

Economy



£1 in 1670 is roughly equivalent to \$120/£64 in current value. The gold price in 1670 is £4.45 per fine ounce.

For historical currency conversions, see

<http://www.pierre-marteau.com/currency/converter.html>

Coins and money system:

[http://pierre-marteau.com/wiki/index.php?title=Great Britain:Money](http://pierre-marteau.com/wiki/index.php?title=Great_Britain:Money)

<http://www.17thcenturylifeandtimes.com/coins.html>

<http://www.kipar.org/piratical-resources/pirate-money.html>

<http://www.portsdown.demon.co.uk/coin.htm>

£1 = 20 shillings = 240 pennies = 480 halfpennies = 960 farthings.
1 Guinea = 21 shillings.

Measurements:

<http://pierre-marteau.com/wiki/index.php?title=London:Measures>

Wages



There is no scandal like rags, nor any crime so shameful as poverty.
George Farquhar

Job	Yearly wages, pounds
Agricultural Labourers	17.78 (J)
Agricultural Worker	10-13 (P)
Apothecary	10-15 (P)
Army Captain	146 (P)
Army Colonel	365 (P)
Army Lieutenant	73 (P)
Army Sergeant	54 (P)
Army soldier	12 (P)
Artillery soldier	18.75
Building laborer (London)	20 (van Zanden)
Carpenter (London)	36 (van Zanden)

Clergymen	99.66 (J)
Clerks (exc. govt.)	43.64 (J)
Colonial Governor	1,000 - 5,000 (P)
Court Poet	50-60 (P)
Day Labourers	16-18 pence per day (Mandeville)
Engineers, Surveyors	131.09 (J)
General Labourers	19.22 (J)
Gentry	1,000 - 5,000 (P)
Government high-wage	62.88 (J)
Government low-wage	21.58 (J)
Interpreter	35.9 (J)
Justice of the Peace	63 (P)
Longstanding mistress	200 (+£1000 stabilizing her at end of affair) (gifts rather than payment) (Marteau)
Lower Clergy	10-50 (P)
Messengers, Porters (exc. govt.)	31.15 (J)
Militiaman	4 (P)
Miners	22.46 (J)
Navy Captain/Army Major	237 (P)
Navy Midshipman	27 (P)
Navy Seaman	11 (P)
Nobleman	5,000 - 25,000 (P)
Officeholding Lawyer	1,000 (P)
Physician	120 (P)
Police, Guards, Watchmen	13.28 (J)
Sculptor	20 – 100 (P)
Servant	1 + keep (P)
Skilled Craftsman	30 (P)
Skilled in Building Trades	28.50 (J)
Skilled in Engineering	40.73 (J)
Skilled in Printing Trades	43.29 (J)
Skilled in Shipbuilding	36.26 (J)
Skilled in Textiles	33.59 (J)
Skilled Labourer	16 – 18 (P)
Solicitors and Barristers	113.16 (J)
Subsistence Farmer	6 (P)
Surgeons, Medical	51.72 (J)
Teacher (Female)	8 (P)
Teacher (Male)	12 (P)
Teachers	15.78 (J)
Unskilled Labourer	15 (P)
Woman labourer	5 (P)
Yeoman farmer/Plantation Owner	40 – 250 (P)

(J): Jeffrey G. Williamson, "The Structure of Pay in Britain, 1710-1911", *Research in Economic History*, 7 (1982), 1-54., <http://www.pierre-marteau.com/currency/indices/uk-03.html>

(P): <http://www.kipar.org/piratical-resources/pirate-money.html> (Applies to the Caribbean early 18th century)

Equipment and goods



We are the men of intrinsic value, who can strike our fortunes out of ourselves, whose worth is independent of accidents in life, or revolutions in government: we have heads to get money, and hearts to spend it.
George Farquhar

<http://www.iisg.nl/hpw/data.php#united>

Global Price and Income History Group:

Goods	Unit	Price
Barley	per bushel	s 2.069
Beans	per bushel	s 2.289
Beef	per lb.	d 2.932
Beer-strong	per gallon	d 8.006
Bricks	per 100 bricks	d 23.776
Books	per 200 pages	s 5.817
Bread	per lb.	d 5.221
Butter	per lb.	d 15.368
Candles tallow	per lb.	d 6.586
Candles Wax	per lb.	d 4.63
Charcoal	per bushel	d 40.363
Cheese	per lb.	d 9.089
Cider	per gallon	d 12.62
Cinnamon	per lb.	d 3.724
Clothing	per suit	s 13.061
Coal	per ton	s 4.626
Coal London	per ton	s 15.92
Coal North	per ton	s 1.642

Coal rest of Eng.	per ton	s 9.822
Coal pithead	per ton	s 1.743
Coalgas	per 1000ft3	s 31.217
Coffee	per lb.	d 7.68
Cotton	per lb.	d 23.8
Cottoncloth	per lb.	d 4.58
Cream	per gallon	d 16.311
Eggs	per dozen	d 39.726
Firewood	per ton	s 5.93
Flour	per lb.	d 3.401
Ginger	per lb.	d 4.5
Glassware	per bottle	d 0.971
Hay	per ton	s 1.341
Herring	per	d 46.448
Honey	per lb.	d 9.122
Hops	per lb.	d 8.0
Housing	per year	s 2.683
Iron-pig	per lb.	d 16.14
Iron-manu	per lb.	d 12.704
Linen cloth	per yard	d 3.218
Manu item	per	d 4.709
Milk	per gallon	d 2.111
Mustard	per bushel	s 3.125
Mutton	per lb.	d 59.48
Nails	per lb.	d 3.159
Oatmeal	per lb.	d 2.785
Oats	per bushel	s 21.96
Oil-lamp	per gallon	d 13.905
Paper-foolscap	per quire	d 5.292
Parchment	per dozen	s 7.713
Peas	per bushel	s 23.893
Pepper	per lb.	d 5.152
Pewter	per lb.	d 3.926
Pork	per lb.	d 1.585
Potato	per cwt	s 4.221
Raisins/currants	per lb.	d 6.19
Rice	per lb.	d 8.463
Rye	per bushel	s 10.06
Saffron	per ounce	d 18.093
Salt	per cwt	d 11.86
Salt Cod index	per	s 111.4
Salt Salmon	per barrel	s 109.6
Shoes	per pair	d 1670.
Silk Thread	per lb.	s 0.322
Soap	per lb.	d 0.356
Spade/shovel	per piece	d 2.952
Stockings	per pair	s 0.966
Straw	per load	d 10.858
Suet	per lb.	d 5.857
Sugar	per lb.	s 5.256
Tea	per lb.	d 15.472

Tobacco	per lb.	d 0.085
Treacle	per lb.	d 4.662
Trenchers	per dozen	s 221.192
Vinegar	per gallon	s 49.024
Wine-Port	per gallon	s 68.068
Wheat	per bushel	d 20.087
Wheatflour	per lb.	d 70.446
Wood	per ft3	d 2.113
wool	per lb.	s 85.871
Woolcloth	per yard	d 1.654
Workgloves	per pair	d 9.889
Wage, farm	per day	d 0.796
Wage, craft	per day	d 168.375
Wage, bldg laborer	per day	d 7.732

Nicole Cargil-Kipar, <http://www.kipar.org/piratical-resources/pirate-money.html>

Good	Price	Comment
Services		
Baronet title	£1,000	
Gentry Woman's Dowry	£100 - 8,000	
Theatre, general admission	1d	
Theatre, gallery seat	2-3d	
Theatre, box seat	1s	
Good lodging	5s	A fine room, sheltered from the elements, with good light during the day. Meal not included.
Common lodging	1s	A dry place to sleep for a good price, but you may itch a bit afterwards. Meal not included.
Poor lodging	2d	A common dormetry shared with up to 20 others, and no guarantee all your belongings will still be there in the morning. Meal not included.
A woman's favour	2-10d	
Food		
Meat per pound	2d	
Whole pig	£1	
Whole chicken	1-2d	
Dozen eggs	6 d	
Butter per pound	4 d	
Loaf of bread	1-2 d	
Wine per pint	1-2 d	Cheap, watered wine
Ale per quart	1 d	
Tea per pound	£2 10s	

Bottle of rum	1s	
Bottle of wine	2s	European wine
Bottle of good wine	10-20s	
Excellent meal	12s	A gentleman's meal with four courses (such as suckling pig in a wine and honey sauce, fresh bread, game hen marinated in lemon juice, and pepper, green peppers stuffed with devilled crab, a delicate clam soup, muffins with butter and cheese, lemon sugar crumpets, all served with a sparkling white wine, and later a glass of good scotch to greet the evening).
Good meal	5s	For example, pork or fish, fresh bread, onions, yams, fresh fruit.
Common meal	1s	For example, bread, potatoes or beans, a meat flavoured broth, with a few vegetables, and stale bread for soaking.
Poor meal	6-8d	For example, broth and some stale bread.
Clothing		
Ladies' skirt, cotton or linen	6s	
Ladies' skirt, wool	12s	A finer article for ladies of some distinction.
Ladies' skirt, worsted wool	£1	Sewn of the finest wool fibers, it is no warmer than one of cotton or linen; the garment of a wealthy planter's wife.
Ladies' skirt, silk	£8-30	The clothing of a fine lady or noblewoman.
Ladies' corset or bodice	10s	
Ladies' silk bodice	£6-12	
Ladies' overskirt, cotton or linen	3s	
Ladies' overskirt, wool	10s	
Ladies' overskirt, silk	£6-10	
Ladies' stockings, cotton or wool	2s	
Ladies' stockings, silk	£2-3	
Ladies' chemise, silk	£8-15	
Gentleman's shirt, linen or cotton	5s	
Gentleman's shirt, silk	£3-8	

Gentleman's breeches, linen or cotton	5s	
Gentleman's breeches, wool	8s	
Gentleman's breeches, silk	£5-10	
Gentleman's stockings, cotton or wool	2s	
Gentleman's stockings, silk	£2-3	
Gentleman's waistcoat, cotton or linen	10-15s	
Gentleman's waistcoat, wool	£1-4	
Gentleman's waistcoat, silk	£20-100	
Gentleman's coat, wool	£3-5	
Gentleman's coat, silk	£50-150	
Gentleman's cravat, cotton or linen	2s 6d	Lace edging drastically increases the price.
Gentleman's cravat, silk	£1-2	Lace edging drastically increases the price.
Gentleman's wig	£1-12	
Plumed hat	15s	
Simple hat	8s 6d	
Straw hat	3s	
Sailors cap	3s	
Leather boots	£1 6s	
Good shoes	12 s	
Shoes	8 s	
Belt	5s 6d	Good, buff leather swordbelt
Sailor's jacket	10s	
Sailor's shirt	3s	
Sailor's breeches	2s	
Grooming kit	£5	Razor, wash basin, linen, soap, cologne, comb, small sheers, small chamber pot.
Weapons		
Cutlass/Hanger	7s 6d	
Broadsword/Cavalry Sword	10s	Common weapons amongst soldiers.
Smallsword	£3-5	A gentleman's sword. This is a plain version, many are jewelled and gilded.
Dagger	2s 6d	
Boarding axe	5s	
Boarding pike	4s	
Belaying pin	2s	
Musket, flintlock	£3	
Musket, matchlock	£1	Somewhat slow and antiquated, but cheap.
Carbine, flintlock	£2 10s	
Pistol, flintlock	£5	
Blunderbuss, flintlock	£2	
Musketoen, flintlock	£2	

Swivelgun	£2	Per pound shot. Weight of the gun is about 50 times the weight of the shot
Cannon	£4	Per pound shot. Weight of the gun is about 200 times the weight of the shot.
Roundshot	2d	Per pound of shot.
Pistol/musket shot	6d	Per pound of shot - around 15 musket balls or 25 pistol balls.
Black Eagle (powder)	10s	Per cask. This powder is old and has settled out of its original mix. It has been around too long. It is less reliable and more dangerous than other powders, but it is cheap!
French White Letter (powder)	£1	Per cask. This powder is not fresh, but it has been stored and mixed properly and gives good report when fired.
Red Letter (powder)	£1	Per cask. This powder is hard to get. It is Port-Royal's best powder, and the ingredients are superior. This is new powder that stores well.
White Letter Primer	£2	Per cask. This is a fine grain high quality powder, used to prime both handguns and cannons. Fine grain priming powder is a necessity. Each cannon shot used as much primer as a fully loaded musket uses common powder.
Powder horn	10d	Holds the coarse reloading powder for pistols and muskets. Contains around 40 shots worth of powder.
Priming horn	6d	Holds the finer priming powder.
Cartridge box	2s 6d	Holds between 12 and 20 paper cartridges for a musket.
Bayonet	2s 6d	Socket type bayonet.
Cargos		
Leather shoes (from Florence)	£400	For a crate of around 200 shoes.
Furniture (Paris)	£1800	For a crate of around 30

Fans (China)	£3200	pieces of furniture. For a crate of 800 fans.
Rugs (Turkey)	£1000	For a crate of 50 rugs.
Books	£1200	For a crate of 200 books.
Pewterware (London)	£600	For a crate of 200 pieces.
Glassware (Amsterdam)	£800	For a crate of 200 pieces.
Jewellery (Venice)	£6000	For a crate of approximately 50 pieces (for example, letter openers, crucifixes, music boxes, inkwells, etc.)
Jewellery (Spain)	£4000	For a crate of approximately 100 pieces (for example, rosaries and rings from Cadiz, bracelets and pendants from Seville, smallswords from Toledo, etc.)
Bar of gold	£1500	For a single 5lb bar.
Bar of silver	£50	For a single 5lb bar.
Silverware	£10,000	A crate of approximately 200 pieces. (for example, cups, urns, plates, forks, knives, spoons, etc.)
Semi-precious gemstones	£40,000	For approximately 300-500 gemstones,, weighing approx. 100lbs (for example, opals, topaz, lapis lazuli, etc.)
Precious gemstones	£200,000	For approximately 500-1,000 gemstones, weighing around 100lbs (for example, emeralds, sapphires, diamonds, rubies, etc.)
Pearls	£12,000	For approximately 300 pearls (weighing about 30-40lbs)
Ivory	£40,000	For a crate of about 10 tusks.
Sandalwood (China)	£1000	For about 100lbs weight.
Silk (China)	£800	Per bolt.
Cask of pepper	£200	
Cask of cloves	£400	
Cask of rosemary	£100	
Cask of ginseng	£1600	
Cask of medicinal herbs	£800	
Cask of vinegar or olive oil	£20	
Cask of good rum	£30	
Cask of poor rum	£10	
Cask of european wine	£50	This includes wine made in the vineyards of New Spain.
Cask of fine wine	£100	
Cask of local fruit wine	£30	
Cask of beer	£10	Beer of acceptable quality (mixes equally with water to

make small beer)

Liza Picard, Dr Johnson's London:

http://footguards.tripod.com/08HISTORY/08_costofliving.htm

A pound of soap (by no means as gentle as today's soap, for it might contain traces of lye).	1 1/2d
Hourly rate for a boy to chop firewood.	1 1/2d
A day's allowance of coal.	1d
Enough gin to get drunk on.	1d
Half a loaf	1/2d
Enough gin to get dead drunk on: as the old advertising saw goes, "Drunk for a penny, dead drunk for tuppence."	2d
Supper of bread, cheese and beer.	3d
Cost of blood-letting for a poor person.	3d
Cost of postage of a one-page letter going 80 miles (paid for by recipient).	3d
A quart of beer.	4d
A boat across the river.	4d
A pound of cheese (domestic).	4d - 6d
A pound of hair powder.	5d
A barber's fee for a shave and dressing of one's wig.	6d
Cost of sweeping one chimney.	6d
Dinner for a government clerk: cold meat, bread and a pint of porter.	6 1/4d (Sixpence farthing)
Cost of an evening at a coffee house.	8d
Turnpike toll for a coach and four horses.	8d
A pound of butter.	8d -10d
Cost of an almanac.	9d
1lb of fat bacon (enough for two working men).	10d - 1s
A dozen Seville oranges (not the kind we would care to eat today - nowadays they would be used for making marmalade	10d - 1s
Dinner in a steakhouse - beef, bread and beer, plus tip.	1s (one shilling)
Sign-on bonus for army recruitment: The king's Shilling.	1s
Admission to Vauxhall Gardens	1s
Admission to Ranelagh Gardens	1s (although it could be as much as 2 guineas on masquerade nights).
A dish of beef at Vauxhall.	1s
1lb of perfumed soap.	1s
Postage of a one page letter from London to New York.	1s
1lb of Parmesan cheese.	1s
Cost of 12 yards of gold braid.	2s

Weekly rent of a furnished room for a tradesman.	2s
Daily pay for journeyman tailors.	2s 2d
Dinner sent in from a tavern	2s 6d
A chicken at Vauxhall gardens	2s 6d
A tooth extraction	2s 6d
A whole pig.	2s 6d
A ticket to hear the rehearsal of the music for the royal fireworks at Vauxhall	2s 6d
1lb of candles.	2s 10d
A pair of men's yarn knitted stockings	3s 2d
A barrel of Colchester oysters.	3s 3d
A petticoat for a working woman.	4s 6d
A bottle of claret at Vauxhall.	5s
A pound of Fry's drinking chocolate.	5s
A workman's secondhand coat.	5s
A box at Drury Lane Theatre (1763).	5s
1lb of coffee (but tea was more expensive!)	4s 9d - 6s
A pint of lavender water.	5s 2d
A pair of women's worsted stockings.	5s 7d
A pair of stays for a working woman.	6s
A dozen rabbits in the market.	7s
A stout pair of shoes.	7s
1lb of tea.	7s 6d - 16s
A yard of flowered damask (you would need 15 1/2 yards for one dress).	8s 8d
Weekly wage of an unskilled laborer.	9s
A piece (14 1/2 yards) of Indian sprigged muslin.	9s
Cost of Dr Johnson's just-published Dictionary 1756	10s
A bottle of Dr Prossilly's water for the pox (half a guinea was a common professional fee).	10s 6d
A ticket to hear Handel's Messiah (Handel on the organ) at the Foundling Hospital.	10s 6d
A ticket in pit or box at Theatre Royal, Covent Garden 1763.	10s 6d
Cost of various wigs.	10s 6d - 1 15s
A yard of Mechlin lace.	13s 10d
A pair of men's lace ruffles.	16s
A pair of men's silk stockings.	17s 4d
Weekly wage of a journeyman tradesman 1777.	18s -22s
A wig for a clerk in a public office.	18s
A brass barometer.	18s
A yard of rich brocaded satin.	18s 6d

Price of carpet per square yard.	£1 - 36s (One pound to 36 shillings)
A fine beaver hat.	£1 1s (one guinea)
Twelve French lessons.	£1 1s (one guinea)
Season ticket to Vauxhall 1742.	£1 9s
A pair of velvet breeches.	£1 10s
A pair of stout silk-knit breeches.	£1 12s
Monthly pay of an East India Company seaman 1762.	£1 15s
Annual shaving and wig-dressing contract.	£2 (two pounds)
A month's dancing lessons.	£2 2s (two guineas)
Annual pay of a ship's boy.	£2 10s
A suit of clothes for a clerk in public office.	£4 10s (Four and a half pounds)
A silver hilted sword.	£5
A silver watch.	£5 5s (five guineas)
Cost of a night out, including supper, a bath and a fashionable courtesan	£6

Pierre Marteau

<http://pierre-marteau.com/wiki/index.php?title=Great Britain:Prices and Wages> (largely based on Uffenbach 1-3: C. Z. Uffenbach, *Merckwürdige Reisen durch Niedersachsen, Holland und Engelland*, 1.-3. Theil (Frankfurt/ Leipzig, 1753/ Ulm, 1754))

Books

8 pages, Key to the Memoirs of Count Grammont (1715).	2d
Political treatise 24 pages, 8°.	3d
40-50 pages, 8° or 12°.	6d
Regular price of political fictions whether 256 pages 8° as in the case of the History of Prince Mirabel (1712) or shorter like the first volume of Queen Zarah (1705), with 120 pages.	1s
Small novels, 112-144 pages, that is 9 sheets 8° or 6 sheets 12°.	1s 6d
200 pages plus frontispiece, fashionable books can, however, be that expensive while offering much less: the second volume of Eliza Haywood's <i>Love in Excess</i> (1719), 111 pages for instance.	2s
Novels of about 300 pages.	3s
a novel with frontispiece, also (appearing in its first yet spectacular volume without the frontispiece) Delarivier Manley's <i>Atalantis</i> (1709), 246 pages, 8°.	3s 6d
Heliodorus' <i>Theagenes und Chariclia</i>	5s
Fenelon's <i>Telemachus</i> published in 1715 with frontispiece, classics of 600 to 800 pages.	6s
"The Cries of London" 70 prints - as Uffenbach regrets: not the series with notes for the violin. [1710: Uffenbach 3, p.218]	½ guinea

Fee at Bodleian to see books. The sub-librarian needed another guinea to show manuscripts of the visitors choice. 8s

Chemicals and equipment

Gold Beater Skin: The skin of a lamb's bladder, used by gold beaters to beat gold leafs. Supposedly a superb plaster preventing wounds from festering. 3 d per leaf

Emery: To be used by an optician. London, at the sign of the sugar loaf in Salisbury court. 2s per pound of high quality

Lapp: Cloth nearly an inch thick used by an optician to polish glass. London, at the sign of the sugar loaf in Salisbury court 6s

Zinc Oxide Putty: To be used by an optician for grinding glass. London, at the sign of the sugar loaf in Salisbury court. 2s for 1 pound of better quality

Entertainment

Cockfighting. London, Gras Inn, a round wooden house: An entertainment where classes mix. Aristocrats can bet up to 20 guineas on a cock, and lose their money to mean labourers. The cocks have rich owners. Regular bets: a few shillings per fight. Those who cannot pay their bets, are - to the laughter of the audience - put into a cage and held in the air. [1710: Uffenbach 2, p.478-80]

Comedy. Greenwich: Seats 1 s. gallery, 1 s. 6 d. pit, 2 s. 6 d. box.

Concerts. With singers and small orchestra in Southwark: 1 s. 6 d., more expensive:

Stationer's Hall: 2 s. 6 d., more prestigious:

York Buildings: 5 s.

Fistfight. Harwich - no official entertainment.

Noble passengers waiting for better weather to travel to the Netherlands offer two idle boatmen a crown for a fight to be performed at the pleasure of those waiting. The boatmen wearing breeches only do not use weapons, the ordeal is quite a bloody anyway and heated up with a shilling thrown into the scene every now and then. Allegedly quite a regular entertainment.

Opera. Etarco, 31 Jan. 1711: loge: 8 s., pit: 5 s., first gallery: 2 s. 6 d. upper gallery: 1 s. 6 d., half a guinea: proscenium. Glamorous events are more expensive: the opening of Il

Amadigi, 25 May 1715 twice as much for the cheapest seats. The opears booklet: 1 s. 6 d.

Puppet Theatre

Powerl's satirical theatre. opening in 1710-11 in London, loge: 2 s., pit: 1 s., gallery 6 d.
Sex. A guinea per night for casual encounters with women of style. A longstanding mistress [Gottlieb Stolle reports in his travelogue (1703), p.617-621] begins her career with 17 or 19 years receiving £ 200 per year and an additional rate of £ 1,000 to "stabilise" her in the end of the affair.
Swordplay. London, at Bear Garden in Hockley Hole: The event begins with four men beating each other with sticks and fighting for the money thrown onto the stage - shillings or half crowns, if the audience is generous and wants to see the battle intensify. The main event is a fight with changing weapons - swords and daggers - which can inflict in serious wounds. Two thirds of the money (shillings and crowns, thrown into the ring and collected by the seconds) go to the winner, one third to the looser. The event ends with a crowd of boys fighting on the stage for more then an hour for every piece of money they can catch. Among the audience: men and women.
[1710: Uffenbach 2, p.532-36]

Instruments

Barometer: London, Patrick's shop, an instrument with mercury, cheapest version 2 guineas, top model 15 guineas
Moreland's Arithmetic Instrument: London, Rohly's shop: The instrument is described in a book on the subject published in 1679 the instrument itself has to be produced on demand. 5 guineas.
Ruling Pen: London, Coolpepper's shop, ½ Crown
Shortsight Glass to be used at the Comedy: London, Coolpepper's shop, 6 s.
Telescope: With extensible tubes and five lenses. London, Praun's shop, 1 guinea.
Watches: London, Christoph Holsom's shop: An instrument to be joined with your own watch in order to produce an alarm clock. 12 s.
Watchmaker's Instruments: An Instrument to cut the fusee. London, Pardin's shop: 2 guineas.

Transport

Harwich-London: 4-horse-coach for 6 passengers (or 3 passengers and three bigger pieces of baggage) arriving from the Netherlands and travelling to London. 5 guineas
London: one of the 700 London Hackney Coaches from the fringes into the center. 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d.

1625 Southampton
<http://www.portsdown.demon.co.uk/mark.htm>

Selected prices 1600-1749 in the American colonies (mostly alcohol, food and clothing):
http://www.greyhouse.com/pdf/vodc_pgs.pdf

Prices for military ordnance: <http://www.portsdown.demon.co.uk/ord.htm>

Dream goods



Anybody can dream any riches, so the value of thing in dreams is largely arbitrary and pointless. The exception is objects imbued with Passion, real objects and dream goods that require a master shaper to dream.

Imbued objects are useful because they persist; this occasionally leads to people bartering them in dreams. Native dreams are especially interested in this, since the passion can help them retain their shape and individuality. Most people create imbued objects (and beings) accidentally through their passions, and are often loath to part with their favorite dog or hierloom sword – but selling their “worst enemy” as a slave or food does hold a certain thrill.

Real objects are also valuable in dreams, since they not only retain their reality like imbued objects but also can hurt dreamers. This makes real weapons quite sought after, especially by dreams. Some countries ban trading or even bringing over real weapons, but enough leak in to make Antillian pirates or the blackguards of Vanity Fair risky.



Dream objects are usually less problematic in the real world. If not imbued with passion or blood they tend to fade, and their often arbitrary properties rarely affect real people much. Still, a nightmare hellhound, a flying carpet or a magical sword have their uses. The Spanish inquisition is said to use nightmare torture implements to check whether their victims are Cambions or normal humans – the implement permanently hurts Cambions. The French court occasionally holds fêtes on soft clouds. In dreams certain objects have useful abilities, such as a ship blessed by Neptune never to sink or a potion that heals all (dream) wounds.

Bartering in dreams can take many forms. The most common is a dream object for an imbued object. Some dreams may demand Passion (and rarely, Reason) directly in the form of a stirring poem, a romantic encounter or worship. Powerful or wicked dreams may suck it out directly – or demand blood. Services are also on interest: a weak dream may ask a shaper to help it, and some dream nobility are involved in very real courtly intrigue.