



Cost of Living in Australia

Cost of living

This is a rough guide for monthly expenditure based on a family of 4 living in Australia. Please remember there will be variation depending on the area you live in, your own personal circumstances and the size of your house/car.

Rent

AU\$1000 - \$1,800 per month for a 3 -4 bedroom house.

Council Tax

\$100 per month - this usually includes water. If you are renting you might find that you don't need to pay council tax.

Electricity

Don't forget that whilst you might not be paying as much for heating your property you might be paying to cool it down!

Electricity prices vary considerably from state to state. You should look at budgeting between \$50 - \$110 per month.



Home and contents Insurance

From around \$80 per month.

Medical Insurance

Private medical cover is optional however the majority of Australian's have some level of Private medical insurance.

For a family of 4 you would be looking at paying around AU\$220 per month. This would include the services of the doctors, dentist, and optician as well as any physiotherapy required.

Car Tax

Around AU\$150 - AU\$200 a year depending on car size and the state or Territory you live in.

Car insurance

For an average size, average age car you will look at paying around AU\$300 a year.

Telephone and Broadband

Budget between \$90 and \$140 depending on the package you take and how homesick you are!

TV

Satellite TV will cost you around \$90 per month.

Mobile phones

Will vary depending on whether you take a contract or pay as you go. However you will be looking at between AU\$30 and AU\$60 a month depending on your volume of calls.

Schooling



State Schools

Most state schools don't have any official fees, however you may be asked for a voluntary contribution of around AU\$200 per year + a fee for stationery of around AU\$50 per academic year.

Private Schools

Private school fees vary from religious schools starting at between AU\$3,000 and AU\$6,000 per annum compared to the leading private schools which charge fees of up to AU\$20,000 per annum.

Food and Drink

Groceries

Most Australians will do a weekly shop at a supermarket. Woolworths and Coles are two of the largest supermarket chains in Australia and stock a good range of fresh meat, fruit and vegetables as well as packaged goods. Most supermarkets have regular monthly or weekly discounts to save you money on selected items.

Low cost German supermarket Aldi also has 200 stores across Australia.

A family of 4 can look to spend around AU\$220 on an average supermarket shop.

Meat and fruit and vegetables are generally grown locally within Australia. However price can fluctuate greatly depending upon supply.

Alcohol

Alcoholic drinks are generally not sold in supermarkets. Instead they can be purchased from 'bottle shops' which are usually attached to a pub or hotel. Again you will find offers from time to time especially on bulk purchases.

Beer will cost you around AU\$2 - AU\$3 per litre depending on the strength. Imported beers will cost around 30-40% more

The price of wine will vary considerably from AU\$2.50 - AU\$12 a litre. As in most countries there is a huge variety of wines available from cheap locally produced wine sold in casks to higher quality wines from Australia and around the world.

Eating / Drinking Out

These are average prices based on eating out in the metropolitan district of Sydney.

Coffee	AU\$3 - AU\$4.50
Tea	AU\$2.50 - AU\$3.50
Large glass of wine	AU\$7-9
Glass of beer	AU\$5-7
<small>(a 'schooner' is the most popular size and holds 425ml)</small>	
Large Takeaway Pizza (Domino's)	AU\$6.95
McDonalds Meal with Burger/Fries & Drink	AU\$6.95

Sport and Recreation

Sport

Sport is very popular and is central to the social life of many Australians. Children are encouraged from a young age to play at least one sport and many young working Australians will be a member of a sports team.



Kids membership to a team or club such as Soccer/netball or surf club will cost around AU\$200 a year and Cub Scouts will cost around AU\$250 a year.

Sessions at the gym or swimming pool are chargeable at around AU\$10 a session.

Cinema

A full price Adult Cinema Ticket will cost you around AU\$13 - AU\$15 with a child's ticket costing around AU\$8-AU\$10.

Many cinemas run promotion days each week where tickets will be around 30% cheaper.

Public Transport

A local journey within a metropolitan area such as Sydney will cost you around AU\$3- AU\$3.50 a journey.

Resources

Medical insurance companies

Medibank

Australia's Favourite Private health insurance fund

Website: www.medibank.com.au/

HBA

Get Private Health Insurance Cover with a leading Australian Health Insurance Fund - HBA Health Insurance.

Website: www.hba.com.au

HBF

The leading provider of health insurance in Western Australia and a significant general insurance provider in Australia.

Website: www.hbf.com.au

Supermarkets

Coles - Website: www.coles.com.au

Woolworths - website: www.woolworths.com.au

Electrical retailers

Dick Smith Electronics - website: www.dse.com.au

Harvey Norman - Website: www.harveynorman.com.au

Real Estate

Domain

Domain lists both property for sale and rental across Australia.

Website: www.domain.com.au

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Domain lists both property for sale and rental across Australia.

Website: www.realestate.com.au

Further cost of living information

Go Matilda

The website Go Matilda have a very useful cost of living calculator which allows you to compare the cost of living in different areas of Australia.

Website: www.gomatilda.com/calculator/index.cfm