

Household Expenses

The following pages come from *Madam Johnson's Present: Or, Every Young Woman's Companion, in Useful and Universal Knowledge*, published in Dublin in 1770.

While the expenses were applicable to Great Britain and may be slightly different for the American colonies, it will give you an idea of the kinds of expenses people had at the time and the relative worth of various items and services.

America used the monetary system of Great Britain (although they also supplemented their coins with those from many different countries). Prices were calculated in pounds (l.), shillings (s.), pence (d.), and farthings (f.).

1 pound = 20 shillings

1 shilling = 12 pence (plural of penny)

1 penny = 4 farthings

A TABLE to cast up Expenses, or Wages.

Per Year.	Per Month.				Per Week.				Per Day			
l	l.	s.	d.	f.	l.	s.	d.	f.	l.	s.	d.	f.
1	0	1	6	2	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	3
2	0	3	0	3	0	0	9	1	0	0	1	1
3	0	4	7	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	0
4	0	6	1	3	0	1	6	2	0	0	2	3
5	0	7	8	0	0	1	11	0	0	0	3	1
6	0	9	2	2	0	2	3	2	0	0	4	0
7	0	10	9	0	0	2	8	1	0	0	4	2
8	0	12	3	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	5	1
9	0	13	9	3	0	3	5	2	0	0	6	0
10	0	15	4	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	6	2
11	0	16	10	2	0	4	2	3	0	0	7	1
12	0	18	5	0	0	4	7	1	0	0	8	0
13	0	19	11	1	0	4	11	3	0	0	8	2
14	1	1	5	3	0	5	4	1	0	0	9	1
15	1	3	0	1	0	5	9	0	0	0	9	3
16	1	4	6	2	0	6	1	3	0	0	10	2
17	1	6	1	0	0	6	6	1	0	0	11	1
18	1	7	7	2	0	6	0	3	0	0	11	3
19	1	9	1	3	0	7	3	2	0	1	0	2
20	1	10	8	1	0	7	8	0	0	1	1	1
30	2	6	0	1	0	11	6	0	0	1	7	3
40	3	1	4	2	0	15	4	0	0	2	2	1
50	3	16	8	2	0	19	2	1	0	2	9	0
60	4	12	0	3	1	3	0	1	0	3	3	2
70	5	7	4	3	1	6	10	1	0	3	10	0
80	6	2	9	0	1	10	8	1	0	4	4	2
90	6	18	1	0	1	14	6	1	0	4	11	2
100	7	13	5	0	1	18	4	1	0	5	5	3
200	15	6	10	1	3	16	8	2	0	10	11	2
300	23	0	3	1	5	15	0	3	0	16	5	1
400	30	13	8	2	7	13	5	0	1	1	11	0
500	38	7	1	2	9	11	9	1	1	7	4	3
1000	76	14	3	0	19	3	6	3	2	14	9	2

The above Table shews how much may be expended, or due, monthly, weekly and daily, according to the yearly Allowance of any Sum from 1 l. to 1000 l. inclusive. The fractional Parts of a Farthing, in the daily Article, are added or omitted, as they exceed or are under the Half of that Coin: and the Month in this Table, and the next, is computed at 28 Days; but in the general Calculation 365 Days are allowed to the Year.

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An Estimate of the necessary Charge of a Family in the middling Station of Life, consisting of a Man, his Wife, Four Children, and One Maid-Servant.

	Daily Expence				Week. Ex.			
	For 1		For 7.					
	d.	f.	s.	d.	f.	l.	s.	d.
B R E A D for Seven Per-	0	3	0	5	1	0	3	0
sons, per Head, per Day								
Butter		3	0	5	1	0	3	0
Cheese		1	0	1	3	0	1	0
Fish and Flesh Meat	2	2	1	5	2	0	10	2
Roots and Herbs, Salt, Vine-								
gar, Mustard, Pickles, Spi-								
ces, and Grocery, except								
Tea and Sugar		2	0	3	2	0	2	0
Tea and Sugar	1	0	0	7	0	0	4	1
Soap for the Family Occasi-								
ons, and washing all man-								
ner of things, both at home								
and abroad	1	2	0	10	2	0	6	1
Threads, Needles, Pins, Tapes,								
Worsted, Bindings, and all								
Sorts of Haberdashery	0	2	0	3	2	0	2	0
Milk one Day with another			0	0	3	0	0	5
Candles, about 2 Pounds and a Half per								
Week the Year round						0	1	3
Sand, Fullers Earth, Whiting, Smallcoal,								
Brickduft						0	0	2
Ten-shillings Small Beer, a Ferkin and a								
Quarter per Week						0	3	1
Ale for the Family and Friends						0	2	6
Coals, between four and five Chaldron per								
Annum, may be estimated at						0	2	6
Repairs of Houshold Goods, as Table-Linen,								
Bedding, Sheets, and every Utensil for								
Houshold Occasions						0	1	6
Six Shillings and Two Pence Weekly for								
Seven Persons, amounts to						2	3	2
£2 3s. 2d. weekly, amounts yearly to						112	4	8
Cloaths								

	l.	s.	d.
Brought over	112	4	8
Cloaths for the Master of the Family	16	0	0
Cloaths for Wife, who cannot wear much, nor very fine Laces, with	16	0	0
Extraordinary Expence attending every Lying-in, 10l. supposed to be once in two Years	5	0	0
Cloaths for four Children, at 7 l. per Ann. for each Child	28	0	0
Schooling for four Children, at 10s. per Quarter for each Child	8	0	0
The Maid's Wages may be	4	10	0
Pocket Expences for the Master of the Family, supposed to be about 4 s. per Week	10	8	0
For the Mistress of the Family, and for the four Children, to buy Fruit, Toys, &c. at 2 s. per Week	5	4	0
Entertainments in Return for such Favours from Friends and Relations	4	1	1
Physic for the whole Family, one Year with another	6	0	0
A Country-lodging sometimes, for the Health and Recreation of the Family; or instead thereof, the extraordinary Charge of nursing a Child abroad	8	0	0
Shaving, 7 s. 6 d. per Quarter; and cleaning Shoes, 2 s. 6 d. per Quarter	2	0	0
Rent and Taxes, something more or less than	50	0	0
Expences of Trade with Customers, Travelling-charges, Christmas Box-money, Postage of Letters, &c.	19	8	3
Bad Debts, which may easily be more than 2 l. per Cent. on the supposed Capital of 1000 l.	20	0	0
	815	0	0
There must be laid up one Year with another, for 20 Years, in order to leave a Child, and a Widow, if there should be one, 500 l. a-piece	75	0	0
Therefore 1000 l. by this Estimate, should gain one Year with another	390	0	0
			Terms