

ITEM No. 8369/54

SPECIAL ATTENTION: 6 copies Miss Flum.

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ITALY

PRICES OF BASIC CONSUMER GOODS IN ITALY

SOURCE ROME : Own Staff.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: August 1954.

EVALUATION COMMENT : This is the first report in the resumption of a series originally published early in 1954. Earlier reports were numbered 477, 478, 781, 782, 1288 and 2429 to 2436/54.

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Average Weekly Wage of worker: 11,520 (8) Lire

Average Hourly Wage of worker: 240 Lire

Average Hours worked per week: 48

(Over)

Commodity	Unit of Measure	Cost	Key to Footnote	Hours of Work	Min.
Bread	1 kg	128		0	32
Butter	1 kg	1100	(1)	4	35
Milk	1 liter	84		0	21
Meat	1 kg	1100	(2)	4	35
Eggs	1 dozen	420	(3)	1	45
Cheese	1 kg	800	(4)	3	19
Sweets	1 kg	1250		5	12
Sugar	1 kg	260		1	05
Tea	1 kg	4000		16	37
Coffee	1 kg	2200		9	10
Flour	1 kg	140		0	35
Salt	1 kg	60		0	15
Potatoes	1 kg	45		0	11
Tomatoes	1 kg	70		0	17
Cabbage	1 kg	70		0	17
Coal	1 ton(metric)	2000		8	19
Laundry soap	1 kg	200		0	50
Washing powder	1 box	140		0	35
Parafine oil	1 liter	100	(5)	0	25
Needles	1 single	1,50		0	00'25"
Thread	1 spool (100 yds)	25		0	06
Cigarettes	20	160		0	40
Newspaper	1 copy	25		0	6
Weekly paper	1 copy	60		0	15
Movie ticket	cheapest	80	(6)	0	20
Theater ticket	cheapest	450	(7)	1	53
Matches	1 packet	30		0	8
Men's Wear:					
Cotton shirt	1	1000-3000		4	12 (12°)
Suit	1 cheap	7000		29	10
Suit (wool)	1 Average	14000		54	20
Macintosh	1	8000-14000		33	21 (54°20)
Overcoat	1	10000-18000		41	40 (75°00)
Shoes	1 pair cheap	3000-6000		12	30 (25°00)
Tie	1	250-600		1	03 (02°30)
Women's Wear:					
Frock, cretonne	1	3000		12	30
Frock, woolen	1	6000		25	00
Macintosh	1	8000-12000		33	20 (50°00)
Overcoat	1	10000-20000		41	40 (83°20)
Shoes	1 pair	3000-6000		12	30 (25°00)
Children's Wear:					
Overcoat	1	6000-12000		25	00 (50°00)
Shoes	1 pair	2000-4000		8	20 (16°40)
Dress, girl's	1	2500-6000		10	25 (25°00)
Dress, boy's	1	5000-8000		20	50 (33°20)

APPENDIX(Footnotes from Basic List.)

(1) In Italy, people almost exclusively use olive oil -- which costs 580 Lire per liter -- for cooking, frying and salad dressing.

(2) Beef from 1100 to 1300 the kg. according to choice
 veal from 1300 to 1600 the kg. according to choice
 pork from 900 to 1100 the kg. according to choice
 lamb from 550 to 700 the kg. according to choice

(3) Prices of fresh eggs vary according to the season, from 20 to 45 Lire each.

(4) Prices vary from 800 to 1400 Lire the kg. The latter price refers to imported fat cheese or very fine national cheese for grating.

(5) Kerosene, costing 100 lire the liter, is only used for illumination in a few mountain villages not yet supplied with electric current, or in the mechanical industry to remove rust and cool the tools of machine tools. Petroleum used as fuel for agricultural tractors costs half as much.

(6) Prices are very varying in cinemas in large towns such as MILAN, ROME, TURIN (more expensive) and in small provincial towns (cheaper). In ROME, prices vary between 500 Lire (de luxe cinemas and first nights) and 80 lire (suburban cinemas.) Average prices are from 150 to 300 Lire. At the provincial cinemas prices vary from 60 to 250 Lire. In Italy, workers and their families who are enrolled in ENAL (Workers National Benefit Association) are able to have a considerable reduction on tickets for the cinema, theaters and sports events.

(7) Prices in ROME:

	stall	pit	balcony	gallery
Opera House	3500	2000	1500	500 (average price)
Stage shows	1500	1000	600	350
Variety shows	2500	1500	800	600

In MILAN prices are slightly higher, in NAPLES slightly lower.

(8) The pay system of labor in Italy is rather complicated. Aside from the various existing categories of work (industry, agriculture, building etc.) which have various pays, salaries also vary remarkably within the single categories according

(Over)

to the capacities of the worker concerned. Generally, the basic pay per hour is very low. But to it there are added several indemnities which considerably increase the basic pay. The main such indemnity is that for family members to be supported (family allowance) calculated for the industry on the basis of 108 lire per day for the worker's wife, and 160 Lire for every child. Since an average Italian family is composed of four persons (husband, wife and 2 children) 108×6 plus $160 \times 2 \times 6$ equal to 2568 Lire are added to the basic weekly pay of a laborer having a standard family of four. Other indemnities are the "caro pane" (cost of living bonus) consisting of 30 Lire approximately a day, i.e. more precisely 20 Lire for normal work, 30 Lire for heavy work, 40 Lire for very heavy work and, finally, 60 Lire for miners and wood-cutters.

Over-time work, i.e. work done in addition to the eight daily working hours, is paid on the basis of the pay per hour plus 20 per cent of the latter. If over-time work is done holidays, 30 per cent of the pay per hour is added.

According to Italian laws, every employed person is paid a Christmas bonus each year equal to one month salary. For the worker this is calculated on the basis of 200 working hours. Such a Christmas bonus is also paid to a worker who did not work for one whole year, i.e. in which case the bonus is calculated in proportion to the months he actually worked.

There is also a sick fund which gives the worker and his family free medical care and medicines, an insurance for invalidity and old age on the basis of which the worker enjoys a monthly pension as long as he lives in case of invalidity or old age.

Almost all the expenses of these insurances are borne by the employer. The very small part paid by the worker is already deducted from the above-quoted salaries, which are free from all deductions (including tax on wages) and this money can therefore be entirely used for the worker for his own needs.

Several firms pay their personnel an efficiency bonus on the basis of an average of 1500 Lire a month.

End.