

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	[Redacted]
SUBJECT	Commodity Prices, Ch'ongjin Area	DATE DISTR.	9 March 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Comment.

Prices of

items listed below have been marked with an asterisk. The country of origin is indicated by the following letter symbols appearing in parentheses directly following the name of the item: (S), USSR; (C), Czechoslovakia; (CC), Communist China; [Redacted] Where no symbol appears the item was of North Korean origin.

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[Redacted] food and commodity prices in the Ch'ongjin area were as follows:¹

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a. Food:

Item	Unit of Measurement ²	Wholesale Price (NK won)	Retail Price (NK won)
Rice	1 small mal	2,250	2,300
Millet	1 small mal	1,970	2,000
Barley	1 small mal	990	1,000
Wheat	1 small mal	1,230	1,250
Sorghum	1 small mal	990	1,000

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STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC				
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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Flour (S)	1 kilogram	Unknown	120*
Beans	1 small mal	1,080	1,100
Red beans	1 small mal	890	900
Bean oil	1 large mal	Unknown	2,000*
Bean sauce	1 kilogram	Unknown	40*
Bean cakes	7 kilograms	350	380
Wine (made from grain)	1 large mal	Unknown	1,500
Salt	1 small mal	Unknown	900
Potatoes	1 small mal	690	700
Radishes	1 kilogram	Unknown	80*
Cabbage	1 kilogram	Unknown	80*
Onions	1 kwan ³	Unknown	80 ³
Peppers	1 small mal	Unknown	800
Pork	1 kilogram	Unknown	90
Eggs	1	Unknown	15*
Salt mackerel	2	Unknown	100
Dried pollack	20	Unknown	400
Sea laver (seaweed)	1 kwan	Unknown	450
Apples	1	10	15
Pears	1	13	15
Peaches	1	11	15
b. <u>Restaurant Prices:</u>			
Noodles	1 small bowl		100*
Noodles	1 large bowl		120
Rice	1 serving		150*
c. <u>Services:</u>			
Hotel room	1 night		70
Hotel room and 2 meals	1 night		450

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Haircut			50
Horse cart hire	Ch'ongjin to Kilchu (3 days)		10,000*
Coolie hire	1 day with meals		300*
d. <u>Livestock:</u>			
Ox	1 head	Unknown	45,000
Cow	1 head	Unknown	35,000
Calf (one year old)	1 head	Unknown	6,000
Pig (one year old)	1 head	Unknown	2,700
Chicken	1	Unknown	500*
e. <u>Clothing:</u>			
Socks	1 pair	140	150*
Socks (C)	1 pair	Unknown	300*
Socks (C)	1 pair	Unknown	250*
Socks (CC)	1 pair	Unknown	200*
Rayon stockings	1 pair	90	100*
Cotton gloves	1 pair	170	180*
Cotton gloves (best quality)	1 pair	230	250
Wool gloves (CC)	1 pair	1,550	1,600
Leather boots (O)	1 pair	3,400	3,500*
Men's leather shoes (C)	1 pair	3,700	3,800*
Children's leather shoes (C)	1 pair	1,700	1,800*
Basketball shoes (CC)	1 pair	Unknown	4,800
Tennis shoes (CC)	1 pair	Unknown	2,800
Men's rubber shoes	1 pair	1,850	1,900*
Women's rubber shoes	1 pair	1,450	1,500*
Children's rubber shoes	1 pair	1,170	1,200*
Rubber overshoes (S)	1 pair	Unknown	2,300*

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Work shoes	1 pair	Unknown	700
Leather best (C) (second hand)	1	Unknown	700*
f. <u>Drygoods:</u>			
Cotton cloth	20 feet	3,400 ⁴	3,200 ⁴
Cotton sheeting (CC) (Cock brand)	40-yard bolt	28,600	29,000
Cotton sheeting (CC) (Barley brand)	42-yard bolt	24,600	25,000
Cotton sheeting (CC) (Special brand)	40-yard bolt	29,600	30,000
Black cotton cloth (CC)	41-yard bolt	28,500 ⁴	28,100 ⁴
Cotton gauze	40 yards	17,600	18,000
Lining material	20 yards	900	1,100*
Cotton batting (used)	1 kwan	3,600	3,800
Coarse linen	20 feet	2,300 ⁴	2,100 ⁴
Linen gauze (CC)	40 feet	2,000	2,300
Rayon	20 meters	6,000	6,200*
Cotton towel (CC)	1	950	1,000*
Towel (medium quality)	1	650	700*
Towel (low quality)	1	550	600
Cotton thread (CC)	3,000 meters	2,800	2,900
Wool yarn	1 pound	2,700	2,800
g. <u>Fuel:</u>			
Gasoline	1 drum	70,000	80,000*
Petroleum (produced at Aoji N 42-31, E 130-24; FG-1508)	1 drum	Unknown	95,000*
Charcoal	1 bag	Unknown	480*
Wood	1 cartload	Unknown	1,200*
Pine branches	1 cartload	Unknown	1,200*

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Carbide	1 kwan	Unknown	400
h. Medicines:			
Soda (sic)	1 kwan	1,700	2,000*
Penicillin (CC)	20,000 units ⁵	Unknown	2,500*
Penicillin	20,000 units ⁵	Unknown	2,500
Mycin (sic)	1 gram	Unknown	7,500
Dyajin (sic)	1 gram	Unknown	100
i. Writing Materials:			
White paper	1 sheet	95	100*
Notebook	1	45	50*
Pencil	1	8	10*
Pencil (C)	1	Unknown	60*
Colored pencil (C)	1	Unknown	100*
Pen points	100 (box)	280	300
Lampblack ink	1 stick	40	45*
Blue ink	1 bottle	27	30*
Writing brush	1	Unknown	130*
Fountain pen (CC)	1	900	950
j. Cosmetics and Notions:			
Face powder (CC)	Not given	280	290
Face cream	Not given	430	500*
Vanishing cream (CC)	Not given	950	960
Hair tonic (CC)	Not given	440	460
Tooth paste	Not given	55	60*
Tooth paste (CC)	Not given	300	320
Tooth brush	Not given	58	60* ⁶
Tooth brush	Not given	23	25 ⁶
Tooth brush (CC)	Not given	1,700	1,800 ⁶
Toilet soap	Not given	Unknown	100

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Toilet soap (CC)	Not given	280	290
Comb	1	140	150*
Comb (CC)	1	180	190
Hair pins	100	180	190
Pocket mirror	1	40	42
k. <u>Smoking Supplies:</u>			
Tobacco	Not given	70	100*
Tobacco (S)	1 box	Unknown	200*
Tobacco (CC)	Not given	280	300
Matches	Not given	Unknown	150*
Matches (CC)	1 package	180	250
Lighter flint	1	Unknown	50*
Lighter (CC)	1	2,800	3,000
1. <u>Miscellaneous Articles and Materials:</u>			
Light bulb (60-watt)	1	550	600*
Light bulb (100-watt)	1	1,450	1,500*
Light bulb (100-watt) (CC)	1	1,450	1,500*
Sewing needles (CC)	1 box	9,000	10,000
Sewing machine needle	1	Not given	700*
Saw	1	Unknown	500*
Nails (4-inch)	1 kwan	Unknown	3,700* ⁷
Nails (2-inch)	1 kwan	Unknown	6,000* ⁷
Laundry soap	Not given	Unknown	200*
Old newspapers	1 kwan	Unknown	380*
Old magazines	1 kwan	Unknown	380*
Leather brief case (C) (second hand)	1	Unknown	5,000*
Leather suit case (C)	1	Unknown	13,000*
Bicycle tires (CC), (with tubes)	1 pair	Unknown	30,000* ⁸

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit of Measurement</u>	<u>Wholesale Price (NK won)</u>	<u>Retail Price (NK won)</u>
Raw rubber	1 kwan	Unknown	13,000 ⁸
Pure gold	3.75 grams		60,000*

[] Comments.

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1. The prices quoted in the present report are presumably free market prices.
2. The western equivalents of the Korean units of measurement used in this report are as follows: large mal, a little less than 30 pounds of rice or about one half bushel, and for measuring liquids, 18 liters or 3.97 gallons; small mal, half of a large mal; kwan, 3.75 kilograms or about eight pounds.
3. [] onions at 80 won for 1 kilogram.
4. Note that wholesale prices are quoted at more than retail prices in these cases, an obvious error.

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[] Comments.

5. []
6. [] the contrast between the price of a tooth brush imported from Communist China and one of North Korean manufacture seems incredible.
7. Four-inch spikes at 3,700 won in contrast with 6,000 won for the same quantity of two-inch nails also seems unreasonable.
8. [] Comment. Bicycle tires with tubes at 30,000 won per pair appears more reasonable than the Kilchu price of 2,300 won [] in view of the price given for raw rubber.

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