



What did an Admiral 13 inch black and white TV cost? What is the cost of a similar quality 50 inch flat screen TV today?

◆ AI Overview

In the 1960s and early 1970s, a 13-inch or similar small-screen portable black-and-white [Admiral TV](#) would typically cost roughly **\$100 to over \$150** (roughly \$800–\$1,200+ in 2026 dollars). [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

Today, a 50-inch 4K smart TV—which offers vastly superior technology—is available for roughly **\$180 to \$350** in 2026. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]

Historical Cost Breakdown (1960s-1970s)

- **Price:** While prices varied based on the model and year, small Admiral black-and-white sets were often marketed as affordable, with some listed in the \$100–\$175 range.
- **Inflation Impact:** A \$100–\$150 television in the mid-1960s is equivalent to over \$1,000 in today's purchasing power, making it a significant household investment.
- **Console Alternatives:** Larger color console TVs in the same period often cost \$400 to over \$600 (roughly \$3,000–\$5,000 in 2026 dollars). [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

Current Cost Breakdown (2026)

- **Budget 50-Inch:** Entry-level 50-inch 4K LED TVs are currently available, such as the Insignia 50" Class F50 Series LED 4K UHD Smart Fire TV for \$179.99 at Best Buy.
- **Mid-Range 50-Inch:** Quality 50-inch options from major brands often cost around \$300, such as the Samsung 50" Class Crystal UHD U8000H 4K Smart TV at Best Buy for \$299.99.
- **Premium 50-Inch:** High-performance models like the Samsung QN90F, as reviewed by ZDNET, can run closer to \$885. [[1](#), [2](#), [5](#)]

Despite inflation, the nominal price of a 50-inch screen today is often lower than a 13-inch black-and-white screen in the 1960s. [[1](#)]

AI Overview

In the 1960s and early 1970s, a 13-inch or similar small-screen portable black-and-white Admiral TV would typically cost roughly \$100 to over \$150 (roughly \$800–\$1,200+ in 2026 dollars).

Today, a 50-inch 4K smart TV—which offers vastly superior technology—is available for roughly \$180 to \$350 in 2026.

Historical Cost Breakdown (1960s-1970s)

- Price: While prices varied based on the model and year, small Admiral black-and-white sets were often marketed as affordable, with some listed in the \$100–\$175 range.
Inflation Impact: A \$100–\$150 television in the mid-1960s is equivalent to over \$1,000 in today's purchasing power, making it a significant household investment.
Console Alternatives: Larger color console TVs in the same period often cost \$400 to over \$600 (roughly \$3,000–\$5,000 in 2026 dollars).

Current Cost Breakdown (2026)

- Budget 50-Inch: Entry-level 50-inch 4K LED TVs are currently available, such as the Insignia 50" Class F50 Series LED 4K UHD Smart Fire TV for \$179.99 at Best Buy.
Mid-Range 50-Inch: Quality 50-inch options from major brands often cost around \$300, such as the Samsung 50" Class Crystal UHD U8000H 4K Smart TV at Best Buy for \$299.99.
Premium 50-Inch: High-performance models like the Samsung QN90F, as reviewed by ZDNET, can run closer to \$885.

Despite inflation, the nominal price of a 50-inch screen today is often lower than a 13-inch black-and-white screen in the 1960s.

Dive deeper in AI Mode

How much did a colour television cost in the 1960s? - Quora
Apr 7, 2019 — A color television about that time ran about \$400 to \$500. That's about \$3000 in today's dollars.
Samsung Crystal UHD 4K Smart TV
Insignia Class F50 Series LED 4K UHD Smart Fire TV



11:52 AM 5/8/2026