

Japan vs. China Costs: Monthly Budget Comparison

Nova Instructor in Japan	Japanese Yen	EF Teacher in China	Chinese RMB	Japanese Yen
Income (Salary)	¥250,000	Income (Salary)	¥ 10,500	¥162,750
Rent	¥60,000	Rent	¥ 2,500	¥38,750
Utilities (Gas&Electric)	¥7,000	Utilities (Gas&Electric)	¥ 250	¥3,875
Phone	¥6,000	Phone	¥ 350	¥5,425
Food	¥50,000	Food	¥ 1,500	¥23,250
Insurance	¥9,000	Insurance (EF pays for you)	¥ 0	¥0
Expenses	¥132,000	Expenses	¥ 4,600	¥71,300
Disposable Income	¥118,000	Disposable Income	¥ 5,900	¥91,450

As you can see the Nova teacher has slightly more disposable income after immediate expenses. But consider this...

In China...	Chinese RMB	Japanese Yen	In Japan...	Japanese Yen
Milk (1 liter)	¥ 5	¥78	Milk (1 liter)	¥188
Three course restaurant dinner	¥ 120	¥1,860	Three course restaurant dinner	¥5,000
A big bottle of beer	¥ 5	¥78	A big bottle of beer	¥450
A pair of jeans	¥ 200	¥3,100	A pair of jeans	¥8,500
Housekeeper: 2 hours, includes washing, ironing and cleaning	¥ 30	¥465	Housekeeper: 2 hours, includes washing, ironing and cleaning	¥5,000
City centre bus fare (3km)	¥ 2	¥31	City centre bus fare (3km)	¥180
Taxi rate per km	¥ 2	¥31	Taxi rate per km	¥90
20-min taxi ride across town	¥ 25	¥388	20-min taxi ride across town	¥3,500
Massage	¥ 135	¥2,093	Massage	¥6,000
Movie ticket	¥ 60	¥930	Movie ticket	¥1,800
3-star hotel	¥ 400	¥6,200	3-star hotel	¥17,000

In many cases, goods and services in China are 1/3 of those in Japan. Adjusted for cost your salary goes a lot further in China than in Japan. Given the different economies, you will live a **higher standard of living in China** on a teacher's salary.

In Australia, I could not have afforded to drink cocktails every weekend, have my apartment cleaned twice a week, or get regular massages, but this is what my life is like now that I live in Shanghai. I never thought I would enjoy living and working in China as much as I do.

-Adrienne Le Patrourel (Austrialian)
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