

Checking commodity price movements

Public utility pricing policy

When public utility charges are to be revised, the Consumer Affairs Agency engages in discussions with the relevant ministries and agencies from the viewpoint of defending consumer benefits. In the event that any important decisions on or revisions of public utility charges are made in particular, the Consumer Affairs Agency responds to such decisions and revisions more strictly by submitting an agenda to a relevant ministerial meeting on commodity price issues.

Recent meetings of the Ministerial Council on Prices

Date	Matter discussed
February 28, 2014	Revision of public utility charges (railroad, bus, taxi, and tobacco) due to the consumption tax rate increase (*)
April 15, 2014	Rate revision of Chubu Electric Power Co., Inc.
October 14, 2014	Rate revision of Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Inc.
May 15, 2015	Rate revision of Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc.
June 26, 2015	Specification of price caps of NTT East and West
December 20, 2016	Reclassification of fares of public motor vehicle transportation services (in the special wards of Tokyo, Musashino-shi, and Mitaka-shi)
June 26, 2018	Specification of price caps of NTT East and West

Members of the Ministerial Council on Prices

- Chief Cabinet Secretary (chairperson)
- Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications
- Minister of Finance
- Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
- Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare
- Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
- Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
- Minister of State for Financial Services
- Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety
- Minister of State for Economic and Fiscal Policy

* Railroad: Fares of JR companies, 15 major private railways, Tokyo Metro, and public subways in the 6 major cities
Bus: Fares of 9 major private bus lines in Tokyo and public bus lines in the 6 major cities
Taxi: Taxi fares in the special wards of Tokyo
Tobacco: Retail list prices of manufactured tobacco

Measures for stabilizing prices of daily goods in emergency situation

The Consumer Affairs Agency investigates the market climate of daily goods and commodity price movements in collaboration with the related ministries and agencies to curb price increases of daily goods and prevent buying up or holding up sales of daily goods in emergency situations such as disasters.

Measures against price gouging

The Consumer Affairs Agency has set up the “Price Gouging Information and Consultation Dial” working as the point of contact exclusively for consumers and business operators seeking information and consultation services concerning price gouging that may occur when the consumption tax rate increases.

Price Gouging Information and Consultation Dial (Available in Japanese only)
Phone: 03-3507-9196 (from 9:00 to 17:00 on weekdays)

Commodity Price Monitor Survey

To accurately and promptly determine the key factors including price movements of daily goods (25 items), changes in consumer attitudes toward buying activities and commodity price movements, the Consumer Affairs Agency conducts Commodity Price Monitor Survey once a month targeting respondents living in various areas throughout the nation (2,000 respondents). Also, the Consumer Affairs Agency monitors commodity price movements more carefully by conducting investigations when the consumption tax rate is increased or in emergency situations such as disasters more precisely.