

ITEM No 2758/55

SPECIAL ATTENTION: Mrs. Flum (30 copies)

LL
April 7
VI/Unnumbered

ITALY

PRICES OF BASIC CONSUMER GOODS IN ITALY

SOURCE ROME: RFE Staff.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: April 1 1955.

EVALUATION COMMENT: None. Please note paragraph 3, page 3, for an explanation of the apparent five per cent increase in wages since August 1954.

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Average Weekly Wage of Worker	12,700 Lira (please see para 3, page 3.)
Average Hourly Wage of Worker	252 Lira
Average Hours Worked per Week	48.

(over)

Commodity	Unit of Measure	Cost in Lira	Work Time Required in Hours and Minutes
Bread	1 kg	128	0°30'
Butter	1 kg	1,100	4°22'
Milk	1 liter	84	0°19'
Meat	1 kg	1,100	4°22'
Eggs	1 dozen	420	1°39'
Cheese	1 kg	800	3°10'
Sweets	1 kg	1,250	4°58'
Sugar	1 kg	260	1°05'
Tea	1 kg	4,000	15°05'
Coffee	1 kg	2,200	8°44'
Flour	1 kg	140	0°33'
Salt	1 kg	60	0°14'
Potatoes	1 kg	45	0°10'
Tomatoes	1 kg	70	0°17'
Cabbage	1 kg	70	0°17'
Coal	1 ton (metric)	2,000	7°33'
Laundry soap	1 kg	180	0°45'
Washing powder	1 box	140	0°33'
Paraffin oil	1 liter	100	0°23'
Needles	1 single	1.50	0°00'21"
Thread	1 spool (100 yds)	25	0°06'
Cigarettes	20	160	0°37'
Newspaper	1 copy	25	0°06'
Weekly paper	1 copy	60	0°14'
Movie ticket	cheapest	80 (1)	0°20'
Theater ticket	cheapest	450 (2)	1°40'
Matches	1 packet	15	0°03'30"
Men's Wear:			
Cotton shirt	1	1,000 - 3,000	3°55' - 11°45'
Suit	1 cheap	7,000	27°46'
Suit (wool)	1 average	14,000	55°32'
Macintosh	1	8,000 - 14,000	30°10' - 55°32'
Overcoat	1	10,000 - 18,000	39°41' - 70°37'
Shoes	1 pair cheap	3,000 - 6,000	11°45' - 23°30'
Tie	1	250 - 600	0°59' - 2°20'
Women's Wear:			
Frock, cretonne	1	3,000	11°45'
Frock, woolen	1	6,000	23°30'
Macintosh	1	8,000 - 12,000	30°10' - 47°00'
Overcoat	1	10,000 - 20,000	39°41' - 79°22'
Shoes	1 pair	3,000 - 6,000	11°45' - 23°30'
Children's Wear:			
Overcoat	1	6,000 - 12,000	23°30' - 47°00'
Shoes	1 pair	2,000 - 4,000	7°33' - 15°05'
Dress, girl's	1	2,500 - 6,000	9°56' - 47°00'
Dress, boy's	1	5,000 - 8,000	18°18' - 30°10'

(over)

(1) 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.

(2) Prices in ROME:

	<u>Stall</u>	<u>pit</u>	<u>balcony</u>	<u>gallery</u>
Opera House	3,500	2,000	1,500	500 (average prices)
Stage shows	1,500	1,000	600	350
Variety shows	2,500	1,500	800	600

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

Under the Unification Agreement (Conglobamento) which has been made between the trade unions and employers, the various allowances which wage-earners hitherto received in addition to the basic wages have been incorporated in the wages themselves. The general result of this operation was an average increase of five per cent on wages, which accounts for the difference between the figures in the present report and that of the preceding one.

In addition to their wages, workers who have families to provide for, receive a family allowance amounting to 108 lire for the wife and 160 lire for every child per working day. Thus a family of four persons, father, mother and two children, receive an extra allowance of 11,128 lire per month over and above the salary.

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