

RECENT REVIEWS

The Value of a Dollar

“In 1955, a ticket to Disneyland cost \$3.50, an average “Office Worker” made \$2.15 an hour, and a can of pork and beans cost 25 cents. This is just a brief sample of the information one can find in the newest edition of *The Value of a Dollar*. Spanning the 1860s to the present, this volume contains a sampling of information related to incomes, consumer expenditures, investments, food prices, and more. The book is divided into two sections: the first is organized chronologically into chapters, while the second uses bar graphs to compare (and translate to 2012 dollars) the costs of everyday products, services, and salaries across decades. This unique and interesting reference work contains a plethora of helpful information for students, researchers, and anyone seeking information on the historical value of the dollar.”

–*Booklist*

“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*

“This engaging statistical summary presents the history of the American people through the prices they paid for a wide variety of products and services... *The Value of a Dollar* will interest students of social history, fiction writers needing easy access to precise historical detail, business historians, and older folks nostalgic for those days gone by when you could buy your smokes for a penny a piece. This is a recommended title for academic libraries,

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larger public libraries and any library serving people interested in understanding history through the eyes of everyday consumers.”

–Booklist

“By both extending temporal coverage for the 1990s and by improving the quality of its information, Derks has added value to *The Value of a Dollar, 1860-1989* (Detroit: Gale Research, 1994)... Derks has improved the reporting of information enough to justify replacing the earlier edition... Furthermore, new appendices list the annual cost of various commodities and other common expenditures such as first-class postage, per capita national debt, federal gasoline tax, long-distance telephone calls and coal. This revision delivers more information and more value.”

–Rettig on Reference

“...The volume is useful for answering a variety of reference questions: finding the price of a product or item, doing historical price comparison, or finding price points for simple market analysis. The third edition stays true to the original publication’s goal of detailing ‘what things have cost and how much money people have had to buy them.’... The most substantial addition is a new section entitled ‘Pricing Trends.’ The purpose of ‘Pricing Trends’ is to ‘allow the readers to study the cost of common objects over a long period of time’... This valuable resource will fit into business reference collections as well as general reference collections, in academic, public, and selected corporate libraries.”

- *Journal of Business & Finance Librarianship*

“...Readers can compare the cost of everyday products over a specified number of years and also check how those prices compare to today’s dollar. For easy analysis, data in this section is presented in charts and numeric tables, and provides specifics down to the penny. In the author’s words , this book is for ‘both the user who simply wants to know what life was like during the time of his or her great grandparents and the serious historical researcher.’ Summing Up: Highly recommended. Undergraduates and graduate students, teachers seeking information for classroom activities, and public library patrons.”

- Choice

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