

U.S. Canada U.K. Australia Europe More

**\$40,000 in 1837 is worth \$1,301,383.33**  
**today**

**Amount**

\$ 40000

**Start year**

1837

**End year**

2024

**Calculate**

[\\$40,000 in 1840 → 2024](#)

[\\$40,000 in 1835 → 2024](#)

[Inflation rate in 2024](#)

[Future inflation calculator](#)

## Value of \$40,000 from 1837 to 2024

\$40,000 in 1837 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$1,301,383.33 today, an increase of \$1,261,383.33 over 187 years. The dollar had an average inflation rate of 1.88% per year between 1837 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 3,153.46%.

This means that today's prices are 32.53 times as high as average prices since 1837, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index. A dollar today only buys 3.074% of what it could buy back then.

The inflation rate in 1837 was 3.23%. The current inflation rate compared to the end of last year is now 3.48%. If this number holds, \$40,000 today will be equivalent in buying power to

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### Inflation from 1837 to 2024

Cumulative price change	3,153.46%
Average inflation rate	1.88%
Converted amount \$40,000 base	\$1,301,383.33
Price difference \$40,000 base	\$1,261,383.33
CPI in 1837	9.600
CPI in 2024	312.332
Inflation in 1837	3.23%
Inflation in 2024	3.48%
\$40,000 in 1837	\$1,301,383.33 in 2024

### USD inflation since 1837

*Annual Rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI*

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## Finance

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### Buying power of \$40,000 in 1837

This chart shows a calculation of buying power equivalence for \$40,000 in 1837 (price index tracking began in 1635).

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When \$40,000 is equivalent to \$1,301,383.33 over time, that means that the "real value" of a single U.S. dollar decreases over time. In other words, a dollar will pay for fewer items at the store.

This effect explains how inflation erodes the value of a dollar over time. By calculating the value in 1837 dollars, the chart below shows how \$40,000 is worth less over 187 years.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, each of these USD amounts below is equal in terms of what it could buy at the time:

Dollar inflation: 1837-2024

Year	Dollar Value	Inflation Rate
1837	\$40,000.00	3.23%
1838	\$38,750.00	-3.12%
1839	\$38,750.00	0.00%
1840	\$36,250.00	-6.45%

Click to show 181 more rows

Download as CSV/Excel

This conversion table shows various other 1837 amounts in today's dollars, based on the 3,153.46% change in prices:

Conversion: 1837 dollars today

Initial value	Equivalent value
\$1 dollar in 1837	\$32.53 dollars today
\$5 dollars in 1837	\$162.67 dollars today
\$10 dollars in 1837	\$325.35 dollars today
\$50 dollars in 1837	\$1,626.73 dollars today
\$100 dollars in 1837	\$3,253.46 dollars today
\$500 dollars in 1837	\$16,267.29 dollars today
\$1,000 dollars in 1837	\$32,534.58 dollars today



change of 13,931.05%.

Compare these numbers to the US's overall absolute change of \$1,261,383.33 and total percent change of 3,153.46%.

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## Inflation by Spending Category

CPI is the weighted combination of many categories of spending that are tracked by the government. Breaking down these categories helps explain the main drivers behind price changes.

This chart shows the average rate of inflation for select CPI categories between 1837 and 2024.

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Compare these values to the overall average of 1.88% per year:

Category	Avg Inflation (%)	Total Inflation (%)	\$40,000 in 1837 → 2024
<a href="#">Food and beverages</a>	3.99	150,012.29	60,044,917.18
<a href="#">Housing</a>	4.25	238,969.03	95,627,610.81
<a href="#">Apparel</a>	1.98	3,804.34	1,561,736.78
<a href="#">Transportation</a>	3.35	47,495.43	19,038,171.08
<a href="#">Medical care</a>	4.60	448,681.24	179,512,494.55
<a href="#">Recreation</a>	1.36	1,161.81	504,725.81
<a href="#">Education and communication</a>	1.74	2,398.73	999,490.58

The graph below compares inflation in categories of goods over time. Click on a category such as "Food" to toggle it on or off:

For all these visualizations, it's important to note that not all categories may have been tracked since 1837. This table and charts use the earliest available data for each category.

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### **Inflation rates of specific categories**

[Medical Care](#) · [Housing](#) · [Rent](#) · [Food](#) · [More](#)

### **Inflation-adjusted measures**

[S&P 500 price](#) · [S&P 500 earnings](#) · [Shiller P/E](#)

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## **How to calculate inflation rate for \$40,000 since 1837**

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$$\frac{\text{CPI today}}{\text{CPI in 1837}} \times 1837 \text{ USD value} = \text{Today's value}$$

Then plug in [historical CPI values](#). The U.S. CPI was 9.6 in the year 1837 and 312.332 in 2024:

$$\frac{312.332}{9.6} \times \$40,000 = \$1,301,383.33$$

\$40,000 in 1837 has the same "purchasing power" or "buying power" as \$1,301,383.33 in 2024.

To get the total inflation rate for the 187 years between 1837 and 2024, we use the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{CPI in 2024} - \text{CPI in 1837}}{\text{CPI in 1837}} \times 100 = \text{Cumulative inflation rate (187 years)}$$

Plugging in the values to this equation, we get:

$$\frac{312.332 - 9.6}{9.6} \times 100 = 3,153\%$$

## Data source & citation

Raw data for these calculations comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Consumer Price Index](#) (CPI), established in 1913. Price index data from 1774 to 1912 is sourced from a [historical study](#) conducted by political science professor Robert Sahr at Oregon State University and from the American Antiquarian Society. Price index data from 1634 to 1773 is from the American Antiquarian Society, using British pound equivalents.

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Special thanks to QuickChart for their [chart image API](#), which is used for chart downloads.

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