

Prices these days aren't always cheaper, so it does pay to compare

people get comfortable jumping between channels.

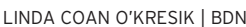
In 75 percent of comparisons, the study found no difference in price for a given item. But deals online varied widely.

The increased consistency on pricing may also reflect a move by many stores to develop a more holistic view of their inventory. In the past, many retailers had separate silos for items to be sold online and in stores. As they move to a single inventory pool, it's easier for them to maintain uniformity on prices.

The researchers found that price consistency was highest in the household products category, which includes items such as detergent, garbage bags and air fresheners. With prices being the same 80.8 percent of the time, this is the category in which there is perhaps the least incentive to check prices across channels. Meanwhile, the beauty category had the lowest price consistency, 62.1 percent. So it might be helpful to do some research before you pick up a new lipstick or nail polish.

Overall, researchers found

The finding suggests that retailers are unifying their prices as



Al and Erika Baker of Hermon take a moment to look online for an item they couldn't find in the store while shopping at the Bangor Target on Black Friday 2015.

entertainment category, compared with nearly 74 percent this year.

For instance, there is potential for deep savings on entertainment items such as DVDs, video games and board games. And the chasm is growing fast: In Anthem's previous study, there was a 43 percent average savings online in the en-

At the other end of the spectrum is groceries, the only area where there is more of an opportunity for savings in stores than online. Grocery is a retailing category that has been among the least disrupted by the boom in online shopping, and perhaps the price difference is in part why some have not given online grocery shopping a try.

traditional Roman fare to Bangor residents since 2007.

Massimo Ranni, the owner of Massimo's Cucina Italiana, confirmed Friday the restaurant is in the process of being sold and paperwork is being finalized. Massimo's Cucina Italiana has offered

Brett Settle, the owner of Giacomo's, which offers gourmet sandwiches in downtown Bangor, is to

purchase the business from Ranni. Settle submitted a liquor license application to the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages for Brahma Grill.

at 96 Hammond St., the current location of Massimo's Cucina Italiana. The request indicates the starting date for new ownership of the business is March 1.

A public hearing for consideration of the application for a liquor license for Brahma Grill will take place at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22.

in the council room of City Hall in Bangor.

Ranni could not confirm the exact date when Massimo's Cucina Italiana will close, but Massimo's Pizzeria Bar, a new undertaking at 130 Hammond St., which will offer hearthstone-baked pizza, beer and wines, is slated to open in March, he said.

Financial data provided by Thomson Reuters

Top Mutual Funds															
Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn
AMERICAN FUNDS				FIDELITY				JPMORGAN				TEMPLETON			
AMCP A	24.23	+0.04	-8.7	Balanced	20.07	+0.02	-7.1	Core Bond Sel	11.75	unch.	+2.1	Gl Bond Adv	10.89	-0.04	-8.5
Bal A	23.09	-0.01	-3.0	Blue Chip Gr	61.03	+0.21	-10.1	LAZARD				Growth A	19.79	-0.1	-17.4
Bond A	12.72	-0.01	+0.9	Capital & Inc	8.66	-0.01	-8.2	Emg Mkt Eq Inst	12.98	-0.06	-24.6	THORNBURG			
CBI A	54.90	-0.12	-6.8	Contrafund	90.47	+0.39	-5.6	LOOMIS SAYLES				Intl Val I	22.32	-0.05	-9.7
CWVG A	40.56	-0.05	-11.9	Dividend Gr	28.49	unch.	-8.5	Bd Inst	12.44	-0.03	-9.8	VANGUARD			
EuPnc A	41.29	-0.09	-13.1	Dvdsd Intl	32.02	+0.04	-10.6	OPPENHEIMER				500 Index Adm	177.44	+0.02	-6.7
Flvr A	47.39	unch.	unch.	Freedom 2020	13.82	+0.01	-7.4	Dev Mkts A	28.17	-0.02	-21.2	GNMA Adm	10.79	+0.01	+2.6
Gr A	37.42	+0.09	-7.8	Freedom 2025	11.75	+0.01	-8.2	PERMANENT				Health Care Adm	82.77	+0.16	-4.9
HI A	8.97	-0.02	-12.2	Freedom 2030	14.18	+0.01	-9.7	Port Permanent	35.49	+0.01	-6.2	Inst-Prot Inv	13.03	+0.01	-0.7
ICA A	32.01	-0.07	-6.5	Gro Company	119.40	+0.7	-10.5	PIMCO				Infl T Stmk Invs	42.86	+0.02	-8.7
Inc A	19.66	-0.04	-7.3	Inc GNMA	11.64	unch.	+2.3	All Asset Inst	9.96	-0.04	-11.7	Intl Index Inst	175.69	+0.02	-6.7
Mut A	32.86	-0.07	-6.9	Low-Prctd Stk	44.99	-0.09	-7.8	Comm Rtr Str Inst	5.95	+0.05	-29.0	Intl Inv Adm	9.73	unch.	+1.7
NPer A	32.75	+0.03	-7.4	Magellan Fund	81.55	+0.21	-8.1	High Yield Inst	8.02	-0.02	-6.0	Intl Tr TxEx Adm	14.43	unch.	+4.2
NWId A	46.00	-0.01	-16.2	Puritan	19.15	+0.02	-6.4	Low Dur Inst	9.79	unch.	-0.3	Intl Gro Inv	19.00	unch.	-14.6
SMCP A	38.76	+0.1	-12.0	Sr S&P 500 Inv	67.59	+0.01	-6.7	Real Rtn Inst	10.51	unch.	-3.4	Ltd-Tm TxEx Adm	11.11	unch.	+2.0
Wash A	36.60	-0.05	-6.5	Srs Inv Gd Bd	11.09	unch.	unch.	Tot Rtn Inst	10.04	-0.02	+0.1	PRIMECAP Inv	91.46	+0.04	-8.8
BLACKROCK				Strat Inc	10.00	-0.01	-3.8	Uncons Inst	9.93	-0.01	-5.6	Sh-Tm Inv Adm	10.59	unch.	+1.1
Gl Alloc A	16.92	-0.06	-8.3	Total Bond	10.26	-0.01	-0.9	JPMORGAN				STAR Tr Tx-Ex Adm	15.85	unch.	+0.8
COLUMBIA				FIRST EAGLE				Cap S&P 500 Idx	29.71	+0.01	-6.8	Sh-Tm Inv	22.13	unch.	-7.2
Accrn Z	17.18	+0.1	-15.5	Global A	50.19	-0.13	-6.1	T ROWE PRICE				T Stmk Idx Inv	47.35	+0.03	-8.9
DAVIS				FRANKLIN				BC Gro	64.21	+0.26	-6.4	Tgt Ret2015 Inv	13.87	unch.	-4.8
NY Venture A	27.31	-0.03	-11.0	CA TF Inc A	7.57	unch.	+3.9	Cap App	24.19	-0.02	-0.8	Tgt Ret2020 Inv	26.24	+0.01	-6.0
DFA				Cust Inc A	1.99	-0.01	-13.5	Eq Idx500	51.72	+0.01	-6.9	Tgt Ret2025 Inv	14.99	-0.01	-7.0
Emg Mkts Value I	19.30	-0.02	-24.6	GMO				Eq Inc	26.93	-0.12	-12.3	Tgt Ret2030 Inv	26.41	-0.01	-8.1
DODGE & COX				Quality VI	18.96	+0.04	-2.1	Gro Stk	47.39	+0.12	-7.0	Tgt Ret2035 Inv	15.92	-0.01	-9.1
Balanced	88.99	-0.02	-9.1	HARBOR				MC Gr	66.86	+0.22	-7.8	Tot Bd Adm	10.81	unch.	+1.6
Income	13.24	-0.01	-1.5	Cap Apprec Inst	53.16	+0.27	-8.6	New Inc	9.44	unch.	+0.5	Tot T Stk Inv	13.38	-0.04	-15.4
Intl Stock	31.73	-0.26	-25.4	J HANCOCK II				Ret 2020	18.84	unch.	-7.0	Welliesay Adm	59.45	-0.03	+0.6
Stock Stock	148.96	+0.01	-13.1	LS Bal I	13.46	-0.01	-8.5	Value	29.15	-0.05	-9.3	Wellington Adm	61.58	-0.04	-4.3
FAIRHOLME				LS Gro I	13.77	unch.	-10.6					Winsdor II Inv	31.16	-0.06	-11.1
Fairholme	15.83	-0.09	-23.4												