

# The Legacy of America's First Veterans

## Table of Retail Prices, ca. 1835

Under the pension acts of 1818 and 1832, veteran enlisted men were mostly awarded pensions of \$96 a year.

A pension of \$96 provided a veteran enlisted man with \$8 a month or about \$1.85 a week, which was far less than the typical wage. In the mid-1830s a farm laborer in New England made about \$5 a week, or \$2.50-\$3 a week with room and board. An ordinary cotton mill worker made about \$5 a week. Carpenters, blacksmiths, stonecutters, hat makers, nail makers, coopers and masons made \$5-8 a week. Cotton mill machinists, pressmen in printing shops, brass founders and tinsmiths made \$7-10 a week.

The following are typical prices for some basic commodities in 1835, taken from New England newspapers:

Beef and pork	6-8 cents a pound	Molasses	30-25 cents a gallon
Poultry	7-9 cents a pound	Raisins	10 cents a pound
Fish	3-5 cents a pound	Apples	10 cents a dozen
Bacon	10 cents a pound	Oranges	40-50 cents a dozen
Eggs	17-23 cents a dozen	Shoes	\$1-1.50 pair
Cheese	9-12 cents a pound	Boots	\$4-4.50 pair
Butter	20 cents a pound	Coat	\$3-4
Bread	7 cents a loaf	Hat	\$1-1.50
Milk	5 cents a quart	Light cotton cloth	10-20 cents a yard
Coffee	13 cents a pound	Heavy cotton cloth	30 cents a yard
Tea	30-40 cents a pound	Linen	30-50 cents a yard
Rice	5 cents a pound	Firewood	\$3.50-3.75 cord
Dried beans	7-10 cents a quart	Lamp oil	\$1 gallon
Sugar	11-14 cents a pound	Candles	12 cents a pound