

## Official USDA Food Plans: Cost of Food at Home at Four Levels, U.S. Average, April 1998<sup>1</sup>

AGE-GENDER GROUPS	WEEKLY COST				MONTHLY COST			
	Thrifty plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan	Thrifty plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
<b>INDIVIDUALS<sup>2</sup></b>								
<b>CHILD:</b>								
1-2 years	15.00	18.40	21.70	26.20	65.00	79.70	94.00	113.50
3-5 years	16.20	20.20	25.00	30.00	70.20	87.50	108.30	130.00
6-8 years	20.10	26.90	33.40	38.90	87.10	116.60	144.70	168.60
9-11 years	23.90	30.50	39.00	45.10	103.60	132.20	169.00	195.40
<b>MALE:</b>								
12-14 years	24.80	34.40	42.70	50.20	107.50	149.10	185.00	217.50
15-19 years	25.50	35.50	44.20	51.10	110.50	153.80	191.50	221.40
20-50 years	27.50	35.40	44.20	53.60	119.20	153.40	191.50	232.20
51 years and over	24.80	33.80	41.60	50.00	107.50	146.50	180.30	216.70
<b>FEMALE:</b>								
12-19 years	24.60	29.70	36.10	43.60	106.60	128.70	156.40	188.90
20-50 years	24.90	31.00	37.80	48.60	107.90	134.30	163.80	210.60
51 years and over	24.40	30.10	37.50	44.80	105.70	130.40	162.50	194.10
<b>FAMILIES:</b>								
<b>FAMILY of 2<sup>3</sup>:</b>								
20-50 years	57.60	73.00	90.20	112.40	249.80	316.50	390.80	487.10
51 years and over	54.10	70.30	87.00	104.30	234.50	304.60	377.10	451.90
<b>FAMILY OF 4:</b>								
Couple, 20-50 years and children—								
1-2 and 3-5 years	83.60	105.00	128.70	158.40	362.30	454.90	557.60	686.30
6-8 and 9-11 years	96.40	123.80	154.40	186.20	417.80	536.50	669.00	806.80

<sup>1</sup>Basis is that all meals and snacks are purchased at stores and prepared at home. For specific foods and quantities of foods in the Low-Cost, Moderate-Cost, and Liberal Plans, see *Family Economics Review*, No. 2 (1983); for specific foods and quantities of foods in the Thrifty Food Plan, see *Family Economics Review*, No. 1 (1984). The food plans are based on 1977-78 Nationwide Food Consumption Survey data updated to current dollars using the Consumer Price Index for specific food items.

<sup>2</sup>The costs given are for individuals in 4-person families. For individuals in other size families, the following adjustments are suggested: 1-person—add 20 percent; 2-person—add 10 percent; 3-person—add 5 percent; 5- or 6-person—subtract 5 percent; 7- (or more) person—subtract 10 percent.

<sup>3</sup>Ten percent added for family size adjustment.