

Then and Now

This project is reproduced from "<http://www.sos.state.mi....f/depressn/costlist.html>".

Students can compare the cost of food, toys, household items, and clothing during the Great Depression and today. The costs for food, clothing and household items are listed on the charts below. Students can check newspapers on microfilm to find out food prices.

While the prices were much lower during the 1930s, that can be misleading. Students should use the "Hourly Wages: Then and Now" chart to find out how long someone would have to work in the 1930s and today to be able to purchase these items. To do this, figure out how many hours of work it would take to purchase an item.

Prices: Then and Now

Women's Clothes	Then	Now
Winter Coat	\$28.00	
Sweater	\$1.00	
Men's Clothes		
Dress Shirt	\$1.00	
Overcoat	\$18.50	
Toys		
Action Toy	3 for 59 cents	
Doll	\$1.95	
Household Items		
Sewing Machine	\$23.95	
Washing Machine	\$33.50	

Hourly Wages: Then and Now

Job Category	Hourly Wages, Then	Hourly Wages, Now
Manufacturing Worker	42 cents	\$12.50
Cook	37 cents	\$5.90
Doctor	\$1.53	\$45.00
Accountant	\$1.12	\$17.50