

Section 13

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. Other statistics on prices are reported in Sections 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

In April 1979, the Honolulu all-items consumer price index for all urban consumers stood at 200.7, with the 1967 level equal to 100. The index had increased 10.6 percent in the preceding 12 months, 45.8 percent since April 1974, and 87.2 percent since April 1969. Prices have risen most rapidly since 1967 for gas and electricity (143.1 percent), food at home (139.7 percent), medical care (136.8 percent) and restaurant meals (up 133.0 percent), and least for public transportation (up 32.2 percent).

An "intermediate" budget for a four-person family living on Oahu was estimated at \$23,099 as of the Autumn of 1978. This family budget was 24 percent higher than the corresponding urban United States average, and was second only to Anchorage among major American metropolitan areas. The "lower" budget was 29 percent above the national figure; the "higher" budget, 30 percent. Hawaii-Mainland differentials were greatest for rents and personal income taxes and least for clothing and transportation. An "intermediate" budget for a retired couple in Honolulu came to \$8,107 in the Autumn of 1977, 13 percent above the U.S. urban average.

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 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 CPI Detailed Report, 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.

Important changes were made in the consumer price index at the beginning of 1978. The existing index, covering urban wage earner and clerical families and single persons living alone, had been based on spending patterns observed in a 1961 survey and had been issued at three-month intervals. This index was discontinued after June 1978. Beginning in February 1978, two new indexes were published, both based on the findings of a 1972-1973 survey and both issued at two-month intervals. The first of these new indexes covered the same population as the older index, that is, urban wage earner and clerical families and individuals; the second covered all urban consumers. The new indexes were linked to the December 1977 existing index (174.9) and, like the latter, expressed as a percent of the 1967 annual

average. The June 1978 all-items index was 182.1 according to the old coverage and weights, 184.1 based on the previous coverage and revised weights, and 183.9 with the expanded coverage and new weights.

Comparisons of family budgets between Honolulu and various Mainland communities have most recently been made for the Fall of 1978. These data were compiled and published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Similar comparisons go back a number of years, and include a Honolulu-Los Angeles comparison for 1945, Honolulu-Washington comparisons for 1951 and 1955-1978, 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. Cost of living adjustments for Federal employees in Hawaii are based on the Honolulu-Washington comparisons.

In addition to these data, the Bureau of Labor Statistics until recently published monthly and annual data on average prices for a wide variety of foods, and occasional data on a number of non-food items. The food price series were suspended after June 1978 but may be resumed at a later time.

No composite wholesale price index, comparable to the all-items consumer price index, is available for Hawaii. Average wholesale prices of agricultural products are reported in Statistics of Hawaiian Agriculture, issued by the Hawaii Agricultural Reporting Service, and Honolulu Prices: Wholesale Eggs, Poultry, Pork, Beef and Rice and Wholesale Prices: Wholesale Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, publications of the State Department of Agriculture, Market News Service. Wholesale price statistics of other commodities are less readily available, and in most cases totally lacking.

Data on prices and living costs for the nation as a whole and other areas are summarized in Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1978, Section 15. Long-term trends for Hawaii are traced in Historical Statistics of Hawaii, Section 5.

Table 207.-- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL ITEMS COMBINED), FOR HONOLULU:
 QUARTERLY, 1967 TO 1978

[Unrevised index for urban wage earners and clerical workers.
 Annual average for 1967=100]

Year	Annual average	March	June	September	December
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	141.9	137.7	141.2	145.5	148.5
1975	155.0	151.9	154.3	157.6	159.8
1976	162.8	161.1	162.3	164.0	165.5
1977	171.0	168.3	170.5	173.4	174.9
1978 <u>1/</u> ...	...	177.9	182.1	...	...

1/ The unrevised consumer price index was discontinued after June 1978. For the revised index, see the following table.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Detailed Report (monthly) and Consumer Price Index-Pacific Cities and U.S. Average (monthly).

Table 208.-- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL ITEMS COMBINED), BY TYPE OF CONSUMER:
BIMONTHLY, 1977 TO 1979

[1967 average = 100]

Type of consumer and year	Annual average	February	April	June	August	October	December
All urban consumers:							
1977 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	174.9
1978	184.1	178.0	181.4	183.9	185.6	188.8	191.3
1979 .....	...	196.2	200.7	204.4	207.2	...	...
Urban wage earners and clerical workers (revised):							
1977 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	174.9
1978	184.1	177.5	181.3	184.1	186.0	188.7	191.2
1979 .....	...	196.0	200.0	203.6	207.2	...	...

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, San Francisco, Consumer Price Index-Pacific Cities and U.S. Average (monthly).

Table 209.-- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS, BY COMMODITY GROUPS, FOR HONOLULU: 1977 TO 1979

[Unless otherwise specified, 1967=100]

Group	Annual averages		June 1979
	1977	1978	
All items	171.0	184.1	204.4
Food and beverages	186.9	205.4	232.8
Food	193.0	212.8	241.7
Food at home	189.0	210.9	246.5
Cereals and bakery products	172.8	196.0	215.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	185.3	207.2	252.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	186.9	210.2	257.3
Dairy products	187.9	203.1	224.2
Fruits and vegetables	190.7	219.2	280.6
Other foods at home	214.0	235.7	254.2
Food away from home	204.5	218.9	234.7
Alcoholic beverages	136.7	143.4	156.9
Housing	160.3	171.7	192.2
Shelter	160.0	170.6	195.0
Rent, residential	163.5	174.1	184.8
Other rental costs	182.7	203.0	205.8
Homeownership	157.6	167.5	195.8
Fuel and other utilities	175.5	201.0	208.8
Fuels	202.8	229.0	245.0
Fuel oil, coal, and bottled gas <u>1/</u>	(NA)	102.5	112.0
Gas (piped) and electricity	202.7	229.2	245.1
Household furnishings and operation	152.7	160.3	170.3
Apparel and upkeep	152.2	161.3	172.6
Apparel commodities	149.8	158.7	169.6
Men's and boys' apparel	150.3	158.7	166.8
Women's and girls' apparel	139.4	150.6	163.2
Footwear	151.0	163.7	169.1
Transportation	159.7	170.4	188.1
Private transportation	166.1	178.0	197.7
Public transportation	125.6	128.8	134.2
Medical care	203.0	221.0	237.3
Entertainment	170.8	177.7	188.1
Other goods and services	172.1	183.9	196.4
Personal care	177.8	189.9	205.6

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Table 209.-- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS, BY COMMODITY GROUPS, FOR HONOLULU: 1977 TO 1979 -- Continued

[Unless otherwise specified, 1967=100]

Groups	Annual average		June 1979
	1977	1978	
Commodities and Service Groups			
Commodities	167.6	179.5	202.3
Food and beverages	186.9	205.4	232.8
Commodities less food and beverages	151.9	160.0	179.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	164.5	173.5	192.8
Durables	136.9	143.5	162.5
Services	177.3	192.3	209.5
Medical care services	210.6	229.6	245.7
Special Indexes:			
All items less shelter	173.8	187.6	205.1
All items less medical care	168.9	181.7	202.1
All items less energy <u>2/</u>	(NA)	105.2	116.5
Energy <u>1/</u>	(NA)	100.4	115.9
Commodities less food	150.7	158.7	178.2
Nondurables less food	160.7	169.4	188.0
Nondurables	177.9	192.1	215.9
Services less rent	180.9	197.0	215.6
Services less medical care	171.2	185.3	202.2

NA Not available.

1/ June 1978=100.

2/ December 1977=100.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Detailed Report, April 1979, table 17-A; "Consumer Price Index--Pacific Cities and U.S. Average--June 1979;" and records.

Table 210.-- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR URBAN WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS,
BY COMMODITY GROUPS, FOR HONOLULU: 1977 TO 1979

[Unless otherwise specified, 1967=100]

Groups	Annual average		June 1979
	1977	1978	
All items	171.0	184.1	203.6
Food and beverages	186.9	205.3	230.2
Food	193.0	212.8	239.0
Food at home	189.0	211.7	242.3
Cereals and bakery products	172.8	194.8	212.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	185.3	210.3	255.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	186.9	213.6	260.9
Dairy products	187.9	203.4	223.2
Fruits and vegetables	190.7	219.1	253.5
Other foods at home	214.0	235.1	253.1
Food away from home	204.5	216.8	233.0
Alcoholic beverages	136.7	142.8	155.2
Housing	160.3	171.4	190.9
Shelter	160.0	169.1	192.0
Rent, residential	163.5	174.1	184.8
Other rental costs	182.7	204.6	206.1
Homeownership	157.6	165.5	192.4
Fuel and other utilities	175.5	201.1	209.1
Fuels	202.8	229.0	245.4
Fuel oil, coal, and bottled gas <u>1</u> /	(NA)	102.4	111.7
Gas (piped) and electricity	202.7	229.1	245.5
Household furnishings and operation	152.7	164.0	176.6
Apparel and upkeep	152.2	159.3	167.4
Apparel commodities	149.8	156.5	163.5
Men's and boys' apparel	150.3	161.1	167.1
Women's and girls' apparel	139.4	139.2	142.4
Footwear	151.0	156.8	153.8
Transportation	159.7	170.0	188.5
Private transportation	166.1	177.4	197.7
Public transportation	125.6	128.9	134.2
Medical care	203.0	223.3	239.9
Entertainment	170.8	182.0	196.5
Other goods and services	172.1	182.1	195.3
Personal care	177.8	185.6	201.3

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Table 210.-- CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR URBAN WAGE EARNERS AND CLERICAL WORKERS,
BY COMMODITY GROUPS, FOR HONOLULU: 1977 TO 1979 -- Continued

[Unless otherwise specified, 1967=100]

Groups	Annual averages		June 1979
	1977	1978	
Commodities and Service Groups			
Commodities	167.6	179.5	201.3
Food and beverages	186.9	205.3	230.2
Commodities less food and beverages	151.9	159.8	179.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	164.5	173.5	192.9
Durables	136.9	143.1	161.8
Services	177.3	192.5	208.4
Medical care services	210.6	232.4	250.0
Special Indexes:			
All items less shelter	173.8	188.2	205.9
All items less medical care	168.9	181.6	201.1
All items less energy <u>2/</u>	(NA)	105.2	115.9
Energy <u>1/</u>	(NA)	100.3	116.8
Commodities less food	150.7	158.5	177.6
Nondurables less food	160.7	169.3	187.9
Nondurables	177.9	192.2	214.7
Services less rent	180.9	197.1	214.3
Services less medical care	171.2	185.2	200.7

NA Not available.

1/ June 1978=100.

2/ December 1977=100.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI Detailed Report, April 1979, table 22-A; "Consumer Price Index--Pacific Cities and U.S. Average--June 1979;" and records.

Table 211.-- AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN HONOLULU: 1970 TO 1978

[In cents. Data are annual averages unless otherwise indicated. This series was suspended after June 1978.]

Food and unit	1970	1977	1978: May
Cereals and bakery products:			
Flour, white, all purpose 5 lb.	74.9	97.4	103.7
Rice, short grain 10 lb.	144.7	240.8	315.3
Bread, white lb.	29.7	48.4	50.9
Meats, poultry and fish:			
Steak, round, U.S. Choice lb.	128.5	200.9	225.1
Rib roast, U.S. Choice lb.	143.6	237.2	268.4
Chuck roast, U.S. Choice lb.	79.8	121.1	138.0
Hamburger lb.	86.5	119.1	131.7
Beef liver lb.	86.9	120.9	118.9
Veal cutlets lb.	...	...	207.1
Pork chops lb.	152.9	216.6	224.1
Ham, whole, smoked lb.	85.4	141.0	158.8
Bacon lb.	108.9	183.1	210.3
Frying chicken, whole or cut-up lb.	68.4	98.0	97.5
Mahimahi, fresh or frozen lb.	89.4	160.5	190.0
Dairy products:			
Milk, fresh, vit. D, grocery ... 1/2 gal.	67.0	113.3	119.7
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2-oz. can	21.9	40.5	43.3
Butter lb.	95.5	140.0	154.4
Fruits and vegetables:			
Apples, all purpose lb.	37.6	57.5	65.0
Bananas lb.	26.3	40.1	44.8
Papayas lb.	21.8	45.0	55.6
Potatoes 10 lb.	193.0	261.2	242.8
Onions, yellow lb.	19.4	35.7	39.3
Cabbage lb.	12.0	27.6	23.2
Tomatoes lb.	47.3	84.4	93.9
Peas, green #303 can	32.9	48.2	49.0
Tomatoes #2 1/2 can	40.1	83.8	81.2
Dried beans lb.	26.4	63.3	71.1
Other foods at home:			
Eggs, grade A, large dozen	76.2	105.7	103.9
Margarine lb.	38.1	72.1	76.4
Sugar, white 5 lb.	68.3	116.5	133.4
Coffee 1-lb. can	103.7	408.0	381.4
Chicken soup 10 1/2-oz. can	21.1	27.9	27.9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Estimated Retail Food Prices by City (annual, 1970-1977) and Estimated Average Retail Food Prices--Pacific Region (monthly, 1978).

Table 212.-- COMPARATIVE FAMILY BUDGETS FOR HONOLULU: 1966 TO 1978

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
1974: Autumn ...	11,383	17,019	25,572	124	119	123
1975: Autumn ...	12,226	18,694	28,302	128	122	127
1976: Autumn ...	12,711	19,633	30,086	127	121	127
1977: Autumn ...	13,280	20,883	31,897	127	122	127
1978: Autumn ...	14,870	23,099	35,602	129	124	130
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
1974: Autumn ...	4,801	6,796	9,918	114	112	111
1975: Autumn ...	5,168	7,339	10,726	115	114	112
1976: Autumn ...	5,397	7,691	11,318	115	114	113
1977: Autumn ...	5,711	8,107	11,882	114	113	111
1978: Autumn ...	6,357	8,987	13,085	115	115	113

Source: Data for 1978 from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Autumn 1978 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas (release, USDL: 79-305, April 29, 1979) and Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1978 (release, USDL:78-588, August 20, 1979). For sources of data for earlier years, see The State of Hawaii Data Book 1978, table 226.

Table 213.-- ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR THREE LEVELS OF LIVING FOR A FOUR-PERSON FAMILY ON OAHU: AUTUMN 1978

Item	Cost of budget (dollars)			Percent of urban U.S. average		
	Lower budget	Inter-mediate budget	Higher budget	Lower budget	Inter-mediate budget	Higher budget
Total budget <u>1/</u>	14,870	23,099	35,602	129	124	130
Total consumption	11,433	16,389	22,907	122	117	119
Food	4,474	5,614	7,180	125	122	124
At home	4,004	4,858	5,836	130	125	126
Away from home	470	756	1,344	96	103	114
Housing <u>2/</u>	3,106	5,187	8,117	139	124	128
Shelter <u>3/</u>	2,442	4,098	5,930	146	127	137
Renter costs <u>4/</u>	2,442	3,073	4,494	146	142	132
Homeowner costs <u>5/</u>	-	4,440	6,183	-	124	138
Housefurnishings & operations	664	1,089	1,952	119	114	108
Transportation <u>6/</u>	884	1,678	2,233	103	107	109
Automobile owners	1,267	1,678	2,233	110	102	109
Clothing	903	1,248	1,754	107	103	99
Personal care	342	450	637	114	112	112
Medical care <u>7/</u>	1,148	1,153	1,202	108	108	108
Other family consumption <u>8/</u>	576	1,059	1,784	112	111	113
Other items <u>9/</u>	563	894	1,549	112	110	113
Social security & disability payments	961	1,130	1,130	134	105	104
Personal income taxes	1,913	4,686	10,016	205	171	175

Footnotes and source on next page.

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

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

3/ The 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.

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

5/ 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.

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

7/ Based 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).

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

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Autumn 1978 Urban Family Budgets and Comparative Indexes for Selected Urban Areas (release, USDL: 79-305, April 29, 1979).

Table 214.-- ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR THREE LEVELS OF LIVING FOR A RETIRED
COUPLE ON OAHU: AUTUMN 1978

[For a retired husband and wife, age 65 years or over. Excludes
personal income taxes.]

Item	Cost of budget (dollars)			Percent of U.S. urban average		
	Lower budget	Inter- mediate budget	Higher budget	Lower budget	Inter- mediate budget	Higher budget
Total budget <u>1/</u>	6,357	8,987	13,085	115	115	113
Total family consumption	6,083	8,446	12,106	115	115	113
Food	2,198	2,864	3,669	127	125	127
At home	2,068	2,586	3,113	130	126	127
Away from home	130	278	556	99	113	127
Housing <u>2/</u>	1,927	2,876	4,503	105	109	109
Shelter <u>3/</u>	1,359	1,728	2,519	99	102	105
Renter costs <u>4/</u>	1,835	2,536	3,480	143	150	136
Homeowner costs <u>5/</u>	1,042	1,293	2,107	73	77	90
Housefurnishings, operations	568	1,148	1,871	123	121	116
Transportation <u>6/</u>	537	887	1,388	149	127	107
Clothing	223	370	534	101	100	94
Personal care	169	247	361	108	108	108
Medical care	778	784	791	102	102	102
Other family consumption <u>7/</u>	251	418	860	114	114	119
Other items <u>8/</u>	274	541	979	116	115	112

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

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

3/ The average costs of shelter were weighted by the following proportions: lower budget, 40 percent living in rented dwellings; intermediate budget, 35 percent in rented dwellings; higher budget, 30 percent in rented dwellings.

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

5/ Includes property taxes; insurance on house and contents; water, refuse disposal, heating fuel, gas, electricity, and specified equipment; and home repair and maintenance costs. Assumes all mortgage payments have been completed prior to retirement.

6/ Based on 45 percent of the lower budget families, 60 percent of the intermediate budget families, and all of the higher budget families owning automobiles.

7/ Includes reading, recreation, tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and miscellaneous expenditures.

Footnotes continued on next page.

Table 214.-- ANNUAL BUDGETS FOR THREE LEVELS OF LIVING FOR A RETIRED
COUPLE ON OAHU: AUTUMN 1978 -- Con.

8/ Includes gifts and contributions. The higher level also includes an allowance for life insurance.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Three Budgets for a Retired Couple, Autumn 1978 (release, USDL: 78-588, August 20, 1979).

Table 215.-- COST OF LIVING OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES IN HAWAII RELATIVE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.: 1978 AND 1979

[Washington, D.C. = 100. Based on a survey of comparative costs, used in determining cost of living allowances (COLA) for Federal employees in Hawaii.]

Island	Local retail <u>1/</u>		Commissary, PX <u>2/</u>	
	Private housing <u>3/</u>	Federal housing <u>4/</u>	Private housing <u>3/</u>	Federal housing <u>4/</u>
1978				
Oahu	115.8	(NA)	101.9	(NA)
Hawaii	116.0	(NA)	...	...
Kauai	117.0	(NA)	116.6	(NA)
Maui and Lanai	113.5	(NA)	...	...
Molokai	115.9	(NA)	...	...
1979				
Oahu	112.2	102.2	97.9	87.9
Hawaii	109.3	102.1	...	...
Kauai	114.4	107.6	113.8	107.0
Maui and Lanai	111.1	105.8	...	...
Molokai	116.2	107.2	...	...

NA Not available.

1/ Indexes for Federal employees who purchase goods and services only from private retail establishments.

2/ Indexes for Federal employees with unlimited access to military commissary and exchange facilities.

3/ Indexes for Federal employees who occupy housing units that are privately owned or rented.

4/ Indexes for Federal employees who occupy housing units owned or leased by a Federal agency.

Source: U.S. Civil Service Commission, "Nonforeign Area Cost of Living Allowances," FPM Letter 591-29 (October 30, 1978), attachment, and U.S. Office of Personnel Management, "Nonforeign Area Cost of Living Allowances for Guam and the State of Hawaii and Post Differentials for Eligible Locations," FPM Letter 591-34 (September 4, 1979; advanced edition, August 21, 1979), attachment.