

PENNYWEIGHT/STERLING CONVERSION TABLE

The table below provides an easy reference to pennyweight (dwt/gr) rates and their equivalents in Sterling (shillings and pence), as often marked on covers prior to 1792 (when rates were first marked in U.S. dollars and cents). The three columns at right provide inflation conversions for Philadelphia, including a column for the additional 2p carrier fee.

Pennyweight (dwt)/Grains (gr) [1dwt=24gr]	Pennyweight equivalent in pence (p/d) [1dwt=3p]	Shillings/pence [1sh=12p]	INFLATION FACTOR IN PHILADELPHIA		
			Pence x 1.67 inflation factor	Shilling/pence	+2p Carrier Fee
0.8	1p	1p	N/A	N/A	N/A
0.16	2p	2p	N/A	N/A	N/A
1.0	3p	3p	5p	5p	7p
1.8	4p	4p	7p	7p	9p
1.16	5p	5p	8p	8p	10p
2.0	6p	6p	10p	10p	1/-
2.8	7p	7p	12p	1/-	1/2
2.16	8p	8p	14p	1/2	1/4
3.0	9p	9p	15p	1/3	1/5
3.8	10p	10p	17p	1/5	1/7
3.16	11p	11p	18p	1/6	1/8
4.0	12p	1/-	20p	1/8	1/10
4.8	13p	1/1	22p	1/10	2/-
4.16	14p	1/2	23p	1/11	2/1
5.0	15p	1/3	25p	2/1	2/3
5.8	16p	1/4	27p	2/3	2/5
5.16	17p	1/5	28p	2/4	2/6
6.0	18p	1/6	30p	2/6	2/8
6.8	19p	1/7	32p	2/8	2/10
6.16	20p	1/8	34p	2/10	3/-
7.0	21p	1/9	35p	2/11	3/1
7.8	22p	1/10	37p	3/1	3/3
7.16	23p	1/11	39p	3/3	3/5
8.0	24p	2/-	40p	3/4	3/6
8.8	25p	2/1	42p	3/6	3/8
8.16	26p	2/2	44p	3/8	3/10



The cover shown here is a good example of Colonial-period markings and rates. The “4dwts” at upper right was applied at origin (Boston 1773). 4dwt is the equivalent of 12p, or one shilling (1/-), the 300-400 mile rate from Boston to Philadelphia. The “1/10” was applied by the Philadelphia post office to indicate a total of 1sh10p was due from the addressee. To arrive at this amount, the 4dwt postage was converted to local currency at the rate of 1.67; therefore, 12p x 1.67=20p (1/8). The 2p carrier fee was added to the converted postage, for a total of 22p (1/10).