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May 10  
XI - 1487 (B)

RUMANIA

STANDARD OF LIVING(3200)  
Prices (2304)(3307)

PRICES OF BASIC CONSUMER GOODS.

SOURCE ATHENS: "Repentant" Greek Communist repatriated on October 29 1954.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: October 1954

ATTENTION Labor, women's Agricultural and Economic Editors.  
EVALUATION COMMENT According to the price reduction of April 25 1955, the price of macaroni and similar products was cut by 22 per cent, oats by 20 per cent, meat and vegetable preserves by 15 per cent, smoked fish by 20 per cent, washing soap by about 10 per cent, suits, coats and wool products by four to 30 per cent, leather shoes by five per cent, light footwear by seven to 12 per cent, furniture by seven per cent, household articles by 10 per cent, lighting petrol by 7.6 per cent, watches by 10 per cent, class utensils and copy books by 10 per cent and toys by 18 per cent.

The reported prices for 1954 (before the derationing decree of December 25 1954 are confirmed here except for rationed sugar, which reportedly cost at that time three lei per kilo (instead of four,) cheap suits which cost at that time about 500 lei, and butter which sold usually around 24 to 27 lei and cost more only when not available at all on the regular market.

"Romania Libera" of March 16 1955 reported that eggs were selling 1.10 lei a piece, and meat 13 to 14 lei per kilo (beef) and 18 to 19 lei (pork;) "Scnteia" of March 8 1955 stated that the price of cooking oil is 14 lei per kilo (being reduced from 18 lei.) See also Weekly Information Letter Nos. 115 and 118.

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The prices quoted hereafter pertained in BRAILA from the beginning of 1954 until last October, when source left the country:

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## ITEM No 3775/55

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<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Unit of measure</u>	<u>Cost in lei</u>
Brown bread	1 kilo	2
White bread	1/2 kilo	3.20
Rice	1 kilo	12
Macaroni	1 kilo	6
Meat (prices vary considerably according to type)	1 kilo	6,8,12.
Milk	1 liter	3 to 4
Eggs (prices vary according to season.)	each	1 to 1.50
Cheese according to type and season ( <u>telemea</u> or <u>cas</u> )	1 kilo	15 to 25
Butter	1 kilo	40
Salad oil	1 kilo	11
Sugar (on ration card)	1 kilo	4
Hens	each	15 to 20
Sausages(according to type)	1 kilo	12 to 28
Bacon (sunca)	1 kilo	28
Jam (standard type)	1 kilo	5
<u>Rahat</u> (Turkish delight)	1 kilo	12
<u>Halva</u>	1 kilo	8
Caramels (candy)according to brand	1 kilo	18 to 24
Pastry	each	2 to 3
Wine (according to brand)	1 liter	6 to 28
Brandies(according to brand)	1 liter	18 to 24
Beer	1/4	1.5
Men's Wear:		
Suit	I Cheap	800
Suits	1 Average	1,200
Shoes	1 pair,cheap	200
Shoes	1 pair,average	350
"Pioner"radio sets	I	500
Bicycles	I average	800

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