



## German History in Documents and Images

Volume 5. Wilhelmine Germany and the First World War, 1890-1918  
Inflation (1913-1920)

Despite price controls and the rationing system for the production and distribution of supplies, overall material scarcity led to alarming price inflation. This table illustrates the scale of wartime inflation.

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Year	Dollar Course	Cost of Foodstuffs Index (Cawler)	Wholesale Prices	Cost of Living Index (Federal Statistical Office /G. Bry)
1913	100	100	100	100
1914	102	101	105	103
1915	116	143	142	129
1916	132	198	152	170
1917	157	213	179	253
1918	143	229	217	313
1919	470	326	415	415
1920	1,500	953	1486	1020

Source: Jürgen Kocka, *Klassengesellschaft im Krieg: Deutsche Sozialgeschichte 1914-1918* [*Class Society in Wartime: German Social History, 1914-1918*]. Göttingen, 1973, p. 17.

Translation: Jeffrey Verhey