Be a smart consumer

Living with inflation is more and more of a challenge these days. It takes shopping know-how to make one's money meet household and personal needs.

The following charts are price comparisons of clothing, large appliances, stereo equipment, and television sets at frequently shopped stores in Central Oregon and Portland. The charts are meant to help you, the consumer, make wise purchases, considering also your time, travel cost, personal preferences, and quality and selection of goods.

Compiled by the Extension Service, these consumer's price charts will appear periodically in the Spilyay, covering a variety of goods and services. The Extension Service would appreciate your responses. Are the charts helpful, mildly interesting, or not useful to you? What other cost comparisons would you like to see done?

For comments or questions, contact Sue Gangler and Clint Jacks, Extension Agents. The Extension Office can be reached at 553-1161 ext. 46.

CLOTHING

Clothing varies between stores in price, quality, and selection. In this chart similar but not identical articles of clothing were compared between stores. Moreover, the chart's prices are moderately low averages of the range of prices on garments. For instance, boys' cotton T-shirts may cost $3-$7 in Store X, but they are listed as $4 on the chart.

Acceptable quality is a personal decision that each consumer must deal with. However, do consider the construction, fabric, and care requirements versus the cost of a garment. A slightly higher priced and better quality garment may have a longer life than a less expensive and inferior one, a savings in the long run.

In this chart, prices have been rounded to the nearest ten cents.

	MADRAS AREA				GRESHAM AREA			BEND	DALLES	ALL	CATALOG
ITEM:	Hatfields	Fair Store	We's	Mode O'Day	Fred Meyer	K-Mart	Payless	Payless	Value Giant	Penny's stores	Wards
MEN:											
Polyester Longsleeved dress shirt	17.00	12.00	17.00	-	10.00	7.50	7.00	9.00	10.00	14.00	11.00
Polyester double knit dress pants	15.00	14.00	16.00	-	14.00	11.00	13.00	13.00	16.00	16.00	9.00
Flannel shirt	7.00	9.00	8.00	-	5.50	7.00	6.00	7.50	6.00	5.00	8.00
Sweatshirt with hood	8.00	6.50	7.00	-	7.00	6.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	10.00	8.00
Blue jeans	14.50	13.25	10.50	-	10.00	8.60	10.00	13.00	15.00	10.00	12.00
Undershirts (3)	3.70	3.70	3.80	-	4.00	3.50	3.70	3.70	3.70	4.00	3.00
Tube sox	1.50	.70	1.50	-	1.30	.90	1.20	.90	1.20	1.30	1.20
Cowboy boots	30.00	34.00	30.00	-	37.00	-	24.00	26.00	-	26.00	-
Casual shoes	25.00	20.00	26.00	-	17.00	-	13.00	5.50	-	18.00	20.00
WOMEN:											
Polyester pants & jacket outfit	49.00	54.00	-	22.00	22.00	20.00	18.00	-	23.00	24.00	26.00
Nylon longsleeved blouse	17.00	16.00	-	14.00	12.00	9.00	6.00	4.00	13.00	13.00	14.00
Cotton short-sleeved shirt	14.00	10.00	-	5.00	8.00	3.00	7.00	4.00	8.00	6.00	8.00
Polyester dressy pants	16.00	22.00	-	11.00	12.00	8.00	14.00	14.00	10.00	14.00	15.00
Styled jeans	20.00	25.00	-	14.00	22.00	13.00	19.00	16.00	17.00	15.00	16.00
Panties	1.25	1.25	-	1.50	1.30	1.40	1.30	1.30	.80	.70	1.20
Short winter coat	70.00	55.00	-	30.00	35.00	35.00	40.00	37.00	48.00	38.00	45.00
Nylon winter jacket	36.00	45.00	-	18.00	22.00	22.00	24.00	23.00	-	-	34.00
Dress sandals	19.00	25.00	-	-	10.00	7.00	12.00	-	-	7.00	16.00
Casual shoes	22.00	18.00	-	-	13.00	14.00	9.00	14.00	-	15.00	17.00
GIRLS (Grade School Age):											
Longsleeved blouse	8.00	10.00	-	-	5.50	4.60	5.00	-	6.00	5.00	7.00
Shortsleeved shirts	6.00	5.00	-	-	4.50	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	5.00	-
Colored, styled jeans	5.50	12.00	-	-	9.00	6.00	9.00	9.00	13.00	8.00	9.00
Panties	.90	1.20	-	-	.60	.50	.90	.90	.60	.90	.80
Nylon winter jacket (long length)	24.00	24.00	-	-	19.00	18.00	13.00	15.00	16.00	14.00	15.00
Casual shoes	15.00	14.00	-	-	7.00	6.00	7.00	9.00	-	12.00	7.00
BOYS (Grade School Age):											
Printed, shortsleeved t-shirts	3.00	5.00	-	-	4.00	2.70	3.50	4.00	3.00	2.00	-
Sweatshirt with hood	8.00	8.00	-	-	6.00	5.00	7.00	6.00	6.50	5.00	6.00
Blue jeans	7.00	7.00	-	-	7.00	6.70	8.00	9.00	8.00	5.00	10.00
Nylon winter jacket	17.00	24.00	-	-	17.00	18.00	13.00	15.00	13.00	15.00	17.00
Cowboy boots	14.75	16.00	-	-	12.00	11.00	8.00	-	-	11.00	-
Tennis (track) shoes	14.00	18.00	-	-	14.00	9.00	13.00	13.00	-	12.00	11.00
BABIES (12-18 Mos.):											
Cotton t-shirts	4.25	4.00	-	-	2.50	2.30	1.80	2.00	3.00	3.00	-
Girl's dresses	13.50	5.00	-	-	4.50	5.70	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	-
Pants	4.75	-	-	-	2.80	1.50	2.50	3.00	5.00	2.60	-
Overalls	7.00	4.00	-	-	4.50	4.00	-	-	6.50	5.50	-