

Conventional wisdom suggests that “things are getting worse” and that there is “a growing divide between rich and poor.”

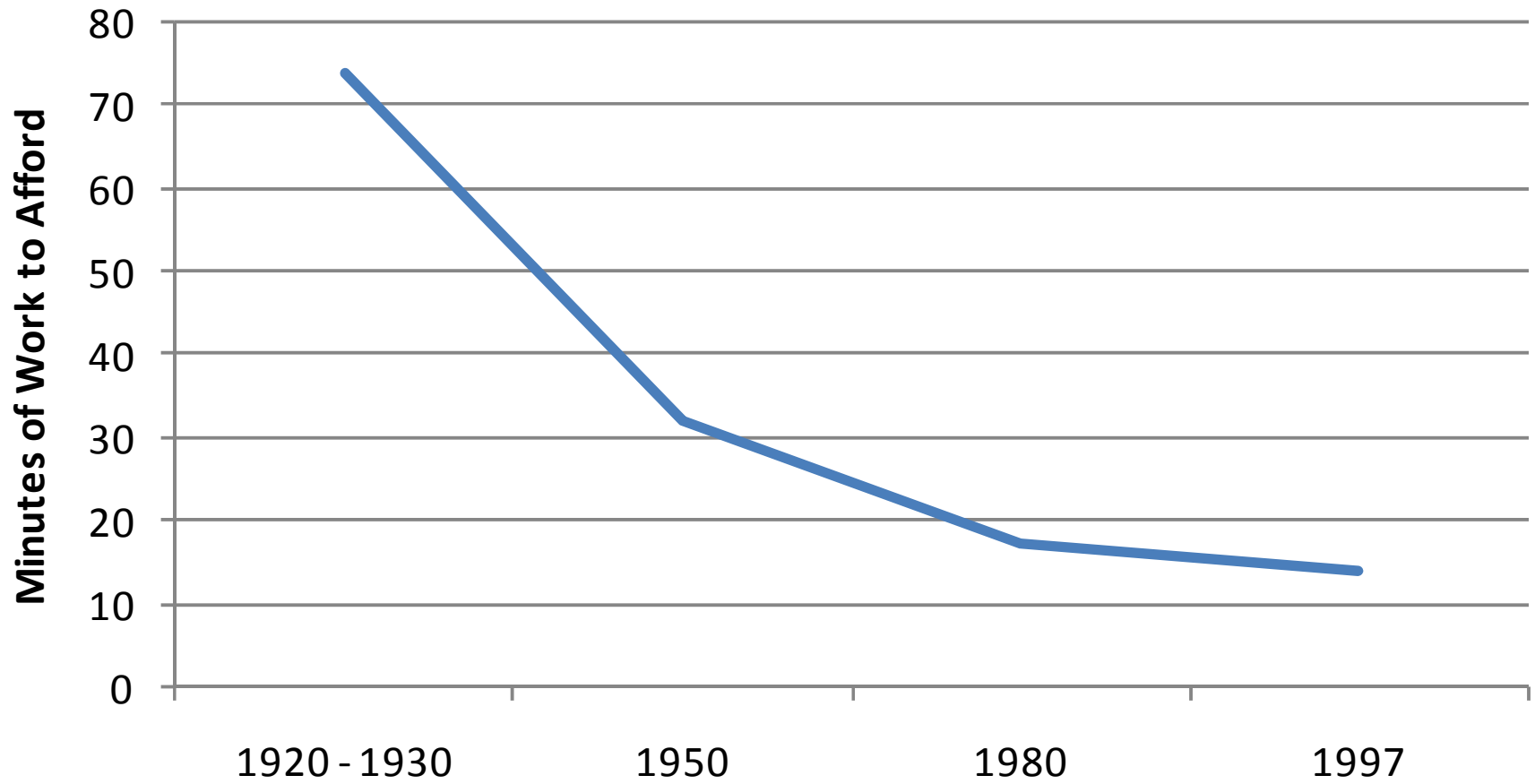
Stripping away what economists call, “money illusion,” we see that what ultimately matters to people is how hard they have to work to obtain goods.

The following slides show the number of minutes the average American had to work to afford various goods from the 1920’s to the present.

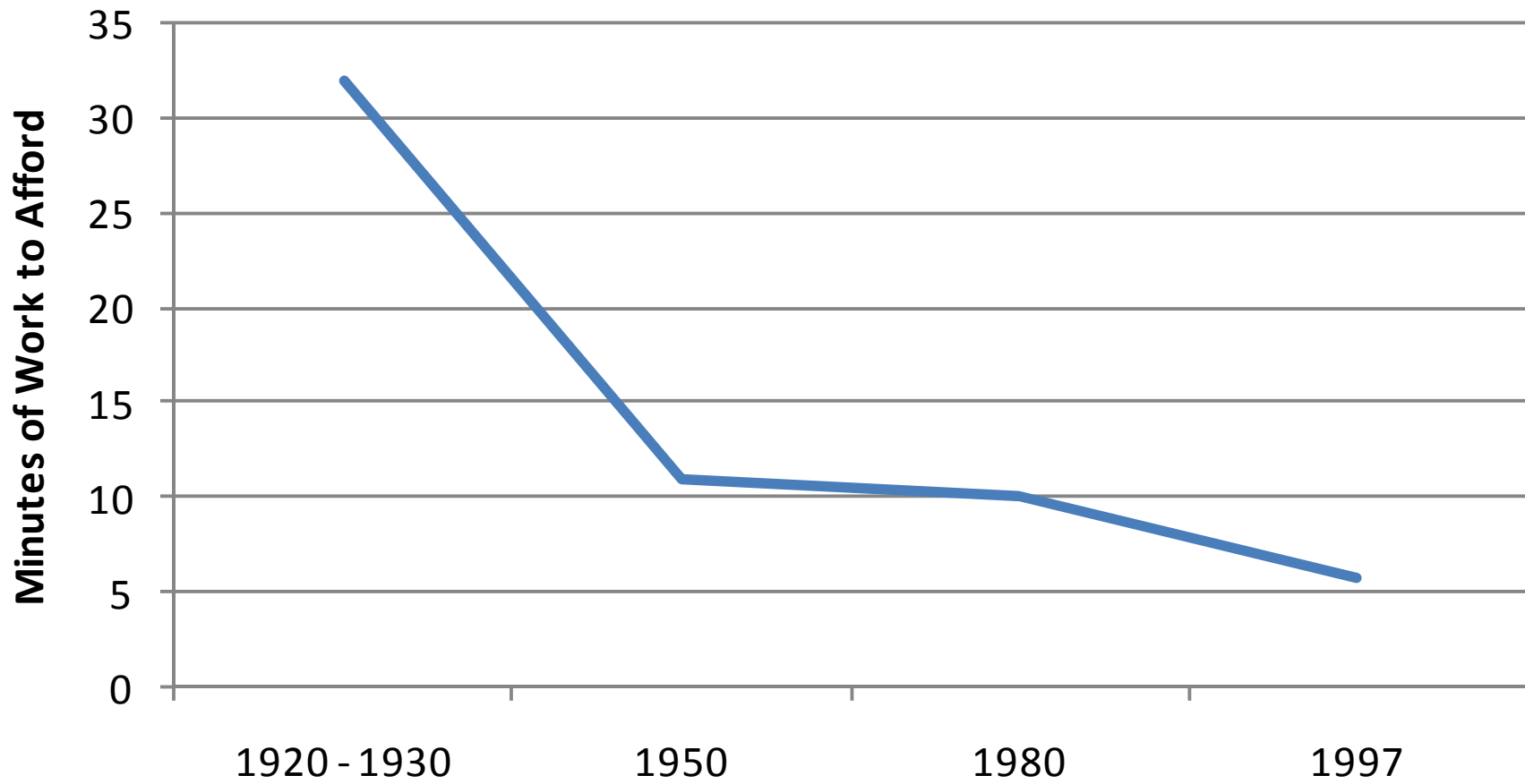
Note that there are many goods that cannot be represented because the goods did not exist in the past. For example, in 1950 it would have taken an infinite amount of time to earn enough money to buy a DVD player because DVD players did not exist.

Source: Working for Sears Goods, Donald Boudreaux
(cafehayek.typepad.com/hayek/2006/01/working_for_sea.html)

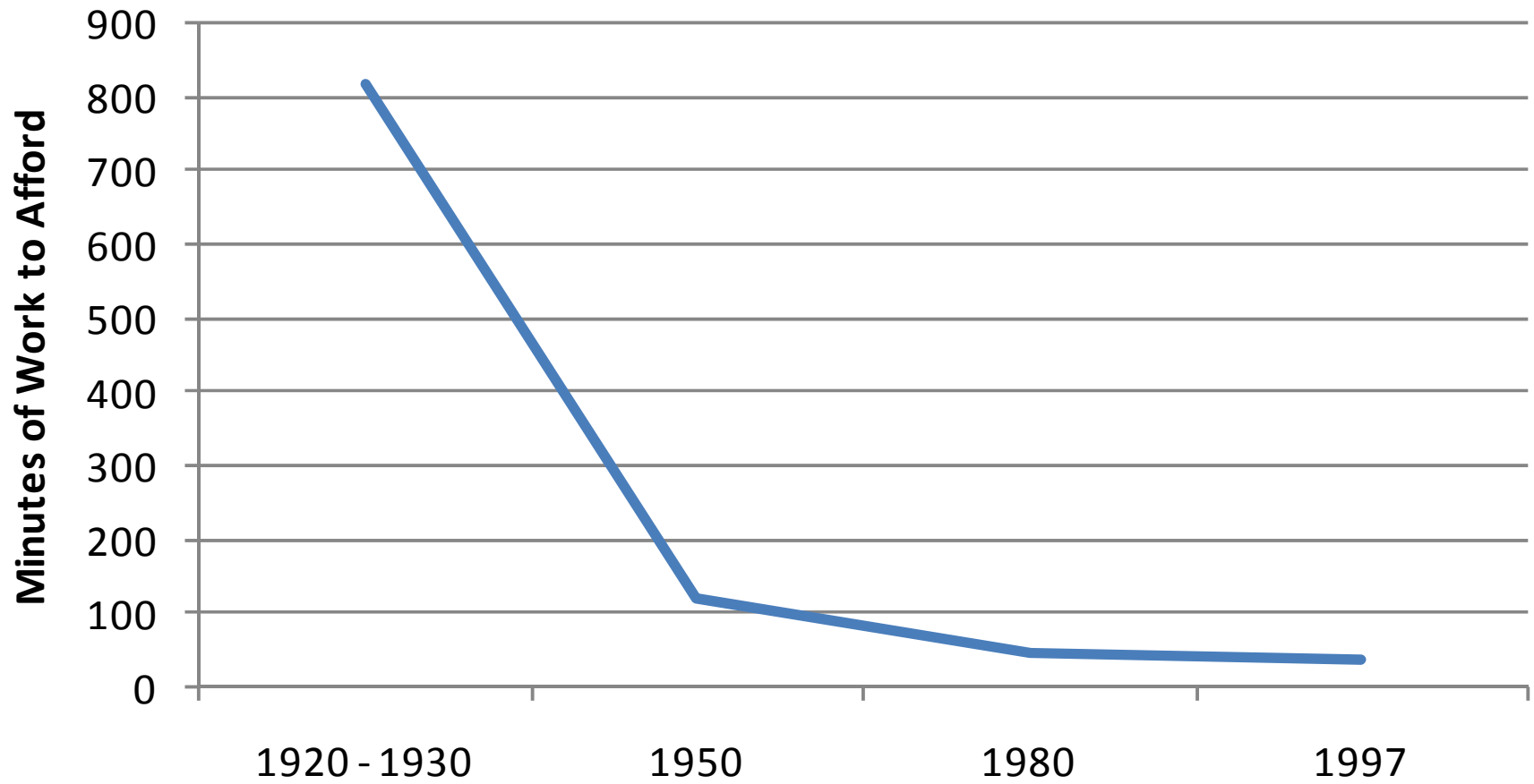
Milk (1 gallon)



Gas (1 gallon)



Electricity (1 kWh)

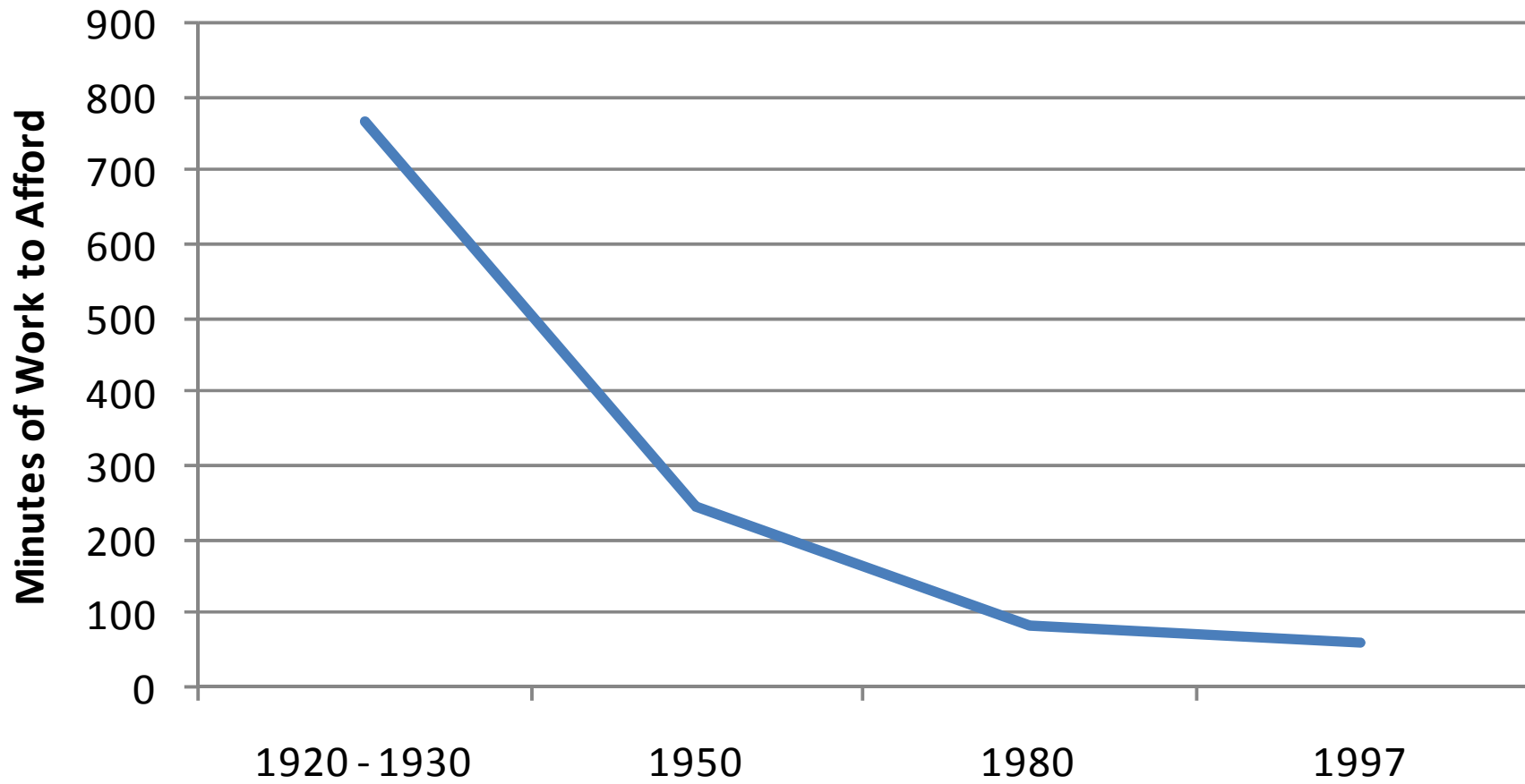


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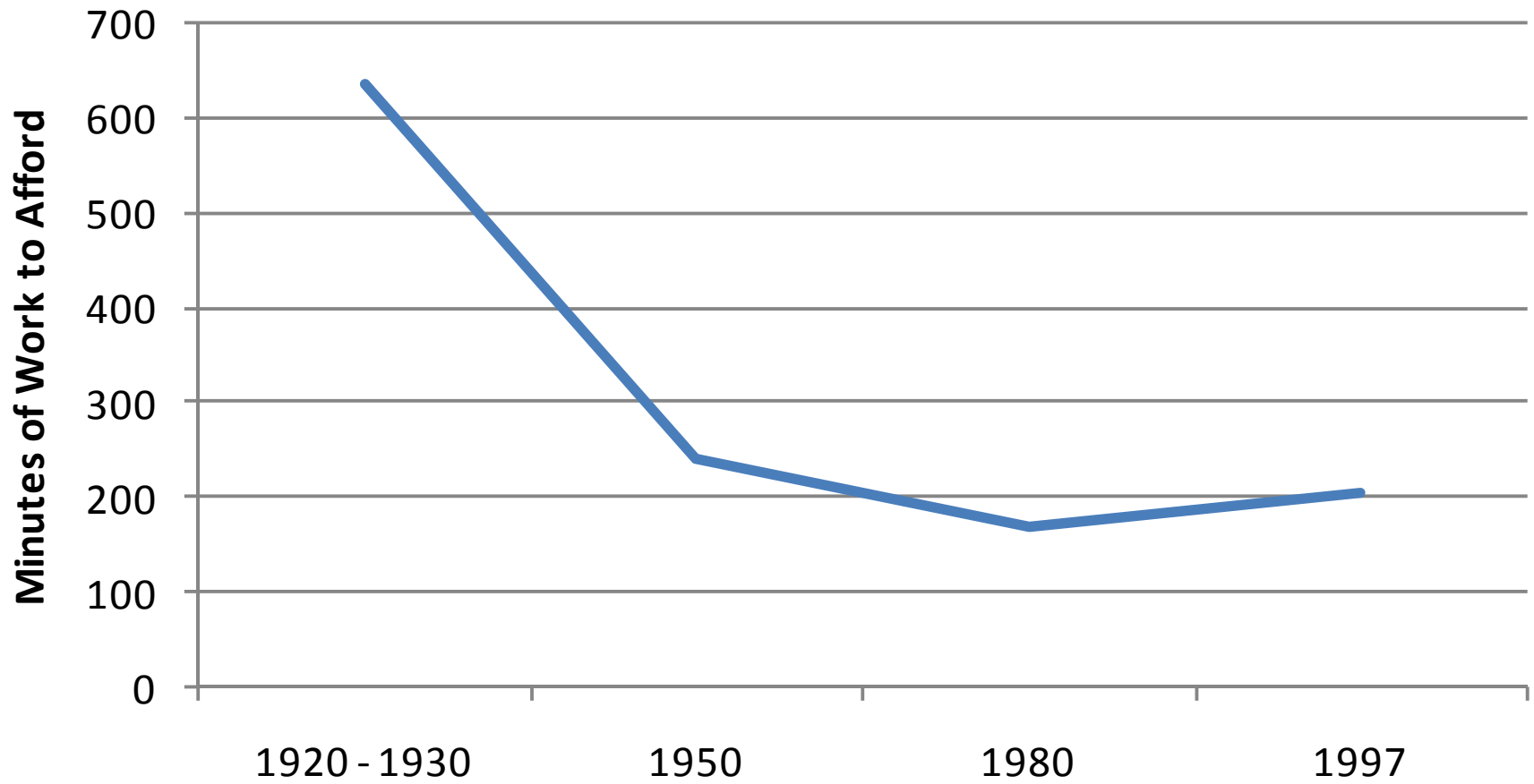
Antony Davies, Ph.D.

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Air Travel (100 miles)



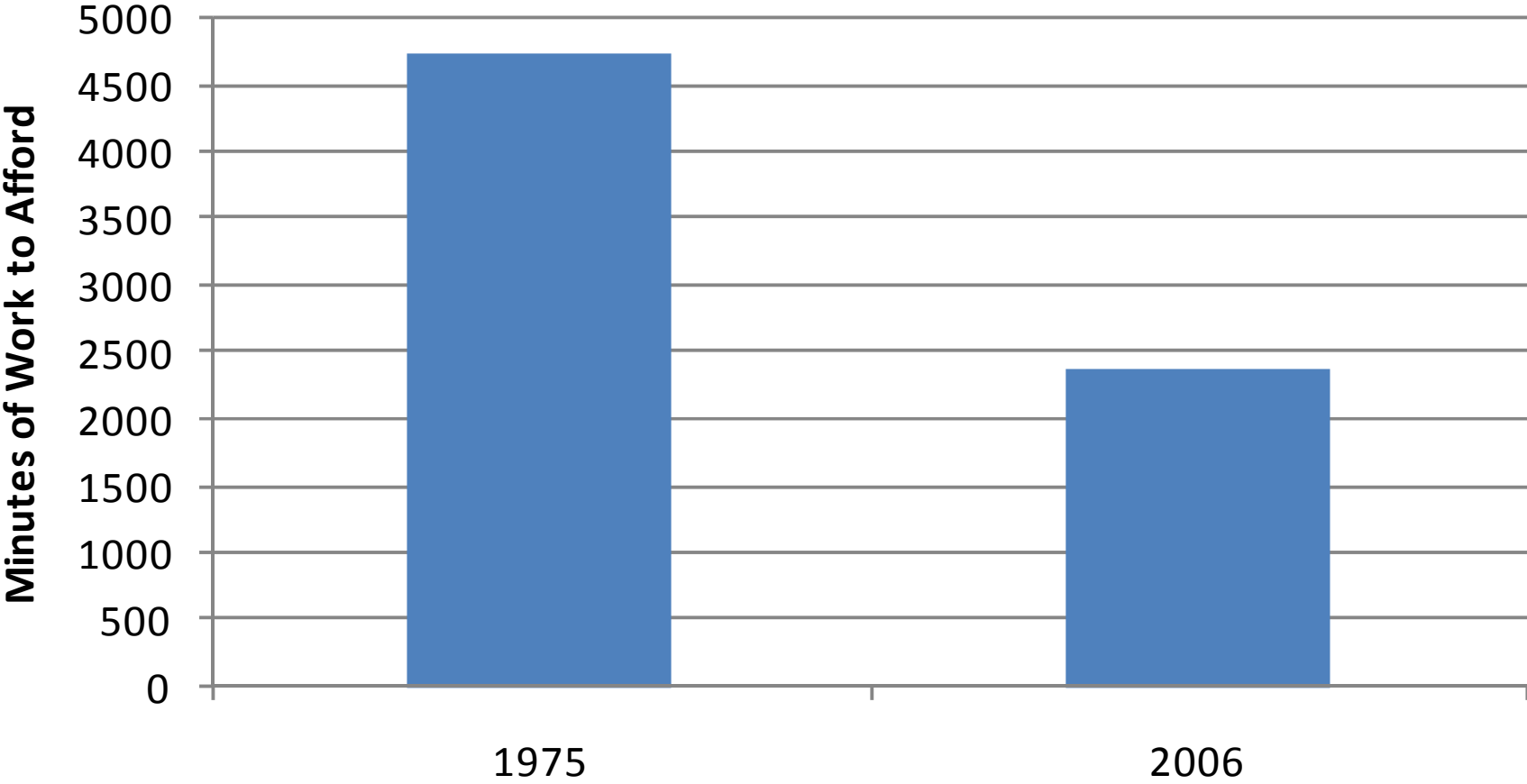
Levis Jeans (1 pair)



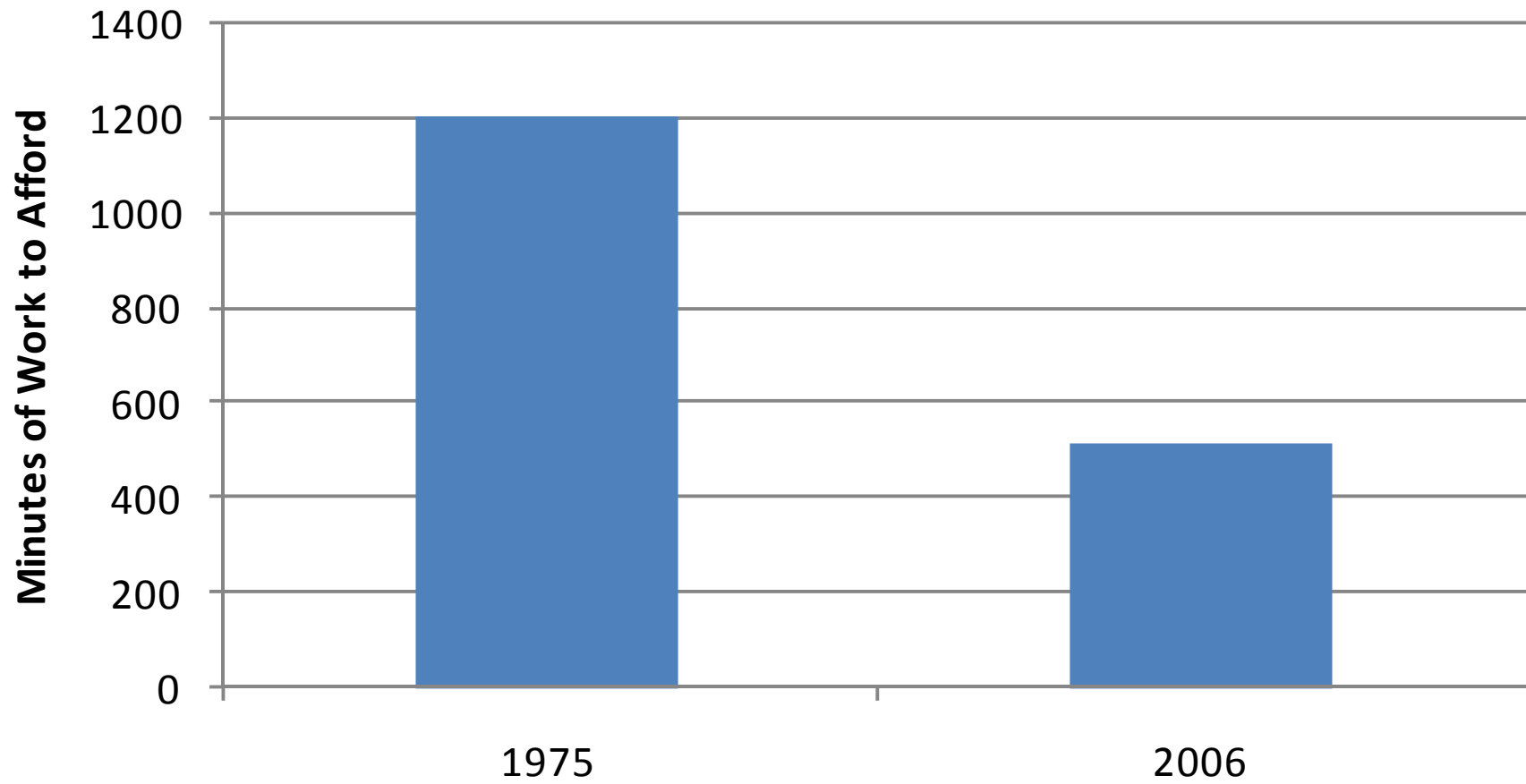
The following slides show prices taken from the Sears catalogues for 1975 and 2006. The goods are selected so as to have the same (or very similar) qualities across the two years.

Source: Working for Sears Goods, Donald Boudreaux
(cafehayek.typepad.com/hayek/2006/01/working_for_sea.html)

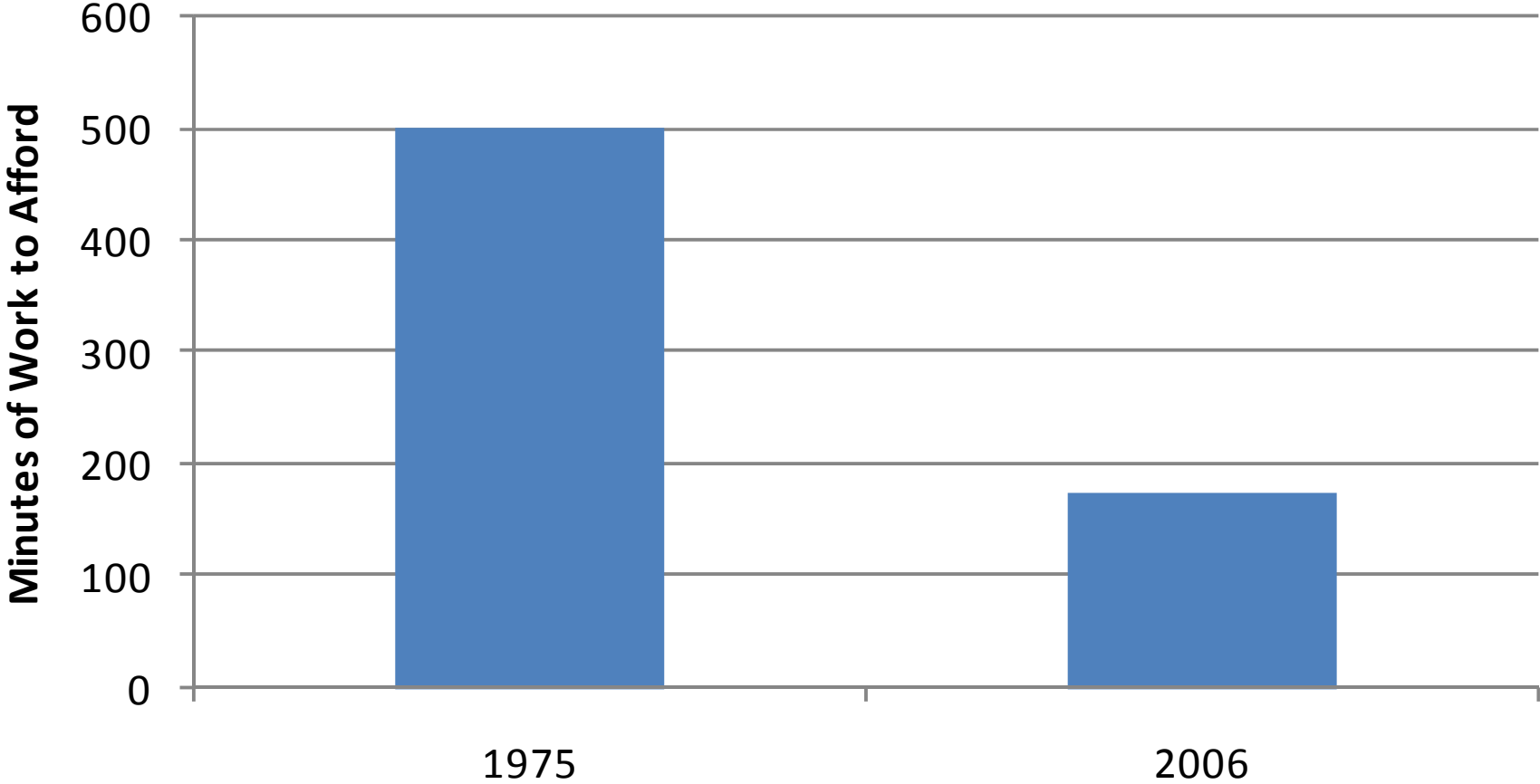
Freezer



Garage Door Opener



Car Tire



Lawn Mower

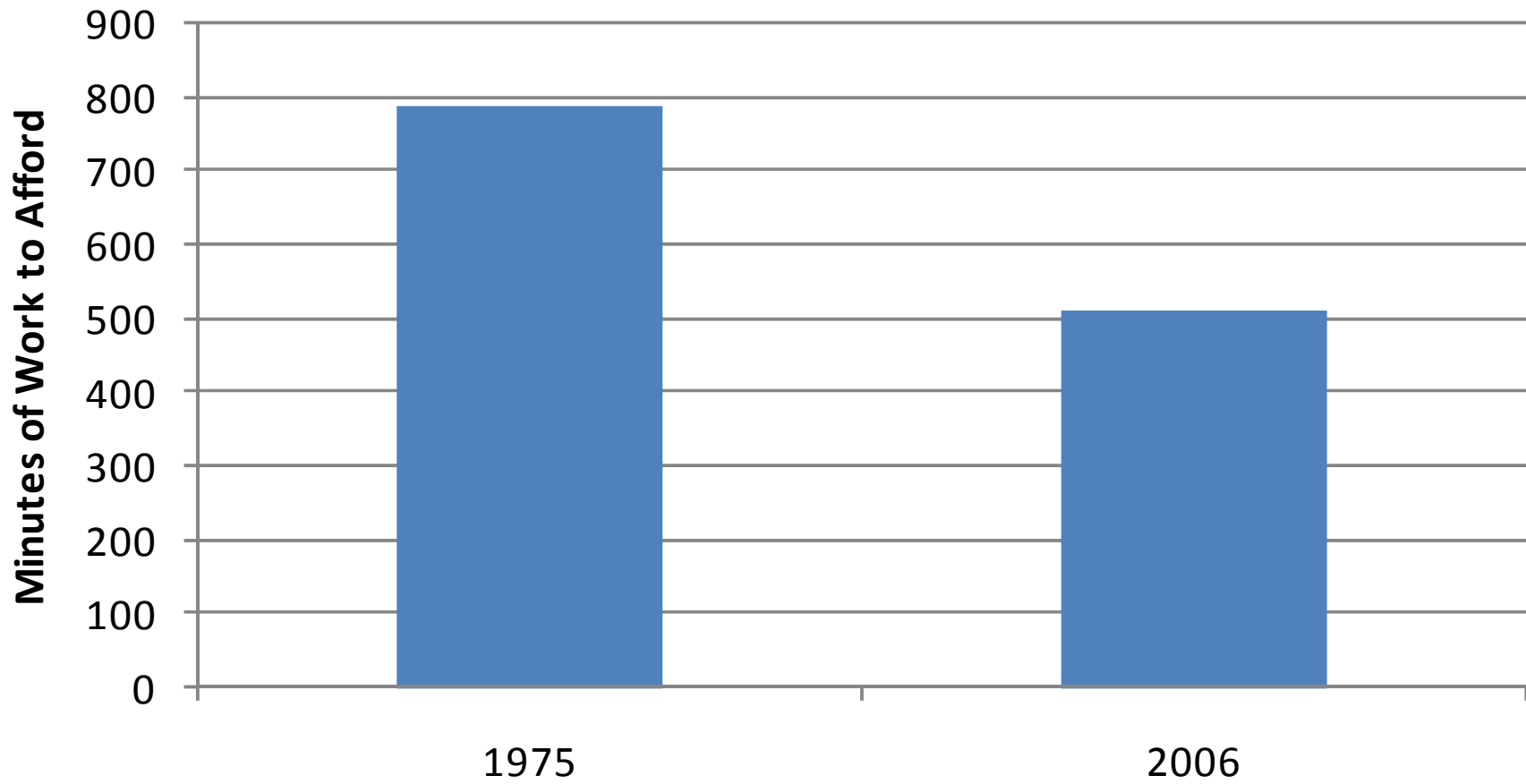
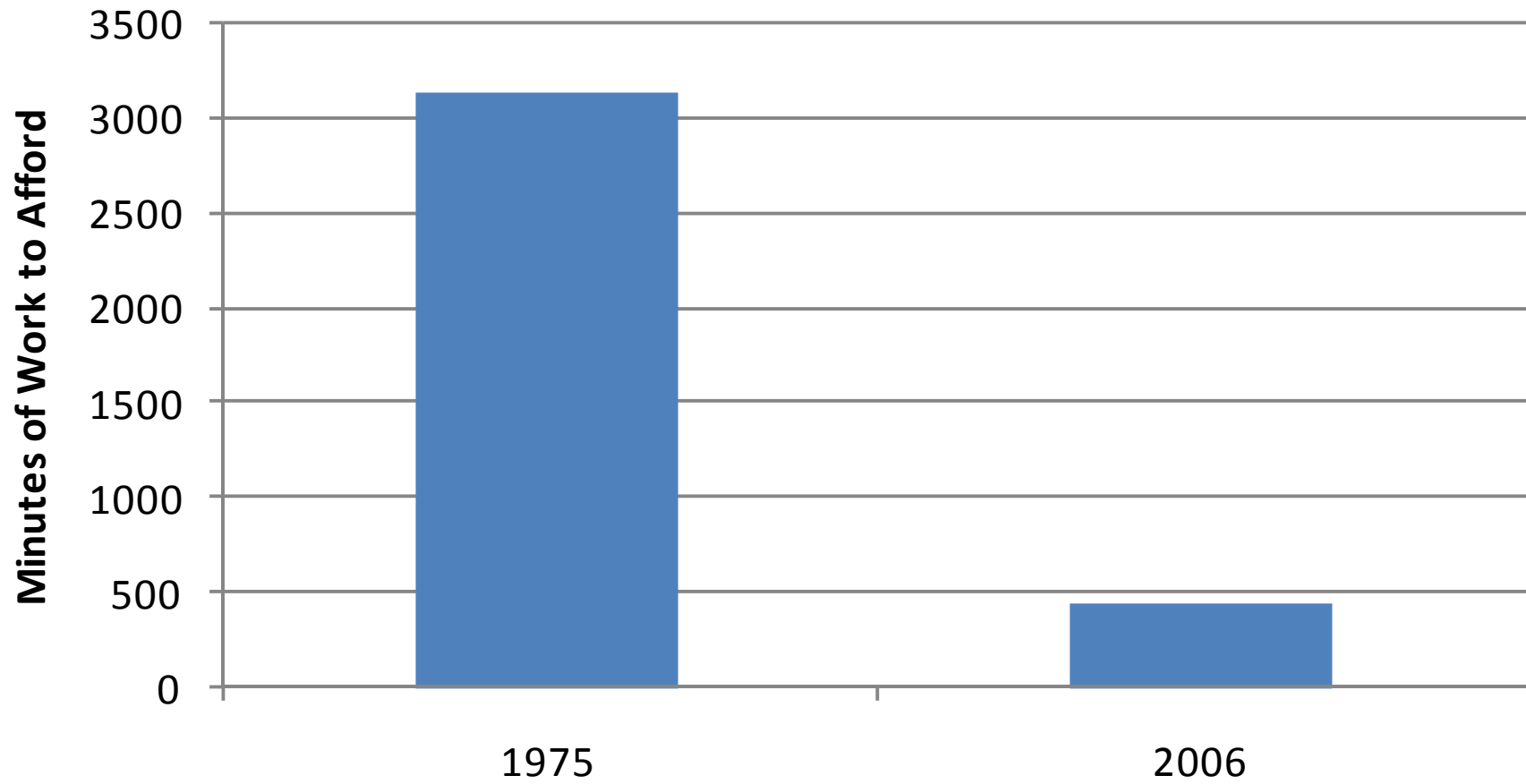
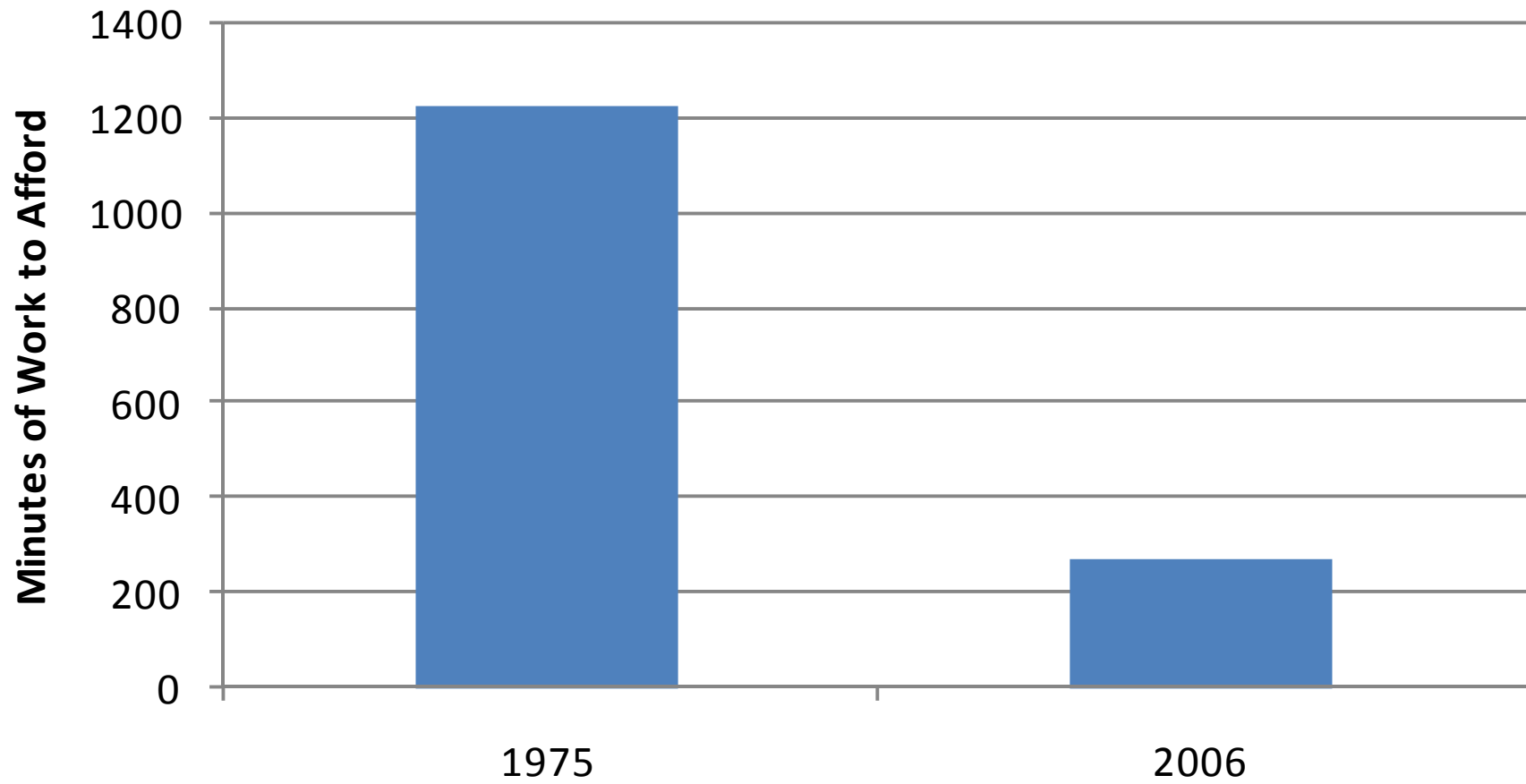


Table Saw



Garbage Disposal



Interior Latex Paint (1 gallon)

