

How Much Is That Worth Today?"

Source: Economic history service (http://eh.net/hmit/ppowerusd/dollar_answer.php)

Year	Value of 100 dollars in 2002 US dollars	Same purchasing power as one 2002 US dollar	To find the value in 2002 US dollars multiply cost by:
1790	\$1956	.05	20
1800	\$1425	.07	14.25
1810	\$1454	.07	14.25
1820	\$1526	.07	14.25
1830	\$1938	.05	20
1840	\$2669	.05	20
1850	\$2289	.04	25
1860	\$2152	.05	20
1870	\$1370	.07	14.25
1880	\$1749	.06	16.65
1890	\$1974	.05	20
1900	\$2130	.05	20
1910	\$1887	.05	20
1920	\$896	.11	9
1930	\$1071	.09	11
1940	\$1281	.08	12.5
1950	\$747	.13	7.7
1960	\$608	.16	6.25
1970	\$464	.22	4.5
1980	\$218	.46	2.2
1990	\$138	.73	1.35
2000	\$104	.96	--
2002	\$100	\$1.00	--

This web site allows you to compare the purchasing power of money in the United States economy from 1665 to the present.. The numbers since 1913 use the CPI compiled by the United States' Bureau of Labor Statistics and released by that agency every month. The older numbers, before, 1913, are based on the efforts of economists and economic historians who have recreated CPI estimates and then linked them to the modern series. For a detailed explanation see the website or John J. McCusker, *How Much Is That in Real Money?: A Historical Price Index for Use as a Deflator of Money Values in the Economy of the United States*, 2nd ed., rev. and enl. (Worcester, Massachusetts: American Antiquarian Society,2001).

In *The Slave Trade* (Simon & Schuster, 1997, pp. 807-808), Hugh Thomas placed the cost of purchasing an enslaved African in the United States at \$360 (\$9,000 in 2002 dollars) in 1850 and \$500 (\$10,000 in 2002 dollars) in 1860.

According to historian John Hope Franklin (*From Slavery to Freedom*, 4th edition, NY: Knopf, 1974, p. 133) the sale price of enslaved Africans in the United States South peaked in 1860 just prior to the Civil War. He estimated that a male adult "prime" field hand would have sold for \$1,000 in Virginia or \$1,500 in New Orleans. In today's dollars, that would be the equivalent of \$20,000 in Virginia or \$30,000 in New Orleans, the equivalent of a mid-sized car.