This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: American Economic Growth and Standards of Living before the Civil War

Volume Author/Editor: Robert E. Gallman and John Joseph Wallis, editors

Volume Publisher: University of Chicago Press

Volume ISBN: 0-226-27945-6

Volume URL: http://www.nber.org/books/gall92-1

Conference Date: July 20-22, 1990

Publication Date: January 1992

Chapter Title: Front matter, American Economic Growth and Standards of Living before the Civil War

Chapter Author: Robert E. Gallman, John Joseph Wallis

Chapter URL: http://www.nber.org/chapters/c8005

Chapter pages in book: (p. -12 - 0)

# AMERICAN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STANDARDS OF LIVING BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

Edited by Robert E. Gallman and John Joseph Wallis







# American Economic Growth and Standards of Living before the Civil War



A National Bureau of Economic Research Conference Report

## American Economic Growth and Standards of Living before the Civil War

Edited by

Robert E. Gallman and John Joseph Wallis



ROBERT E. GALLMAN is the Kenan Professor of Economics and History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. John Joseph Wallis is associate professor of economics at the University of Maryland, College Park. Both editors are research associates of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

The University of Chicago Press, Chicago 60637
The University of Chicago Press, Ltd., London
©1992 by the National Bureau of Economic Research
All rights reserved. Published 1992
Printed in the United States of America

01 00 99 98 97 96 95 94 93 92 1 2 3 4 5 6

ISBN (cloth): 0-226-27945-6

#### Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

American economic growth and standards of living before the Civil War /edited by Robert E. Gallman and John Joseph Wallis.

p. cm.—(National Bureau of Economic Research conference report)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

- 1. United States—Economic conditions—To 1865—Congresses.
- 2. Cost and standard of living—United States—History—19th century—Congresses. I. Gallman, Robert E. II. Wallis, John Joseph. III. Series: Conference report (National Bureau of Economic Research)

HC105.A64 1992 339.4'7'0973—dc20

92-27972 CIP

⊗The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements
of the American National Standard for Information Sciences—
Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48—
1984.

#### National Bureau of Economic Research

#### Officers

George T. Conklin, Jr., chairman Paul W. McCracken, vice chairman Martin Feldstein, president and chief executive officer

Geoffrey Carliner, executive director Charles A. Walworth, treasurer Sam Parker, director of finance and administration

#### **Directors at Large**

John H. Biggs Andrew Brimmer Carl F. Christ George T. Conklin, Jr. Don R. Conlan Kathleen B. Cooper

Jean A. Crockett George C. Eads

Martin Feldstein Peter G. Peterson George Hatsopoulos Douglas D. Purvis Lawrence R. Klein Robert V. Roosa Franklin A. Lindsay Richard N. Rosett Paul W. McCracken Bert Seidman Leo Melamed Eli Shapiro Robert T. Parry Donald S. Wasserman

#### **Directors by University Appointment**

Jagdish Bhagwati, Columbia William C. Brainard, Yale Glen G. Cain. Wisconsin Franklin Fisher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Saul H. Hymans, Michigan Marjorie B. McElroy, Duke James L. Pierce, California, Berkeley Andrew Postlewaite, Pennsylvania Nathan Rosenberg, Stanford Harold T. Shapiro, Princeton Craig Swan, Minnesota Michael Yoshino, Harvard Arnold Zellner, Chicago

#### **Directors by Appointment of Other Organizations**

Marcel Boyer, Canadian Economics Association

Rueben C. Buse, American Agricultural **Economics Association** 

Richard A. Easterlin, Economic History Association

Gail Fosler, The Conference Board A. Ronald Gallant, American Statistical Association

Robert S. Hamada, American Finance Association

Charles Lave, American Economic Association

Rudolph A. Oswald, American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial **Organizations** 

Dean P. Phypers, Committee for Economic Development

Charles A. Walworth, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

#### **Directors Emeriti**

Moses Abramovitz Emilio G. Collado Thomas D. Flynn

Gottfried Haberler Geoffrey H. Moore James J. O'Leary

George B. Roberts William S. Vickrey

Since this volume is a record of conference proceedings, it has been exempted from the rules governing critical review of manuscripts by the Board of Directors of the National Bureau (resolution adopted 8 June 1948, as revised 21 November 1949 and 20 April 1968).



## Contents

	Acknowledgments	ix
	Introduction Robert E. Gallman and John Joseph Wallis	1
1.	U.S. Labor Force Estimates and Economic Growth, 1800-1860 Thomas Weiss Comment: Claudia Goldin	19
2.	American Economic Growth before the Civil War: The Testimony of the Capital Stock Estimates Robert E. Gallman Comment: Stanley L. Engerman	79
3.	Inequalities in the Standard of Living in the United States, 1798–1875  Lee Soltow  Comment: Clayne L. Pope	121
4.	Wages and Prices during the Antebellum Period: A Survey and New Evidence Robert A. Margo Comment: Jeffrey G. Williamson	173
5.	Consumer Behavior, Diet, and the Standard of Living in Late Colonial and Early Antebellum America, 1770–1840 Lorena S. Walsh Comment: Gloria L. Main	217

viii	Contents
УШ.	Comens

6.	Stature and Living Standards in the United States Richard H. Steckel Comment: Carole Shammas	265
7.	The Productivity Consequences of Market Integration: Agriculture in Massachusetts, 1771–1801 Winifred B. Rothenberg Comment: Jeremy Atack	311
8.	Invention, Innovation, and Manufacturing Productivity Growth in the Antebellum Northeast Kenneth L. Sokoloff Comment: Jeremy Atack	345
	Contributors	385
	Author Index	387
	Subject Index	393

### Acknowledgments

This volume contains the papers given at a conference held at the Cambridge Hilton in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 20–22 July 1990. The conference was part of the Development of the American Economy program of the National Bureau of Economic Research. We are grateful to Martin Feldstein and Geoffrey Carliner for their support of the conference, and to Robert Fogel and Claudia Goldin for their encouragement and guidance.

We want to give an extra measure of thanks to Kirsten Foss Davis and the NBER conference department for their help with conference arrangements, which were spectacular. As editors we thank Ann Brown of the NBER and Julie McCarthy of the University of Chicago Press for their patient assistance with the editorial process.

