

Information regarding wine prices, as in the case of grain, is limited to only a few examples¹⁵. Diocletian's edict accepts 16 denarii, i.e., 1/62 solidus for 1 sextarius of common wine brand. Values approximate to these appear in the Egyptian papyri from the 4th century: 1/55, 1/80, 1/53, 1/60 and 1/100 solidus. Furthermore, the Palestinian sources which state that 1/60 solidus compares with the data included in the legislative imperial acts (1/64 and 1/84 solidus per 1 sextarius of wine), allow us to take as representative for the 4th century 1/64 solidus which is equal, as far as the ore value is concerned, to about 0,07 g of gold¹⁶. Moreover, we have some information concerning better wine brands. For Diocletian's edict fixes the price of 24 denarii for old wine, whereas the papyrus documents from the 2nd half of the 4th century state: 1/38, 1/34 and 1/33 solidus, which enables us to accept 1/37 solidus ($\approx$ 0,12 g of gold) as a typical price in the 4th century¹⁷. The edict also mentions the cost of 1 sextarius of the best wine brands available on the Roman market, i.e. Piceni, Aminnei and Falerni, amounting to 30 denarii which is equal to about 0,14 g of gold¹⁸.

Oil, another essential commodity, has got a much weaker support in the sources¹⁹. Diocletian's edict fixes the price of 40 denarii, i.e., 1/42

¹⁵ Mickwitz, *Goldwertindex*, p. 103; West, Johnson, *Byzantine Egypt*, p. 178 – 180; Mazzarino, *Aspetti*, p. 213.; Sperber, *o.c.* p. 251, 253, 256, 262; IX 1966, p. 193; L. Casson, *Travel in the Ancient World*, London 1974, p. 191; Balil, *o.c.* p. 52, 55 f.; Mrozek, *Preisverhältnisse*, p. 8, 23, 27. Compare Evod. *De mir.* II 3; Ambros. *De Nab.* II 8; *De Hel.* XII 42. They do not fulfill the demands of representativeness: 1 sol. per 15 cnidia (SPP X 254); 3000 drachms per sextarius (P.O. 1139); 3 T. and 40 T. per sextarius (BGU 21); 20000 drachms per cnidion, 5 T. per cnidion, 20 T. per cnidion (SPP XX 81); 8 T. per cnidion? (SPP XX 75); 16000 T. per cnidion (PSI 960); 4000 T. per cnidion, 6800 T. per cnidion (PSI 959); 3 T. per ceramion (P.Oslo 146); 330000 den. per sextarius (P. Lond. 984); 485? per sextarius (P. Cairo 45); 3700 drachms per 30 cnidia (BGU 34); 2 T. 2000 drachms per ceramion (P.O. 1288); 2 sol. per 88 dipla (Kl. Form. 968); 50000 T. per 100 cnidia (P. Lond. 454); 12 sol.-12 ceratia per 4000 sext. (P. Lond. 999); 2 sol. 23 cerat. per 1000 sext. (PSI 1122); 1/2 sol. per 66 cnidia (P. Bad. 55); 4 lumma per sext. (B. Avoda Zara 34 B); 1/1449 sol. per sext. (Anon. Vales. II 73); 1 sol. per 15 cnidia (SPP X 254); 50000 T. per 100 cnidia (P. Lond. 1733); from 1 to 4 den. per barrel (Baba Mezia 64 A).

¹⁶ *Ed. Diocl.* 2,9; PER.E. 2000; P. Ryl. 629, 24 631, 267; PER 37; Lev. Rabba 37,2; Gen. Rabba XLIX 4; *Cod. Theod.* XIV 6,1 6,3, 4,4. See also A. Bernardi, *The Economic Problems of the Roman Empire at the Time of its Decline*, [in:] C.M. Cipolla, ed., *The Economic Decline of Empires*. London 1970, p. 53, note 1. Compare Mickwitz, *Goldwertindex*, p. 101.

¹⁷ *Ed. Diocl.* 2,8; P.O. 2114 (from the year 316) – 65 drachms = 1/38 sol.; P. Ryl. 631, 104 – 700 drachms = 1/33 sol. per sext.

¹⁸ *Ed. Diocl.* 2,1a, 2,4, 2,7.

¹⁹ On oil prices see Mickwitz, *Goldwertindex*, p. 100; West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 181 – 182; Jones, LRE I, p. 446; Mrozek, *Preisverhältnisse*, p. 26. They differ from the „usual” price level: 0,33 cerat. per sext. (P. Cairo Masp. 67145); 4000 drachms per 3 sext. (SPP XX 93).