

Alfred H. Conrad and John R. Meyer
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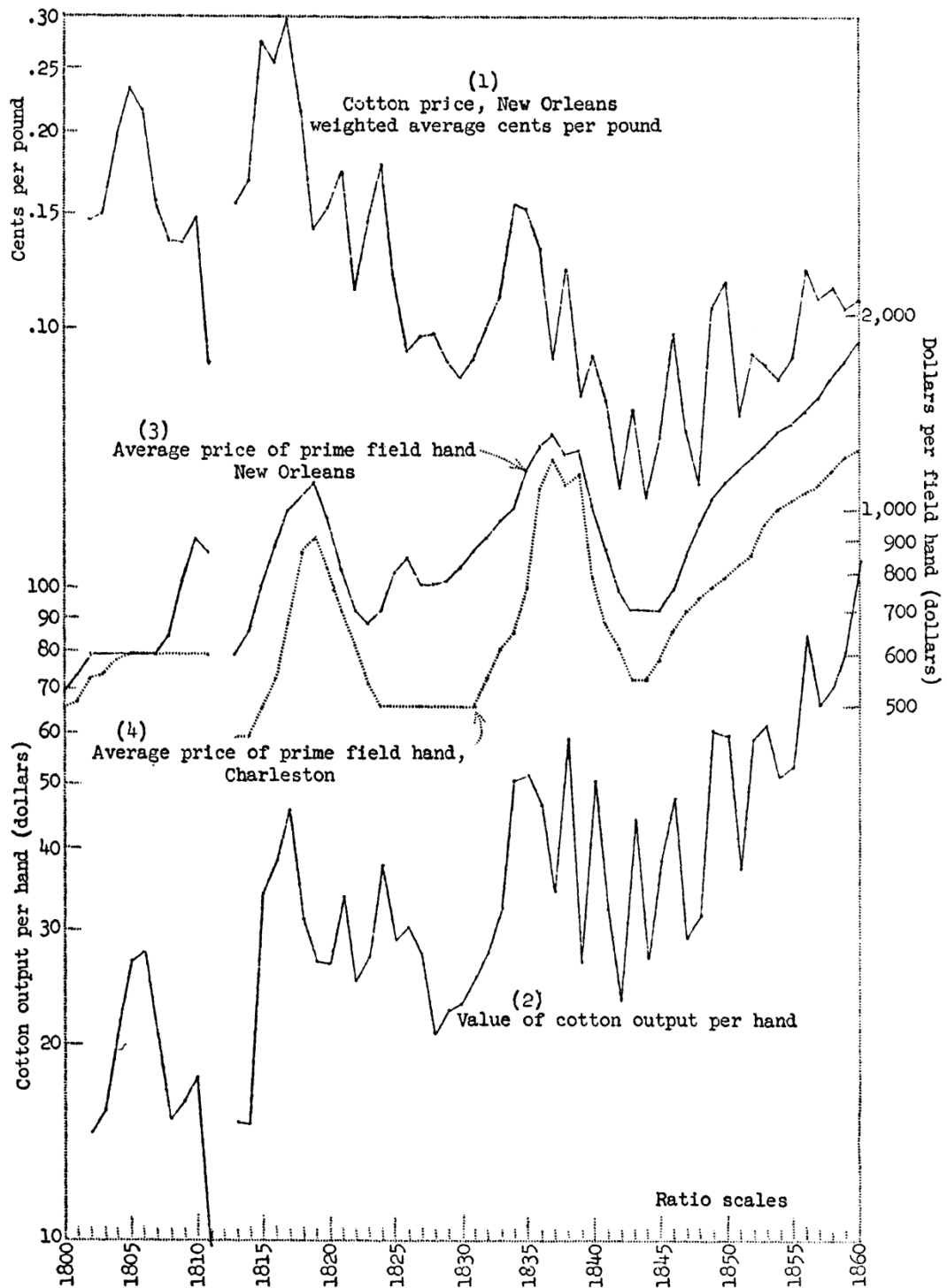
TABLE 17
 VALUE OF COTTON PRODUCTION AND SLAVE POPULATION, 1802-60, NEW ORLEANS PRICES

Year	Crop (Thousands of Pounds)	Average Price (Cents per Pound)	Value (Thousands)	No. of Slaves, Aged 10-54 Years*	Crop Value per Slave	Price of Prime Field Hand	Crop Value per Hand per Dollar Slave Price
1802.....	55,000	0.147	\$ 8,085	550,708	\$ 14.68	\$ 600	.02
1803.....	60,000	.150	9,000	568,932	15.82	600	.03
1804.....	65,000	.196	12,740	587,157	21.70	600	.04
1805.....	70,000	.233	16,310	605,381	26.94	600	.05
1806.....	80,000	.218	17,440	623,606	27.97	600	.05
1807.....	80,000	.164	13,120	641,831	20.44	600	.03
1808.....	75,000	.136	10,200	660,055	15.45	640	.02
1809.....	82,000	.136	11,152	678,280	16.44	780	.02
1810.....	85,000	.147	12,495	696,505	17.94	900	.02
1811.....	80,000	.089	7,120	717,376	9.93	860	.01
1813.....	75,000	.155	11,625	759,118	15.31	600	.03
1814.....	70,000	.169	11,830	779,989	15.17	650	.02
1815.....	100,000	.273	27,300	800,860	34.09	765	.05
1816.....	124,000	.254	31,496	821,731	38.33	880	.04
1817.....	130,000	.298	38,740	842,602	45.98	1,000	.05
1818.....	125,000	.215	26,875	863,473	31.12	1,050	.03
1819.....	167,000	.143	23,881	884,344	27.00	1,100	.03
1820.....	160,000	.152	24,320	905,215	26.88	970	.03
1821.....	180,000	.174	31,320	933,517	33.55	810	.04
1822.....	210,000	.115	24,150	961,818	25.11	700	.04
1823.....	185,000	.145	26,825	990,120	27.04	670	.04
1824.....	215,000	.179	38,485	1,018,421	37.99	700	.05
1825.....	255,000	.119	30,345	1,046,723	28.99	800	.04
1826.....	350,000	.093	32,550	1,075,024	30.28	840	.04
1827.....	316,900	.097	30,739	1,103,326	27.86	770	.04
1828.....	241,399	.098	23,657	1,131,627	20.91	770	.03
1829.....	296,812	.089	26,416	1,159,929	22.77	770	.03
1830.....	331,150	.084	27,817	1,208,034	23.03	810	.03
1831.....	354,247	.090	31,882	1,247,489	25.56	860	.03
1832.....	355,492	.100	35,549	1,275,061	27.88	900	.03
1833.....	374,653	.112	41,961	1,302,633	32.21	960	.03
1834.....	437,558	.155	67,821	1,330,206	50.99	1,000	.05
1835.....	460,338	.152	69,971	1,357,778	51.53	1,150	.05
1836.....	507,550	.133	67,504	1,385,350	46.79	1,250	.04
1837.....	539,669	.090	48,510	1,412,923	34.38	1,300	.03
1838.....	682,767	.124	84,663	1,440,495	58.77	1,220	.05
1839.....	501,708	.079	39,635	1,468,067	27.00	1,240	.02
1840.....	834,111	.091	75,904	1,507,779	50.34	1,020	.05
1841.....	644,172	.078	50,245	1,568,022	32.04	870	.04
1842.....	668,379	.057	38,098	1,611,269	23.65	750	.03
1843.....	972,960	.075	72,972	1,654,516	44.11	700	.06
1844.....	836,529	.055	46,009	1,697,762	27.10	700	.04
1845.....	993,719	.068	67,573	1,741,009	38.81	700	.06
1846.....	863,321	.099	85,469	1,784,256	47.90	750	.06
1847.....	766,599	.070	53,662	1,827,503	29.36	850	.04
1848.....	1,017,391	.058	59,009	1,870,750	31.54	950	.03
1849.....	1,249,985	.108	134,998	1,913,996	70.53	1,030	.07
1850.....	1,001,165	.117	117,136	1,979,059	59.19	1,100	.05
1851.....	1,021,048	.074	75,558	2,034,482	37.14	1,150	.03
1852.....	1,338,061	.091	121,764	2,080,554	58.53	1,200	.05
1853.....	1,496,302	.088	131,675	2,126,626	61.92	1,250	.05
1854.....	1,322,241	.084	111,068	2,172,698	51.12	1,310	.04
1855.....	1,294,463	.091	117,796	2,218,770	53.09	1,350	.04
1856.....	1,535,334	.124	190,381	2,264,843	84.06	1,420	.06
1857.....	1,373,619	.112	153,845	2,310,915	66.57	1,490	.05
1858.....	1,439,744	.115	165,571	2,356,988	70.25	1,580	.04
1859.....	1,796,455	.108	194,017	2,403,060	80.74	1,690	.05
1860.....	2,241,056	0.111	\$248,757	2,460,648	\$101.09	\$1,800	.06

Source: *Crops*: Computed from the data on number of bales and average weight of bales in James L. Watkins, *Production and Price of Cotton for One Hundred Years* (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Series, Bull. 9 [Washington, D.C., 1895]). *Price*: Gray, *op. cit.*, Table 41: "Weighted Yearly Averages and Monthly Prices in Cents per Pound of Short-Staple Cotton at New Orleans for the Crop Years 1802-1860." *Slaves*: Bureau of the Census, *Negro Population in the United States, 1790-1915*, "Slave and Free Colored Population at Each Census by Sections and Southern Divisions: 1790-1860," p. 55, and "Negro Population in Years Specified, Classified by Sex and Age Periods; 1830-1910," p. 166. *Slave prices*: Estimated visually from the chart "Approximate Prices of Prime Field Hands in Hundreds of Dollars per Head: . . . at New Orleans . . .," in U. B. Phillips, *Life and Labor in the Old South* (Boston, 1935), p. 177.

*To estimate the slave population in the intercensal years, the increase over each decade was divided into equal parts and assigned to each year in the decade. The proportion of Negroes in the field-work age brackets (between the ages of ten and fifty-four) was .641 in 1860, .635 in 1850, .621 in 1840, and .610 in 1830. The census-year proportions at the beginning and end of each decade were averaged for use in the intervening years. For the years before 1830, an estimate of .60 was used. There is no implication that we have measured the number of field hands, but it should be noted that the range .60-.65 brackets several contemporary estimates of the proportion of the slave population employed in cotton agriculture (see, e.g., P. A. Morse, "Southern Slavery and the Cotton Trade," *De Bow's Review*, XXIII [1857], 475-82).

CHART I
SLAVE POPULATION AND PRICES AND THE VALUE OF COTTON PRODUCTION, 1802-60



SOURCES: (1), (2), (3): see Table 17; (4): estimated visually from graph in U. B. Phillips, *Life and Labor in the Old South*, p. 177.