

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORKSHEET

Chapter 15: From Flappers to World War II Section 3: World War II

Developing Economic Skills: U.S. Food Prices 1920-1948

Directions: The U.S. Department of Labor keeps track of the prices that are paid for certain items in the marketplace. The table below lists ten food items and the average prices people paid for those items for the period from 1920 to 1948. The prices are given in cents per pound except for milk (cents per quart) and eggs (cents per dozen). Study the chart and answer the questions that follow.

Item	1920	1929	1932	1939	1941	1943	1946	1948
White bread	11.5	8.8	7.0	7.9	8.1	8.9	10.4	13.9
Sliced bacon	52.3	43.9	24.2	31.0	34.3	56.2	51.3	76.1
Butter	70.1	55.5	27.8	32.5	41.1	52.7	71.0	91.2
Cheese	41.6	39.5	24.4	25.3	30.0	37.4	50.1	63.6
Milk	16.7	14.4	10.7	12.2	13.6	15.5	17.6	21.1
Eggs	68.1	52.7	30.2	32.1	39.7	57.2	58.6	66.5
Bananas	12.6	9.7	6.5	6.3	7.2	11.7	11.6	15.5
Potatoes	6.3	3.2	1.7	2.5	2.4	4.6	4.7	6.0
Coffee	47.0	47.9	29.4	22.4	23.6	30.0	34.4	51.1
Sugar	19.4	6.4	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.8	7.7	9.5

1. Which item was the most expensive per pound in 1920? _____
in 1948? _____
2. What is the approximate cost per pound for this item today? _____
3. Why are the prices for all items lower in 1932 than they were in 1929? _____

4. Which of the food items do you think were imported from another country? How would this affect price? _____

5. Which food items would usually come from a nearby supplier? How would this affect the price? _____

6. Which of these items do you think people would not buy if the price became too high? _____

7. Use your math skills to find out which of the above food items increased the most in price from 1913 to 1948. Which price increased the least? _____

