . . . lb.	38.1	40.9	43.1	43.9	67.7	77.5
Sugar, white . . . . . 5 lb.	68.3	72.2	76.1	82.0	184.7	201.1
Coffee . . . . . 1-lb. can	103.7	111.1	112.5	121.1	144.6	156.4
Chicken soup . . . . . 10½-oz. can	21.1	21.0	21.0	21.0	24.7	25.6

<sup>1</sup>For earlier years, see *The State of Hawaii Data Book 1974*, p. 119.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Estimated Retail Food Prices by City* (monthly and annual).

**Table 175.—COMPARATIVE FAMILY BUDGETS FOR HONOLULU: 1966 TO 1974**

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
<b>URBAN FAMILY OF FOUR PERSONS</b>						
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
1974: Autumn .....	11,383	17,019	25,572	124	119	123
<b>RETIRED COUPLE</b>						
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
1974: Autumn .....	4,801	6,796	9,918	114	112	111

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); *Autumn 1974 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas* (release, April 9, 1975); *Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1974* (release, August 1, 1975).

**Table 176.—ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR THREE LEVELS OF LIVING FOR A FOUR-PERSON FAMILY ON OAHU: AUTUMN 1974**

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 <sup>1</sup> .....	11,383	17,019	25,572	124	119	123
Total consumption .....	8,796	12,543	17,540	120	115	117
Food .....	3,328	4,150	5,285	120	117	119
At home .....	2,979	3,588	4,288	124	119	120
Away from home .....	349	562	997	97	104	114
Housing <sup>2</sup> .....	2,517	4,070	6,319	143	126	129
Shelter <sup>3</sup> .....	2,023	3,259	4,697	153	131	140
Renter costs <sup>4</sup> .....	2,023	2,546	3,724	153	149	138
Homeowner costs <sup>5</sup> .....	...	3,496	4,869	...	127	141
Housefurnishings & operations .....	494	811	1,453	114	109	103
Transportation <sup>6</sup> .....	695	1,307	1,739	108	112	114
Automobile owners .....	987	1,307	1,739	115	106	114
Clothing .....	767	1,062	1,502	101	98	95
Personal care .....	262	345	488	113	111	111
Medical care <sup>7</sup> .....	778	782	815	105	105	105
Other family consumption <sup>8</sup> .....	449	827	1,392	106	105	107
Other items <sup>9</sup> .....	460	721	1,242	111	109	112
Social security & disability payments .....	667	772	772	121	99	98
Personal income taxes .....	1,460	2,983	6,018	160	148	154

<sup>1</sup>Among the 40 metropolitan areas for which separate indexes were reported, Honolulu ranked second in total budget cost at all three levels, exceeded only by Anchorage.

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

<sup>3</sup>The 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.

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

<sup>5</sup>Includes 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.

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

<sup>7</sup>Based 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).

<sup>8</sup>Includes reading, recreation, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, education, and miscellaneous expenditures.

<sup>9</sup>Includes gifts and contributions, life insurance and occupational expenses.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Autumn 1974 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas* (release, April 9, 1975).