

Homework Activity: Great Depression Math

The Great Depression put millions of Americans out of work. Looking at the wages and prices below and compare them to the wages and prices of today. Do you think it is easier to live today or in the 1930s.

Weekly Wages Earned During the Great Depression and Today		
Occupation	Then	Now
Manufacturing Worker	\$16.89	\$500
Cook	\$15.00	\$236
Doctor	\$61.11	\$1800
Accountant	\$45.00	\$700

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Visit your local store or use the internet to find how much the following items cost today.

Food Item	Price Then	Price Now	Estimated cost to feed a family of 4 for 1 month - 1938	Estimated cost to feed a family of 4 for 1 month - 2008
Loaf of Bread	\$0.05			
12 Oranges	\$0.25			
1 lb Hamburger	\$0.15			
Gallon of Milk	\$0.55			
1 lb of Bacon	\$0.35			
1 pair of Shoes	\$2.50			
1 shirt	\$1.00			
Candy Bar	\$0.05			
Movie Ticket	\$0.25			
Tractor Tire	\$5.00			
Baseball glove & bat	\$2.00			
Doll	\$2.00			
Toilet paper roll	\$0.05			
Clothes Washer	\$33.50			

Do you think that families had to make sacrifices during the Great Depression. If you were alive during that time, what would you go without? Do you think families today need to make sacrifices too?
