

The Price-Comparison Field Sheet

FIELD STUDY · SKILL 3

Prices aren't the same everywhere — and the gap between stores **is** the affordability story. Your job: pick one fixed basket of everyday items and price it at three different kinds of stores in the same neighborhood, on the same day. Then see who pays more, and why.

RESEARCHER(S)

NEIGHBORHOOD

DATE

HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

- 1** Keep the basket **identical** at every store — same item, same size, same brand type (store brand vs. name brand counts).
- 2** Visit **three different kinds** of store: a bodega, a supermarket, and a discount/big store. Write each store's name in the header.
- 3** Do it all on the **same day** so a sale or a price change doesn't throw off your comparison.
- 4** Add each column at the bottom. The store with the cheapest basket isn't always the closest one — that's the point.

THE BASKET — ITEM & SIZE	STORE 1 <small>(bodega)</small>	STORE 2 <small>(supermarket)</small>	STORE 3 <small>(discount / big)</small>
1 dozen eggs			
1 gallon milk			
Bread (1 loaf)			
Rice (1 lb / 2 lb)			
Dried beans (1 lb)			
Chicken (1 lb)			
Apples (per lb / each)			
Bananas (per lb)			
Cooking oil			
Your choice: _____			
BASKET TOTAL			

Tip: note if an item was missing or only came in a different size — that's a finding too. "Not available" tells you about access, not just price.

WHAT DID YOU FIND?

Which store had the cheapest basket? Was it the closest one to where people live?

Where was the biggest price gap between stores on a single item — and why might that be?

If a family relied on the closest store, how much more might they pay over a month? Estimate, and show your math.
