

Budgeting for Food 2014

Eating a nutritious diet is important to help ensure optimal growth and development and to help prevent some chronic diseases. The Health Unit conducts a food cost survey every year in local grocery stores to calculate the cost of eating well in the District of Thunder Bay. These costs are based on a healthy diet including a variety of foods from Canada's Food Guide. Often the money available for food is used to pay for other household expenses. So, you need to make sure to budget money just for food.

How can this information be used?

- To estimate what it might cost to feed individuals, a family or a group of people (like in group homes, shelters, students sharing a house).
- To make up case studies for discussion in budgeting or education programs.
- To discuss the difficulty those with a limited income may have with being able to afford

Age		Cost (\$)
Child	Boy	
	2-3 years	26.11
	4-8 years	33.77
	Girl	
	2-3 years	25.56
	4-8 years	32.66
Females	9-13 years	38.52
	14-18 years	46.23
	19-30 years	48.44
	31-50 years	47.83
	51-70 years	41.96
	Over 70 years	41.27
Males	9-13 years	45.02
	14-18 years	64.63
	19-30 years	62.71
	31-50 years	56.64
	51-70 years	54.60
	Over 70 years	54.06

Age		Cost (\$)
Pregnant	18 or younger	51.86
	19-30 years	52.53
	31-50 years	51.30
Breastfeeding	18 or younger	53.81
	19-30 years	55.97
	31-50 years	54.74

*Based on average prices from 6 stores during May, 2014.

Estimate your food costs

Sample Household Food Cost Sheet

Person	Age	Cost (\$)
Man	41	56.64
Woman	39	47.83
Boy	14	64.63
Subtotal = \$169.10		
<u>\$169.10</u> x <u>1.05</u> = \$177.56		
Subtotal x adjustment = cost per week		
<u>\$177.56</u> x <u>4.33</u> = \$768.81		
cost per week x 4.33 = cost per month		

Sample Household Food Cost Sheet

Person	Age	Cost (\$)
Subtotal =		
_____ x _____ = _____		
Subtotal x adjustment = cost per week		
_____ x _____ = _____		
cost per week x 4.33 = cost per month		

1. Write down the sex and age for each person in your household.
2. Write down the weekly food cost for each person according to the tables on the other page.
3. Add up the food costs for your household to get a subtotal.
4. Since it costs more per person to feed a small group than to feed a larger group of people, you should adjust the subtotal according to the adjustment factor in the box to the right. Multiply the subtotal by the adjustment factor that is right for your household.
5. The weekly cost can be changed to a

Household Size – Adjustment Factors

If you are feeding:

- 1 person** – multiply by 1.20
- 2 people** – multiply by 1.10
- 3 people** – multiply by 1.05
- 4 people** – make no change
- 5-6 people** – multiply by 0.95
- 7 or more people** – multiply by 0.90

Caution!

- These calculations are a *guideline* for what you could be spending on food in order to stay healthy. It does not guarantee that you will be healthy by spending this amount. Eating a balanced diet based on Canada's Food Guide is the key to good nutrition.
- The food budget estimate does not include money for convenience foods, snack foods, eating out or for paper, personal hygiene and cleaning products. You need to budget extra money for these items.