

1638-1775. British Profits on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census (1975). *Historical Statistics of the United States Colonial Times to 1970, part 2*. Series Z 165-168, p. 1174.

Years	West African Slave Prices		British-American Slave Prices		Mark-Up
	Av. Price pound sterling	Modern Dollars	Av. Price pound sterling	Modern Dollars	
1638-1642	3.91		16.50		322%
1643-1647	1.87		20.20		980%
1648-1652	6.72		27.70		312%
1653-1657	11.38		24.09		111%
1658-1662	3.01		21.12		602%
1663-1667	5.41	\$109.81	21.14	\$429.10	291%
1668-1672	3.03		21.14		598%
1673-1677	2.04	\$45.25	21.92	\$486.22	975%
1678-1682	3.28		19.32		489%
1683-1687	3.92		19.95		410%
1688-1692	3.37		23.85		608%
1693-1697	4.19		26.02		521%
1698-1702	5.21	\$120.54	23.68	\$547.85	355%
1703-1707	8.87		26.37		197%
1708-1712	8.75		24.37		179%
1713-1717	9.88		25.67		160%
1718-1722	11.13		24.11		117%
1723-1727	11.87	\$283.77	23.92	\$571.85	102%
1728-1732	12.86		24.91		94%
1733-1737	15.37		18.50		20%
1738-1742	17.43		26.64		53%
1743-1747	11.21		31.04		177%
1748-1752	14.01	\$358.86	27.12	\$694.66	94%
1753-1757	13.66		33.10		142%
1758-1762	13.71		35.61		160%
1763-1767	15.91		34.74		118%
1768-1772	17.72		38.39		117%
1773-1775	17.04	\$398.51	44.08	\$1030.90	159%

The source for contemporary price calculation is John J. McCusker, "Source Note for How Much is That Worth Today," Economic History Services, 2003, <http://www.eh.net/hmit/ppowerusd/dollarsource.php>.

Before the introduction of the dollar as the money of account of the newly established United States in the years after the American Revolution, the residents of each colony had their own distinct colonial currencies. All were denominated in pounds, shillings and pence. In 1774, when the exchange rate between Boston and London was £135 Massachusetts currency per £100 sterling, £400 Massachusetts currency was equivalent to £296 sterling. £400 Massachusetts currency in 1774, when adjusted for inflation, works out to have been worth about \$28,000 United States currency in the year 2000.

1675-1775. British Profits on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

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Years	West African Slave Prices		British-American Slave Prices		Mark-Up
	Av. Price pound sterling	Modern Dollars	Av. Price pound sterling	Modern Dollars	
1675	2.04	\$45.25	21.92	\$486.22	975%
1700	5.21	\$120.54	23.68	\$547.85	355%
1725	11.87	\$283.77	23.92	\$571.85	102%
1750	14.01	\$358.86	27.12	\$694.66	94%
1775	17.04	\$398.51	44.08	\$1030.90	159%

