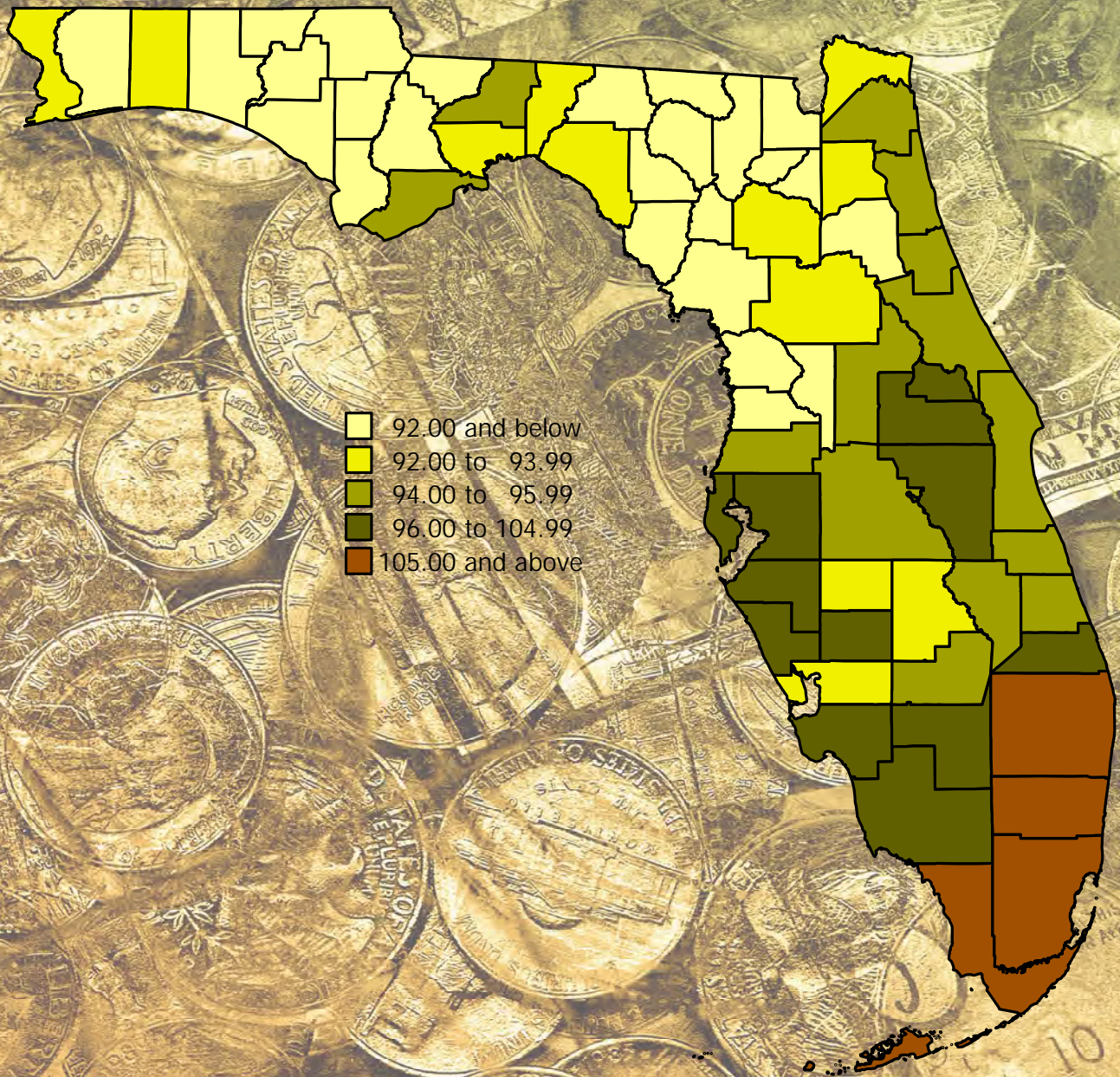
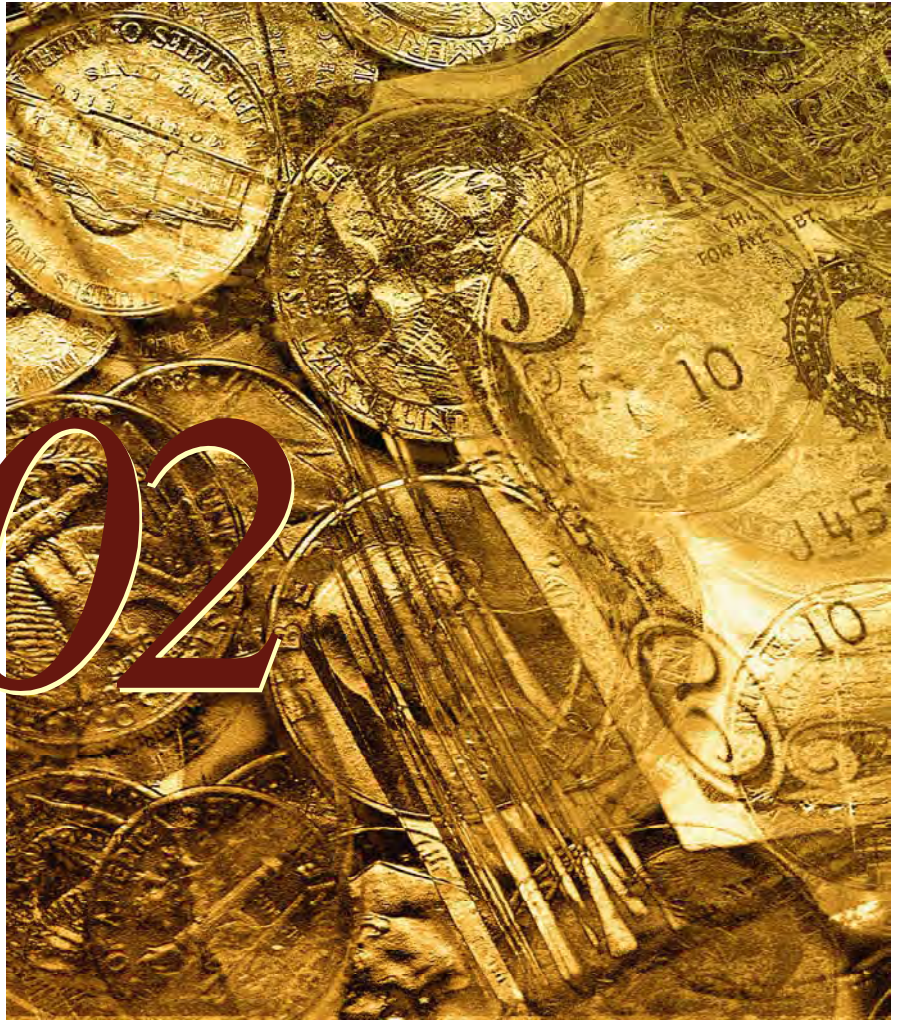


2002 Florida Price Level Index



2002



The Florida Price Level Index (FPLI) was established by the Legislature as the basis for the District Cost Differential in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) formula for distribution of funds to local school districts. The purpose of the FPLI is to measure the differences from county to county in the cost of purchasing a specific market basket of goods and services at a particular point in time (August 2002).

Price level indices generally measure price levels. The FPLI measures relative price levels across counties at a particular point in time; it is a cross-sectional index. Unlike the Consumer Price Index, it does not measure inflation from year to year.

The 2002 Results

The map on the cover gives a visual representation of the county index shown in Table I (page 3). The index is constructed so that the population-weighted average is 100. Hillsborough, which closely matches the state average in most demographic characteristics, is right at the state average price level as well, with an index value of 99.53. The highest index values are in the southern, more

populous part of the state. This is to be expected, since land within easy reach of employment and shopping centers becomes very scarce, and thus very expensive, when population pressures reach such high levels. While the on-going housing market boom has put upward pressure on housing prices throughout the state, undeveloped accessible land provides relief from this pressure in most counties. Areas where this relief valve is blocked, by high population or more direct restrictions on developable land, have experienced faster increases in the cost of living than the rest of the state.

This may be seen in the four counties that have an index above 105.00. They are Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach. These four counties represent 31.5 percent of the state population but only 11.4 percent

of the total land mass. Further, over 2.4 million acres of the land in these counties are National Park land, and therefore not available for development. Compare this to the northern portion of the state that had the lowest index values. All 25 counties with index values below 92.00, together comprising only 7 percent of the total state population but 30 percent of the total state landmass, are north of Tampa. This trend has caused the distribution of the index to become slightly asymmetric. While the "average" Floridian experiences a cost of living of 100, the cost of living experienced by the "median" Floridian is 97.38. In Florida, 38.7 percent of the population resides in counties in which the FPLI is above 100, 40.6 percent of the population resides in counties in which the FPLI is between 95 and 100, and 20.7 percent

TABLE I
2002 FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX

COUNTY	INDEX	RANK	COUNTY	INDEX	RANK
Alachua	93.61	33	Lake	94.64	29
Baker	91.79	45	Lee	97.38	10
Bay	91.83	44	Leon	95.56	21
Bradford	91.63	49	Levy	91.69	48
Brevard	95.39	24	Liberty	91.60	51
Broward	107.96	3	Madison	91.51	52
Calhoun	88.34	66	Manatee	97.31	11
Charlotte	93.50	34	Marion	93.14	36
Citrus	90.90	56	Martin	98.60	9
Clay	92.86	37	Monroe	113.56	1
Collier	103.10	5	Nassau	93.30	35
Columbia	89.38	62	Okaloosa	92.64	40
Miami-Dade	109.24	2	Okeechobee	95.53	22
DeSoto	96.03	16	Orange	96.71	13
Dixie	91.44	53	Osceola	96.09	15
Duval	95.29	25	Palm Beach	106.95	4
Escambia	92.24	42	Pasco	95.51	23
Flagler	94.50	30	Pinellas	101.95	6
Franklin	95.01	27	Polk	94.85	28
Gadsden	91.97	43	Putnam	90.67	57
Gilchrist	90.26	61	St. Johns	95.76	18
Glades	95.83	17	St. Lucie	95.72	19
Gulf	91.61	50	Santa Rosa	91.21	55
Hamilton	88.32	67	Sarasota	99.60	7
Hardee	92.41	41	Seminole	96.52	14
Hendry	97.16	12	Sumter	91.72	47
Hernando	91.74	46	Suwannee	91.23	54
Highlands	92.84	38	Taylor	92.75	39
Hillsborough	99.53	8	Union	90.55	58
Holmes	89.10	65	Volusia	95.06	26
Indian River	95.61	20	Wakulla	93.85	31
Jackson	89.30	63	Walton	90.49	60
Jefferson	93.71	32	Washington	89.19	64
Lafayette	90.53	59			

of the population resides in counties in which the FPLI is below 95.

Table II (page 6) lists the index value for each county by year from 1997 to the current 2002 value. Relative rankings are given in parentheses next to the index number for each year. The rankings can be somewhat misleading, at least for the counties grouped near the middle or lower

range. There, modest changes in the index value from year to year can produce large changes in a county's relative ranking. This year Monroe County has the highest rank, with an index of 113.56, meaning that the cost of living in Monroe County is 13.56 percent above the state average. Hamilton County had the lowest index value of 88.32, indicating that its

cost of living was 11.68 percent below the statewide average of 100.00.

Each item priced for the FPLI is placed in one of five major categories: food, health care, housing, other goods and services, and transportation. The pie chart on page 4 shows that approximately 18 cents of the typical consumer dollar was spent on food, 38 cents on housing and related items, 20 cents on transportation, 7 cents on health care, and 18 cents on other goods and services. Item weights are provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, DC. The category indices for the five-item groupings presented in Table III (page 8) are relative to a population-weighted state average of 100.00, and illustrate which categories of prices in a county are above or below the state average. For example, the cost of food in Alachua County is estimated to be 1.11 percent higher than the statewide average, but housing is estimated to cost 12.86 percent less. Comparisons across counties are also possible within each category. For example, Alachua's health care index is 86.90, while Broward's is 109.44, which means that items in the health care category tend to be more expensive in Broward County than in Alachua County.

Cost of Living Survey Description

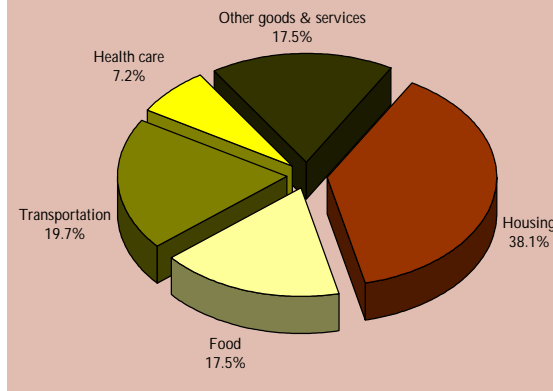
The items in the market basket of goods are chosen to represent the expenditure categories used by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (US BLS) to weight an item's relative importance in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The items selected are used by most households, widely available for purchase, and vary little in quality from county to county. To increase the accuracy of the index, items are more likely to be selected if their prices vary strongly from county to county, but that does not imply that such items are weighted more heavily.

Some of the prices in the five major FPLI categories are obtained through data available from state agencies. Other prices are gathered from a telephone survey of retail outlets and service providers covering all 67 counties. The survey requires the cooperation of the merchants, who are told the purpose of the call. A very high proportion of the merchants were gracious enough to participate. The information collected is held in strict confidence.

The retail outlets included in the phone survey are chosen using a random selection technique that selects stores offering similar ambience and shopping convenience across counties. The goal is to assure that items are similar and that types of stores are similar. This is accomplished partly by selecting stores and providers belonging to chains that maintain similar qualities of service and shopping experiences in all their outlets. The survey avoids, for example, comparing the cost of lunch at a fancy restaurant in one county to the cost at a fast-food provider in another. Consistency across counties is the guiding principle.

Housing prices for each county are computed with the help of the Department of Revenue's Ad Valorem Tax Division. Since 1997 economists at the University of Florida have used Department of Revenue Ad Valorem tax data to produce relative county residential land prices. Data on construction wages from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security, together with a construction materials cost index available for Florida's 20 Metropolitan Statistical Areas from R. S. Means Company, Inc., are used to create an index of the cost of building a specified standard house. This is combined with the residential land price information to obtain the combined price of land and

FIGURE 1: COMPOSITION OF CONSUMER EXPENDITURES



structure. This is then combined with data on insurance rates, property taxes, interest rates, and house price appreciation to construct an index of homeownership costs.

Apartment rent prices are estimated using a sample of 2002 apartment complexes gathered from the Internet and providing information about several thousand types of units. The information is analyzed using methods similar to those employed by the U.S. Bureau of the Census to estimate standardized prices for goods with varying features. The method adjusts prices across counties for the sizes and amenities of apartment units and for such apartment complex features as fitness centers, swimming pools, and covered parking.

Health professional costs for dentists and optometrists are surveyed by phone to obtain charges for specific services they perform. County-level information on other health-related costs is obtained from the U.S. Health Care Financing Administration. In addition to health insurance data gathered from the web, health and automobile insurance costs are obtained from the Florida Insurance Commissioner's Office. Again, all information is held in strict confidence.

Computation of Index Value

For most items priced in retail outlets, prices are obtained at a minimum

of three outlets per county. If no price can be obtained in a county, the average price of the item in contiguous counties, weighted by population, is used instead. A telephone survey of households designed to estimate inter-county buying patterns confirmed the accuracy of this method. The usual pattern is that outlying rural counties are assigned item prices from larger adjoining counties.

For many items in the index, no prices are gathered. Postage rates, for example, do not vary from county to county, but postage accounts for a certain percentage of consumer spending and is assigned a weight by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the index, this is treated as a dummy item, and the price is constant from county to county. Other items treated as constants throughout the state are hotel-motel rates, auto registration fees, operators' permits, long-distance phone service, and intercity travel cost.

For many other items, prices may actually vary slightly from county to county, but statistical analysis has determined the "true" variation, the variation that we would measure if a price were available for every transaction at every outlet over the course of a year, is substantially less than the measured variation found by sampling. For such items, survey sampling does more to introduce measurement noise across counties than to reveal genuine differences in the overall price level. Such items are treated as constants throughout the state, which reduces the cost of calculating the index while improving its accuracy.

Once average prices have been computed for each item in each county, state average prices for each item are calculated by weighting each county's average prices by its population and summing across all counties. This population-weighted state average represents the price the "typi-

cal" resident of the state would expect to pay. To produce each county's index, the county average prices are divided by the population-weighted state average prices to produce relative prices. For example, the statewide average price of a man's haircut was \$12.70, while the average price in Monroe County was \$19. Thus, the relative price of a man's haircut in Monroe is 1.4963.

Each relative price is then weighted by the appropriate item weight, listed in Table IV (page 10). The weighted relative prices are added together for each county and the resulting totals are then multiplied by 100. This produces an index value for each county such that the population-weighted statewide average of the county indexes is 100.00. The weights represent the fraction of the "typical" consumer's budget spent on the item. The weights are created by beginning with the CPI weights for Tampa, provided by the US BLS, and modifying them slightly to account for the fact that we are measuring variation across counties in a given year, rather than variation across years within a given county. As an example, the weight for apartment rent is 7.22 percent, thus 7.22 percent of the index is determined by the rent price collected. The item weights for the 27 prices measured sum to 58.2 percent. The remaining 41.8 percent represents items whose prices do not exhibit significant systematic variation across counties and whose relative prices are therefore set equal to 1.00.

The index value for any one county can vary from year to year for several reasons. Changes in prices in that county are one reason. Of equal or more importance are changes in prices throughout the state, against which that county is compared. Most prices in a county may increase from one year to the next, but if on average the increases are less than statewide price increases, the county's relative index will fall from the previous year.

Changes in a county's index can also occur due to minor statistical fluctuations in sampled prices over time. The cost of sampling prices of all items in all outlets over the entire year would be prohibitive, and any method of random sampling results in irreducible statistical noise. Though methodological improvements have been introduced to reduce both the cost and the noise, a small amount of purely statistical variation is unavoidable.

Since 1995 the Florida Legislature has annually earmarked funds for studying the Florida Price Level Index methodology. Dr. David Denslow and Dr. Jim Dewey, University of Florida, coordinate the study of the economic assumptions and procedures used to create the FPLI. Recommended methodological changes have been incorporated where appropriate.

The initial substantial modification to the index's methodology occurred in 1996. Chain stores, such as Wal-Mart and Sears, were more heavily sampled for the first time. Associated with this improvement was increased item specification detail. These changes to the sampling methodology were incorporated to decrease the potential variance in item attributes. Other methodological improvements were made to the land value calculation (1997), the apartment rent item (1998), the reduction of sampling noise and survey costs (2000), the accuracy and appropriateness of item weights (2000 and 2001), and the homeownership cost calculation (2001).

Summary

The results of the 2002 Florida Cost of Living Study have been presented, along with an explanation of the methodology used to compute the Florida Price Level Index. Note that this is a cross-sectional study that compares the price levels among Florida's 67 counties. It is not de-

signed to measure price inflation from one year to the next.

This report can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.firn.edu/doe/bin00047>.



TABLE II
FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX: 1997 TO 2002
(POPULATION-WEIGHTED STATE AVERAGE = 100.00)

COUNTY	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Alachua	93.61 (33)	95.29 (32)	94.04 (36)	94.24 (30)	95.19 (27)	95.72 (26)
Baker	91.79 (45)	93.05 (52)	92.54 (55)	90.78 (55)	92.17 (51)	92.06 (59)
Bay	91.83 (44)	93.85 (40)	93.52 (41)	95.03 (23)	94.29 (37)	95.39 (30)
Bradford	91.63 (49)	93.54 (49)	93.70 (39)	90.45 (58)	91.80 (57)	91.33 (65)
Brevard	95.39 (24)	96.41 (19)	96.92 (17)	97.60 (13)	97.92 (14)	97.65 (16)
Broward	107.96 (3)	105.75 (4)	106.45 (3)	106.91 (2)	105.80 (3)	103.42 (4)
Calhoun	88.34 (66)	92.24 (60)	91.52 (60)	87.81 (66)	89.90 (65)	89.71 (66)
Charlotte	93.50 (34)	95.37 (30)	95.94 (24)	94.31 (29)	96.52 (20)	97.74 (15)
Citrus	90.90 (56)	92.15 (61)	92.75 (52)	90.59 (57)	92.19 (49)	92.66 (52)
Clay	92.86 (37)	95.26 (33)	94.61 (30)	95.01 (24)	96.01 (22)	96.82 (20)
Collier	103.10 (5)	101.43 (6)	101.77 (5)	100.09 (8)	100.99 (7)	102.25 (5)
Columbia	89.38 (62)	92.29 (59)	91.58 (59)	91.21 (51)	91.63 (59)	92.26 (58)
Miami-Dade	109.24 (2)	107.10 (2)	106.42 (4)	106.84 (3)	106.28 (2)	107.23 (2)
DeSoto	96.03 (16)	94.84 (36)	94.04 (36)	91.53 (49)	93.16 (41)	91.65 (64)
Dixie	91.44 (53)	92.68 (54)	92.71 (53)	91.26 (50)	92.18 (50)	92.37 (57)
Duval	95.29 (25)	96.88 (16)	97.04 (15)	97.01 (14)	97.28 (18)	97.98 (14)
Escambia	92.24 (42)	93.57 (48)	93.22 (45)	93.84 (36)	93.16 (41)	94.86 (34)
Flagler	94.50 (30)	96.65 (18)	96.38 (20)	94.17 (32)	94.85 (31)	96.25 (23)
Franklin	95.01 (27)	96.10 (21)	95.02 (29)	95.57 (21)	94.31 (36)	95.52 (29)
Gadsden	91.97 (43)	94.40 (38)	93.54 (40)	91.73 (46)	93.07 (44)	92.72 (49)
Gilchrist	90.26 (61)	92.48 (56)	91.22 (63)	90.88 (54)	92.02 (52)	93.23 (43)
Glades	95.83 (17)	96.73 (17)	96.03 (23)	94.11 (33)	95.66 (23)	95.63 (28)
Gulf	91.61 (50)	93.73 (43)	92.15 (57)	91.70 (48)	91.98 (55)	93.21 (45)
Hamilton	88.32 (67)	90.83 (66)	91.50 (61)	89.59 (62)	91.96 (56)	93.55 (40)
Hardee	92.41 (41)	93.83 (41)	93.78 (38)	90.62 (56)	92.01 (53)	91.93 (60)
Hendry	97.16 (12)	97.44 (12)	96.79 (18)	94.22 (31)	94.46 (35)	93.92 (36)
Hernando	91.74 (46)	92.53 (55)	92.93 (49)	91.71 (47)	93.26 (40)	95.04 (32)
Highlands	92.84 (38)	93.69 (45)	94.08 (35)	93.22 (38)	94.51 (33)	93.67 (38)
Hillsborough	99.53 (8)	99.86 (8)	100.32 (7)	100.48 (7)	100.86 (8)	99.21 (12)
Holmes	89.10 (65)	92.36 (58)	93.23 (44)	90.17 (60)	92.72 (45)	91.86 (61)
Indian River	95.61 (20)	96.09 (22)	97.18 (13)	96.64 (15)	97.64 (16)	100.05 (11)
Jackson	89.30 (63)	90.23 (67)	90.95 (65)	87.80 (67)	90.55 (63)	91.76 (62)
Jefferson	93.71 (32)	95.30 (31)	95.19 (27)	93.85 (35)	94.26 (38)	94.99 (33)
Lafayette	90.53 (59)	91.15 (65)	91.22 (63)	90.99 (53)	93.12 (43)	92.71 (51)

NOTE: NUMBER IN PARENTHESES IS RANK FOR THE APPROPRIATE YEAR

TABLE II
FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX: 1997 TO 2002
(POPULATION-WEIGHTED STATE AVERAGE = 100.00)

COUNTY	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Lake	94.64 (29)	95.57 (27)	95.13 (28)	94.48 (28)	96.14 (21)	94.21 (35)
Lee	97.38 (10)	97.97 (10)	98.34 (10)	96.59 (16)	97.80 (15)	97.15 (18)
Leon	95.56 (21)	97.00 (15)	96.49 (19)	95.74 (20)	97.50 (17)	96.18 (24)
Levy	91.69 (48)	92.77 (53)	92.03 (58)	91.93 (44)	90.83 (62)	91.71 (63)
Liberty	91.60 (51)	93.45 (50)	93.20 (46)	89.65 (61)	90.35 (64)	93.16 (46)
Madison	91.51 (52)	94.50 (37)	92.25 (56)	91.15 (52)	92.63 (46)	92.38 (56)
Manatee	97.31 (11)	98.49 (9)	96.93 (16)	99.27 (10)	99.22 (10)	100.29 (10)
Marion	93.14 (36)	93.75 (42)	93.25 (43)	93.30 (37)	94.16 (39)	93.15 (47)
Martin	98.60 (9)	97.06 (14)	98.02 (11)	98.39 (12)	97.96 (13)	101.22 (9)
Monroe	113.56 (1)	110.51 (1)	107.60 (2)	107.78 (1)	112.43 (1)	110.47 (1)
Nassau	93.30 (35)	93.66 (47)	92.97 (48)	92.71 (39)	94.78 (32)	93.69 (37)
Okaloosa	92.64 (40)	93.73 (43)	94.21 (34)	94.49 (27)	95.14 (28)	96.38 (21)
Okeechobee	95.53 (22)	95.66 (25)	94.33 (33)	93.94 (34)	95.48 (25)	95.21 (31)
Orange	96.71 (13)	97.67 (11)	98.69 (9)	99.21 (11)	99.04 (12)	101.88 (7)
Osceola	96.09 (15)	96.36 (20)	95.81 (25)	95.52 (22)	96.56 (19)	95.77 (25)
Palm Beach	106.95 (4)	106.99 (3)	108.53 (1)	105.62 (4)	102.69 (6)	103.45 (3)
Pasco	95.51 (23)	95.06 (35)	96.38 (20)	96.36 (17)	95.44 (26)	93.13 (48)
Pinellas	101.95 (6)	101.94 (5)	101.41 (6)	103.34 (5)	103.74 (4)	101.91 (6)
Polk	94.85 (28)	95.44 (29)	95.24 (26)	95.93 (19)	94.98 (30)	95.64 (27)
Putnam	90.67 (57)	93.92 (39)	93.05 (47)	91.88 (45)	92.28 (48)	93.22 (44)
St. Johns	95.76 (18)	97.21 (13)	97.11 (14)	96.10 (18)	99.18 (11)	96.92 (19)
St. Lucie	95.72 (19)	96.06 (23)	96.30 (22)	94.58 (26)	94.47 (34)	97.36 (17)
Santa Rosa	91.21 (55)	93.08 (51)	92.79 (51)	91.99 (43)	91.55 (60)	93.28 (42)
Sarasota	99.60 (7)	100.10 (7)	100.20 (8)	100.57 (6)	102.90 (5)	101.26 (8)
Seminole	96.52 (14)	95.87 (24)	97.39 (12)	100.00 (9)	99.48 (9)	98.38 (13)
Sumter	91.72 (47)	92.42 (57)	92.58 (54)	88.57 (64)	89.66 (66)	92.49 (54)
Suwannee	91.23 (54)	91.74 (63)	90.68 (67)	89.10 (63)	91.76 (58)	92.64 (53)
Taylor	92.75 (39)	95.21 (34)	93.52 (41)	92.52 (41)	95.14 (28)	93.57 (39)
Union	90.55 (58)	91.36 (64)	90.78 (66)	90.24 (59)	91.30 (61)	92.72 (49)
Volusia	95.06 (26)	95.62 (26)	94.50 (32)	94.75 (25)	95.64 (24)	96.38 (21)
Wakulla	93.85 (31)	95.47 (28)	94.53 (31)	92.59 (40)	92.53 (47)	93.49 (41)
Walton	90.49 (60)	93.68 (46)	92.82 (50)	92.05 (42)	92.00 (54)	92.41 (55)
Washington	89.19 (64)	92.13 (62)	91.44 (62)	88.15 (65)	89.64 (67)	88.36 (67)

NOTE: NUMBER IN PARENTHESES IS RANK FOR THE APPROPRIATE YEAR

TABLE III
POPULATION-WEIGHTED CATEGORY INDICES

COUNTY	TOTAL	FOOD	HEALTH CARE	HOUSING	OTHER GOODS & SERVICES	TRANS- PORTA- TION
Alachua	93.61	101.11	86.90	87.14	97.53	98.44
Baker	91.79	100.63	87.86	84.60	94.10	97.24
Bay	91.83	101.28	87.55	83.28	95.51	98.29
Bradford	91.63	100.67	84.50	83.94	94.70	98.39
Brevard	95.39	101.27	96.22	90.99	97.66	96.35
Broward	107.96	99.48	109.44	116.88	102.26	102.73
Calhoun	88.34	98.55	83.76	77.63	93.70	96.93
Charlotte	93.50	96.08	96.36	88.80	96.68	96.43
Citrus	90.90	102.44	86.63	81.85	94.24	96.76
Clay	92.86	100.40	94.49	85.32	96.01	97.35
Collier	103.10	100.72	97.44	106.28	104.66	99.75
Columbia	89.38	99.71	86.05	80.08	92.54	96.60
Miami-Dade	109.24	97.97	122.86	117.68	99.65	106.41
DeSoto	96.03	102.10	91.86	91.27	98.23	99.41
Dixie	91.44	102.41	85.44	84.14	92.86	96.75
Duval	95.29	100.79	95.01	90.11	98.84	97.37
Escambia	92.24	99.60	92.88	82.98	98.23	98.07
Flagler	94.50	102.91	96.98	88.58	94.73	97.38
Franklin	95.01	98.53	103.66	89.38	95.77	98.94
Gadsden	91.97	99.42	94.93	82.89	96.08	98.18
Gilchrist	90.26	99.07	86.32	82.10	93.43	96.86
Glades	95.83	100.30	94.44	92.14	96.84	98.63
Gulf	91.61	99.75	89.45	85.51	91.24	97.29
Hamilton	88.32	95.34	83.53	79.88	90.44	98.28
Hardee	92.41	101.04	83.98	86.56	94.62	97.20
Hendry	97.16	98.24	94.98	95.73	98.49	98.58
Hernando	91.74	97.55	94.35	84.37	94.96	97.02
Highlands	92.84	100.29	86.62	84.45	97.77	100.38
Hillsborough	99.53	101.01	94.32	99.37	100.31	99.71
Holmes	89.10	100.92	86.08	77.85	93.15	97.92
Indian River	95.61	101.96	90.16	91.18	99.30	97.24
Jackson	89.30	102.16	87.42	78.05	93.59	96.55
Jefferson	93.71	102.44	85.50	87.06	96.88	99.01
Lafayette	90.53	102.30	80.97	81.04	93.49	99.33

**TABLE III
POPULATION-WEIGHTED CATEGORY INDICES**

COUNTY	TOTAL	FOOD	HEALTH CARE	HOUSING	OTHER GOODS & SERVICES	TRANS- PORTA- TION
Lake	94.64	102.62	95.92	88.56	96.85	96.91
Lee	97.38	98.69	98.18	94.98	99.32	98.86
Leon	95.56	101.89	96.55	88.45	100.02	99.39
Levy	91.69	98.82	86.05	83.61	96.31	98.98
Liberty	91.60	101.36	89.08	82.51	94.65	98.75
Madison	91.51	99.95	84.32	85.30	94.57	95.95
Manatee	97.31	99.98	96.44	95.39	99.88	96.70
Marion	93.14	100.39	90.93	86.88	96.55	96.61
Martin	98.60	99.68	96.73	97.33	99.91	99.65
Monroe	113.56	99.38	107.44	132.93	100.85	102.20
Nassau	93.30	97.78	93.73	87.21	97.12	97.54
Okaloosa	92.64	98.86	86.20	85.58	97.55	98.78
Okeechobee	95.53	99.41	106.44	91.12	94.22	97.77
Orange	96.71	100.92	92.99	93.23	100.31	97.87
Osceola	96.09	102.25	96.04	91.66	98.36	97.23
Palm Beach	106.95	99.72	102.39	112.92	106.69	103.69
Pasco	95.51	99.75	92.68	92.32	98.23	96.54
Pinellas	101.95	99.56	95.24	105.26	103.41	98.80
Polk	94.85	102.00	93.10	88.83	98.74	97.35
Putnam	90.67	97.83	83.30	82.58	95.49	98.41
St. Johns	95.76	100.79	94.37	91.50	97.99	98.04
St. Lucie	95.72	98.97	98.98	91.90	96.61	98.23
Santa Rosa	91.21	99.44	91.18	81.89	96.61	97.15
Sarasota	99.60	101.56	95.54	98.87	103.08	97.66
Seminole	96.52	100.75	92.24	92.76	102.70	96.12
Sumter	91.72	103.78	84.77	83.88	93.39	97.25
Suwannee	91.23	107.47	85.06	80.31	93.51	98.17
Taylor	92.75	97.61	86.94	86.92	95.26	99.62
Union	90.55	100.80	88.43	82.09	92.04	97.27
Volusia	95.06	100.61	94.87	90.34	97.37	97.28
Wakulla	93.85	101.78	89.17	88.70	95.09	97.41
Walton	90.49	96.78	86.78	81.88	96.00	98.03
Washington	89.19	102.07	84.07	78.36	93.42	96.81

TABLE IV: ITEM PRICES FOR THE 2002 FLORIDA PRICE LEVEL INDEX**CATEGORY INFORMATION**

Category	Number of Items Priced	Weight of Items Priced	Weight of Items Not Priced	Total Weight
Food and beverages	4	6.981	10.509	17.490
Medical care	5	6.746	0.484	7.230
Housing	6	30.845	7.274	38.119
Other goods and services	8	6.368	11.094	17.462
Transportation	3	7.259	12.439	19.699
Total	26	58.200	41.800	100.000

Transportation (3 ITEMS)

Item	Weight
Auto insurance	2.751
Lube-oil-filter	1.480
Gasoline, unleaded, self	3.028
Total Category Weight	19.699

Food and Beverages (4 ITEMS)

Item	Weight
Hamburger	2.806
French fries	1.502
Served coffee	1.168
Served soft drink	1.505
Total Category Weight	17.490

Medical Care (5 ITEMS)

Item	Weight
Health insurance	0.361
Healthcare cost index	5.145
Eye examination	0.373
Extraction	0.434
Filling	0.434

Total Category Weight 7.230

Other goods and services (8 ITEMS)

Item	Weight
Safety deposit box fee	0.244
Man's haircut	0.475
Woman's haircut	0.475
Dry cleaning (woman's dress)	0.275
Dry cleaning (man's suit)	0.275
Day care service	2.355
Movie rental	1.135
Bowling	1.135

Total Category Weight 17.462

Housing (6 ITEMS)

Item	Weight
Homeowner cost index	16.080
Apartment rent index	7.220
Electricity, 1000 KWH	4.240
Residential telephone service	1.402
Residential water service	1.198
Air conditioning seasonal inspection	0.706

Total Category Weight 38.119

The 2002 Florida Price Level Index was prepared by the Bureau of Economic and Business Research at the University of Florida and the staff of the Florida Department of Education, Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

The Cost-of-Living survey has received great cooperation from businesses, agencies, and professional organizations throughout the state. The State of Florida is indeed indebted to everyone whose cooperation made this study possible.

Jim Horne, Commissioner
Florida Department of Education