

Reading a Chart – I

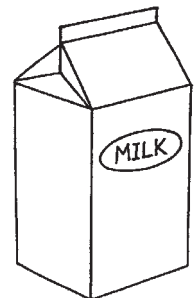
A Look at Averages

ANSWER KEY

Instructions

Using the chart provided by your teacher, answer the questions below.

- For what years does the chart have food prices listed? 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015
- What do the numbers in the columns actually represent? the average price of the item in cents per pound
- How many food items are represented in this chart? 10
- Why do you suppose the United States decided to have these food items available for price comparison? Answers will vary. These are common foods eaten regularly by people across the country.
- Averages:
 - What does *average* mean in math? an estimate calculated by adding representative quantities together and then dividing the total by the number of quantities
 - How much did an average one-half gallon of milk cost in 2005? 159 cents or \$1.59
 - In 1970, did every dozen eggs cost 61 cents? Explain. No. 61 cents was the average cost, so most eggs would have cost a little more or a little less.
 - How do you think the average retail price of food is determined? Answers will vary. Consumer Price Index data is collected from around the country on a monthly basis.



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6. How many cents did an average pound of tomatoes cost in 1960? 32¢. Express that number using a dollar sign and a decimal. \$0.32

7. Did all food items listed in the chart cost more in 2000 than they did in 1990?

Yes No. Explain. The cost of whole milk, sugar, and eggs went down.

8. An Average Meal

Suppose it is 1970. Your family is going to have a hearty meal consisting of one loaf of bread, two pounds of chicken, 3 pounds of potatoes, ½ gallon of milk, and a salad made of ½ pound of tomatoes and one bunch of leaf lettuce (the lettuce cost 29 cents).

a) What would the total average cost be for this meal? **483 cents** Show how you got your answer in the space below.

$$24 + (2 \times 41) + (3 \times 90) + 57 + (42/2) + 29 = 483 \text{ cents or } \$4.83$$

bread chicken potatoes milk tomatoes lettuce

b) Explain why some families would have paid more for this meal and why some families would have paid less for this meal. The cost was calculated using average prices.

c) Using the trends you see in the chart, would the same meal today cost more or less than the meal in 1970? More Less.

9. What is one thing you found interesting about the chart of data? (Write your answer in a complete sentence.) Answers will vary.
