

ACC 10000/146/650 091.47291

COST OF LIVING FOGGIA + FLORENCE

AUG. - OCT. 1944

UG FOGGIA + FLORENCE

OCT. 1944

LABOR

UFFICIO PROV. DEL LAVORO DI FOGGIA

N. di prot. *1156/4* Sigla

Risposta a

Lucera, n. *2/8/1944*

Oggetto:

Sub. Luc. e Rel. dist. dist. di Lucera in Foggia Prov.

ALLA SUDCOMMISSIONE DEL LAVORO
D. L. A. J. C.

R O M A

6083

In relazione ad analoga richiesta,
rimetto, in triplice copia, i dati sulle
razioni alimentari distribuite ai ci-
vili nelle principali città di questa Pro-
vincia, dal dicembre 1943 al maggio 1944.-

IL DIRETTORE
(Avv. *[Signature]*)

A. C. C.

Rapporto sul CIBO STABILITO SECONDO LA RAZIONE UFFICIALE O IL PROGRAMMA DI DISTRIBUZIONE - Da
da ritornarsi in copia duplicata alla Sub-Commissione del Lavoro, HQ, ACC) CITAS di Lucera

Determinare l'ammontare stabilito in ciascuna settimana a ciascun normale consumatore. Non includere per lavoratori pesanti, ragazzi per bambini, etc. Se si desidera, si possono fare delle annotazioni voci su foglio separato. La razione del pane di 200 grammi deve essere elencata come 1.4 (1 4/10) e di 150 grammi come 1.05 (1 5/100) etc. - Irregolari distribuzioni, al posto di quelle giornaliere nella settimana in cui le distribuzioni vengono effettuate. In tutti i casi determinare l'ammontare attualmente a ciascuna persona, se e no questo ammontare è stato distribuito secondo le stabilite e quanto è stato dato in più e quanto in meno.

Ricordare che l'olio di oliva e il latte sono da eleocerei in l'tri, mentre gli altri generi in

Colonna delle settimane (dalla Domenica al Sabat)

[illegible]

785031

DETO STABILITO SECONDO LA RAZIONE UFFICIALE O IL PROGRAMMA DI DISTRIBUZIONE - Da Dicembre 1943 ad oggi
in duplicate alla Sub-Commissione del Lavoro, HQ, ACC) Città di vicenza
ammontare stabilito in ciascuna settimana a ciascun normale consumatore. Non includere le razioni supplementari
presenti, razioni per bambini, etc. Se si desidera, si possono fare delle annotazioni per ciascuna delle
separate. La razione del pane di 200 grammi deve essere elencata come 1.4 (1 4/10) di chilogrammi, la
come 1.05 (1 5/100) etc. - Irregolari distribuzioni, al posto di quello giornaliero, devono essere indicate
cui le distribuzioni vengono effettuate. In tutti i casi determinare l'ammontare distribuito
una persona, se e no questo ammontare è stato distribuito secondo le stabilite esistenti razioni ed indicare
in più e quanto in meno.
L'olio di oliva e il latte sono da elencarsi in litri, mentre gli altri generi in chilogrammi.

Colonna delle settimane (dalla Domenica al Sabato)

Colonna delle settimane (dalla Domenica al Sabato)																					60
December 43			January 1944				February 1944				March 1944				April 1944				May 1944		
11	18	25	1	8	22	29	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	7	14	21	28	6	13	
1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	
0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	0.625	
0.200											0.400										
0.80	0.100	0.70	0.60	0.80	0.70	0.50	0.80	0.60	0.60	0.80	0.80	0.50	0.60	0.80	0.100 0.80			0.60			
0.50																					
0.600				0.600				0.600													
															1.00						
											0.125										
															1.00						

6084

Rapporto sul CIBO STABILITO SECONDO LA RAZIONE UFFICIALE O IL PROGRAMMA DI DISTRIBUZIONE - Da Dico
da ritornarsi in copia duplicata alla Sub-Commissione del Lavoro, HQ, AGO) Città di Casignola

Determinare l'ammontare stabilito in ciascuna settimana a ciascun normale consumatore. Non include
tari per lavoratori pesanti, ragioni per bambini, etc. Se si desidera, si possono fare delle annotazioni
guenti voci su foglio separato. La razione del pane di 200 grammi deve essere elencata come 1.4 (1 4/10
zione di 150 grammi come 1.05 (1 5/100) etc.-Irregolari distribuzioni, al posto di quelle giornaliere,
ella settimana in cui le distribuzioni vengono effettuate. In tutti i casi determinare l'apporto nutritivo
pagamenti a ciascuna persona, se o no questo ammontare è stato distribuito secondo la stabilito e in
quante è stato dato in più e quanto in meno.

Ricordare che l'olio di oliva e il latte sono da elencarsi in litri, mentre gli altri generi in o

Colonne delle settimane (Dalla Domenica al Sabato)

[illegible]

785021

BO STABILITO SECONDO LA RAGIONE UFFICIALE O IL PROGRAMMA DI DISTRIBUZIONE - Da Dicembre 1943 ad oggi
 la duplicata alla Sub-Commissione del Lavoro, HQ, AGO) Città di Eniquola

ammontare stabilito in ciascuna settimana a ciascun normale consumatore. Non includere le razioni supplementari pesanti, razioni per bambini, etc. Se si desidera, si possono fare delle annotazioni per ciascuna delle sezioni separate. La razione del pane di 200 grammi deve essere elencata come 1.4 (1 4/10) di chilogrammo, la razione come 1.05 (1 5/100) etc.--Irregolari distribuzioni, al posto di quelle giornaliere, devono essere indicate qui le distribuzioni vengono effettuate. In tutti i casi determinare l'apporto nutritivo ammontare distribuito una persona, se o no questo ammontare è stato distribuito secondo le stabilite esistenti razioni ed indicare in più e quanto in meno.

L'olio di oliva e il latte sono da elencarsi in litri, mentre gli altri generi in chilogrammi.

Colonna delle settimane (Dalla Domenica al Sabato)

[illegible]

6083

E 7- D
7099

Ricordare che l'olio di oliva ed il latte sono da elencarsi in litri, mentre gli altri generi in ettolitri.

Colonna delle settimane (dalla Domenica al Sa

[illegible]

entare stabilito in ciascuna settimana a ciascun normale consumatore. Non includere le razioni supplementari, razioni per bambini, etc. Se si desidera, si possono fare delle annotazioni per ciascuna delle sezioni separate. La razione del pane di 200 grammi deve essere elencata come 1.4 (1 4/10) di chilogrammo, la razione 1:05 (1 5/100) etc.--Irregolari distribuzioni, al posto di quelle giornaliere, devono essere indicate le distribuzioni vengono effettuate. In tutti i casi determinare l'approssimativo ammontare distribuito persona, se o no questo ammontare è stato distribuito secondo le stabilite esistenti razioni ed indicare più o quanto in meno.

La oliva ed il latte sono da misurarsi in litri, mentre gli altri generi in chilogrammi.

6082

[illegible]

Debon.

Colonna delle settimane (dalla Domenica al Sabato

[illegible]

o sul CIBO STABILITO SECONDO LA RAZIONE UFFICIALE O IL PROGRAMMA DI DISTRIBUZIONE-da Dicembre
-da ritornarsi in copia duplicata alla Sub-Commissione HQ,A.C.C.)città di Sansiero
l'ammontare stabilito in ciascuna settimana a ciascun normale consumatore.Non includere le
elementari per lavoratori pesanti,razioni per bambini,ecc.Se si desidera,si possono fare delle
per ciascuna delle seguenti voci su foglio separato.La razione del pane di 200 grammi deve
ata come 1.4 (1 4/10) di Kg.,la razione di 150 grammi come 1.05 (1 5/100) ecc.
istribuzioni,al posto di quelle giornaliere,devono essere indicate nella settimana in cui le
l vengono effettuate.In tutti i casi determinare l'approssimativo ammontare distribuito attual
una persona,se o no questo ammontare è stato distribuito secondo le stabilite esistenti ra-
icare quanto è stato dato in più e quanto in meno.
e l'olio d'oliva e il latte sono da elencarsi in litri mentre gli altri generi in Kg.

Colonna delle settimane (dalla Domenica al Sabato)

[illegible]

16 October, 1944

CONFIDENTIALPassages marked with a line at the side are for information only15. Report on Market Prices at Florence

An Italian collaborator writes:

The market situation is a serious problem. This is due to several causes.

1. Foodstuffs are held back because of an expected rise in prices.
2. The almost total interruption of industrial production which up to now had managed somehow to satisfy local demands.
3. Interruption of the normal channels of supply for the black market and introduction of rationed food into the city.
4. Buying up by Allied troops of food and commodities. This has been the case with clothing and dry goods which have reached dizzy prices.
5. The impossibility of the refugees in Florence to leave the city and return to their homes.

Now prices are so high in Florence that it is hard to know if they are legal or black market prices and no one stops to think about it. Here are some prices:

wheat flour	Lire	90	a	kg.
corn (not ground)	Lire	40	a	kg.
potatoes	Lire	40	a	kg.
oil	Lire	2,000	a	fiasco
wine	Lire	50 - 100	a	fiasco
meat	Lire	700	a	kg.
beans	Lire	70	a	kg.

If we compare these prices with those existing before the state of emergency, they show a 100% increase and more.

Almost the only possibility of buying clothing is through the black market. Here are some of the prices:

A suit (man's)

1. Foodstuffs are held back because of an expected rise in prices.

2. The almost total interruption of industrial production which up to now had managed somehow to satisfy local demands.

3. Interruption of the normal channels of supply for the black market and introduction of rationed food into the city.

4. Buying up by Allied troops of food and commodities. This has been the case with clothing and dry goods which have reached dizzy prices.

5. The impossibility of the refugees in Florence to leave the city and return to their homes.

Now prices are so high in Florence that it is hard to know if they are legal or black market prices and no one stops to think about it. Here are some prices:

wheat flour	Lire	90 a kg.
corn (not ground)	Lire	40 a kg.
potatoes	Lire	40 a kg.
oil	Lire	2,000 a fiasco
wine	Lire	50 - 100 a fiasco
meat	Lire	700 a kg.
beans	Lire	70 a kg.

If we compare these prices with those existing before the state of emergency, they show a 100% increase and more.

Almost the only possibility of buying clothing is through the black market. Here are some of the prices:

A suit (man's)	Lire	10,000 to 20,000
Leather shoes	Lire	3,000
Handkerchiefs	Lire	130
Underdrawers	Lire	390
Pyjamas	Lire	2,000

A bicycle costs about 15,000 lire and a typewriter the same. On comparing these prices with the present salaries, one can understand the difficulties of the present moment. An employee with a family rarely earns above Lire 3,000 a month. It is evident that he cannot cover his mere food expenses. This causes great discontent, which has a political reaction and the parties of the left take advantage of it to promise an increase in salaries and better conditions for workmen.

The only people who continue to prosper are those who traffic in the black market.

16. Distribution of Pasta in Palermo

Starting 25th of September the Pasta ration for the first two weeks in September was distributed in Palermo. The allowance per person was 1.100 Kg. to cover the two weeks period.

17. Increase of Cooperatives in Palermo Province.

The Regional Office of Labour of Palermo on 23rd of Sept. held a meeting of representatives of cooperatives of all types of activity in the province.

The Director of the Office, Prof. Francesco Gherra, pointed out to the representatives the aims of the meeting and the necessity of supporting the cooperatives in order to help the members and better economic conditions.

After some discussion it was decided to have a committee formed to plan the constitution of a union among the cooperatives, and at the next meeting the committee will report on its activity.

18. Arrest for illegal sale of Pasta.

The Mobile Squad of Palermo arrested Giocchino d'Amato and Umberto Marino of Porticello for the clandestine sale of Pasta at 100 lire a kilogram. 175 kilograms of pasta were sequestered and also about 54 kilograms of charcoal. The pasta was turned over to the City Hospital of Benfratelli and the charcoal was put on public sale.

19. Sale of Charcoal in Enna

Recently the Consorzio Agrario Provinciale of Enna assigned to the shops of the city a considerable amount of charcoal to be sold to the public. The Consorzio had acquired the charcoal for 7,44 lire a kilogram and the price set for public sale from 8,30 lire a kg.

The shops did not follow this price and sold the charcoal at 10 lire a kg. The Consorzio Agrario, to end this state of affairs has begun to sell the charcoal directly to the public for eight lire a kilogram.

20. Sindaco loses office for Grain Infraction.

The Sindaco of Mezzojuso, Gaspare di Giacomo, has been denounced to the authorities and deprived of his office for failure to turn in 50,82 quintals of grain to the granal.

21. Contraband Grain on the Railroad.

the Director of the Office, Prof. Francesco Chera, pointed out to the representatives the aims of the meeting and the necessity of supporting the cooperatives in order to help the members and better economic conditions.

After some discussion it was decided to have a committee formed to plan the constitution of a union among the cooperatives, and at the next meeting the committee will report on its activity.

18. Arrest for illegal sale of Pasta.

The Mobile Squad of Palermo arrested Giocchino d'Amato and Umberto Marino of Porticello for the clandestine sale of Pasta at 100 lire a kilogram. 175 kilograms of pasta were sequestered and also about 54 kilograms of charcoal. The pasta was turned over to the City Hospital of Benfratelli and the charcoal was put on public sale.

19. Sale of Charcoal in Lina.

Recently the Consorzio Agrario Provinciale of Lina assigned to the shops of the city a considerable amount of charcoal to be sold to the public. The Consorzio had acquired the charcoal for 7,44 lire a kilogram and the price set for public sale from 8,30 lire a kg.

The shops did not follow this price and sold the charcoal at 10 lire a kg. The Consorzio Agrario, to end this state of affairs has begun to sell the charcoal directly to the public for eight lire a kilogram.

20. Sindaco loses office for Grain Infraction.

The Sindaco of Mezzojuso, Gaspare di Giacomo, has been denounced to the authorities and deprived of his office for failure to turn in 50,32 quintals of grain to the granai.

21. Contraband Grain on the Railroad.

On the 26th of September two members of "D" Section accompanied a police force to Mercato Bianco (Roccapalumba) where the train from Catania was examined for contraband grain.

This is one of a series of raids that the police intend to carry out in order to cut off the extensive running of contraband which at the present time has developed to great proportions.

The police force consisted of 50 policemen, under the command of Dr. Magrone, 50 carabinieri under Second Lt. Olive, and 50 soldiers under the command of a Second Lieutenant.

The original plan was to carry out the operation at the station of Montemaggiore Belsito, but there was a change in the hours of the trains. The train coming from Catania would have arrived at the station of Montemaggiore an hour and thirty minutes late which would have made it necessary to stop the train after dark. The spot was changed therefore to the station of Marcato Bianco, but when the train carrying the police arrived at this station the passenger train was already there, and it was obvious that some unknown person gave the warning that the police were on the way to the station.

If the raid was successful it was only because of the prompt action of the police who, summing up the situation immediately succeeded in surrounding the train. The soldiers (who proved to be most cooperative) ran after some persons who tried to escape and used their guns frequently since someone in the hope of escaping used a revolver.

100 quintals of grain were sequestered. The greater part of this was left on the train since the owners preferred to abandon it rather than take the consequences. They were traced in a nearby countryside by the soldiers and carabinieri who followed them.

There was much excitement during the incident because of the extensive use of rifles and machine guns which proved most effective in convincing the contrabandists of the strong measures which the police intended to take.

A dozen contrabandists were arrested, among those who tried to escape and those who used weapons. Some who were arrested appeared to take a very pitiful attitude and tried by this common means to appeal to the officers. The general attitude however, was one of mockery and some one said that the raid was useless as the contrabandists would continue their usual work.

The representatives of "B" Section had a chance to talk to a group of those who had left their grain. These stated that they were forced to continue running contraband and since it is much more profitable than they work they would continue to do it.

The spot was changed therefore to the station of Marcato Bianco, but when the train carrying the police arrived at this station the passenger train was already there, and it was obvious that some unknown person gave the warning that the police were on the way to the station.

If the raid was successful it was only because of the prompt action of the police who, summing up the situation immediately succeeded in surrounding the train. The soldiers (who proved to be most cooperative) ran after some persons who tried to escape and used their guns frequently since someone in the hope of escaping used a revolver.

100 quintals of grain were sequestered. The greater part of this was left on the train since the owners preferred to abandon it rather than take the consequences. They were traced in a nearby countryside by the soldiers and carabinieri who followed them.

There was much excitement during the incident because of the extensive use of rifles and machine guns which proved most effective in convincing the contrabandists of the strong measures which the police intended to take.

A dozen contrabandists were arrested, among those who tried to escape and those who used weapons. Some who were arrested appeared to take a very pitiful attitude and tried by this common means to appeal to the officers. The general attitude however, was one of mockery and some one said that the raid was useless as the contrabandists would continue their usual work.

The representatives of "D" Section had a chance to talk to a group of those who had left their grain. These stated that they were forced to continue running contraband and since it is much more profitable than they work they would continue to do it. It they were forced to abandon the grain, as in this case, they would simply look at the situation as one business deal which went badly. They pointed out the reasons that made it necessary for them to do this - the high cost of living, scarcity of work, and the very small pay of workers.

For the people whom they arrested as witnesses the police showed some consideration, but they were firm toward those who had argued or had fired against the police.

6078

It can be presumed that by continuing to use this method the contraband on trains can definitely be stopped. It is obvious, however, that this contraband can only be carried with the consent of the railroad personnel.

On the way back much precaution was used especially while going through Bagheria. This is known as such a rebellious town that if certain elements had been aware of the event which had just occurred, they certainly would ^{have} halted and attacked the police train, as had happened before. (See "D" Section report No. 28, page 8).

On 27th of September the same group left to stop the train coming from Messina and similar raids will continue during the entire week.

22. Market in Palermo - 24th - 29th September.

The general trend of the market this week does not permit of any hope for betterment in favour of the population which still waits for the intervention of the authorities.

In the table at the end of this article we consider various goods in detail.

Bread. Bread continues to be very poorly made and there is still the very bad custom of selling it while it is hot. This, as we have reported previously, gives an illegal gain to the bakers. On the black market one can buy publicly bread of doubtful quality for 75 lire a kilo.

Pasta. The decision to distribute for the first two weeks of September (a distribution which took place this week) 550 kg. per week, as was announced some time ago, was very well received by the population. The quality, however, leaves much to be desired. Those who wish to eat the best pasta, made of fine wheat, must use the black market which is abundantly furnished at a price of 120 to 135 lire a kg.

Pasta with a cereal base has not met with any public favour since the people of Palermo have not known how to adapt themselves to it.

Meat. The normal cost of meat has now become 160 lire a kg. Even livels, etc., have come to be sold at a high price, and bones that once were sold at 5 lire a kg. have gone up today to 10 or even 12 lire.

Fish. The price of fish has continued to climb. Recently a Prefect's decree has ordered the sale on the market

train coming from Messina and similar raids will continue during the entire week.

22. Market in Palermo - 24th - 29th September.

The general trend of the market this week does not permit of any hope for betterment in favour of the population which still waits for the intervention of the authorities.

In the table at the end of this article we consider various goods in detail.

Bread. Bread continues to be very poorly made and there is still the very bad custom of selling it while it is not. This, as we have reported previously, gives an illegal gain to the bakers. On the black market one can buy publicly bread of doubtful quality for 75 lire a kilo.

Pasta. The decision to distribute for the first two weeks of September (a distribution which took place this week) 550 kg. per week, as was announced some time ago, was very well received by the population. The quality, however, leaves much to be desired. Those who wish to eat the best pasta, made of fine wheat, must use the black market which is abundantly furnished at a price of 120 to 135 lire a kg.

Pasta with a cereal base has not met with any public favour since the people of Palermo have not known how to adapt themselves to it.

Meat. The normal cost of meat has now become 160 lire a kg. Even live's, etc., have come to be sold at a high price, and bones that once were sold at 6 lire a kg. have gone up today to 10 or even 12 lire.

Fish The price of fish has continued to climb. Recently a Prefect's decree has ordered the sale on the market of all fish caught along the shores of the Province of Palermo; since the supply has been limited, fish must not be preserved but sold fresh. This provision will never be able to cause a sufficient quantity of fish to appear on the market to make the price go down, since the wholesale dealers have the situation under control and continue to establish the prices which suit them.

Eggs. Eggs have gone up in price ⁶⁸⁷⁷ 14 lire apiece. If on one hand the season has brought a decided decrease in production, on the other the increase is not justified if one considers that the cost of feed for poultry is today the same as that of three months ago when eggs sold at a maximum price of 10 lire.

Olive Oil. There is nothing new to report on this product. The price of 160 lire a liter has been accepted with resignation by the population inasmuch as this is such an essential item for their cooking.

Potatoes, fruits vegetables. These citizens are thoroughly disgusted with the prices of these foods. It is difficult for anyone to understand why in Sicily it is necessary to pay 60 lire for potatoes, or 20 lire a kilo for vegetables, or that some fruit has reached a price of 50 lire a kilo.

It is definitely inconceivable to the Sicilian people, accustomed to the use of these foods, to have to spend for example one lire for a stalk of "scarola" (a common endive).

Charcoal. Since the promised ships loaded with charcoal have not yet arrived in Palermo, this product continues to be sold to the public in the streets of the city for 18 lire a kilo. This is a recent discovery on the part of shopowners who do not wish to sell it in their stores at such a price for fear of a surprise raid (although they probably could do so after all since there is very little surveillance). They arrange therefore, to have the charcoal sold by peddlers moving through the city.

Medicines. Medicines can be found on the black market, and this is particularly true of specialized types. It does not seem that the old pharmacy with fair prices (that of the city hospital) has been supplied recently and this remedy for the situation is today almost ineffective.

It can be understood that the market situation has a political influence, since complaints are always made against the authorities who are now in power.

T A B L E

Foods and other goods consumed in quantity	"Calmiere"	Prices per kilogram	
		Merc. Bianco	Merc. Nero
Bread	5,00	--	75,00
Pasta	7,00	--	120,00
Beef - First quality	120,00	160,00	135,00
Beef - Second quality	100,00	140,00	--
Fish (average prices)	60,-- - 90,-	120,00	--
Eggs (apiece)	8,00	160,--	--
Cheeses	--	12,00-13,00	--
Olive Oil (a liter)	--	14,00	--
		230,-- - 250,00	--

is definitely inconceivable to the Sicilian people, accustomed to the use of these foods, to have to spend for example one lire for a stalk of "scarola" (a common endive).

Charcoal. Since the promised ships loaded with charcoal have not yet arrived in Palermo, this product continues to be sold to the public in the streets of the city for 18 lire a kilo. This is a recent discovery on the part of shopowners who do not wish to sell it in their stores at such a price for fear of a surprise raid (although they probably could do so after all since there is very little surveillance). They arrange therefore, to have the charcoal sold by peddlers moving through the city.

Medicines. Medicines can be found on the black market, and this is particularly true of specialized types. It does not seem that the old pharmacy with fair prices (that of the city hospital) has been supplied recently and this remedy for the situation is today almost ineffective.

It can be understood that the market situation has a political influence, since complaints are always made against the authorities who are now in power.

T A B L E

Foods and other goods consumed in quantity	"Calmiere"	Prices per kilogram	
		Merc.Bianco	Merc. Nero
Bread	5,00	--	75,00
Pasta	7,00	--	120,00 135,00
Beef - First quality	120,00	160,00	--
Beef - Second quality	100,00	140,00	--
Fish (average prices)	60,-- - 90,-	120,00	--
Eggs (apiece)	8,00	160,-- 12,00-13,00	--
Cheeses	--	14,00	--
Olive Oil (a liter)	--	230,-- - 250,00	--
Potatoes	?	160,--	--
Fruit	?	60,--	--
Charcoal	8,00	20,--	--
Medicines	--	18,00	--
		?	?

uuu

23. The shoe and leather trade - Naples

The shoe question for the province of Naples, (as, of course, for all liberated provinces of Italy), is one of real importance to the population.

The province of Naples had, before the war, a good output of skins and leather, many small and average sized tanneries and chiefly, thriving artisan industries and small and average sized factories situated mostly on the outskirts of Naples, e.g. Casa-nuovo.

At the beginning of the war as all production was blocked for military supplies, a skin and leather shortage made itself felt which caused the price of shoes to rise very greatly. These, however, could be obtained, at least in very small quantity, until June 1943 with ration cards, after that period production fell quickly and prices rose rapidly, and it may be said, at present the shoe situation is nothing better than chaotic.

Skin and leather goods are still blocked. In order to check the production statistics given by the producers, AMG has created a commissioner for skin and leather goods. However, only a small quantity of existing goods are delivered to the government pool, as the majority comes from the Black Market.

The factories, (several of which have been destroyed by air raids and German mines), being under stricter control, have less opportunity to trade on the Black Market and produce chiefly shoes of "Erstaz" material. Several small factories on the outskirts produce standard shoes made of second rate or bad material which are sold in the shops at prices which range from 625 to 1,600 lire; the price of some types of men's shoes are as high as 3,000 lire. In spite of these prices, such shoes are generally not solid and are very badly made. Only artisans who make shoes, to order for private clients produce solid and well made shoes, but at excessively high prices which may range from 3,000 to 5,000 lire as they buy all necessary materials on the black market.

Black Market prices are :

Nails -	1100/1600 lire a kilo
String -	50 lire a ball
Leather soles -	1000/2000 lire a kilo

As a rule it may be stated that the production of shoes does not reach over 8,000 pairs of first quality monthly, and 2,000 pairs of second quality. Thus it is evident how chaotic the

At the beginning of the war as all production was blocked for military supplies, a skin and leather shortage made itself felt which caused the price of shoes to rise very greatly. These, however, could be obtained, at least in very small quantity, until June 1943 with ration cards, after that period production fell quickly and prices rose rapidly, and it may be said, at present the shoe situation is nothing better than chaotic.

Skin and leather goods are still blocked. In order to check the production statistics given by the producers, AMG has created a commissioner for skin and leather goods. However, only a small quantity of existing goods are delivered to the government pool, as the majority comes from the Black Market.

The factories, (several of which have been destroyed by air raids and German mines), being under stricter control, have less opportunity to trade on the Black Market and produce chiefly shoes of "Erstaz" material. Several small factories on the outskirts produce standard shoes made of second rate or bad material which are sold in the shops at prices which range from 625 to 1,600 lire; the price of some types of men's shoes are as high as 3,000 lire. In spite of these prices, such shoes are generally not solid and are very badly made. Only artisans who make shoes, to order for private clients produce solid and well made shoes, but at excessively high prices which may range from 3,000 to 5,000 lire as they buy all necessary materials on the black market.

Black Market prices are :

Nails - 1100/1600 lire a kilo
String - 50 lire a ball
Leather soles - 1000/2000 lire a kilo

As a rule it may be stated that the production of shoes does not reach over 3,000 pairs of first quality monthly, and 2,000 pairs of second rate quality. Thus it is evident how chaotic the situation is in this branch of production and how great disproportion there is between supply and demand; the latter being about 300,000 pairs of shoes monthly.

The shoe problem is serious now and will obviously grow more and more serious as winter approaches.

6073

1037