Plato
(428-347 BC)
“So to effect this result for retail trade with its numerous branches and the many debasing employment it embraces - I mead those of them which we shall permit to subsist in our society because we have found their presence absolutely necessary - the curators will once more be required in this case to consult with the experts in all departments of trade, exactly as they have been enjoined to do in connections with the allied business of the prevention of fraud; they shall ascertain by consultation what scale of payment and expenditure will secure the trader a modest profit, and this scale of outlay and receipts shall be publicly displayed and enforced by the commissioners of the market and urban and rural commissioners in their respective spheres. Under such regulation we may expect our retail trade to produce general benefit for all classes with the minimum of harm to the class who follow it as their vocation.”

Plato, Laws
Aristotle
(384-322 BCE)
Rabbi Meir said, “When a man teaches his son a trade, he should pray to the possessor of the world, the dispenser of wealth and poverty; for in every trade and pursuit of life both the rich and the poor are to be found. It is folly for one to say, ‘this is a bad trade, it will not afford me a living’; because he will find many well-to-do in the same occupation. Neither should a successful man boast and say, ‘this is a great trade, a glorious art, it has made me wealthy’; because many working in the same line as himself have found but poverty.”

The Talmud