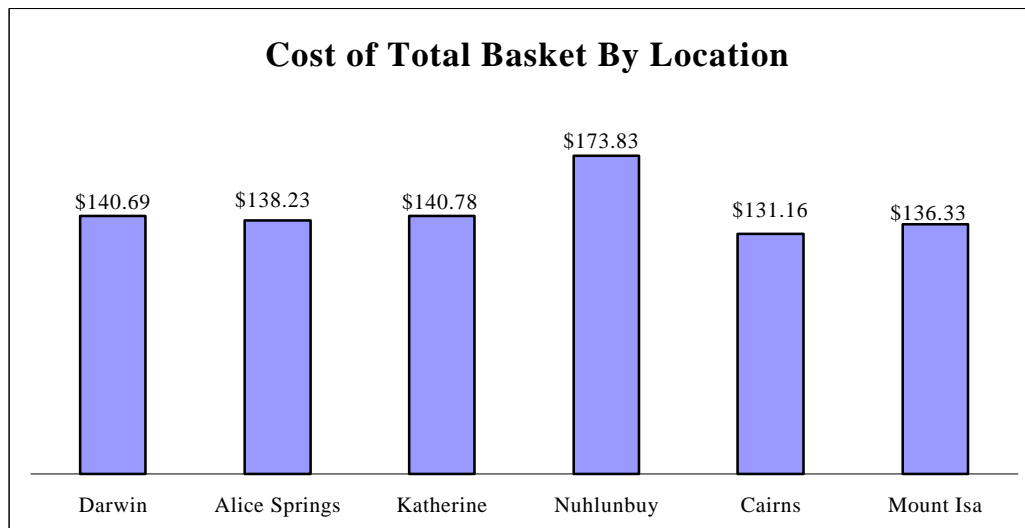


# Grocery Price Survey

## March Quarter 2000

The Grocery Price Survey measures the expenditure required to purchase an average basket of goods at each major supermarket in the Northern Territory and selected supermarkets in Cairns and Mount Isa. The basket comprises 130 food (except take-away), household supplies and personal care products.



### *Darwin*

- Darwin prices were on average 7.3% higher than in Cairns in the March quarter. The average cost of the total basket in Darwin was \$140.69 compared to \$131.16 in Cairns. In Darwin, the lowest cost recorded for the basket of goods was \$138.16 at Woolworths, Nightcliff, while the most expensive at \$143.10 was recorded at Woolworths, Casuarina - this represents a relatively small range of \$4.94.

### *Alice Springs*

- Alice Springs prices were on average 1.7% lower than the equivalent items in Darwin. The average cost for the total basket of goods in Alice Springs was \$138.23 compared to Darwin of \$140.69.

### *Katherine*

- Katherine prices were almost identical to those in Darwin. The average cost of the total basket in Katherine was \$140.78 compared to \$140.69 for Darwin. This result represents a significant improvement in prices since the food inquiry and is thought to reflect public and Government concern regarding high prices at Woolworths in Katherine.

### *Nhulunbuy*

- Nhulunbuy prices were on average 23.6% higher than the equivalent items in Darwin. The average cost of the total basket in Nhulunbuy was \$173.83 compared to \$140.69 in Darwin. Generally, Nhulunbuy prices were considerably higher than Darwin prices in all groups surveyed reflecting both additional freight costs and a lack of economies of scale or competition in Nhulunbuy.

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### *Cairns*

- Cairns prices were on average 6.8% lower than Darwin. The average cost of the total basket in Cairns was \$131.16 compared to \$140.69 in Darwin. The Franklins outlet recorded the lowest cost for the basket of goods at \$128.09; with the most expensive of \$133.81 recorded at the Coles, Central outlet.

### *Mount Isa*

- Mount Isa prices were on average 1.4% lower than Alice Springs. The average cost of the total basket in Mount Isa was \$136.33 compared to \$138.23 in Alice Springs.

### *Individual Outlets*

- Supermarkets in Cairns were found to be the least expensive of the 21 outlets surveyed, with Franklins, Stockland the cheapest outlet with a average total basket cost of \$128.09.
- The cheapest Territory outlet was Woolworths in Alice Springs ranked 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The cheapest Darwin outlet was Woolworths at Nightcliff ranked 9<sup>th</sup>.
- The most expensive Darwin outlet was Woolworths at Casuarina ranked 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Cost of Total Basket by Outlet**

<b>Outlet - Name</b>			<b>(\$)</b>	<b>March Qtr Rank</b>
Cairns	Franklins	Stocklands	128.09	1
Cairns	Bi-Lo	Central	129.43	2
Cairns	Woolworths	Stocklands	133.31	3
Cairns	Coles	Central	133.81	4
Mount Isa	Coles		136.13	5
Mount Isa	Woolworths		136.54	6
Alice Springs	Woolworths		136.58	7
Alice Springs	Bi-Lo		137.25	8
Darwin	Woolworths	Nightcliff	138.16	9
Darwin	Woolworths	Hibiscus	138.86	10
Darwin	Bi-Lo	Northlakes	139.96	11
Darwin	Bi-Lo	Casuarina	140.23	12
Darwin	Woolworths	City	140.46	13
Katherine	Woolworths		140.78	14
Darwin	Coles	Palmerston	140.83	15
Alice Springs	Coles		140.88	16
Darwin	Woolworths	Palmerston	140.94	17
Darwin	Coles	Casuarina	141.45	18
Darwin	Coles	Karama	142.93	19
Darwin	Woolworths	Casuarina	143.10	20
Nhulunbuy	Woolworths		173.83	21

Source: NT Treasury

**Methodology:** The Grocery Price Survey was carried out in the same week at all major supermarkets in the Territory and selected major supermarkets in Cairns and Mount Isa. A separate technical paper is available on request.

The Grocery Price Survey is conducted by the Economic Analysis program of Northern Territory Treasury. Further details are available from [www.nt.gov.au/ntt](http://www.nt.gov.au/ntt) or phone: 8999 6255.