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# Prices and Incomes: Then and Now

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## PRICES AND INCOMES, THEN AND NOW

**Janet Hughes**

When it was decided late in 1995 that the Sci-Tech Division would create several events and publications honoring the 50th anniversary of the first issue of *Sci-Tech News*, I proposed that we include a comparison of costs of items for 1946 and 1995. This table is a result of my research.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>1946(1)</u>	<u>1995(2)</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
Coffee, 1 pound	\$ 0.35	\$ 3.97	1034.3
Eggs, 1 dozen large	0.63	1.14	80.9
Milk, 1 quart whole	0.21	0.65	209.5
Music, vinyl LP vs. CD	1.25 vinyl LP	16.00 CD	1180.9
Blouse, rayon (Sears)	4.95	26.00	425.3
Shoes, suede (women's)	8.95	60.00	570.4
Hotel, moderate, Richmond VA	3.75	75.00	1900.0
Dinner, moderate, Chicago	0.95	17.00	1689.5
Automobile (Chevy 4-dr midsize)	1212.00	19,000.00	1467.7
Dry cleaning, men's suit	0.50	8.50	1600.0
Book, best-seller	1.00	25.00	2400.0
Magazine (Life)	0.20	3.95	1875.0
Airfare (San Fran to Chicago)	73.00	190.00	153.3
House (avg., South Carolina)	5700.00	66,500.00	1066.7
Salary, librarian (median) (3)	3100.00	40,465.00	1205.3

1. Prices for 1946 from: *The Value of a dollar, prices and incomes in the United States, 1860-1989*. Gale Research: Detroit; 1984
2. Prices for 1995 from current newspapers, advertisements and store prices
3. Salaries from SLA Salary Survey, 1948 and 1994

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