

# Tundra Times surveys grocery prices in Alaska

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A Tundra Times survey of four bush outposts and three major cities in northern Alaska shows Nome to have the highest grocery prices, despite advantages of jet service and a viable seaport.

The survey was made during April and May with a bush-oriented shopping list, quite unlike those commonly utilized in federal surveys.

Nationally, food prices declined 0.8 per cent during the last three months according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Statewide, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported a 2.9 per cent decline with a 4.2 per cent price drop in Fairbanks. A less impressive Fairbanks price decline of 1.8 percent was reported by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Impact Information Center.

Even with slightly falling prices, a look at the following chart shows that Alaskans must foot a much heavier food bill than "stateside" diners, and with ever increasing shipping costs, there is little relief in sight.

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# Grocery survey . . . .

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The good news is that the pipeline impact office also noted that aspirin was the only "non-food item which did not show a price increase over the last three months." The typical Alaskan buyer will probably need some of that to cope with the headaches of his far north food budget.

	Fair- banks (Safe- way)	Anchorage (Carrs)	Bethel (NC)	Nome	Savoonga	Nunapi- tchuk	Barrow
Coper Hagen							
Snooze	.59	.50	.55	.59	.43	.60	.55
2 lb. Poncale mix	1.07	1.39	1.39	1.89	out	out	1.40
Gerber's Baby Food							
mixed vegetable	.22	.20	.29	.39	.30	out	.33
Evaporated Milk							
13 oz. can	.41	.35	.65	.59	.43	.55	.45
Campbell's Soup							
chicken noodle	.34	.31	.45	.49	.50	.45	.60
Canned Corn							
1 lb. 1 oz. can	.47	.49	.75	.79	.70	out	.67
Twinkies	.43	.35	.49	.65	1.97	out	.50
Coffee 1 lb. (cheapest)	1.97	1.79	1.99	2.29	1.52	1.95	2.33
Pilot Bread							
Sailor Boy 2 lb.	1.90	1.63	2.35	2.39	out	2.30	1.50
Eggs 1 dz. cheapest	.90	.87	1.39	1.49	1.53	out	1.40
Bread 1 loaf (cheapest)	.90	.83	1.30	1.65	1.26	out	1.20
Pampers (cheapest)	1.54	1.54	2.29	1.98	2.20	2.95	2.06
Kleenex 200-2 ply	.85	.79	.86	.69	1.15	out	out
Spam 1 lb.	1.45	1.09	1.69	1.89	out	out	1.60
Grocery Basket							
Total	13.04	12.13	16.44	17.77	incom- plete	incom- plete	incom- plete