

## Hundred Years of Commodity Prices in Pune Market, 1760-61 to 1859-60 A.D.

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The available official serial on prices in India covers the period beginning from the year 1761. This paper presents here price series for fifteen important commodities in Pune market for a hundred year period prior to 1861. The prices presented here are generally the wholesale prices.

The sources consulted are, mainly, the unpublished archival documents and accounts papers available in the Pune Archives, formerly known as the 'Peshwe Daftar'; supplemented with other government papers etc.

A great variety of weights and measures and currencies prevailed in the region during the period under study. For better comparability, the price statistics are presented here in a standardized form.

The scope of the paper is confined to the preparation and presentation of basic price series.

Statistical tables presented here contain series of prices for 15 (bajra, jowar, wheat, rice, dal of gram, dal of turi, karale, sesamum, salt, edible oil, gur, ghee, firewood, silver and gold) important commodities in Pune market between the years 1760-61 and 1859-60. They are mostly wholesale prices. Where retail prices are given, they are mentioned accordingly. Before presenting the price series proper, we shall discuss: A) the sources used, B) weights, measures and currencies in use, and C) problem of standardization.

### A. Sources

A.1 For compiling statistical series on the subject, no single, homogeneous and comprehensive source, published or unpublished, was available. Therefore, a number of sources had to be consulted as follows :

#### 1) Unpublished Archival Sources (Pune Archives) :

- a) *Prānt Ajmās Pune Rumāls*
- b) *Ghadni Rumāls*
- c) Documents in a section called, 'Selected Papers for Research' (*Saṁshodhanasāthi Nivādāle Kāgad*)
- d) *Paimash Daftar*
- e) *Dakshin Commissioner Daftar (Marathi), and*
- f) *Khāsgī Daftar*