

Northern Territory (NT) Market Basket Survey 2019

Summary

- This summary data sheet has been produced early to meet the timeframes for submissions to the Commonwealth Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs Inquiry into food pricing and food security and is potentially subject to further change. Please check for any corrections to this document.
- The Market Basket Survey (MBS) 2019 full report will be publicly released by 25 June 2020 on the [NTG Open Data Portal](#).
- The 2019 MBS is the nineteenth survey of remote stores in the NT.
- Fifty-eight remote stores; and for comparison, a supermarket and corner store in the main town/city of each district centre, were surveyed between June and August 2019.
- A Healthy Food Basket (HFB) and Current Diet Basket (CDB) were priced in each of the stores. The HFB is based on foods recommended in the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating (AGTHE). The CDB is based on the most recent survey of dietary patterns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. Both baskets contained sufficient food to feed a hypothetical family of six for a fortnight. 2019 is the third year the CDB has been included.
- The accompanying data sheet contains summary information from the full MBS Report including food group and total average costs for remote stores, regional corner stores and supermarkets. The data sheet also includes de-identified remote stores' individual costs, fruit and vegetable quantities and quality as well as other store characteristics. A list of the products that make up the HFB and CDB is provided and includes the AGTHE food group serves and total energy.
- The average cost of the CDB was higher than the HFB in all districts and all store types.
- The CDB average cost was 8% higher than the HFB average cost in remote stores (\$913 compared to \$848), 6% higher in corner stores (\$847 compared to \$800) and 20% higher in district centre supermarkets (\$650 compared to \$542).
- On average, the HFB in remote stores was 56% more expensive than in district centre supermarkets and 6% more expensive in district centre corner stores.
- On average, the CDB in remote stores was 40% more expensive than in district centre supermarkets and 8% more expensive in district centre corner stores.
- Trend data can be accessed in previous years' [MBS reports](#).
- An explanation of survey methodology and a list of limitations is available from previous [MBS reports](#).
- One notable limitation is - when conducting the survey, surveyors are asked to record the price of a particular brand and pack size for each item in the food basket. For occasions when the standard brand and pack size is not available, surveyors are provided a set of instructions on which alternative product to price (i.e. a different brand or pack size). Therefore on some occasions a larger or smaller pack size (of different brand) may be priced in a remote store compared to district centre stores. This may have a notable impact on the price of the basket in some individual store reports; however the impact will be lessened with the aggregated data provided in this report.
- A comprehensive 2019 MBS report providing data description and interpretation will be available publicly by 30 June 2020 at this link: [Market Basket Survey](#).