

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- At the present time bread is sold by tickets (pe cartela) or on the free market. Only those who enjoy the right to work and are, according to the official Rumanian expression, encompassed in "the field of work", are able to obtain the tickets. Bread bought through the use of tickets is of the dark variety, made of 10 percent wheat flour and the remainder of sunflower flour (soarelui floarea), which is a kind of Soviet bread made according to a Soviet recipe. The loaf weighs one kilogram and is priced at 1.20 lei.
- Almost all Rumanians eat the sunflower bread. It is very rare that pure wheat bread can be bought with tickets. White French bread, made in long thin loaves weighing 500 grams can be bought only on the free market and costs 3.28 lei per one-half kilogram. Common white wheat bread is also available on the free market and costs 4.60 lei per kilogram. 25X1
However, this kind of bread is not made exclusively of wheat, but contains some kind of additive. The bread looks good and is expensive, but it tastes like straw.
- Wheat flour can be bought directly from the producer; that is, the peasants who have the right to sell it after giving their prescribed quota to the State. The peasants sell the flour at 4 to 5 lei per kilogram on the free market, called "Obor", located south of Bucharest. 25X1
Finer flour used for pastry costs 6 lei per kilogram.
- From time to time, the Communists stock good flour in the special State stores known as "Alimentara". This usually precedes occasions of great Communist celebrations, such as 1 May, 23 August, 7 November, etc. 25X1
The profit, in fact, is enormous since the State buys wheat from the peasants at a forced sale of 38 bani per kilogram and resells it at 4 lei per kilogram, which is almost ten times higher. The flour disappears from the State stores at a rapid rate because it is stocked in very small quantities.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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5. Corn flour is very much in use in Rumania. It is cooked for long hours, seasoned with cheese or other fat, and is known as "mamaliga". Bread for diabetics can be bought in certain State stores, but the buyer must have a physician's prescription.
6. On the free market, beef costs 20 to 25 lei per kilogram, according to the cut; mutton costs 16 to 20 lei per kilogram; and pork, which is sold generally in the wintertime, costs 25 to 30 lei per kilogram. If pork is sold at cheaper rates there is a risk to the consumer that the animal was sick. Veterinarians advise the producers of pork to boil it before selling.
7. Meat can be bought with tickets only in large towns, especially in industrial towns such as Bucharest, Stalin, Timisoara, Resita, Ploesti, etc. Nevertheless, meat is distributed irregularly, generally every second Saturday. The sale of meat is the responsibility of the State store within the district and the consumer is obliged to accept whatever cut is available. Since the quantity of meat is very modest, it is generally sold out while people are still waiting in line.
8. Salami is sold in State stores at a price of 14 to 18 lei per kilogram, according to its categories. All salami is of inferior quality and it is generally believed to be made from the meat of donkeys, dogs, etc., since the ingredients cannot be controlled. Poisonings by salami are very frequent. The famous salami of Sibiu, in Transylvania, which is of the Italian type, is not sold in State stores. It is available only to the Communist bosses and the large restaurants and hotels such as the "Pescarus" and the Athenee Palace.
9. Canned food can almost always be bought in State stores. It is varied enough and generally packed in cans of half a kilogram. In the summer of 1954, there was mostly a sort of canned salad of egg-plant mixed with two or three pieces of meat. The salad was prepared for the Russians, but they refused to eat it so it became available to the Rumanians. There are small quantities of canned beans and canned peas of inferior quality. Canned beef, either as schnitzel or as goulash, is sold at 10 to 12 lei in cans of half a kilogram. All types of canned food are not sold every day. The food stores are under strict orders to sell only a certain variety, such as beans, on determined days.
10. Wheat paste, such as macaroni, spaghetti, and vermicelli, are sold on the free market at 8 to 12 lei per kilogram. A kind of rye paste (orzisoara) can also be obtained. At the present time, rice is available and the newspapers advertise the days on which it is sold. It costs about 9 lei per kilogram, the price varying according to the quality. Recently, Chinese rice which was imported in exchange for petroleum and meat has been available. It is sold at a cost of about 12 lei per kilogram, but it is a much tastier rice than the usual variety.
11. Jam, of poor quality, can always be found in boxes, without tickets, at 5 to 8 lei per kilogram. A great quantity of jam was exported to Austria in July 1954, but it was turned back from Vienna because it did not meet Austrian requirements. Honey costs 25 lei per kilogram and can be bought from peasants on the free market of Obor.
12. White cheese such as "telemea" or "branza de Braila" cannot be found in Bucharest but may be obtained in other sections of the country. Fat white cheese in Constanta costs 16 to 18 lei per kilogram. Mountain cheese, made exclusively from goat milk, costs 24 to 26 lei per kilogram.

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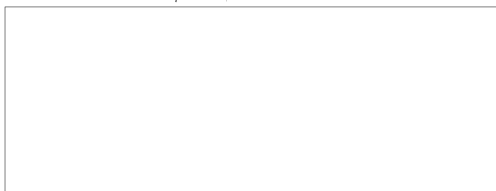
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13. Since 1953, the number of small shops has increased. These stores are generally located on street corners and often face both streets. They usually consist of only one small room and they sell many varied goods, especially food and the small merchandise such as needles, threads, buttons, etc.



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