## Information Package for Users of the New Zealand Estimated Food Costs <br> 2014

Information collated by
the Department of Human Nutrition, University of Otago

## Introduction

Since the 1970s the Department of Human Nutrition (previously Home Science Extension with the School of Home Science) at the University of Otago has conducted an annual Food Cost Survey. The Food Cost Survey is based on a basket of food designed to meet dietary needs of adult males and females (19 years and over), adolescents ( 11 to 18 years), school aged children (10 and 5 years) and preschool children and infants (4 and 1 years). In recent years food costs have been reported for five cities in New Zealand including Dunedin, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Hamilton.

Most healthy families or individuals will meet their nutritional needs when spending the amount of money specified as the basic costs (Table 1). However, spending less than this amount increases the risk of not getting all the necessary nutrients. Many people will not lack energy or nutrients when spending less than this amount on food if they make careful management choices. However, the chances of consuming an inadequate diet increase as the amount spent to purchase food falls below the basic costs.

The foods included in the survey were revised in order to collect the 2014 data. In addition, the methods we use to calculate food costs and the amounts of food allocated to sex and age groups have been updated. This means the 2014 food costs are not directly comparable to previous years.
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## How the estimated family food costs are calculated

## Amounts allocated to each food category

The Estimated Family Food Costs are calculated using the specified amounts of the food categories (e.g. meat, bread, eggs, fruit, etc) needed for one week (see Table 1). These amounts are based on the New Zealand Food and Nutrition Guidelines and will meet the nutritional needs of most healthy people ${ }^{(1-3)}$. While the food categories are the same for men, women and children, the amounts are appropriate for each age and sex group.
Table 1 Weekly amount of food allocated to each sex and age group

|  |  | Adult |  |  | Adolescent |  | School age child | Pre-school child |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Food category | Unit | Man | Woman | Boy | Girl | 10 yr | 5 yr | 4yr | 1yr |
| Meat \& poultry | g | 790 | 630 | 790 | 590 | 390 | 390 | 320 | 320 |
| Fish | g | 350 | 210 | 245 | 210 | 175 | 70 | 40 | 40 |
| Eggs | ea | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Cheese | g | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 100 | 70 |
| Legumes | g | 210 | 175 | 210 | 175 | 175 | 175 | 140 | 140 |
| Milk \& yoghurt | kg | 2.3 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 2.2 |
| Fruit | kg | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Potato* | kg | 1.1 | 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Vegetables | kg | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1 | 0.8 |
| Bread | kg | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Breakfast cereals | g | 490 | 490 | 600 | 490 | 490 | 380 | 310 | 170 |
| Other cereals ${ }^{\dagger}$ | g | 1000 | 835 | 1000 | 835 | 625 | 435 | 320 | 270 |
| Fats and oils | g | 350 | 245 | 350 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 70 | 70 |
| Spreads | g | 210 | 105 | 210 | 105 | 175 | 175 | 140 | 140 |
| Tea | g | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Coffee | g | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Milo | g | 70 | 70 | 70 | 90 | 70 | 70 | 35 | 35 |
| Sugar | g | 210 | 210 | 210 | 140 | 100 | 100 | 70 | 70 |
| Biscuits and | g | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 105 | 35 |
| crackers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pasta sauce | g | 420 | 420 | 560 | 420 | 420 | 210 | 100 | 70 |
| Tomato sauce | g | 50 | 50 | 70 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 25 |

* Also includes kumara and taro
$\dagger$ Includes flour
$\ddagger$ New foods for 2014


## Collection of food prices

To estimate Basic food costs the price of 167 food items are surveyed (Appendix A). These include the most commonly consumed fruits and vegetables; meat, fish and poultry; dairy; and cereals. The costs are calculated assuming mostly home preparation of meals and dishes, and that food is purchased from supermarkets.

In 2014 we updated the food items to ensure that the foods included to be priced were reflective of current consumer food choices. To choose which foods to add and remove we used data from the most recent national nutrition survey ${ }^{(4)}$. The main changes made included the removal of some cuts of meat and inclusion of some convenience foods such as tomato based pasta sauce and packaged biscuits. A full list of the foods we surveyed in 2014 is provided in Appendix A.

Student Dietitians of the Department of Human Nutrition record food prices in five main centres - Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Within each centre prices are recorded from four supermarkets. The supermarkets are selected on a 'through-put' basis, (i.e. the supermarkets with the greatest volume of sales) so that a good representation is made. The same supermarkets are used each year, where possible, to ensure that the results of the survey are comparable. Food prices are collected in early March over three weekdays.
Shelf prices only are used (not specials or coupon prices) and the lowest priced item (including in house brands) is recorded when more than one brand is available. The package sizes surveyed are appropriate for a family of four. If the specified package size is not available then the price for the next closest size is recorded. Some produce items such as broccoli and avocados are sold per item rather than weight. For these foods, ten items are weighed and the average is used.


## Calculation of food costs

The calculation of the Basic food costs for each centre is completed as follows:

1. Prices and weights for each food item are entered into an excel spreadsheet and the cost per gram or kg is calculated.
2. For each food category a weighted average of $\$$ per gram or kilogram is calculated.

In 2014 we have used a weighted average rather than a simple average as used in previous years. This means we are able to take into consideration the popularity of individual food items within each food category. For example, for the fruit category we know that bananas are more commonly consumed than strawberries. The use of a weighted average allows the average price for the fruit category to reflect this.
3.The weighted average of $\$$ per gram or kg is multiplied by the weekly amounts of each food category allocated for each sex and age group (Table 1).
4.The cost of the food categories are summed to give the total cost of a Basic diet for each age and sex group.

The Moderate cost category allows for an increase in the variety of meats, fish, fruits and vegetables and the inclusion of some convenience foods. This category is calculated from the basic cost by adding $30 \%$ to the basic cost figure.

The Liberal cost category allows for the use of more convenience and imported foods, out of season fruits and vegetables, higher priced cuts of meat and some specialty foods. This is calculated by adding $20 \%$ to the moderate cost figure.

Table 2 Example of Steps 3 \& 4-Calculation of basic costs for an adult male

|  | Weighted average cost per gram or kilogram | Weekly grams of kg allocated | Calculation | Weekly Cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cheese | \$0.01/g | 210 g | \$0.01/g x 210 g | \$2.11 |
| Fruit | \$3.86/kg | 1.2 kg | \$3.86/kg x 1.2 kg | \$4.68 |
| Potatoes | \$2.47/kg | 1.1 kg | \$2.47/kg x 1.1 kg | \$2.76 |
| "" other food groups .. | " | " | " " | "، |
| TOTAL |  |  | Sum of food categories | \$68 |

## Estimated Food Costs for 2014

Table 3 Estimated food costs for 2014

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Basic } \\ \$ \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Moderate \$ | Liberal \$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Auckland |  |  |  |
| Man | 68 | 91 | 109 |
| Woman | 58 | 77 | 92 |
| Adolescent Boy | 71 | 95 | 114 |
| Adolescent Girl | 59 | 78 | 94 |
| 10 yr old | 50 | 66 | 79 |
| 5 yr old | 42 | 56 | 68 |
| 4 yr old | 33 | 44 | 53 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 43 | 51 |
| Hamilton* |  |  |  |
| Man | 64 | 85 | 102 |
| Woman | 54 | 72 | 86 |
| Adolescent Boy | 67 | 89 | 107 |
| Adolescent Girl | 55 | 73 | 88 |
| 10 yr old | 47 | 63 | 75 |
| 5 yr old | 40 | 54 | 64 |
| 4 yr old | 31 | 42 | 50 |
| 1 yr old | 31 | 41 | 49 |
| Wellington |  |  |  |
| Man | 69 | 92 | 110 |
| Woman | 59 | 78 | 94 |
| Adolescent Boy | 72 | 96 | 115 |
| Adolescent Girl | 60 | 80 | 95 |
| 10 yr old | 51 | 68 | 81 |
| 5 yr old | 44 | 58 | 70 |
| 4 yr old | 34 | 46 | 55 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 42 | 51 |
| Christchurch |  |  |  |
| Man | 71 | 95 | 114 |
| Woman | 61 | 76 | 97 |
| Adolescent Boy | 75 | 99 | 119 |
| Adolescent Girl | 62 | 82 | 98 |
| 10 yr old | 53 | 70 | 85 |
| 5 yr old | 46 | 61 | 73 |
| 4 yr old | 36 | 48 | 58 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 42 | 51 |
| Dunedin |  |  |  |
| Man | 67 | 89 | 106 |
| Woman | 57 | 76 | 92 |
| Adolescent Boy | 70 | 93 | 112 |
| Adolescent Girl | 58 | 77 | 93 |
| 10 yr old | 50 | 66 | 80 |
| 5 yr old | 43 | 57 | 69 |
| 4 yr old | 34 | 45 | 54 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 42 | 51 |

[^0]Table 4 Estimated food costs for a Basic diet

|  | $\begin{gathered} 2014^{*} \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2013 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2012 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2011 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2010 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2009 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2008 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2007 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2006 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2005 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Auckland |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 68 | 64 | 66 | 65 | 64 | 61 | 54 | 53 | 50 | 53 |
| Woman | 58 | 61 | 63 | 61 | 61 | 58 | 51 | 50 | 48 | 50 |
| Adolescent Boy | 71 | 82 | 84 | 82 | 81 | 77 | 69 | 67 | 64 | 67 |
| Adolescent Girl | 59 | 68 | 70 | 68 | 68 | 64 | 57 | 56 | 53 | 56 |
| 10 yr old | 50 | 53 | 54 | 53 | 54 | 50 | 45 | 43 | 42 | 44 |
| 5 yr old | 42 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 36 | 34 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 30 |
| 4 yr old | 33 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 34 | 32 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 28 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 29 | 29 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 24 |
| Hamilton ${ }^{\dagger}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 64 | 71 | 67 | - | 62 | 60 | 55 | 50 | 49 | 51 |
| Woman | 54 | 68 | 63 | - | 59 | 57 | 53 | 47 | 47 | 48 |
| Adolescent Boy | 67 | 89 | 83 | - | 79 | 76 | 71 | 62 | 63 | 64 |
| Adolescent Girl | 55 | 74 | 69 | - | 65 | 63 | 59 | 52 | 52 | 53 |
| 10yr old | 47 | 57 | 52 | - | 52 | 50 | 47 | 40 | 41 | 42 |
| 5 yr old | 40 | 40 | 35 | - | 34 | 33 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 28 |
| 4 yr old | 31 | 37 | 33 | - | 32 | 31 | 29 | 25 | 26 | 26 |
| 1 yr old | 31 | 29 | 28 | - | 28 | 27 | 26 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| Wellington |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 69 | 70 | 68 | 65 | 64 | 61 | 58 | 52 | 51 | 51 |
| Woman | 59 | 66 | 64 | 61 | 60 | 58 | 55 | 49 | 49 | 49 |
| Adolescent Boy | 72 | 89 | 85 | 82 | 81 | 77 | 73 | 65 | 65 | 64 |
| Adolescent Girl | 60 | 74 | 71 | 68 | 67 | 64 | 61 | 54 | 54 | 54 |
| 10yr old | 51 | 58 | 57 | 52 | 53 | 50 | 48 | 41 | 43 | 42 |
| 5 yr old | 44 | 39 | 37 | 35 | 35 | 34 | 32 | 28 | 29 | 28 |
| 4 yr old | 34 | 36 | 35 | 33 | 33 | 31 | 30 | 26 | 27 | 27 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 31 | 31 | 28 | 28 | 27 | 26 | 22 | 23 | 23 |
| Christchurch $\ddagger$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 71 | 68 | 66 | - | 62 | 61 | 54 | 52 | 54 | 52 |
| Woman | 61 | 64 | 62 | - | 58 | 57 | 51 | 49 | 52 | 49 |
| Adolescent Boy | 75 | 86 | 83 | - | 78 | 77 | 68 | 65 | 69 | 66 |
| Adolescent Girl | 62 | 71 | 69 | - | 65 | 64 | 57 | 54 | 57 | 55 |
| 10 yr old | 53 | 56 | 55 | - | 52 | 51 | 46 | 43 | 46 | 45 |
| 5 yr old | 46 | 38 | 36 | - | 34 | 34 | 30 | 29 | 31 | 29 |
| 4 yr old | 36 | 36 | 34 | - | 32 | 32 | 29 | 27 | 29 | 28 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 31 | 30 | - | 28 | 28 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 24 |
| Dunedin§ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 67 | 68 | 67 | 62 | 60 | 59 | 54 | 50 | 54 | 51 |
| Woman | 57 | 64 | 63 | 58 | 57 | 56 | 52 | 47 | 51 | 49 |
| Adolescent Boy | 70 | 86 | 84 | 78 | 77 | 75 | 68 | 63 | 69 | 65 |
| Adolescent Girl | 58 | 71 | 70 | 65 | 64 | 62 | 57 | 52 | 57 | 54 |
| 10 yr old | 50 | 56 | 55 | 51 | 50 | 49 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 44 |
| 5 yr old | 43 | 37 | 37 | 34 | 33 | 33 | 30 | 27 | 30 | 29 |
| 4 yr old | 34 | 35 | 35 | 32 | 31 | 31 | 28 | 26 | 28 | 27 |
| 1 yr old | 32 | 30 | 30 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 25 | 21 | 24 | 25 |

[^1]Table 5 Estimated food costs for a Moderate diet

|  | $\begin{gathered} 2014 \\ \$^{*} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2013 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2012 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2011 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2010 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2009 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2008 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2007 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2006 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2005 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Auckland |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 91 | 84 | 86 | 85 | 83 | 79 | 70 | 70 | 65 | 68 |
| Woman | 77 | 79 | 81 | 79 | 79 | 75 | 67 | 66 | 62 | 65 |
| Adolescent Boy | 95 | 107 | 109 | 107 | 106 | 100 | 89 | 88 | 83 | 87 |
| Adolescent Girl | 78 | 89 | 91 | 88 | 88 | 83 | 74 | 73 | 69 | 73 |
| 10 yr old | 66 | 69 | 70 | 69 | 70 | 65 | 59 | 56 | 55 | 58 |
| 5 yr old | 56 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 44 | 39 | 38 | 37 | 39 |
| 4 yr old | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 41 | 37 | 36 | 35 | 36 |
| 1 yr old | 43 | 38 | 38 | 36 | 38 | 35 | 32 | 30 | 30 | 32 |
| Hamiltont |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 85 | 92 | 87 | - | 80 | 78 | 72 | 65 | 64 | 66 |
| Woman | 72 | 88 | 82 | - | 76 | 74 | 69 | 61 | 61 | 63 |
| Adolescent Boy | 89 | 115 | 108 | - | 102 | 99 | 92 | 81 | 81 | 83 |
| Adolescent Girl | 73 | 97 | 90 | - | 85 | 82 | 76 | 67 | 68 | 69 |
| 10 yr old | 63 | 74 | 68 | - | 67 | 65 | 60 | 52 | 54 | 54 |
| 5 yr old | 54 | 52 | 46 | - | 45 | 43 | 41 | 35 | 36 | 37 |
| 4 yr old | 42 | 48 | 43 | - | 42 | 41 | 38 | 33 | 34 | 34 |
| 1 yr old | 41 | 38 | 36 | - | 37 | 35 | 33 | 27 | 29 | 30 |
| Wellington |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 92 | 91 | 88 | 85 | 83 | 80 | 76 | 58 | 67 | 66 |
| Woman | 78 | 86 | 83 | 79 | 78 | 75 | 72 | 64 | 63 | 63 |
| Adolescent Boy | 96 | 115 | 111 | 106 | 105 | 101 | 95 | 84 | 85 | 84 |
| Adolescent Girl | 79 | 96 | 93 | 88 | 87 | 83 | 80 | 70 | 70 | 70 |
| 10 yr old | 68 | 75 | 74 | 68 | 68 | 65 | 62 | 54 | 55 | 55 |
| 5 yr old | 58 | 50 | 49 | 46 | 46 | 44 | 42 | 37 | 37 | 37 |
| 4 yr old | 46 | 47 | 46 | 43 | 43 | 41 | 39 | 34 | 35 | 35 |
| 1 yr old | 42 | 41 | 40 | 36 | 37 | 35 | 34 | 28 | 30 | 30 |
| Christchurch $\ddagger$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 95 | 88 | 86 | - | 80 | 79 | 70 | 68 | 70 | 67 |
| Woman | 81 | 83 | 81 | - | 76 | 75 | 67 | 64 | 67 | 64 |
| Adolescent Boy | 99 | 112 | 108 | - | 102 | 100 | 89 | 85 | 90 | 86 |
| Adolescent Girl | 82 | 93 | 90 | - | 85 | 84 | 75 | 71 | 75 | 72 |
| 10 yr old | 70 | 73 | 71 | - | 67 | 67 | 60 | 55 | 59 | 58 |
| 5 yr old | 61 | 49 | 47 | - | 45 | 44 | 40 | 37 | 40 | 38 |
| 4 yr old | 48 | 46 | 45 | - | 42 | 41 | 37 | 35 | 37 | 36 |
| 1 yr old | 43 | 40 | 38 | - | 37 | 36 | 33 | 30 | 33 | 32 |
| Dunedin§ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 89 | 89 | 87 | 81 | 78 | 77 | 71 | 65 | 70 | 66 |
| Woman | 76 | 84 | 81 | 76 | 74 | 73 | 67 | 62 | 67 | 63 |
| Adolescent Boy | 93 | 111 | 110 | 101 | 100 | 97 | 89 | 82 | 90 | 85 |
| Adolescent Girl | 77 | 93 | 91 | 84 | 83 | 81 | 74 | 68 | 74 | 71 |
| 10 yr old | 66 | 73 | 72 | 66 | 65 | 64 | 59 | 53 | 58 | 57 |
| 5 yr old | 57 | 48 | 48 | 44 | 43 | 43 | 39 | 35 | 39 | 38 |
| 4 yr old | 45 | 46 | 45 | 41 | 41 | 40 | 37 | 33 | 36 | 36 |
| 1 yr old | 42 | 39 | 39 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 32 | 28 | 31 | 32 |

[^2]Table 6 Estimated food costs for a Liberal diet

|  | $\begin{gathered} 2014 \\ \$^{*} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2013 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2012 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2011 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2010 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2009 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2008 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2007 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2006 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2005 \\ \$ \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Auckland |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 109 | 100 | 103 | 102 | 99 | 95 | 84 | 83 | 78 | 82 |
| Woman | 92 | 95 | 98 | 95 | 94 | 90 | 80 | 79 | 75 | 78 |
| Adolescent Boy | 114 | 128 | 131 | 128 | 127 | 120 | 107 | 105 | 99 | 104 |
| Adolescent Girl | 93 | 106 | 109 | 106 | 106 | 100 | 89 | 87 | 83 | 87 |
| 10 yr old | 79 | 83 | 84 | 83 | 84 | 78 | 71 | 68 | 66 | 69 |
| 5 yr old | 68 | 56 | 57 | 57 | 56 | 52 | 47 | 46 | 45 | 47 |
| 4 yr old | 53 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 52 | 49 | 44 | 43 | 42 | 44 |
| 1 yr old | 51 | 45 | 45 | 44 | 46 | 42 | 39 | 36 | 36 | 38 |
| Hamiltont |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 102 | 111 | 105 | - | 96 | 94 | 87 | 78 | 77 | 79 |
| Woman | 86 | 106 | 98 | - | 92 | 89 | 82 | 74 | 73 | 76 |
| Adolescent Boy | 107 | 138 | 130 | - | 122 | 119 | 111 | 97 | 98 | 100 |
| Adolescent Girl | 88 | 116 | 108 | - | 102 | 99 | 92 | 81 | 82 | 83 |
| 10 yr old | 75 | 89 | 81 | - | 81 | 78 | 73 | 62 | 64 | 65 |
| 5 yr old | 64 | 62 | 55 | - | 54 | 52 | 49 | 42 | 43 | 44 |
| 4 yr old | 50 | 57 | 52 | - | 50 | 49 | 46 | 40 | 41 | 41 |
| 1 yr old | 49 | 46 | 43 | - | 44 | 42 | 40 | 33 | 35 | 36 |
| Wellington |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 110 | 109 | 105 | 101 | 100 | 96 | 91 | 81 | 80 | 80 |
| Woman | 94 | 103 | 100 | 95 | 94 | 90 | 86 | 76 | 76 | 76 |
| Adolescent Boy | 115 | 138 | 133 | 128 | 126 | 121 | 114 | 101 | 101 | 100 |
| Adolescent Girl | 95 | 115 | 111 | 106 | 105 | 100 | 96 | 84 | 85 | 84 |
| 10 yr old | 81 | 90 | 88 | 82 | 82 | 78 | 75 | 64 | 66 | 66 |
| 5 yr old | 70 | 60 | 58 | 55 | 55 | 52 | 50 | 44 | 45 | 44 |
| 4 yr old | 55 | 57 | 55 | 52 | 52 | 49 | 47 | 41 | 42 | 41 |
| 1 yr old | 51 | 49 | 48 | 43 | 44 | 42 | 40 | 34 | 36 | 36 |
| Christchurch $\ddagger$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 114 | 106 | 103 | - | 96 | 95 | 84 | 81 | 84 | 81 |
| Woman | 97 | 100 | 97 | - | 91 | 90 | 80 | 77 | 80 | 77 |
| Adolescent Boy | 119 | 135 | 129 | - | 122 | 120 | 107 | 102 | 108 | 103 |
| Adolescent Girl | 98 | 111 | 108 | - | 102 | 101 | 90 | 85 | 90 | 86 |
| 10 yr old | 85 | 88 | 85 | - | 81 | 80 | 72 | 66 | 71 | 70 |
| 5 yr old | 73 | 59 | 57 | - | 54 | 53 | 48 | 45 | 48 | 46 |
| 4 yr old | 58 | 56 | 53 | - | 51 | 50 | 45 | 42 | 45 | 43 |
| 1 yr old | 51 | 48 | 46 | - | 44 | 44 | 39 | 35 | 39 | 38 |
| Dunedin§ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Man | 106 | 106 | 104 | 97 | 94 | 92 | 85 | 78 | 84 | 79 |
| Woman | 92 | 100 | 98 | 91 | 89 | 87 | 80 | 74 | 80 | 76 |
| Adolescent Boy | 112 | 134 | 132 | 122 | 119 | 117 | 106 | 98 | 108 | 102 |
| Adolescent Girl | 93 | 111 | 109 | 101 | 99 | 97 | 89 | 81 | 88 | 85 |
| 10 yr old | 80 | 88 | 86 | 79 | 78 | 77 | 71 | 63 | 70 | 68 |
| 5 yr old | 69 | 58 | 57 | 53 | 52 | 51 | 47 | 43 | 46 | 45 |
| 4 yr old | 54 | 55 | 54 | 50 | 49 | 48 | 44 | 40 | 44 | 43 |
| 1 yr old | 51 | 46 | 47 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 38 | 33 | 37 | 38 |

[^3]
## Notes for 2014 data

In 2014 the highest food costs were for adolescent boys and this was similar to previous years. This is because of their higher energy needs and nutrient requirements. In comparison to 2013 food costs for women, adolescent boys and girls and children (10 years) were lower in 2014. It is important to note this is not because of a decrease in food prices but a reflection of the revisions that have been made to the Food Cost Survey methods.

A wide variety of foods are surveyed to calculate the cost of a Basic Diet. Within each food category some foods are more expensive than others. The food costs for the Moderate and Liberal diets are calculated from the Basic Diet. The Moderate and Liberal diets are assumed to contain a higher proportion of expensive foods, a greater variety of foods and some out of season fruit and vegetables. Below are some examples of foods that might be included in greater amounts in these diets as compared to the basic diet. Fruit and vegetable prices will vary with season. Some fruit and vegetables are very cheap in season so these suggestions are not always applicable.

| Basic | Moderate | Liberal |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fruit |  |  |
| Apples, bananas, pears | Oranges, canned fruit, nectarines, peaches | Strawberries, feijoas, apricots, Fresh and frozen berries |
| Vegetables |  |  |
| Carrots, pumpkin, cabbage, onions | Mushrooms, tomatoes, cauliflower, broccoli | Spinach, avocado, courgettes |
| Meat and Poultry |  |  |
| Chicken pieces (drumsticks, frozen pieces), sausages, corned silverside, mince | Chicken thighs, ham, pork chops, beef stewing cuts | Lamb steaks, salami, Porterhouse steak, rump steak, pork diced pieces, chicken breast |
| Fish |  |  |
| Canned fish, whole fish, frozen crumbed fillets, Red Cod, Hoki, Monk, Trevally | Sole, Terakihi, Gurnard | Blue cod, Salmon, Snapper |
| Breakfast cereals |  |  |
| Rolled oats, cornflakes, rice bubbles, wheat biscuits | Muesli, Extruded cereasl (e.g Nutrigrain, cheerios) | Bircher Muesli, Toasted muesli with fruit and nuts |
| Cheese |  |  |
| Cheddar- tasty, edam, Colby, mild | Processed cheese slices, cottage cheese, cream cheese | Parmesan, mozzarella, speciality cheeses (e.g. brie, feta) |
| Bread |  |  |
| Sliced packaged breadwholemeal, white | Sliced packaged multigrain varieties, fruit bread, bread rolls, hamburger buns | Pita pockets, wraps, speciality breads (e.g. focaccia, ciabatta), bagels |

## Food shopping suggestions

Here are some suggestions of practices that can help to keep food costs down:

- Where possible (i.e. time, facilities and skill levels exist) make food from basic ingredients.
- Buy whole chicken rather than boned chicken meat or portions. These can be cut into portions for cooking or freezing a specific amount, or it can be cooked whole and the meat removed from the bone.
- Fish: It is often not cheaper to buy whole fish than fish fillets because of the proportion of waste that they contain. Canned fish is often an excellent fish option.
- Meat: Remember that leaner cuts of meat may be better value for money if cheaper cuts have a higher fat content which may be discarded.
- Dry goods can be bought from bulk bins and are sometimes cheaper than buying packaged products. However do check against a packaged product.
It is a good idea to take a calculator shopping to check which product is the cheapest on a unit weight basis.
Often savings can be made by buying house brands (e.g., Pams, Homebrand, Budget) in particular for basic foods such as flour, sugar, milk.
Frozen or canned foods can often be as nutritious and cheaper and easier to store than fresh foods


## The estimated costs of non-food items

There have been many requests to include the cost of these items because many of them are usually purchased at a supermarket and paid for as part of the 'grocery' bill.

The costs for non-food items are calculated from the 2010 Household Economic Survey* (previously reported as the Consumer Expenditure Statistics) produced by Statistics New Zealand. The average weekly household expenditure* on 'personal care' and 'cleaning products and other household supplies' for a couple with two dependent children, are summed as an estimate of spending on non-food items. The average expenditure is assumed to be the moderate cost for these items.
Items that are included in the 'personal care' and 'cleaning products and other household supplies' categories are described below:

- Personal care includes soaps, oral toiletries, hair products (including colour and perm rinses), hair pins/curlers/adornments, razors and blades, brushes (hair/body/tooth), manicure needs, toilet paper, sanitary needs, baby toiletries, infant needs, disposable babies nappies and nappy liners, perfumes, deodorants, shaving creams, bathing products, make-up, toners and fresheners, nail preparations, skin preparations.
- Cleaning products and other household supplies includes household cleaners and cleaning materials, laundry products, air fresheners, pest/insect killers, kitchen wraps, matches, fire starters, straws, candles, rope, paper towels, and rubbish bags.


## Estimated weekly costs on non-food items for a family of four (2 adults, 2 children)

| Moderate |
| :---: |
| $\$ 40.70$ |

[^4]
## References

1. Ministry of Health (2003) Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Healthy Adults: A Background Paper. 1-148. Wellington: Ministry of Health.
2. National Health and Medical Research Council \& Ministry of Health (2006) Nutrient Reference Values for Australia and New Zealand Including Recommended Dietary Intakes. 1-317. Canberra, Wellington: NHMRC, Ministry of Health.
3. Ministry of Health (2012) Food and Nutrition Guidelines for Healthy Children and Young People (Aged 2-18 years). 1-246. Ministry of Health.
4. University of Otago, \& Ministry of Health (2011) A Focus on Nutrition: Key findings of the 2008/09 New Zealand Adult Nutrition Survey. 1-359. Wellington: Ministry of Health.

## Appendix 1 List of foods and package sizes surveyed in 2014



| Food Item | Unit Size Priced |
| :---: | :---: |
| Potatoes | 1 kg and 5 kg bag |
| Kumara | per/kg |
| French fries, frozen | 1 kg bag |
| Taro* | Per/kg |
| Meat and poultry |  |
| chicken breast (skin on) | per/kg |
| Beef mince | per/kg |
| Chicken, frozen whole* | size 14 |
| Chicken drumsticks* | per/kg |
| Chicken thigh (skin on) | per/kg |
| Bacon, vacuum packed | per/kg |
| Beef, rump steak | per/kg |
| Beef corned silverside | per/kg |
| Beef schnitzel | per/kg |
| Beef sausages | per/kg |
| Chicken wings* | per/kg |
| Ham vacuumed packed |  |
| Ham, shaved deli* | per/kg |
| Beef, porterhouse steak | per/kg |
| Sausages, mixed meat* | per/kg |
| Pork pieces | per/kg |
| Beef blade steak | per/kg |
| Beef chuck steak | per/kg |
| Lamb shoulder chops | per/kg |
| Chicken pieces frozen |  |
| mixed | per/kg |
| Beef topside | per/kg |
| Lamb roast leg | per/kg |
| Chicken leg* | per/kg |
| Lamb steak | per/kg |
| Luncheon meat | per/kg |
| Pork sausages* | per/kg |
| Chicken nibbles | per/kg |
| Pork shoulder roast | per/kg |
| Salami | per/kg |
| Pork deli slices | per/kg |
| Pork leg roast | per/kg |
| Pork loin chops | per/kg |
| Fish |  |
| Tuna, canned | 185g |
| Salmon, caned | 210 g |
| Fish fillet, frozen crumbed* | 450 g |
| Fish fillets, middle priced | per/kg |
| Fish fillets, bottom priced | per/kg |
| Fish fillets, top priced | per/kg |
| Legumes | $\pm 20 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Baked beans, canned | 410 g |
| Kidney beans, canned | 415 g |
| Bean mix, canned | 415 g |
| Chickpeas, canned | 415 g |
| Lentils, red, dried | 415 g |
| Peanuts, unsalted | per 100 g |


| Food Item | Unit Size Priced |
| :---: | :---: |
| Breakfast cereals | $\pm 20 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Wheat biscuits | 750 g |
| Muesli | 750 g |
| Cornflakes | 500 g |
| Rolled oats | 1500 g |
| Rice bubbles | 500 g |
| Spreads | $\pm 20 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Jam | 375 g |
| Vegemite/equiv | 250 g |
| Peanut butter | 380 g |
| Honey | 500 g |
| Marmalade | 375 g |
| Tea, coffee, milo |  |
| Teabags 100's | 100 bags |
| Tea leaves | 250 g |
| Instant coffee | 100 g |
| Milo/equip 300g | 310 g |
| Drinking chocolate | 300 g |
| Sugar |  |
| White sugar | 1.5 kg |
| Brown sugar | 1 kg |
| Other cereals | $\pm 20 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| White rice | 1 kg |
| Dried pasta | 500 g |
| Noodles, instant | 370 g |
| Noodles (plain egg) | 200-300g |
| Canned spaghetti | 410 g |
| White flour | 1.5 kg |
| Wholemeal flour | 1.5 kg |
| Dried lasagne | 500 g |
| Brown rice | 1 kg |
| Eggs | a dozen |
| Fats and oils |  |
| Mono margarine | 500 g |
| Butter | 500 g |
| Mono marg (reduced fat) | 500 g |
| Vegetable oil | 250ml |
| Polyunsaturated marg |  |
| Cheese |  |
| Edam | 1 kg |
| Colby | 1 kg |
| Tasty | 1 kg |
| Mild | 1 kg |
| Processed cheese | 12 slices |
| Milk |  |
| Blue | 2L |
| Light blue | 2L |
| Green | 2L |
| Yogurt |  |
| Yoghurt 1kg | 1 kg |
| Yoghurt 6-pack | $6 \times 125-150 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Bread |  |
| White toast slice | 600-700g |
| Wholemeal toast slice | 600-700g |


|  |  |
| :--- | :---: |
|  | Unit Size Priced Item |
| Multigrain toast slice | $600-700 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Bread rolls 6-pack | 6 pack |
| White sandwich slice | $600-700 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Wholemeal sandwich slice | $600-700 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Multigrain sandwich slice | $600-700 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Other foods | $\pm 20 \mathrm{~g}$ |
| Pasta sauce* | 575 g |
| Tomato sauce* | 420 g |
| Biscuits, plain* | 250 g |
| Crackers, plain* | 125 g |
| Infant formula (>12 months) | 900 g |


[^0]:    * Unreliable data- only two supermarkets were surveyed

[^1]:    * 2014 food costs are not comparable to previous years because the foods included and methods used to calculate food costs have been revised.
    $\dagger$ Unreliable data- only two supermarkets were surveyed
    $\ddagger$ No data available for 2011.
    \& Data for 2010 have been re-calculated allowing for a correction to the data as released in 2010

[^2]:    * 2014 food costs are not comparable to previous years because the foods included and methods used to calculate food costs have been revised
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    $\ddagger$ No data available for 2011
    \& Data for 2010 have been re-calculated allowing for a correction to the data as released in 2010

[^4]:    * 2010 Household Economic Survey. Statistics New Zealand Te Tari Tatau, Wellington New Zealand.

    This survey is undertaken every three years and an update is not available until 2014.

