



Living in Hiroshima – what does it cost?

(revised : September 2010)

Japan has the reputation of being a very expensive place in which to live. In fact, Hiroshima – perhaps because it is a provincial city – is not any more expensive than many comparable European cities and some things are certainly cheaper. What follows is a random selection of everyday items and an indication of what they will cost you in Hiroshima. All prices (and US\$/£ equivalents) are correct as of September 2010.

ACCOMMODATION

The choice is really between a detached house close to school or an apartment in town. Below are the actual annual rents being paid by current HIS teachers.

| | | <i>In US \$</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Apartments (single teachers) | ¥750,000 - ¥1,100,000 p.a. | \$8,900 - \$13,100 |
| Apartments (teaching couples) | ¥1,175,000 - ¥1,560,000 p.a. | \$14,000 - \$18,600 |
| Detached houses | ¥1,000,000 - ¥1,260,000 p.a. | \$11,900 - \$15,000 |

| | | <i>In UK £</i> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Apartments (single teachers) | ¥750,000 - ¥1,100,000 p.a. | £5,800 - £8,500 |
| Apartments (teaching couples) | ¥1,175,000 - ¥1,560,000 p.a. | £9,100 - £12,100 |
| Detached houses | ¥1,000,000 - ¥1,260,000 p.a. | £7,770 - £9,800 |

IN THE SUPERMARKET

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|---------|-------|
| 1 large onion | ¥70 | \$0.85 | £0.55 |
| 100g chicken breast | ¥90 | \$1.10 | £0.70 |
| 100g prime beef | ¥130 | \$1.55 | £1.00 |
| 100g fresh octopus | ¥190 | \$2.30 | £1.50 |
| 10 eggs | ¥200 | \$2.40 | £1.55 |
| 500g fresh tomatoes | ¥400 | \$4.80 | £3.10 |
| 400g tin of peeled tomatoes | ¥100 | \$1.20 | £0.75 |
| 180g margarine | ¥180 | \$2.15 | £1.40 |
| 1 litre milk | ¥180 | \$2.15 | £1.40 |
| 200g butter | ¥400 | \$4.80 | £3.10 |
| 1 bottle of good wine | ¥900 | \$10.75 | £7.00 |

MICELLANEOUS

| | | | |
|--|---------|---------|--------|
| A 20g letter to Europe or North America | ¥110 | \$1.30 | £0.85 |
| Daily newspaper (in English) | ¥120 | \$1.45 | £0.95 |
| 1 litre petrol | ¥130 | \$1.55 | £1.00 |
| Having a pair of trousers dry cleaned | ¥370 | \$4.40 | £2.90 |
| A bus ride from school to the centre of town (about 40 minutes) | ¥450 | \$5.40 | £3.50 |
| A single visit to a local gym | ¥540 | \$6.45 | £4.20 |
| A large (-ish) pizza in a pizzeria | ¥1,200 | \$14.35 | £9.30 |
| A cinema ticket | ¥1,800 | \$21.50 | £14.00 |
| Scheduled return flight Hiroshima-Tokyo | ¥25,000 | \$300 | £195 |
