

Research Question:

Is there any difference in the mean monthly food costs between states with higher cumulative averages and those with lower cumulative averages during the 2012-2013 fiscal year?

Null Hypothesis:

There is no difference in the mean monthly food costs between states with higher cumulative averages and those with lower cumulative averages during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Alternate Hypothesis:

There is a difference in the mean monthly food costs between states with higher cumulative averages and those with lower cumulative averages during the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Dependent Variable:

Mean monthly Food Costs: Continuous Variable (since it represents numerical values on a continuous scale).

Independent Variable:

Group Classification (Higher vs. Lower Cumulative Averages): Categorical Variable (since it divides states into two distinct groups).