



**Cost of Food at Home Estimated for Food Plans at Four Cost Levels,  
April 1996, U.S. Average<sup>1</sup>**

| SEX-AGE GROUPS                    | COST FOR 1 WEEK |               |                    |              | COST FOR 1 MONTH |               |                    |              |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------|
|                                   | Thrifty plan    | Low-cost plan | Moderate-cost plan | Liberal plan | Thrifty plan     | Low-cost plan | Moderate-cost plan | Liberal plan |
| <b>FAMILIES:</b>                  |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| <b>FAMILY of 2<sup>2</sup>:</b>   |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| 20-50 years                       | 55.20           | 70.10         | 86.30              | 107.70       | 239.50           | 303.40        | 374.10             | 466.40       |
| 51 years and over                 | 52.00           | 67.40         | 83.30              | 99.80        | 225.60           | 292.20        | 360.80             | 431.90       |
| <b>FAMILY OF 4:</b>               |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| Couple, 20-50 years and children— |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| 1-2 and 3-5 years                 | 80.40           | 100.90        | 123.30             | 151.80       | 348.40           | 436.80        | 534.20             | 657.50       |
| 6-8 and 9-11 years                | 92.30           | 118.60        | 147.90             | 178.30       | 400.10           | 513.80        | 640.60             | 772.30       |
| <b>INDIVIDUALS<sup>3</sup></b>    |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| <b>CHILD:</b>                     |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| 1-2 years                         | 14.50           | 17.80         | 20.80              | 25.30        | 62.80            | 77.10         | 90.30              | 109.50       |
| 3-5 years                         | 15.70           | 19.40         | 24.00              | 28.60        | 67.90            | 83.90         | 103.80             | 124.00       |
| 6-8 years                         | 19.20           | 25.70         | 32.00              | 37.20        | 83.30            | 111.40        | 138.60             | 161.30       |
| 9-11 years                        | 22.90           | 29.20         | 37.40              | 43.20        | 99.10            | 126.60        | 161.90             | 187.00       |
| <b>MALE:</b>                      |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| 12-14 years                       | 23.70           | 33.00         | 40.90              | 48.10        | 102.80           | 143.00        | 177.20             | 208.40       |
| 15-19 years                       | 24.40           | 34.00         | 42.30              | 49.00        | 105.90           | 147.20        | 183.20             | 212.10       |
| 20-50 years                       | 26.40           | 33.90         | 42.30              | 51.30        | 114.40           | 146.80        | 183.10             | 222.30       |
| 51 years and over                 | 23.80           | 32.40         | 39.80              | 47.80        | 103.20           | 140.20        | 172.50             | 206.90       |
| <b>FEMALE:</b>                    |                 |               |                    |              |                  |               |                    |              |
| 12-19 years                       | 23.70           | 28.50         | 34.60              | 41.80        | 102.70           | 123.50        | 149.80             | 180.90       |
| 20-50 years                       | 23.80           | 29.80         | 36.20              | 46.60        | 103.30           | 129.00        | 157.00             | 201.70       |
| 51 years and over                 | 23.50           | 28.90         | 35.90              | 42.90        | 101.90           | 125.40        | 155.50             | 185.70       |

<sup>1</sup> Assumes that food for all meals and snacks is purchased at the store and prepared at home. Estimates for the thrifty food plan were computed from quantities of foods published in *Family Economics Review*, 1984, No. 1. Estimates for the other plans were computed from quantities of foods published in *Family Economics Review*, 1983, No. 2. The costs of the food plans are estimated by updating prices paid by households surveyed in 1977-78 in USDA's Nationwide Food Consumption Survey. USDA updates these survey prices using information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics: "CPI Detailed Report", table 4, to estimate the costs for the food plans.

<sup>2</sup> Ten percent added for family size adjustment. See footnote 3.

<sup>3</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.