

**COST OF LIVING INDEX OF WAGE EARNER'S FAMILY¹ IN MANILA
BY MONTH, 1946-48**

(1941 = 100)

By the Bureau of the Census and Statistics

1946	All Items	Food (59.15)	House Rent (8.43)	Clothing (0.62)	Fuel, Light and Water (13.94)	Miscellaneous (17.86)	Purchasing Power of a Peso
January	603.4	759.2	236.4	984.0	363.8	434.8	.1657
February	547.2	656.3	236.4	940.3	369.5	460.5	.1827
March	525.9	631.0	236.4	940.1	340.4	445.2	.1902
April	556.2	684.1	236.4	910.3	345.5	435.9	.1798
May	545.1	675.6	236.4	762.5	342.3	409.6	.1835
June	538.7	666.4	236.4	737.9	343.3	404.2	.1856
July	552.7	704.3	236.4	598.9	341.3	364.6	.1809
August	477.9	590.0	236.4	384.7	320.9	346.3	.2092
September	477.9	591.3	236.4	378.7	314.5	347.2	.2092
October	487.4	587.2	236.4	382.7	405.8	342.7	.2052
November	484.8	607.8	236.4	406.4	346.5	305.2	.2063
December	461.9	570.8	236.4	371.9	344.7	302.1	.2165
1947 ²							
	(100.00)	(63.43)	(11.96)	(2.04)	(7.73)	(14.84)	
January	426.2	468.2	453.9	381.0	326.2	282.5	.2346
February	418.5	454.9	453.9	356.2	344.8	281.4	.2389
March	406.8	440.1	453.9	295.2	334.7	279.4	.2458
April	387.7	413.3	453.9	269.2	328.9	271.6	.2579
May	381.0	404.4	453.9	250.9	325.4	269.4	.2625
June	386.3	414.4	453.9	236.8	316.6	268.6	.2589
July	393.4	426.8	453.9	217.7	309.3	269.9	.2542
August	387.4	419.8	453.9	210.2	292.0	269.1	.2581
September	368.9	392.1	453.9	216.4	283.3	266.8	.2711
October	358.7	376.3	453.9	212.7	280.5	257.7	.2788
November	358.4	376.3	453.9	215.1	280.5	265.3	.2790
December	371.9	395.8	453.9	219.1	296.2	262.9	.2689
1948							
January	391.2	428.3	453.9	224.5	304.6	249.9	.2556
February	368.5	392.0	453.9	223.8	301.1	254.4	.2714
March	349.4	361.0	453.9	214.6	308.1	255.9	.2862
April	356.1	374.1	453.9	209.4	289.7	254.8	.2808

¹ Average number of persons in a family = 4.9 members.² Revised in accordance with the new survey of the "Levels of Living, in Manila" by the Department of Labor and the Bureau of the Census and Statistics conducted in December, 1946. The following weights were used in computing the "over-all" index: Foodstuffs — 63.43; House rent — 11.96; Clothing — 2.04; Fuel-light-water — 7.73 and Miscellaneous — 14.84.

Other Chambers of Commerce

Philippine Chinese General Chamber of Commerce

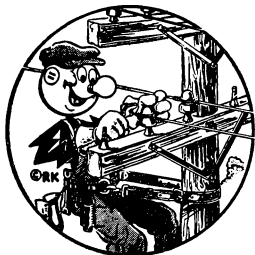
WHEN the Philippine Supreme Court rendered its decision in the celebrated Krivenko case, about 200,000 alien nationals in this country suddenly found themselves the personification of the mythical character, the "Wandering Jew", with no anchor to the earth, to borrow a phrase from a local realtor's slogan. To say that the verdict was a blow to them, is putting it only mildly, for the effect of the decision is much more catastrophic than the average Filipino supposes it to be.

At the outset, it must be made clear that the bulk of the alien land holdings was acquired before there was a Philippine constitution at all, hence there was no law violated. The Chinese who are among the alien minorities severely hit by the verdict, acquired their holdings in good faith. That can also be said of the action of government officials throughout the Philippines when they accepted the registration of the properties.

As background, I cite the latest official statistics (Bureau of the Census and Statistics 1939) which reveal that the size and value of landholdings of aliens, by nationalities, including corporations, stood thus at that time:

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	No. of Parcels	Area in Hectares	Assessed Value
Americans	12,035	185,961	₱105,261,940
Spanish	3,394	110,074	70,759,790
Chinese	17,809	65,126	57,036,690
Japanese	1,033	64,524	21,256,830
English	424	2,995	10,087,570

Some other foreign nationals also had landholdings in the Philippines.

Most of the lots registered by Chinese are owned by individuals. Parcels owned by Chinese individuals numbered 16,592, with a total area of 57,630 hectares, and were valued at ₱40,803,000.

Private estimates of present-day holdings of Chinese nationals who will be affected by the Supreme Court decision, place the total area at 80,000 hectares, with a value of around ₱20,000,000 to ₱40,000,000.

In the light of these statistics, and under existing laws, I see no reason for the Filipinos to be alarmed, especially as regards Chinese landholdings. The lands registered by Chinese nationals hardly constitute 0.5 of 1% of the total arable lands in the Philippines.

There is no form of alien investment more reassuring than that in land, because it is immovable property and the foreigner cannot carry it with him. History has shown, too, that the aliens who own land in the Islands tend to become naturalized citizens. In fact, second-generation Chinese are virtually Filipino citizens, with no desire to go elsewhere. Prominent Filipino families which only a generation ago were Chinese are the Cojuangcos, Limjaps, Suntays, Syquias Tans, Yangcos, and Teehankees, to mention just a few. The grandparents of these families were pure Chinese immigrants! Today, they are no longer aliens, and their properties cannot be considered anymore as belonging to aliens.

It seems an unsound foreign policy for the Republic of the Philippines to deny rights and privileges to aliens whose own countries do not prohibit Filipinos exercising them when they live there. Chinese laws do not prohibit aliens from owning lands in China. Neither do United States laws. In fact, there is one prominent Filipino family which owns lands and apartment houses in Kowloon, China. The principle of reciprocity is always a sound one.

In line with this principle is the present great urge to universal brotherhood and the practical application of the One-World ideal. This can be achieved by eliminating in word and in deed all barriers to racial equality. To give equal opportunity to all to live, will mean a great stride forward in the direction of universal contentment and unity.

It is the opinion of Filipino economists that if all the arable lands in the Philippines were placed under cultivation, this country could produce enough food for a population of 57,000,000, that is, a population three times as large as at present. Aliens are contributing to the economic development of this country without causing any detriment to the national interests, and under proper encouragement, they would expand their investments for the country's good.

There is not enough available capital to absorb the present landholdings of aliens. If these holdings were purchased or confiscated by the Government, the action would inevitably boomerang. Revenues would fall, production would lag, and capital invested in profitable industries would be withdrawn. Real-estate values would drop because only Filipinos and Americans would be allowed to invest in real estate. Capital would seek investment fields in other countries, to the detriment of the Filipinos who are trying to draw foreign capital here.

YANG SEPENG, Executive Secretary

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