



185 Millerton Road PO Box 860
Millerton, NY 12546
(518) 789-8700 (800) 562-2139
Fax: 518-789-0556
www.greyhouse.com
e-mail: books@greyhouse.com

For Immediate Release

March 30, 2009

Contact: Jessica Moody, Vice President, Marketing
Grey House Publishing
185 Millerton Road
Millerton, NY 12546
(800) 562-2139 x101

**Grey House Publishing announces the Fourth Edition of
*The Value of a Dollar***

“The volume is strongly recommended for all reference libraries, especially those at colleges and universities, to economists interested in time series analysis, and to historians who specialize in the twentieth-century economic problems.”

—ARBA

Grey House Publishing announces the publication of the fourth edition of *The Value of a Dollar*. Many new features make this edition the best we’ve done to date. First, we have changed the look of the book with a new, consistent design. Second, we have added hundreds of photos throughout the decades to give more meaning to all those numbers. Third, you’ll find hundreds of new items in both the Selected Income and Selected Prices sections from 1860 to 2007.

New to this edition are Currency Conversion Charts at the end of each chapter background. For example if one knew the price of a shirt in 1950 was \$3.00, using the table on page 246, one would find out that in 2007 that same shirt costs \$25.86.

The first section of this book is divided into seven chapters, all of which follow a standard format, except the first, which covers the era from the Civil War to 1899, when the groundwork was being laid for a national consumer economy. Subsequent chapters cover the periods 1900—1919; 1920—1939; 1940—1959; 1960—1979; and 1980—2009. Each period chapter begins with a background essay describing the major social and economic forces of the period. This is followed by figures in each of the eight categories as well as some miscellaneous information.

—continued—

Historical Snapshot: A chronology of key economic and historical events from each year.

Selected Income: The selected income represents the types of jobs available and the wages offered across the country. This section allows a view of the job market unavailable in average-wage tables.

Consumer Expenditures: Reports on per-capita consumer prices of the day nationwide to serve as a benchmark for specific wage and price information. This information, compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, begins at 1909, 1914, at two-year intervals beginning in 1919 and annually from 1929 to present.

Investments: Selections of investment returns compiled from Federal Reserve reports, including a diversified portfolio of common stocks, monitored annually with splits and dividends noted.

Standard Jobs & Income: Selections of national average wages paid for representative jobs traced annually and based primarily on reports compiled by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Food Basket: Regional reports of food pricing compiled from reports by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The prices of ordinary food items from four sections of the country are traced throughout the twentieth century. Items listed in the food basket are changed over the 90-year period to reflect changing food fashions and government statistical gathering techniques.

Selected Prices: Selections of priced items selected from advertisements of the period. The prices advertised in magazines, newspapers, sales catalogues, posters and direct-mail letters were used to create the bulk of selected prices.

Standard Prices: Selections of representative items tracked annually, allowing the user to trace price fluctuations. This section demonstrates the range of forces that can affect the price a retailer places on an object.

Miscellany: Selections of anecdotal price and income reports from publications of the period concludes each subchapter.

The second section of the book, Pricing Trends, is divided into seven categories, from Around the House to Travel & Entertainment. Here is where you'll discover how the cost of things changed over the years, and how that cost relates to the value of money over the years. The data is presented in two ways – bar charts that allow you to make quick analyses, and numeric tables to give you the specifics, down to the penny.

The Value of a Dollar is for both the high school and college student engaged in historical research and the user who simply wants to know what life was like during the time of his or her ancestors. Perfect for anyone curious about social history: students studying the topics that require knowledge about everyday life in America; teachers who seek information to enliven classroom discussions; writers who need access to the basic facts of America's commerce; business historians seeking data to establish a framework of wage and price information during a specific period; reporters seeking to enhance a story with economic details. Now, with the new Pricing Trends and Currency Conversion Charts, this fourth edition of *The Value of a Dollar* is more useful and interesting than ever.

The Value of a Dollar, Fourth Edition

Hardcover ISBN: 1-59237-403-8

700 pages

\$135.00

Editor: Scott Derks

Publisher: Leslie Mackenzie