

Meat boosts grocery bill in market basket survey

By [Meatingplace Editors](#) on 4/11/2013

Higher retail prices for sliced deli ham, boneless chicken breasts and ground chuck were among the items pushing up the total grocery bill at the start of 2013 in a market basket survey produced by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The survey showed the total cost of 16 food items used to prepare meals was \$51.54, up \$1 or about 2 percent from the fourth quarter last year. Of the 16 items surveyed, 11 increased and five decreased in average price compared to the prior quarter.

“Meat prices rose a bit more than most other items in the first quarter, but for the basket as a whole, price changes have been fairly modest,” said John Anderson, the farm bureau’s deputy chief economist.

The bureau predicted food prices will rise by 3 percent to 4 percent in 2013, slightly above the average rate of inflation over the past 10 years.

Prices increased for the following items:

- deli ham, up 50 cents to \$5.39 per pound.
- chicken breasts, up 22 cents to \$3.32 per pound.
- ground chuck, up 19 cents to \$3.74 per pound.
- sirloin tip roast, up 11 cents to \$4.63 per pound.
- bacon, up 7 cents to \$4.28 per pound.
- flour, up 25 cents to \$2.62 for a 5-pound bag.
- shredded cheddar cheese, up 16 cents to \$4.47 per pound.
- bagged salad, up 12 cents to \$2.71 per pound.
- Russet potatoes, up 7 cents to \$2.69 for a 5-pound bag.
- vegetable oil, up 6 cents to \$2.92 for a 32-ounce bottle.
- apples, up 3 cents to \$1.63 per pound.

Items showing modest retail price decreases were whole milk, white bread, orange juice, toasted oat cereal and eggs. A total of 86 shoppers in 24 states participated in the latest survey, conducted in March, the farm bureau said.