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## Economic and Related Statistics Dealing with Laos

Joel Halpern, *University of Massachusetts - Amherst*

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ECONOMIC AND RELATED

STATISTICS DEALING WITH LAOS

1961

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## ECONOMIC AND RELATED STATISTICS DEALING WITH LAOS

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**TABLE 1**  
**AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN NORTHERN LAOS<sup>a</sup>**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in kip/kilo</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Bamboo shoots	10 10 <sup>b</sup> 10-15 <sup>c</sup> 7 (Muong Sai) <sup>d</sup> 8 (Muong Sing) <sup>d</sup> 4 (Nam Tha) <sup>d</sup>	An important food item gathered by all groups; an important trade item for the Khmu
Bananas (common variety)	10-25 1 kip for three (Muong Sai) <sup>d</sup>	Eaten fresh and fried
Bananas ("egg" variety)	20	Small, with sweet flavor
Banana leaves	-	Arranged in pockets by the Khmu - sold as wrapping material for other goods
Banana stalks	15	Pickled and eaten
Bean sprouts	15 15 <sup>b</sup> 15 <sup>c</sup>	Common vegetable
Beans (runner)	20	Available most of the year
Beans (string)	30	Plentiful in summer months
Betel nut (from areca palm)	100/touque <sup>e</sup> (Muong Sai) <sup>d</sup>	
Betel leaves	-	Spread with lime paste as wrapping for the nut
Cabbage	10-30 15-20 <sup>b</sup>	Grown by Lao and Miao Plentiful in February-March; more expensive at other times
Chili peppers	30-50	Important in diet of all groups
Chinese mustard	-	Grown by Miao
Citronella grass	5/bunch	Gathered by Khmu; for brewing tea
Coconut (young)	15 each 20-30 each <sup>b</sup> 10-15 each <sup>c</sup>	Eaten as a sweet
Coconut (old)	30 each	Milk and meat important supplementary foods; used in cooking

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TABLE 1  
**AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN NORTHERN LAOS<sup>a</sup>**  
 (continued)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in kip/kilo</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Coffee	35 50 <sup>d</sup>	Fairly common village plant; grown particularly in the area of Nam Bac
Coriander	8	Plentiful in July
Corn	5/3 ears 1 each <sup>b</sup>	Grown by Lao but usually sold directly to other Lao as livestock feed; occasionally grown and sold on market by the Lao
Cucumbers	13-50 10-15 each <sup>b</sup>	Plentiful in summer but avail- able most of the year; large seedy variety less expensive than long thin "Thai" type
Custard apple	4-5 each	On market in July
Eggplant	10-50 5 <sup>b</sup> (in season)	Available most of year; plentiful July-October; grown by Lao and some Khmu
Garlic	10-50 35 <sup>b</sup> 25 <sup>c</sup>	In season in February; expensive in July
Ginger	15	Common spice among Lao
Lemon	1/for 4 <sup>b</sup> 2-3 each <sup>c</sup>	Frequent in Lao villages
Lichees	15	A wild variety; plentiful in July
Limes	10	Small, hard; plentiful in July
Mangoes	50	Favorite July fruit
Melons	15-35 each	Common summer fruit
Mint	15	Eaten chopped in many Lao dishes
Mushrooms (black)	30	Gathered in the forest by Khmu
Onions (fresh)	15-30 35 <sup>b</sup> 25-40 <sup>c</sup>	Plentiful in February; expensive in July
Onions (dried)	100	Sold dried in the summer
Oranges	30	Small, bitter; from Nam Bac region

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**TABLE 1**  
**AVAILABILITY AND PRICE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN NORTHERN LAOS<sup>a</sup>**  
(continued)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in kip/kilo</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Papaya	10-30 each 5-10 each <sup>b</sup> 5-10 each <sup>c</sup>	Sold by Lao; a favorite fruit
Peaches	1-3 each	Gathered by Mao and Khmu in July
Peanuts	-	Sold shelled and unshelled
Pineapple	15 each 20-30 each <sup>b</sup> 5-10 each <sup>c</sup>	In season in July
Pomelo	10 each	In season in July
Potatoes (white)	10-20 20 <sup>b</sup> 20-30 <sup>c</sup>	Grown by Mao.
Potatoes (sweet)	- 9 (Luang Prabang) <sup>d</sup> 14 (Muong Hing, Luang Prabang Province) <sup>d</sup> 24 (Hat Sa, Luang Prabang Province) <sup>d</sup> 27-33 (Phong Saly) <sup>d</sup>	Grown by Khmu and other groups
Rice (glutinous)	see Table 6	Main Lao food staple
Scallions	15	Grown by Lao and Khmu; plentiful in July-August
Sugar cane	-	Grown in Lao and some Mao villages
Tamarind	20	Used for jam; plentiful in May-June
Tea	5/50 grams (imported)	Grown by Lamet as well and on Nam Tha market in June
Tobacco	50 (Nam Tha)	Grown by some Lao and Khmu
Tomatoes	30-40 50 <sup>b</sup> 10-40 <sup>c</sup>	Available March-June
Vine leaves	8	Eaten by Lao as salad greens
Watermelon	10-20 each	Grown by Lao and Tai Dam

<sup>a</sup>These statistics refer to Luang Prabang town and are average prices obtained in 1957 unless otherwise specified. Prices vary with the season and the individual. They are generally higher for Europeans and also fluctuate with bargaining.

<sup>b</sup>Summer 1959 prices.

<sup>c</sup>Vientiane prices, summer 1959.

<sup>d</sup>Based on Duclos' monographs of Luang Prabang, Nam Tha and Phong Saly Provinces prepared in 1959 while Duclos was an F.A.O. consultant to the Lao Government.

<sup>e</sup>About eight kilos.



TABLE 2  
LIVESTOCK, FISH AND FOWL PRODUCTS IN NORTHERN LAOS<sup>a</sup>

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in Kip</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Bats	12-15/each	Eaten by Lao, dried and fried
Beef		Not commonly available outside Vientiane
Birds (small)	7-8/each	Eaten by Lao in soup or fried with vegetables
Buffalo	3000-4000 per animal (average) 3500 (3 year old), Muong Sing 4000 (5 years) Muong Sing 5000 (6-7 years) Muong Sing 2500 (2-3 years) Muong Sing 3500 (5-6 years) Muong Sing	Purchased for agricultural work or sacrifice
Buffalo meat	40-50/kilo 40-50/kilo (Luang Prabang 1959) 60/kilo (Vientiane 1959)	More expensive trimmed; an important meat source for all groups
Buffalo bones	30/kilo	For soup
Buffalo blood	12-20/kilo	Sold in jellied form
Buffalo skin	30-40/kilo	Sold dried; boiled and eaten by Lao
Buffalo viscera	40/kilo	Used in preparation of many dishes
Chicken	80-120/each 30-60/each (Nam Tha) 80-100/each (Muong Sing)	Medium-sized (by local standards); plucked
Chicken eggs	5-6/each 5/each (Luang Prabang 1959) 3-5/each (Vientiane 1959)	Usually about fifty percent rotten <sup>b</sup>
Cicadas		Seasonal delicacies, eaten by Lao, sold grilled on bamboo skewers
Crickets		" " "
Cow	3500 per animal 1100-1200 (calf) Muong Sing 1500-1600 (3-4 years) Muong Sing	Price for large Mao cow Kept by Lao and other groups for prestige and sacrifice

(continued on next page)

**TABLE 2**  
**LIVESTOCK, FISH AND FOWL PRODUCTS IN NORTHERN LAOS<sup>a</sup>**  
(continued)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in Kip</u>		<u>Comments</u>
Deer	1500-3500	(Nam Tha)	Hunted and sold by the Khmu
Doves	30-50/each		Lao delicacy, eaten roasted
Duck	150/each		For live duck weighing about 2 kilos
	70-80/each	(Nam Tha and Muong Sing)	
Duck eggs	6/each		In many areas more commonly used than chicken eggs
	5	(Luang Prabang 1959)	
	3	(Muong Sai)	
Fish (fresh)	80-120/kilo		Supply irregular
	100-120	(Luang Prabang 1959)	Caviar a delicacy
	80-100	(Vientiane 1959)	
Fish (dried)	200/kilo		Imported from Thailand
Lard	50/kilo		Used by Lao as supplement to fish oil for cooking needs
Pig	1000 per animal		For Mao pig weighing 25 kilos
	3000 (5-6 years)	Muong Sing	
	2000-2500 (100-120 kilos)	Muong Sing	
	1700 (80 kilos)	Muong Sing	
Pig blood	15-20/kilo		Sold in jellied form
Pig intestines	50/kilo		Used by Lao and Chinese for making sausage
Pig skin	25/kilo		Sun-dried, a Lao delicacy
	50/kilo		Dried and fried in lard, eaten as snack
Pork	60-80 kilo		More expensive trimmed; a primary meat source for all groups
	50-60	(Luang Prabang 1959)	
	70	(Vientiane 1959)	
	35	(Muong Sai)	
	25	(Muong Sing and Nam Tha)	

<sup>a</sup>Data pertains to Luang Prabang (1957) unless otherwise noted; prices for areas other than Vientiane or Luang Prabang are based on Duclos (1959).

<sup>b</sup>This appears to be by intention, since the Lao prefer "fermented" eggs to fresh ones, considering them a fortifying food.

TABLE 3

## PRICES OF SOME AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST PRODUCTS OF NORTHERN LAOS (1957)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sold or Traded by</u>	<u>Price in Kip</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Alcohol (rice)	Tai	20/per beer bottle (Nam Tha)	4-6 bottles per 16 kilos of rice
	Tai Hous	15-20/per beer bottle (Muong Sing)	
Bamboo <sup>a</sup>	Khmu	4-5	For pole about 2-4 meters long
Basketry products	Khmu		Data from Pak Beng <sup>b</sup>
Sleeping mat		40	2x3 meters
Basket		15	For carrying rice
Basket		5	For steaming rice
Small covered basket		30	For serving cooked rice
Large tray		20	For winnowing rice
Low stool		20	Usually used when eating
Low platform table		50	Used as serving and eating surface
Beeswax	Lamet, Khmu		Sold to Lao for making candles
Benzoin <sup>c</sup>	Khmu	140/ <u>kalon</u> <sup>d</sup>	Purchased in small quantities by Lao merchants and resold in bulk to French and Chinese exporters at 4000/ <u>kalon</u>
Charcoal <sup>e</sup>	Khmu	2-8/kilo	Price depends on season, quality, and quantity in which sold. Often further processed by Lao and resold
Cotton	Lao, Khmu Kha Ko (Muong Sing)	10-15/kilo 150-200/12 kilos	Relatively small amounts grown by the Lao who weave for themselves and trade cloth to tribal groups
Firewood	Hao, Khmu		For Luang-Prabang market -- used for cooking and heating; in countryside Lao cut their own. Sold by Lao in Vientian
Lac	Khmu	5-10/kilo	Purchased by Lao merchants and resold to French exporter, used in varnishes and shellac. Great variation in supply.
Opium	Hao (also some Khmu and other groups)	1200-5000/kilo <sup>f</sup> (for raw opium sold by the Hao) 5-15,000/kilo (for "cooked" or crudely refined) 40,000/kilo	Depends on season, quality, demand and area; major cash crop for Hao; sale is technically illegal in Luang Prabang Province but available on the open market in Xieng Khouang.  Price in Bangkok (illegal)

(continued on next page)

TABLE 3

PRICES OF SOME AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST PRODUCTS OF NORTHERN LAOS (1957)  
(continued)

<u>Item</u>	<u>Sold or Traded by</u>	<u>Price in Kip</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Salt	Various groups	10/700 gram packet (Nam Tha)	Produced at Botene in northern Nam Tha province and also in the Muong Sai area.
		13-15/700 gram packet (Muong Sing)	
		15-25/700 gram packet (Luang Prabang)	
Silk	Tai Dan	600-900/kilo (Nam Tha)	Also produced in most Lao villages for individual household needs.
Sugar	Lao	5/300 gram packet	Coarse, dark, very crude; ground in village mills.
Minerals	Lao		Reportedly gold is sold by Kham in Pak Beng area and semiprecious stones in the Muoi Sai region. Both are in northern Luang Prabang Province.

<sup>a</sup>This is a special non-rotting variety; other kinds are cheaper.

<sup>b</sup>A trading center on the Mekong in northern Luang Prabang Province.

<sup>c</sup>These prices were high in 1957 due to the exclusion of production from the Pathet-Lao  
held provinces of Sam Nua and Phong Saly.

<sup>d</sup>A container, usually a basket, equal to about 12 kilos of unhusked rice or 16 kilos  
of milled rice. Often equivalent to the amount in a 5 gallon tin.

<sup>e</sup>It is used for cooking purposes (in braziers) and by blacksmiths; a considerable part  
goes to power the electric power plant in Luang Prabang town. Also an important  
market product of farmers in the Vientiane area.

<sup>f</sup>According to Namada the price was 5,200 kip/kilo in Xieng Khouang in 1957.

TABLE 4

## SOME HOME PREPARED FOODS SOLD ON LUANG PRABANG MARKET

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price in Kip</u>	<u>Description</u>
Khao poun	15-20/kilo	Lao noodles: a fine rice vermicelli.
Khao poun	5-20/serving, depending on quality of ingredients	The noodles served in a sauce of meat, fish and grated coconut cooked in coconut milk and flavored with onions and garlic; raw chopped bean sprouts, mint and banana flower stems are sprinkled on top.
Padek	300/12 kilos	Fish mixed with salt, plus rice and rice bran, and allowed to ferment; keeps for 6-12 months purchased by Lao and Kham
Sam mou	100/kilo	Chopped pork, pig skin, salt, saltpeter, onions and steamed rice packed into banana-leaf wrap pers and allowed to ferment for several days.
Sai ou	100/kilo	Similar ingredients as above, but no saltpeter as preservative; instead stuffed in pig intestines and smoked to make sausage.
Khao lam	4-5/bamboo section	Glutinous rice mixed with coconut milk and a little sugar and steamed inside a section of bamboo.
Youn	2/square	A candy made of coconut milk cooked with gelatin and tinted a bright pink color; after setting it is cut in squares.

TABLE 5

## RICE CONSUMPTION IN NAM THA PROVINCE (1959)

Use	Nam Tha Plain		Muong Sing Plain	
	Tons Consumed	% of Total	Tons Consumed	% of Total
Seed	73	4	55	4
Human Consumption	1,460	71	1,168	80
Alcohol	340	17	100	6
Other*	190	8	135	10
TOTAL	2,063	100	1,459	100

Source: Duclos.

\*Animal feed, losses and sales to the army. In Muong Sing the latter amounted to 22 tons or 1.5%.

TABLE 6

PRICE OF HUSKED RICE IN KIP (1957)<sup>a</sup>

Season	Glutinous Rice	Nonglutinous Rice
November-February	90-110/kalon	90-110/kalon
March-June	120-130/kalon	160-200/kalon
July-October	140-150/kalon	200-250/kalon
Summer 1959	130-150/kalon	200-230/kalon
Summer 1959 (Vientiane)	160 (average)/kalon	210 (average)/kalon
Harvest time - about October to November (Muong Sai) <sup>b</sup>	100/3 touques	
April-May (Muong Sai) <sup>b</sup>	100/2 touques	
Yearly range (Nam Tha) <sup>b</sup>	25-50/touque	35-150/touque

<sup>a</sup>For Luang Prabang unless otherwise noted. The average price for unhusked rice is 60 kip/touque.

<sup>b</sup>Duclos' mimeographs, 1959.

(With regard to husked rice a touque and kalon are approximately equivalent -- about 16 kilos.)



TABLE 7

LIST OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS IN TERMS OF FREQUENCY  
OF CONSUMPTION, UBOL, NORTHEAST THAILAND

Item	How Available (Wild, Cultivated or Both)	Root or Other	When Available	Average Weekly Consumption (in Season)*
<b>VEGETABLES</b>				
Kloy (Dioscorea Bouchana)	W	R	Oct.-Dec.	2 - 3 times
Man Hog (Dioscorea Bulbifera)	W	R	July-Nov.	1 - 2
Mushrooms	B	O	Apr.-Dec.	3
Lotus flowers	W	O	July-Sept.	1
Keelek (Cassia Siamea)	W	O	Jan.-Apr.	1 - 2
Pak Yik (Barringtonia Spicata)	W	O	May-Oct.	1
Pak Lak (Cajuput tree)	W	O	Mar.-Oct.	2 - 3
Pak Radow (Careya Arborea)	W	O	Apr.-July	1 - 2
Pak Heer (Cratogeomys Polyanthem)	W	O	Jan.-Aug.	1 - 2
Pod Dok (Chumpawn)	W	O	Jan.-Dec.	1
Fang Fouh (Jussiaea Repens)	W	O	Feb.-Apr.	
			Aug.-Nov.	1
Pak Tam Louang (A Vailus)	W	O	Jan.-Dec.	1 - 2
Chinese Cabbage	C	O	Jan.-Apr.	2 - 3
Cabbage	C	O	Nov.-Feb.	1 - 2
Swamp Cabbage	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	1 - 2
Kohlrabi	C	R	?	1 - 2
Hew (Bombax Malabaricum)	C	R	Jan.-Feb.	2 - 3
Eratin (Leucaena Clava)	B	O	Jan.-Dec.	2 - 3
Pak Pam (Bombax Malabaricum)	B	O	Jan.-Dec.	2 - 3
Pak Hua Sauah (Virginia Snake Root)	B	O	Jan.-Dec.	1
Pak Min Nah (Crocodylum-in-dicum)	B	O	Jan.-Dec.	1
Tamarind leaves	B	O	Apr.-May.	1
Bamboo Shoots	B	O	May-July	2
Sweet Potato	C	R	Oct-Jan.	1 - 2
Cassava	C	R	Oct.-Jan.	1 - 2
Taro	C	R	Oct.-Feb.	1
Man Keow (Yam-Bean)	C	R	Dec.-Apr.	1 - 2
Salad	C	O	Oct.-Apr.	2 - 3
Peas	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	2
Pak Chee (Coriander)	C	O	Oct.-Dec.	3
Water Cress	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	5
Peppermint	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	3
Onion leaves	C	O	Jan.-Apr.	6
Thong Co (Apium Graveolens)	C	O	Feb.-Apr.	2
Cucumber	C	O	Dec.-Feb.	2
Garlic	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	5 - 6
Garlic tops	C	O	Dec.-Apr.	1 - 2
Drumstick	C	O	Oct.-Apr.	1 - 2
Pumpkin Greens	C	O	July-Sept.	1 - 2
Tomato	C	O	Dec.-Feb.	3
Chile	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	17
Kae leaves (Sterosperm Fibriatus)	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	1
Kae flowers " "	C	O	Oct.-Feb.	2
Man Luck (Sweet Basil)	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	2 - 3
Korapa " "	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	3
Onion	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	5 - 6
Kachaw (Curcuma Domestica)	W	O	May-June	5
Beans	C	O	Nov.-Dec.	2 - 3
Mango leaves	C	O	Mar.-Apr.	
			July-Aug.	1 - 2
Bean leaves (sprouts?)	C	O	Sept.-Oct.	1 - 2
Chinese mustard	C	O	Mar.-Apr.	1 - 2
Banana flower	C	O	Jan.-Dec.	?

TABLE 7

LIST OF VEGETABLES AND FRUITS IN TERMS OF FREQUENCY  
OF CONSUMPTION, UBOL, NORTHEAST THAILAND

(Continued)

Item	How Available (Wild, Cultivated or both)	When Available	Average Weekly Consumption (in Season)*
<b>FRUITS</b>			
<u>Look Ma Feung</u> ( <i>Dioscorea Sepida</i> )	W	June-Sept.	1 - 2
<u>Look Ma Lek</u> (Mog Plum)	W	Dec.-Jan.	1
<u>Look Saeh</u> (Myrobalan)	W	Aug.-Dec.	2 - 3
<u>Look Naya</u> ( <i>Phyllanthus Distichus</i> )	W	Feb.-Apr.	2 - 3
Pomelo	C	Nov.-Apr.	2
<u>Ma Tam</u> ( <i>Macclura cordata</i> )	C	Jan.-Apr.	1
Banana	C	Jan.-Dec.	2
Bananafruit	C	Dec.-June	1
Jujube	C	Dec.-Apr.	2 - 3
<u>Ma Brang</u> ( <i>Ficus Burmanica</i> )	C	May-June	1 - 2
<u>Ma Nai</u> ( <i>Dioscorea Sepida</i> )	C	May-June	2 - 3
Sugar Cane	C	Oct.-May	2
Peanuts	C	Nov.-Dec.	
Orange	C	Oct.-Dec.	1 - 3
Watermelon	C	May-Aug.	4 - 5
Coconut	C	May-Dec.	2 - 3
Mango	C	Mar.-June	4 - 5
Jackfruit	C	Jan.-Dec.	2
Guava	C	May-Nov.	3
Pineapple	C	May-June	3 - 4
Custard Apple	C	Sept.-Nov.	2 - 3
Papaya	C	Jan.-Dec.	2 - 3
Tamarind	C	Jan.-Dec.	2 - 3
Sweet Tamarind	C	Dec.-Mar.	2 - 3
Lemon	C	May-Jan.	3 - 4
<u>Ma-grud</u> ( <i>Mafcirume</i> )	C	Sept.-Oct.	1
Eggplant	C	Jan.-Dec.	3 - 4
Squash	C	Sept.-Nov.	2 - 3
<u>Nam Taw</u> (Bottle-gourd)	C	Jan.-Dec.	1 - 2
<u>Ma Koua Poang</u> ( <i>Solanum Torvum</i> )	C	July-Nov.	1 - 2
<u>Lamut</u> ( <i>Mimusops Kauki</i> )	C	Feb.-Apr.	1
<u>Ma Duan</u> ( <i>Garcinia Schomburgkiana</i> )	W	May-July	1 - 2
<u>Kang Plah</u> ( <i>Bridelia Tomentosa</i> )	W	Sept.-Oct.	1
<u>Look Wah</u> ( <i>Eugenia Cumini</i> )	W	Feb.-Mar.	
		June-July	3 - 4
<u>Look Nhaiw</u> ( <i>Bombax Malabaricum</i> )	W	Aug.-Feb.	2 - 3

Source: C. J. L. Bertholet and Banchadiswat, Housing and Food Patterns in Eleven Villages in Northeast Thailand, UNESCO Fundamental Education Center, Ubol 1958 94-116

\*This estimate appears high; three-quarters of these amounts is more realistic.

Note: Although this specific data is from Northeast Thailand it is from an area (Ubol, Rajathani) quite close to Pakse in southern Laos and the ecological conditions are very similar.



TABLE 8

SOURCES OF PROTEIN FOODS IN UDOL, NORTHEAST THAILAND:  
PERCENT OF POPULATION OBTAINING FOODS BY VARIOUS METHODS

Item	Home Product or Home Caught	Purchased	Both
<b>Meat</b>			
Buffalo	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	88 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Beef	4	91	5
Pork	6	91	4
<b>Poultry</b>			
Chicken	71	14	15
Duck	62	15	23
Birds	No data available		
Chicken eggs	72	11	17
Duck eggs	42	42	16
<b>Large Fish</b>			
Fish tsjon	48	11	41
Fish dock	57	16	27
Small fish	57	16	27
<b>Frogs</b>			
Large Frogs	75	6	19
Small Frogs	83	6	11
<b>Insects</b>			
Tjeen Reed	91	3	6
Tsjoen Noon	71	12	17
Tjoo Tjee	67	28	5
Others	96	4	0
<b>Rice</b>			
Glutinous Rice	78	2	20
Polished White Rice	83	15	2

Source: C. J. L. Bertholet and Benchadiswat, Housing and Food Patterns in Eleven Villages in Northeast Thailand, p. 88, 91

TABLE 8A

## CONSUMPTION OF MEAT, POULTRY, FISH AND OTHER ANIMAL PRODUCTS

Item	% of Pop. usually Consuming	Season	Frequency per Week	Average Amount per Person per Week
<b>Meat, Poultry, Fish</b>				
Pork	65½	All	Once in 5 wks.	3.5 grs. (Prorated)
Buffalo	90	"	Less than once	51
Ox	94	"	Less than once	63
Chicken	98	"	1	88
Duck	31	"	Once in 7 wks.	11
Chicken eggs	75	"	1	15
Duck eggs	64	"	1	20
"Big fish"	100	Mostly rainy season	8	380
"Small fish"	100	Rainy	8	120 grs.
		Cold	2	30
		Hot	negligible	
<b>Insects</b>				
Tjeang reed	50	rainy	2	125
Tjee noon	75	Feb.-June	4	113
Tjoo tjee	25	cold, hot	3	?
Other insects	62	All	4	?
<b>Frogs</b>				
"Big Frogs" (Kop)	100	Rainy	6	210
"Big Frogs" (other)	100	"	4	120
"Small frogs"	100	"	6	150
<b>Miscellaneous</b>				
Crabs	100	"	7	210
Snails	?	"	2	?
Shrimp	?	"	?	?
Silk worms	?	All	3	?
Fresh Milk	negligible			

Source: C. J. L. Bertholet and Benchadiswat, Housing and Food Patterns in Eleven Villages in Northeast Thailand, 77-92.

Note: Percentages and frequencies of consumption were obtained from a sample of 210 households and amounts consumed from a sample of 30 households. The frequencies indicated are probably somewhat high due to a marked tendency of the villagers to overestimate their own consumption. The authors feel that a more conservative estimate of about three-quarters of indicated values is probably closer to reality.

TABLE 10

## SELECTED ITEMS AVAILABLE IN SHOPS IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE\*

(Continued)

ITEM	PRICE IN KIP	COMMENTS
Newspapers and Books <sup>c</sup>		Available at separate stores specializing in Thai, French and English materials, respectively in Vientiane
Orangeade	15-20/bottle <sup>a</sup> 15 <sup>b</sup> 15 <sup>c</sup> 25 <sup>c</sup> (iced)	Greenspot brand, from Thailand; a popular urban drink
Ovaltine	100/can <sup>a</sup> 90/can <sup>b</sup> 75/can <sup>c</sup>	Popular drink in town, especially in cold months
Paper (pad)	30-50 <sup>b</sup> 25 <sup>c</sup>	In 1959 there was at least one stationery store in Vientiane with variety of items
Perfume	50/bottle <sup>a</sup>	"Evening in HongKong" used by some Lao women, even in villages as luxury item
Polish (shoe)	25/tin <sup>a</sup>	Kiwi brand, used by military and government officials
Pots (aluminum)	80-150 <sup>a</sup>	Depending on size; most come with covers; are popular with Lao and Hmong villagers; manufactured in HongKong
Pots (clay)	10-50 <sup>a</sup> 5-10 (small) <sup>b</sup> 30-40 (large) <sup>b</sup>	Depending on size; made in Lao village; town, poor quality; necessary for all groups for steaming rice
Prunes	60/box <sup>a</sup>	Luxury item, imported from California
Radio	about 10,000 <sup>a</sup> 10,000 <sup>b</sup> 8,000 <sup>c</sup> 4,500 <sup>c</sup>	Rare in Lao villages In 1960 transistor models were available in Vientiane. Third item is an 8 tube Phillips (Dutch) Last item is a 4 tube Phillips
Raincoat	300-450 <sup>a</sup> 200 (plastic) <sup>b</sup> 300 (rubberized) <sup>c</sup> 200-350 <sup>c</sup>	Depending on quality; plastic ones cheap; manufactured in HongKong; common among Lao
Raisins	60/box <sup>a</sup>	Luxury item, imported from California (1 lb.)
Roofing material	90-120 <sup>a</sup> 90 <sup>b</sup>	Price per square meter, for galvanized sheets, varies with supply; used by prosperous Lao and a few village schools
Salt	15-25/kilo <sup>a</sup> 15 <sup>b</sup>	Coarse, sold in bricks; after rice, most basic commodity for all groups
Saltpeter	-	Used in making gunpowder and also as a preservative for certain foods
Sardines (canned)	15-25/tin <sup>a</sup>	Thai, French and other brands, bought a delicacy by some urban and rural Lao
Sauce (fish)	30/liter <sup>a</sup>	OK brand, made in Thailand and imported large earthenware crocks

**TABLE 2**  
**HOUSING VARIABLES IN RURAL NORTHEAST THAILAND**

Description of Item	% of Occurrence
<u>Latrines</u>	
Water seal	0.5%
Cement covered	0.5
Wood covered	2.0
Uncovered	2.0
No latrine	95.0
<u>Lighting</u>	
Electric light	0.0%
Kerosene light	35.0
Flashlight	6.5
Candle	0.0
None	0.5
<u>Sleeping</u>	
Father and Mother in separate room; sex separation for older children	7.0%
Father with boys, Mother with girls	6.0
Father and Mother together, no sex separation of children	10.0
Father and Mother in separate room, all others in one room	5.0
All in one room	72.0
<u>Wall Materials</u>	
Wood	41.0%
Bamboo	13.5
Bamboo thatch	28.0
Leaves	17.0
Mud	0.5
<u>Roofing Materials</u>	
Cement tiles	13.0%
Metal	70.0
Wood shingles	5.0
Grass	9.0
Leaves	3.0
<u>Type of Stove</u>	
Raised stove	1.0%
Charcoal, adequate	13.0
Charcoal, inadequate <sup>a*</sup>	12.0
Stones	35.0
Open fire	39.0

<sup>a\*</sup> Damaged earthenware pots, or clay-covered empty gasoline tins.

Source: C. J. L. Bertholet and Benchadiswat, Housing and Food Patterns in Eleven Villages in Northeast Thailand, p. 11

TABLE 9A

## CLOTHING COMMONLY PURCHASED BY LAO, KHMU AND MEO VILLAGERS IN LUANG PRABANG

Group	Item	Price in Kip	Comments
Lao, Khmu	long pants	150 <sup>a</sup> 180-200 <sup>b</sup> 250-400 <sup>c</sup>	Minimum price, manufactured in Hong Kong
Lao	socks (nylon)	60-70 <sup>b</sup> 50-70 <sup>c</sup>	Used mainly by urban Lao
Lao, Khmu	short pants	100 <sup>a</sup>	Minimum price, manufactured in Hong Kong
Lao, Khmu	man's shirt	100-150 <sup>a</sup> 120-150 <sup>b</sup> 120-250 <sup>c</sup>	Minimum price, manufactured in Hong Kong
Lao, Khmu	long sleeved man's shirt	150-200 <sup>b</sup> 160-300 <sup>c</sup>	Used largely by urban Lao
Lao, Khmu	man's hat	80-250 <sup>a</sup>	Prestige item for wealthier villagers
Lao, Khmu	undershirt	50 <sup>a</sup>	Often worn instead of shirt
Lao, Khmu	canvas sneakers	70-250 <sup>a</sup> 120-180 <sup>c</sup>	Worn by prosperous villagers on special occasions
Lao	man's long sarong	100-200 <sup>a</sup> 50-60 <sup>c</sup>	Of bright plaid silk, woven in Cambodia
Lao, Khmu	<u>pakhoma</u>	70-100 <sup>a</sup> 60-80 <sup>b</sup> 50-60 <sup>c</sup>	Short cotton sarong, worn by Lao men for bathing; worn by some Khmu; also used as sash and as container for personal effects
Lao	handkerchief	20-30 <sup>b</sup> 15-25 <sup>c</sup>	Luxury item
Lao, Khmu	woman's skirt <sup>a</sup>	100-200 <sup>a</sup> 150/ <sup>b</sup>	Locally hand-woven cotton <sup>d</sup>
Lao	woman's skirt <sup>a</sup>	500-900/ <sup>a</sup> 1,000-3,000 <sup>c</sup>	Good quality hand-woven silk <sup>d,e</sup>
Lao	skirt border <sup>a</sup>	150,300,450/ <sup>a</sup>	Of cotton, silver or gold respectively; the characteristic elaborate border trim on Lao skirts <sup>d</sup>
Lao	blouse	150-300 <sup>a</sup>	Of cotton or nylon, manufactured in Hong Kong
Lao	scarf	200-400 <sup>a</sup> 700-1,000 <sup>c</sup>	Locally hand-woven cotton or silk, worn draped across bosom and over one shoulder <sup>d</sup>
Khmu	small towel	50 <sup>a</sup> 70-100 <sup>b</sup>	Used by women as turban
Meo	black cotton fabric	50-80 <sup>c</sup> 80/meter <sup>a</sup>	Used by all Meo for characteristic trousers and short jackets; fabric manufactured in Hong Kong
Meo	red cotton fabric	80/meter <sup>a</sup>	Manufactured in Hong Kong; used for Meo men's long sashes

<sup>a</sup>1957 prices in Luang Prabang<sup>b</sup>1959 prices in Luang Prabang<sup>c</sup>1959 prices in Vientiane, often better quality and larger variety<sup>d</sup>Woven in villages near Luang Prabang<sup>e</sup>Woven in Vientiane



TABLE 10

## SELECTED ITEMS AVAILABLE IN SHOPS IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE\*

ITEM	PRICE IN KIP	COMMENTS
Ammunition (shot gun shells)	-	Meo among best customers; sulphur and salt-peter also available, for mixing with charcoal at home -- used by Meo for gunpowder and by Lao for rockets
Asparagus (canned)	100/tin <sup>a</sup>	Delmonte brand, 1 lb., 13 oz. tin, occasionally bought by Lao and Europeans
Aspirin tablets	-	Used for all illnesses by Lao, and by Meo and Khmu who can afford it; made in Thailand
Batteries (flashlight)	15 each <sup>a</sup> 2 for 25 <sup>b</sup> 2 for 20-25 <sup>c</sup>	American brands, imported via HongKong and used by Lao and Meo
Beer	75/quart <sup>a</sup> 35/pint <sup>a</sup> 25/pint <sup>c</sup> 35/pint <sup>b</sup>	For Tsingtao brand (from mainland China); For Carlsberg brand (Danish); some American brands also available; consumed chiefly by soldiers and by prosperous urban Lao (San Miguel-Philippines, last 2 prices)
Bicycle	4-6000 <sup>a</sup>  4-5000 <sup>b</sup>	Mostly Japanese brands, used by urban Lao and some villagers near town; used bicycles are also available (English and French brands BSA, Aiglon, Trophée)
Blankets	90-150 <sup>a</sup> 600 <sup>a</sup>	For thin cotton type For woolen blankets; these are an important trade item for the Meo, who prefer red ones
Bread	20/loaf 4/small roll <sup>a</sup> 40/loaf <sup>b</sup>	Baked by Vietnamese, from imported wheat flour (from Australia); consumed chiefly by Europeans and urbanized Lao
Candles	10/small pkge. <sup>a</sup> 4-5/box of 8 <sup>b,c</sup>	Manufactured in Vientiane; important item in all Lao ceremonies
Cigarettes	15-30/pkg. <sup>a</sup> 15 (Job-Saigon) <sup>b</sup> 15 (Robin Hood-Hong Kong) <sup>b</sup> 23 (Lucky Strike-US) <sup>b</sup> 15-17 <sup>c</sup>	Price varies according to brand; cheapest and most popular is Mic brand made in Saigon; domestic varieties also available  (since 1959)
Cigarette lighter	150 <sup>a</sup>	Prestige item for Khmu and some Lao
Coffee (powdered)	70/can <sup>a</sup> 60/can <sup>b</sup>	For 2 oz. Nescafe; luxury item for prosperous Lao and Meo villagers
Crackers	160-180/tin <sup>a</sup>	Jacob brand, imported via HongKong; urban luxury item
Drum (of bronze)	3-6000 <sup>a</sup>	Formerly used in Khmu ceremonials, now chiefly a tourist item
Enamel mug	30 <sup>a</sup> 40-60 <sup>b</sup> 30-50 <sup>c</sup> 150-180 (plastic) <sup>b</sup> 180-200 (plastic) <sup>c</sup>	Assorted sizes and shapes used by Lao and Meo and some Khmu

TABLE 10

## SELECTED ITEMS AVAILABLE IN SHOPS IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE\*

(Continued)

ITEM	PRICE IN KIP	COMMENTS
Flashlight	100 <sup>a</sup>	Commonly used by Lao and Meo
Flour (wheat)	40/kilo <sup>b</sup>	Imported from various sources
Gasoline	300-500/5 gal.tin <sup>b</sup>	Imported from Bangkok
Gum (chewing)	10/box <sup>b</sup>	Chicklets (U.S.)
Gun	3-7000 <sup>a</sup> 10,000 <sup>a</sup>	For hand-made flint-lock smooth bore, made by Meo For manufactured shotgun; guns used by some Lao and Meo
Hair ornament (gold)	1-1,200 <sup>a</sup>	Made by local goldsmith and worn by more prosperous Lao women
Ices	20 <sup>b</sup>	Sold by street vendors
Ink	25/bottle <sup>a</sup> 35/bottle <sup>b</sup> 20/bottle <sup>c</sup>	Scrip brand, (U.S.) used by urban and rural school children Quink (U.S.)
Iron bars	800/16-kilo bar <sup>a</sup> 100/4 -kilo bar <sup>a</sup> 100/4 -kilo bar <sup>b</sup>	A basic trade item, bought by Lao and Meo blacksmiths
Iron digging tips	20-25 <sup>a</sup> 30 <sup>b</sup>	Used by all groups, on digging sticks; made in Lao villages near town
Kerosene	300/5 gal.tin <sup>a</sup> 350-400/5 gal.tin <sup>b</sup>	Bought by all groups, for use in home lamps
Knife (pocket)	20-40 <sup>b</sup> 30-40 <sup>c</sup>	Very popular item
Lamp (kerosene)	25 <sup>a</sup> 15 <sup>b</sup> 5 <sup>b</sup>	Common among all groups, made of used evaporated milk cans (small size)
Lichees (canned)	70/tin <sup>a</sup>	Made in mainland China; 1 lb. tin; urban Lao delicacy
Lime	-	Bought by Lao and Khmu for use with betel chews; made locally
Matches	3/box <sup>a</sup> 2/box <sup>b</sup> 3/box <sup>c</sup>	Made in Thailand; bought by all groups
Milk	30/tin (Ziel U.S.) <sup>a</sup> 25/tin (Ziel U.S.) <sup>b</sup> 140/tin <sup>a</sup>	For condensed sugared brands; popular as a luxury item among prosperous Lao and Meo For 1 lb. of powdered Klin brand
Mosquito netting	80-120 <sup>a</sup>	For enough to cover two people; commonly used in most Lao villages near towns
Needles	15-20/pkg. <sup>a</sup>	Bought by Lao and Meo



TABLE 10

SELECTED ITEMS AVAILABLE IN SHOPS IN LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE\*  
(Continued)

ITEM	PRICE IN KIP	COMMENTS
Sauce (soy)	60/1liter <sup>a</sup>	A popular ingredient in many Lao dishes; European style Maggi brand also available at slightly higher price. French adaptation
Silver bars	1000/1/400 <sup>a</sup> gram bar	Preferred unit of currency among mountain peoples, e.g. in Nam Tha 1 kip in silver is equivalent to 1.8 kip in paper currency.
Silver bowl	about 1600 <sup>a</sup>	For small size, hand-made and embossed by local silversmiths; common in Lao homes for ceremonial purposes. They also make jewelry.
Silver jewelry	700-3000 <sup>a</sup>	Solid silver bracelets, solid neckrings (Tao) and hollow neckrings (Mao); this type of jewelry is made in the villages and is not commonly found in Luang Prabang shops
Soap	10-20/bar <sup>a</sup> 12/bar (Lux) <sup>b</sup> 15-20/bar (Palmolive) <sup>c</sup>	Price varies with brand; Lux most expensive; commonly used in Lao villages
Soap powder	30-40/box <sup>a</sup> 25/box <sup>c</sup>	For 7 1/4 oz. size; Fab brand, widely used for washing clothes, even in Lao villages
Sugar	30-50/box <sup>a</sup>	For 1 lb. box Taikoo brand cubes, made in HongKong
Sugar	30-50/kilo <sup>a</sup> 35/kilo <sup>b</sup>	Coarse, yellow and moist, crudely refined in southern Laos. Locally produced bricks are also available
Suitcase	100 <sup>a</sup> 400-1000 <sup>b</sup> 400-1300 <sup>c</sup>	Made of cardboard and plywood, used by Lao for storing extra clothes
Sulphur		Used in making gunpowder and fireworks
Tea	45/lb. <sup>b</sup>	Luxury item, from England local herb varieties also available
Thermos bottle	100 <sup>a</sup> 250-300 <sup>+</sup> 200 <sup>+</sup> 800-1000 (for ice) <sup>b</sup> 600-1200 (for ice) <sup>c</sup>	Common in town, for keeping hot water; a prestige item in Lao and Mao villages Also used extensively by monks. Most brands made in HongKong. Wide necked variety used in towns for storing ice-cubes
Toothbrush	20 <sup>a</sup> 20-30 <sup>b</sup> 5-10 <sup>c</sup>	Used by educated Lao and as a necklace ornament by some Mao. Also wide necked variety used in towns for storing ice-cubes
Thread	20/spool <sup>a</sup>	Imported from HongKong, commonly bought by Lao and Mao villagers.
Umbrella	75-150 <sup>a</sup>	Less expensive are oiled paper and bamboo types, made locally; large black fabric ones, made in HongKong are also used, mainly as sun-shield by Mao and other groups
Wristwatch	1000 (average) <sup>a</sup> 1000-4800 <sup>b</sup> 700 <sup>c</sup>	Mainly a jewelry item, imported from HongKong and Japan. Luxury for coolies.
Whiskey	-	A rice whiskey made in Vientiane and popular among urban Lao

\* Luang Prabang; 1957

<sup>b</sup> Luang Prabang; 1959<sup>c</sup> Vientiane; 1959

It was not always possible to match items precisely. Generally speaking the variety is greater and prices lower in Vientiane. Unless otherwise noted, all comments pertain to Luang Prabang town.

TABLE 10A

SELECTED EXAMPLES OF BARTER TRADE<sup>a</sup>

<u>Item Bartered</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>In Exchange For</u>
Rice	Lao (Vientiane)	Lao and local merchants	Salt, fish, tools, clothing
Salt <sup>b</sup>	Lao (Northeast Thailand)	Other Lao	Rice
Opium	Mao	Lao merchants and others	Salt, cloth, silver and iron bars
Rice	Khmu	Lao village traders	Cloth, salt, tools, <u>padek</u>
Cotton	Khmu	Lao village traders	Cloth, salt, tools, <u>padek</u>
Rice	Lamet	Tai Lu or Lao village traders	Clothing, pottery, tools
Cloth, cotton, fish	Lanten <sup>c</sup>	Tai Lu <sup>d</sup>	Salt
Silk	Tai Dam	Mao, Yao	Opium <sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Payment in kind, by exchange of services for goods, is also made.

<sup>b</sup>Certain villages in the Ubol area specialize in making salt by evaporation. There are also salt deposits exploited by Lao villagers near the Nam Idk river and at Ban Keun in the vicinity of Vientiane.

<sup>c</sup>A tribal group in Nam Tha Province.

<sup>d</sup>Work in salt mines near Yunnanese border (at Botene 30 kilometers northeast of Nam Tha).

<sup>e</sup>According to Duclos the rate in 1959 was a half kilo of raw opium for one kilo of silk. The latter was valued at 600-900 kip per kilo.

TABLE-11

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES LUANG PRABANG AND VIENTIANE, JUNE, 1959

Item	Price
Government Lottery Ticket	20 kip
Samlaw, short ride <sup>a</sup>	10 kip
Movie <sup>b</sup>	50-60 kip, First class 35-40 kip, Second class 20-30 kip, Third class

<sup>a</sup>Taxis are available for transportation within Vientiane. There are none in Luang Prabang.

<sup>b</sup>There were two movie theaters in Luang Prabang and in 1959 a third was under construction. Prices for movies are ten kip higher in Vientiane. Vientiane also has three night clubs and several European bars; there are none in Luang Prabang.

TABLE 11A

OCCUPATIONS OF PHA KHAO VILLAGERS\*

Agriculture	75
Road Worker	3
Policemen	2
Chauffeurs	2
Prison Guards	2
Merchant	1
Soldier	1
Manager of Rice Mill	1
Embassy Employee	1
Teacher	1
TOTAL	89

Source: Agabe (1958), Table 12

\*Located on outskirts of Vientiane

TABLE 12

RIVER TRAFFIC BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND SAVANNAKHET<sup>a</sup>

Year	No. of Trips <sup>b</sup>	Passengers Carried	Freight in Metric Tons
1952	620	23,120	11,768
1957	56	2,310	2,638
1958	69	2,234	3,360

Sources: Annuaire Statistique du Laos, Vol. III and Report on R.A.T.F.L. Société des Transports Fluviaux du Laos

<sup>a</sup>This is the main route in Laos. The river traffic between Vientiane and Luang Prabang is a little more than two percent of the Vientiane-Savannakhet run, although Luang Prabang does receive some goods by barge from Houei Sai to the north.

<sup>b</sup>Both Ways

TABLE 12A

PACK HORSE TRANSPORTATION IN NAM THA PROVINCE--1959<sup>1</sup>

Route	Kilo-meters	Dry Season Load 60 Kilos			Wet Season Load 50 Kilos		
		Days	Kip	Per Kilo	Days	Kip	Per Kilo
Muong Sing-Xieng Kok	74	3	500	8.3	15	750	15
Muong Sing-Nam Tha	52	2	400	6.6	7	450	9
Muong Sing-Muong Muea	100	7	1,000	16.6	-	route closed	-
Muong Sing-Xieng Keng	40	2.5	600	10	13	7-800	14-16

Source: Ducloux, Survey of Nam Tha Province, 1959, p. 18

1. Alone among the areas listed Muong Sing has an all year round air strip.

The landing field at Nam Tha is closed during part of the rainy season.

TABLE 13

## TRADITIONAL MEANS OF TRANSPORT IN LAOS\*

Type	Average Load	Comments
By human back	30 kilos	Men use special baskets; task performed by women and children as well as men.
Bamboo pole (One-man load at either end)	24-30 kilos	Used in northern Laos; particularly by women bringing vegetables to market.
Bamboo pole (2 men)	30-40 kilos	Used in valleys by men; can cover about 25 kilometers per day.
Elephant	100-190 kilos	18-25 kilometers per day; but requires rest and care. Best in thick jungle.
Pack horse and mule	60-90 kilos	20-28 kilometers per day; best for mountainous areas in Northern Laos.
Pack-oxen	30-50 kilos	10-14 kilometers per day.
Draft oxen with cart or wagon	300-900 kilos	Used only in Central and Southern Laos.
Pirogue	1-6 tons	Poled upstream

\*All of these means are still in use in Laos, and remain important, since neither trucks, motor barges, nor planes can be used all year around throughout Laos.

Source: After L. Reinach, Le Laos, pp. 331-4.

TABLE 14

EXAMPLES OF PEASANT TAXES IN  
VIENTIANE PROVINCE - 1957

Item	Amount
Male buffalo	10
Male ox	5
Wagon	10
Bicycle	30
Radio	20
Marriage certificate	50
Wood (per cartload)	10
Sugar cane (per cartload)	10
Headtax	150*

\*This appears to be a local rather than national tax. Collection appears to be lax.

Source: Kaufman: 1960

TABLE 13 A

## Pirogue Transport - Nam Tha to Houei Sai

Town	Days	Price	Town	Days	Price
Houei Sai	-	-	Nam Tha	-	-
Pak Tha	1	500	Ma Le	4	2,000
Ma Le	7	3,500	Pak Tha	8	4,000
Nam Tha	13	6,500	Houei Sai	9	5,000

Source: Duclos

Note: By the Nam Tha river to the towns of Pak Tha and Houei Sai on the Mekong.  
 For a pirogue manned by four men with a capacity of 400 kilos.  
 The air freight price (1959) from Houei Sai to Nam Tha via Luang Prabang was 10 kip/kilo but Nam Tha and Houei Sai are not open during the rainy season when river travel is best.

TABLE 13 B  
 Air Traffic in Laos  
 (1957-1958)  
 Internal

Year	Flights Arriving	No of Passengers	Freight in Metric Tons	Flights Departing	No of Passengers	Freight in Metric Tons
1957	6,753	19,649	1,099	6,764	26,409	7,394
1958	6,383	10,461	309	6,370	25,099	3,689

  

International						
1957	1,934	24,658	1,993	1,944	30,275	1,227
1958	1,749	17,896	1,331	1,763	24,733	1,098

Source: Bulletin Statistique du Laos, No 4, 1958

TABLE 13 C  
 Air Freight and Travel Costs from Vientiane \*

Destination	One Way Fare	Freight per kilo
Bangkok	2,300	22
Hong Kong	7,060	70
Luang Prabang	1,500	13
Luang Namtha	2,800	26
Muong Sai	2,200	21
Muong Sing	3,100	29
Pakse	2,255	23
Phnom Penh	5,115	51
(Xieng Khouang)		
Phone Savanh	1,300	12
Samnuea	2,600	24
Saigon	4,350	44
Savannakhet	1,600	15
Savaboury	1,200	11
Thakhek	1,500	14

Source: Schedule of Air Laos

\* In kip, for 1959 80 kip = \$1 US



TABIE 13D

FORMS OF TRAVEL IN NORTHERN AND CENTRAL LAOS

A. LAND

Feet	Used by all groups for short trips and up to several weeks' walking, if no other type of transportation available.
Horse	Used by MoJ, particularly for trading.
Elephant	For travel and transport of goods through jungle, particularly in Sayaboury Province.
Buffalo cart	Used by Lao villagers in Vientiane Province; non-existent further north.
Jeep, truck*	Owned by Chinese, Vietnamese and some Lao merchants, for transport of villagers and goods, especially in Luang Prabang.
Buses	Used in Vientiane area, none in Luang Prabang.
Bicycle	Used extensively in towns and occasionally in nearby villages.
Pedicab	For passengers and goods in the vicinity of the major towns such as Luang Prabang and Vientiane.

B. WATER

Pirogue	Common among Lao villagers for transport of people and light goods.
Pirogue with outboard motor	Used on a small scale by some Lao merchants.
Motorized barge	Operated by Chinese and Lao for larger scale river transport of goods and some passengers.
Bamboo raft	Made by Lao and Khmu villagers for one-way trip downstream; at destination raft is disassembled and bamboo is sold.

C. AIR

Air Laos	Carries passengers and freight; used extensively by government, military personnel, merchants, and Europeans; uses DC-3's and Otters.
Helicopters	Use limited to the military.
Veha Akat	Company utilizes "Beavers" and "Dragons"; makes non-scheduled flights to more remote areas of northern Laos. (There are several other small private airlines.)

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\*Many high Lao officials have private cars -- Opels, Citroens and Mercedes Benz. Motor scooters are also used. Taxis are common in Vientiane. In a few cases private automobiles are found in some villages around Vientiane.

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TABLE 13E

## OFFICIAL RETAIL PRICES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS

IN VARIOUS PROVINCES OF LAOS - JULY, 1958<sup>1</sup>

(IN KIP)

(Transported by barge, occasionally by plane or truck)

	<u>Per Drum</u>				:	<u>Per Liter</u>			
	<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>		<u>1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>
Gasoline	1,552	1,512	2,402	3,282	:	8	8.5	14	16.5
Diesel fuel	900	960	2,000	3,100	:	5	5	11	16
Kerosene (19 liter tin)	152	158	252	317	:	9.5	9.5	15	17.5

1. Vientiane
2. Thakhek, Savannakhet, and Pakse
3. Luang Prabang
4. Xieng Khouang

<sup>1</sup>Market prices were considerably higher.

Source: Economic Police, Royal Government of Laos

TABLE 15

DEGREES OF URBANIZATION - VIENTIANE, LUANG PRABANG  
AND NAM THA, COMPARED (1959)

Facility	Vientiane	Luang Prabang	Nam Tha
Airfield	All weather, with maintenance facilities	All weather	Not useable during height of rainy season
Roads	Connections to other provinces; black-topped in town	Paved in town; connecting roads closed in rainy season	A few miles of local dirt road - no connections to other provinces
Communications	Radio, telegraph, limited local phones	Radio, telegraph	Radio only
Electricity	Diesel power plant	Charcoal powered plant, operates only in evenings	No civilian facilities
Banks	Lao, Chinese, French	Lao government finance office	None
Industries	Various small industries connected with consumer goods	More limited than Vientiane	Only handicrafts and rice mills
Population	Lao, Thai and extensive Chinese, Vietnamese, European and Indian Communities	Lao, small Chinese and Vietnamese Communities, a few Europeans and Indians; Tribal peoples	Lao, tribal peoples, a few Chinese and Vietnamese, one Indian, no resident Europeans
Hospitals	Modest but fully staffed hospital	One Lao and one French military physician. Limited facilities	A clinic with a practical nurse
Schools	Lycee	College (9 years)	Elementary (6 years)
Transportation of goods	By ferry from rail-head in Thailand as well as by air, road and river	By air, road and river	By air, horse caravan, and pirogue
Shops	Great variety e.g., auto and travel agencies, bookstores	Food, clothing drugs and general supplies only	General supplies
Hotels	Government and privately owned	One government owned bungalow	One small rooming house
Government	All agencies	All provincial bureaus	Army, police, clinic and school

Note: Both Vientiane and Luang Prabang are old administrative centers. Nam Tha was only recently made a provincial capital. Its facilities are analogous to those existing in provinces such as Zhong Haly, Sam Nua, Sayaboury and Attapeu where, with the exception of Sayaboury, the majority of the population is composed of non-Lao tribal peoples.

TABLE 16

SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A POOR  
AND A RELATIVELY PROSPEROUS KHMU\*

POOR	PROSPEROUS
<u>Family</u>	
Has one wife	Possibly has second wife, larger household
<u>House</u>	
Is small, of bamboo and thatch, of flimsy construction	Is larger, with woven bamboo walls and possibly plank flooring and split bamboo roofing
<u>Furnishings</u>	
Has bare essentials: woven sleeping mats, clay cooking pots, baskets for serving and eating	Has stuffed sleeping pads, mosquito netting, enamel plates, kerosene lamp, possibly a suitcase for storing clothes
<u>Clothing</u>	
Has one set of shirt and short pants, in worn condition	Has one set of work clothing and a cheap western style shirt and trousers, probably not new
<u>Agriculture</u>	
To supplement produce of own <u>hai</u> , must work for other Khmu or Lao to get enough to eat	Has surplus rice production, with some for sale; also has vegetable garden
<u>Livestock</u>	
Has few chickens	Has a few pigs and chickens, and possibly a buffalo
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
Possibly speaks a little broken Lao	Probably speaks fairly adequate Lao
Chief personal possession is a crossbow	Possibly possesses a gun, wrist-watch, shoes, cigarette lighter

\*Items not listed in Khmu order of importance.

TABLE 17

SOME RURAL-URBAN DIFFERENCES  
AMONG THE LAO

VILLAGER	PROSPEROUS TOWN DWELLER
Works at agricultural labor	Works in an office or store
Has largely subsistence economy, with small amount of cash	Is salaried or gets other cash income
Is illiterate or rarely has more than three years schooling	Has had six years or more of schooling
Speaks only Lao	Fair to good speaking knowledge of French
With rare exceptions, has traveled only within his own province	At least moderate travel within Laos and possibly abroad
Has no contact with Europeans, only occasional contact with Chinese or Vietnamese	Some contact with Europeans, frequent contact with Chinese and Vietnamese
House is traditional bamboo and thatch, possibly with some wood, on piles; sleeps on bamboo mat, uses low stools, simple kerosene lamp or candle light illumination	House may be of concrete construction in European style usually has electricity. Home has chairs, tables and beds.
Usually has only one wife	May have two or three wives
All domestic work usually done by members of own household	May have one or more servants
May own a bicycle	Owns a bicycle; may own a jeep or other type of automobile
Clothing is mostly homespun, plus cheap manufactured items; often has no shoes, little jewelry	Clothing is both European and traditional Lao; women have gold and silver jewelry
Has little knowledge or interest in government affairs	Often has considerable interest in government and politics and reads a newspaper
Distrusts, resents and sometimes fears townspeople	Often shows disdain for villagers, treats them with condescension
Relies for recreation on traditional village celebrations, rice wine	Often attends movies, plays tennis, drinks beer, listens to radio
Treats monks with great respect and often joins the priesthood*	Religion and participation in pagoda activities plays a smaller role in his life
Relies primarily on traditional curing techniques from monks or village curers.	Uses both western and traditional medical techniques.

\* Usually on a temporary basis.

TABLE 18

## Lao Consumption Patterns, 1958

Items	Distribution Value, Urban and Rural Areas *	Coefficient of 1000 in Lao Urban Survey <sup>a</sup>	
		Group	Sub-Group Article
<b>FOOD</b>		558	
<b>Cereal Products</b>		122	
Lao Rice (glutinous)	(4)		73
Non-glutinous Rice <sup>b</sup>	(3)		21
Chinese Noodles	(3)		2
Lao Noodles (Khao poun)	(4)		10
Bread	(2)		16
<b>Meat</b>		93	
Beef (1st quality) <sup>b</sup>	(3)		15
Beef (2nd quality) <sup>b</sup>	(3)		23
Buffalo (fillet)	(3)		23
Pork	(3)		10
Pork with lard	(3)		13
Pork Chops	(3)		5
Pig Feet	(3)		2
Pig Head	(3)		2
<b>Poultry</b>		32	
Medium-sized Chicken (live)	(3)		20
Medium-sized Duck (live)	(3)		12
<b>Sausage &amp; Tripe</b>		22	
Chinese Sausage	(3)		2
Liver Paste	(3)		2
Som mou (a fermented pork dish)	(3)		8
Pork Liver	(3)		5
Pork Intestines	(3)		5
<b>Fish, Fresh and Dried<sup>c</sup></b>		39	
Fa bouk, average size	(3)		8
Fa kho, average size	(3)		8
Fa pak	(3)		3
Fa eun	(3)		2
Fa kho, dried	(3)		10
Salted Fish	(2)		8
<b>Canned Goods</b>		6	
Sardines	(1)		5
Abalone	(1)		1
<b>Milk, Eggs and Fats</b>		67	
Chicken Eggs	(3)		7
Duck Eggs	(3)		8
Fresh Milk (buffalo) <sup>d</sup>	(2)		2
Powdered Milk	(2)		8
Condensed Milk (Nestle)	(2)		10
Salted Tinned Butter	(1)		2
Tinned Cheese	(1)		1
Bacon	(2)		2
Peanut Oil	(2)		4
Lard	(3)		16
Dried Coconut	(4)		7

See p. 28 for notes

(continued next page)

(TABLE 18, continued)

Items	Distribu- tion Value, Urban and Rural Areas	Coefficient of 1000 in Lao Urban Survey <sup>a</sup>		
		Group	Sub-Group	Article
<u>Vegetables, Fresh, Dried and Canned</u>		41		
Lettuce	(4)			5
Cabbage	(4)			5
Water Vines	(4)			7
Tomato	(4)			3
Green Beans	(4)			5
Potato	(4)			5
Fresh Shallots	(4)			3
Garlic	(4)			1
Dried Onion	(4)			1
Dried Shallots	(4)			1
Black Mushrooms	(4)			1
Canned Green Peas	(1)			1
Canned Beans	(1)			1
Dried Large Pimento	(4)			2
<u>Fruit</u>		27		
Banana (kouei niao)	(4)			10
Banana (kouei hom)	(4)			8
Orange	(4)			6
Canned Lichees	(2)			1
Canned Pears (1 kg. tin)	(1)			1
Orange Marmalade (250 gr.)	(1)			1
<u>Grocery Items</u>		46		
Chocolate Bar	(2)			1
Tea (250 gr. pkg.)	(2)			1
Green Coffee	(3)			5
Salt	(4)			5
Nam pa (pickling brine) 1st quality	(2)			10
Padek (whole preserved fish) 2nd quality	(3)			10
Vinegar	(2)			2
Tapioca	(2)			1
Local Sugar	(3)			2
Granulated Sugar	(1)			7
<u>Snacks Outside the Home</u>		26		
"Soupe Chinoise"	(2)			10
Black Coffee	(2)			8
Coffee with Milk	(2)			4
Ovaltine	(2)			3
Cakes	(2)			1
<u>Beverages</u>		37		
Lemonade, Seven-Up	(2)			4
Beer (Carlsberg)	(2)			8
Carbonated Water	(2)			2
Aperitif (Dubonnet)	(1)			2
Aperitif (Martini)	(1)			2
Cointreau	(1)			1
Cognac	(1)			4
Lao Rice Alcohol	(4)			10
Red Wine	(1)			4

(continued next page)



(TABLE 18, continued)

Items	Distribu- tion Value, Urban and Rural Areas	Coefficient of 1000 in Lao Urban Survey <sup>a</sup>		
		Group	Sub-Group	Article
<u>DWELLING</u>		138		
Rent (2 rooms)	(2)		37	37
<u>Lighting and Heating</u>	(2)		63	
Electricity	(2)			15
40-Watt Lamp	(2)			5
25-Watt Lamp	(2)			5
Firewood	(4)			15
Charcoal	(4)			10
Kerosene	(3)			11
Wood Alcohol	(2)			2
<u>Household Furnishings</u>			14	
Table	(3)			3
Chair	(3)			3
Sleeping Mat for 2	(4)			3
Cotton Blanket for 1	(3)			3
Linoleum	(2)			1
Oil Cloth	(2)			1
<u>Eating Utensils</u>			13	
Average quality dish	(3)			6
Glass	(3)			7
<u>Household Utensils</u>			7	
Aluminum Fork and Spoon	(3)			2
Medium-sized Wash Basin	(3)			1
Medium-sized Casserole	(2)			2
Small Coffee Grinder	(2)			1
Lao Broom	(4)			1
<u>Small Items</u>			4	
40-Watt Bulb	(2)			1
Pliers	(3)			1
Hammer	(3)			1
Electrical Wire	(2)			1
<u>DOMESTIC HELP</u>		32		
Servant (without food)	(2)			7
Cook (without food)	(2)			5
Nursemaid (food and lodging)	(2)			5
General Servant (food and lodging)	(3)			15
<u>PERSONAL CARE</u>		80		
<u>Household Products</u>			21	
Laundry Soap (1 kg.)	(2)			10
Detergent (Tab)	(3)			10
Wax	(2)			1

(continued next page)



(TABLE 18, continued)

Items	Distribu- tion Value, Urban and Rural Areas	Coefficient of 1000 in Lao Urban Survey <sup>a</sup>		
		Group	Sub-Group	Article
<u>Toilet Articles</u>			7	
Facial Soap (Lux)	(3)			3
Toothpaste (Colgate)	(2)			2
Eau de Cologne	(2)			1
Razor Blades	(2)			1
<u>Laundry</u>			9	
Laundering 1 set of cotton underwear	(1)			7
Laundering 1 shirt	(1)			2
<u>Hairdresser</u>			10	
Haircut (men)	(4)			5
Shampoo (men)	(1)			2
Haircut (ladies)	(1)			1
Permanent Wave	(2)			2
<u>Notions</u>			4	
Sewing Needles	(4)			1
Knitting Needles	(2)			1
Sewing Thread	(4)			1
Buttons, Hooks-and-Eyes	(3)			1
<u>Medical Care</u>			29	
Office visit to urban doctor	(2)			13
Aspirin	(3)			4
Quinine	(3)			5
Canidan (dysentery drug)	(2)			5
Absorbent Cotton	(2)			2
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>			23	
Taxi	(3)			2
Pedicabs	(3)			10
Gasoline	(2)			9
Oil (30 or 40 weight)	(2)			1
<u>CLOTHING</u>			111	
<u>Personal Garments and Yard Goods</u>			55	
Plastic Raincoat (man's)	(2)			4
Cotton Outfit (man's)	(4)			10
Shirt	(4)			8
Poplin (2nd quality)	(4)			12
Calico	(4)			15
<u>Household Linens, Clothing</u>			56	
Small Towel	(3)			10
Handkerchief (2nd quality)	(3)			4
Double Sheet	(3)			8
Underpants	(2)			4
Undershirt	(4)			4
Leather Shoes	(2)			10
Sandals	(3)			10
Umbrella	(3)			4
Parasol	(4)			2

(TABLE 18, continued)

Items	Distribu- tion Value, Urban and Rural Areas	Coefficient of 1000 in Lao Urban Survey <sup>a</sup>		
		Group	Sub-Group	Article
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>		58		
<u>Entertainment</u>			9	
Movies (2nd class seat)	(2)			7
Theatre (2nd class seat)	(2)			1
Sports Event	(2)			1
<u>Reading Matter</u>			8	
"Journal d'Extreme Orient"	(1)			2
"Paris Match"	(1)			2
Miscellaneous Publications	(2)			4
<u>Post Office</u>			5	
Stamps for International Postage	(1)			2
Sending printed matter	(2)			1
Sending parcels	(2)			1
Other items				1
<u>Stationery</u>			5	
Ball-Point Pen	(2)			1
32-page Notebook	(2)			2
Airmail Envelopes (50)	(2)			2
<u>Smoking Items</u>			31	
Matches	(3)			3
Cigarettes	(3)			20
Tobacco	(3)			8

Source: Ministere du Plan, Service de la Statistique du Laos, Les Depenses de la Consommation Familiale des Fonctionnaires a Vientiane, August 1958.

\* Key for Distribution Value Column:

- (1) Used by urban elites almost exclusively.
- (2) Occurs mainly in towns or considered an unusual luxury in villages.
- (3) Known in villages but use or availability limited by cultural or economic factors.
- (4) Utilized in both urban and rural areas.

These are obviously rough classifications and there is considerable overlap.

<sup>a</sup> The relative weighting in this urban cost of living survey was determined by officials of the Bureau of Statistics of the Ministry of The Plan in Vientiane. It is estimated that approximately 1.5% of urban income goes for gifts to monks. Also missing from this survey are gambling expenses.

<sup>b</sup> More common among Meo than Lao villagers.

<sup>c</sup> Limited mainly to villages along rivers.

<sup>d</sup> Milk or milk products have not been used traditionally in Southeast Asia.

TABLE 19

Consumer Prices for Laotian Middle-Class Families  
in Vientiane 1950-1959\*

(Index: December, 1948 = 100)

<u>Year</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Clothing</u>	<u>Sundry</u>
<u>Weight in Index</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>62%</u>	<u>14.5%</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>9%</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
	<u>100%</u>			<u>4%</u>		<u>10.5%</u>
1950	108	101	124	114	103	128
1951	113	102	136	114	106	150
1952	158	153	227	114	110	154
1953	212	218	293	125	131	162
1954	260	266	345	167	158	234
1955	264	257	374	172	205	244
1956	299	264	527	250	207	282
1957	368	342	614	410	227	317
1958	397	384	592	429	207	352
1959	433	432	615	438	189	391

\* 1st quarter of 1959 only.

Source: Statistics Office of Royal Lao Government, and Statistics Section, USOM Program Office, Bulletin No. 4, April 25, 1959.

NOTE: Tables 18-20 are based on a survey of the consumption patterns of Lao officials in Vientiane conducted by the Lao Bureau of Statistics.

TABLE 20

Sample of Officials Surveyed in Vientiane\*  
(1959)

<u>No. of people</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Total No. of</u>
<u>in household</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>people, by category</u>
		<u>of household</u>
16	1	16
12	1	12
11	3	33
10	2	20
9	5	45
8	22	176
7	24	168
6	27	162
5	15	75
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>707</u>
	100	

\* Basis of data for Tables 18 and 19

TABLE 20A

Average Expenditures and Family Size

<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Family</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Size</u>
7,650	6
8,025	7
8,535	8

Source: Lao Bureau of Statistics

NOTE: These estimated costs are claimed to exceed salaries paid to lower

TABLE 21

Retail Prices of Some Foods  
and Consumer Items in Selected Towns,  
First Quarter of 1959

Items	Price in Kip						
	Vientiane	Phong Savanh	Thakhek	Attapeu	Saravane	Luang Prabang	Pakse
Rice, Glutinous							
1 kg.	9	10	9	12	9	--	8
16 kg.	142	--	144	190	150	123	125
Rice, Ordinary							
1 kg.	10	15	9	12	9	--	10
16 kg.	148	--	144	190	150	180	145
Flour	21	--	23	30	30	--	23
Bread	35	8	35	40	35	40	18
Lao Noodles, kg.	15	--	20	34	20	10	10
Buffalo Steak, kg.	46	40	47	25	--	40	45
Pork Cutlet	47	40	47	30	35	110	45
Chicken, each	58	55	52	34	30	122	45
Fish, river, each	76	--	43	24	25	68	117
Egg, chicken, each	4	--	3	3	3	5	3
Water lilies, kg.	19	--	15	--	--	--	--
Potatoes, kg.	24	18	25	18	16	14	22
Bananas, bunch	23	40	16	8	6	2	12
Green beans, kg.	15	10	20	15	11	15	11
Tomatoes, kg.	5	25	4	5	4	8	7
Cabbage, kg.	6	10	4	14	15	0	16
Green peas, kg.	33	--	--	--	--	60	7
Carrots, kg.	19	15	30	15	17	40	22
Milk, condensed							
"Bear," can	21	--	24	30	30	35	30
"Fat Boy," can	15	20	18	--	25	20	18
"Nestle," can	16	20	20	--	--	20	24
Milk, powdered	72	85	75	75	75	100	60
Sugar, refined, kg.	21	30	22	35	30	25	21
Lard, kg.	30	--	50	30	30	--	28
Leather shoes, pr.	431	300	250	250	250	500	400
Soap flakes, kg.	34	80	32	25	50	--	25
Cigarettes, "Melia"	15	--	16	16	16	18	16

Source: Quarterly Statistical Bulletin of the United States Operations Mission to Laos, No. 4, April 25, 1959.

TABLE 22

Rural Inflation in Vientiane Province\*  
1955 - 1957

Item	Price in Kip		
	1955	1956	1957
Kerosene, 5 gal. tin	110	200	260
1 chicken	20	40	80
Polished glutinous rice, 100 kg. sack	450	600	950
Machete	35	60	100
Manufactured Shirt	60	150	250

Source: Kaufman, 1960

\*Prices are for small market centers outside Vientiane and are therefore somewhat higher than in the capital.

TABLE 23

Distribution of Salaries of  
Luang Prabang Government Personnel,  
Based on Marital Status,  
1959

Marital Status of Official	No. in each Category	Total No. of Children in each Category	Total Salary Paid in each Category	Monthly Salary, by Category
Single	106	0	376,252K	3,550K
Married, no children	16	0	60,788	3,799
Married, 1 child	33	33	145,901	4,421
Married, 2 children	24	48	128,236	5,343
Married, 3 children	22	66	109,605	4,982
Married, 4 children	15	60	82,718	5,515
Married, 5 children	19	95	115,935	6,102
Married, 6 children	12	72	86,945	7,245
Married, 7 children	14	98	117,953	8,425
Married, 8 children	2	16	16,372	8,186
Married, 9 children	1	9	11,715	11,715
Married, 10 children	1	10	6,100	6,100
TOTAL	265	507	1,258,520K	

Source: Statistical Service of Laos, Luang Prabang.

Enquete sur les salaires des fonctionnaires a Luang Prabang, 1959

TABLE 23A

EXAMPLES OF SELF EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, SERVICES CHARGES AND  
CEREMONIAL EXPENSES IN LUANG PRABANG TOWN AND PROVINCE, 1957<sup>a</sup>

PAID BY	PAID TO	PRICE OR INCOME IN KIP	FOR
<u>SELF EMPLOYMENT</u>			
Lao village woman	Self	100-150/day	Procuring and selling fresh produce in market
Lao village woman	Self	80/day	Booth along road village <sup>c</sup>
Lao village woman	Self	150/day	Store in home <sup>c</sup>
Lao village blacksmith	Self	100-300/day	Making agricultural tools (seasonal)
Lao weaver (woman)	Self	50/day	Weaving cloth and Lao skirts and
Lao (or occasional Khmu) pedicab driver	Self	150-200/day (holiday: 500)	Transporting goods and passengers with
Lao barber	Self	100-200/day	In Vientiane (1957)
<u>WAGES</u>			
Government	Lao villagers	70/person/day without food	Work on local construction projects
Lao merchant in town	Lao villager	25-30/day with food	Work as coolie (temporary)
Lao farmer	Lao villager	1 <u>kalon</u> paddy (value 60 kip) 40/day with food	Day's agricultural labor Day's agricultural labor (Vientiane area, 1959)
Lao farmer	Lao villager	2000/year	Seasonal agricultural labor
Lao farmer	Lao (man)	1000 kilos rice	Seasonal agricultural labor <sup>c</sup>
Lao farmer	Lao (man)	16 kilos/day 60-100/day <sup>b</sup>	Seasonal agricultural labor
Lao farmer	Thai or Lao	1000 600	Harvest season <sup>c</sup> Transplanting season
Lao farmer	Lao (woman)	750 kilos rice	Seasonal agricultural labor

(continued next page)



(TABLE 23A continued)

PAID BY	PAID TO	PRICE OR INCOME IN KIP	FOR
Government	Khmu villagers	Young boy or woman: 50-80/day man: 80-100/day without food: 60-100/day <sup>b</sup>	Coolie road work (seasonal)
Lao villager	Khmu villager	50/day + 1 meal	Day's agricultural labor
Lao villager	Khmu villager	3 kilos salt/ day (value 24 kip)	Day's agricultural labor (in northern Luang Prabang Province)
Lao villager	Khmu villager	Meals and sometimes old clothes	Corveed labor, for harvesting, house- building, etc. <sup>d</sup>
Lao urban elite	Lao or Khmu	500-1000/ month + food, clothing, shelter	Domestic servant
Chinese merchant	Lao or Khmu	800-1000/month + food, shelter	Labor as coolie
Chinese merchant	Lao	3500/month (no food or lodging)	Unskilled labor in Vientiane
Government	Khmu	2000/month	Labor as coolie in town power plant (difficult work)
Government	Lao <u>nai ban</u>	1200/year	Duties as village headman
Government	Lao clerk	4000/month	Routine office duties
Government	Lao teacher	5000/month	Teaching elementary school
Government	Lao official	15,000/month	Senior military or civil position
Vietnamese or Chinese contractor	Vietnamese skilled laborers	300/day 200-500/day <sup>b</sup>	Carpentry work

SERVICE CHARGES

Lao farmer	Lao, Tai, or Chinese mill owner	12/ <u>my</u> n or 12 kilos <sup>1</sup> 5/kalon or 16 kilos in Muong Sai <sup>1</sup>	milling rice for sale
Lao villagers	Lao or Vietnamese jeep "taxi" owner	About 2/km	Personal transporta- tion

(continued next page)

(TABLE 23A continued)

PAID BY	PAID TO	PRICE OR INCOME IN KIP	FOR
Lao villager	Lao midwife	5 kilos rice (value 50 kip)	Delivery of infant
Lao villager	Barber	20-30 <sup>b</sup>	Haircut
Lao villager	Lao village or urban landowner	20-35% of crop	Rental of land
Lao villager	Lao village or urban landowner	50% of crop	Rental of land when landowner supplies buffalo and rice seedlings and repairs dikes
Lao villager	Lao village or urban landowner	30-50% of crop	Rental of land <sup>c</sup>

CEREMONIAL EXPENSES

Lao	Bonze	200-300 (1000 maximum)	Special recitation of scriptures
Lao village family	General expenses	about 1500	Ceremony for ordination of a bonze <sup>c</sup>
Lao urban family	General expenses	10-50,000	Ceremony for ordination of a bonze
Mao groom's family	Family of bride	2500-15,000 equivalent in silver bars	Bride price <sup>e</sup>
Lamet groom's family	Family of bride	1-6 buffalo <sup>d</sup>	Bride price <sup>e, f</sup>
Urban Lao groom's family	Family of bride	10-100,000	Bride price <sup>e</sup>
Lao village bride's family	General expenses	2000	Wedding <sup>c</sup>
Lao urban bride's family	General expenses	10-20,000 <sup>k</sup>	Wedding <sup>h</sup>
Lao village family	Wat and general expenses	800	Funeral <sup>c</sup>
Lao urban family	Wat and general expenses	30,000	Funeral
Urban Lao	Wat and general expenses	10-200,000	Boun <sup>g</sup>

a Unless otherwise noted

b Luang Prabang, 1959

c These examples are from Vientiane Province (Kaufman:1960)

d Corvée is now technically illegal but still widely practiced.

e Among the Mao and Lamet the bride price is compensation to the bride's family for loss of a worker; among the Lao it is used for expenses of the marriage celebration and purchasing household effects.

f Silk fabric, jewelry, porcelain bowls and gongs are also used.

g A personal religious boun, sometimes given by an individual woman, to gain merit; can sometimes be very elaborate and expensive.

h This is for people of moderate circumstances, for an official of middle rank 100,000 kip or more would be common.

i Data from Duclos, 1959

TABLE 24

Number and Value of Construction Projects,  
Vientiane and Savannakhet Compared<sup>1</sup>

<u>Vientiane</u>	<u>Cement and Brick</u>	<u>Wood</u>	<u>Value (000 Kip)</u>
1957	177	58	416,908
1958	67	29	197,800
1959 <sup>2</sup>	42	6	66,155
<u>Savannakhet</u>			
1958	23	5	23,309
1959	14	1	10,269

Source: Lao Ministry of Finance

<sup>1</sup>Based on permits issued; a significant amount of minor construction, such as private homes, is therefore excluded.

<sup>2</sup>First half of 1959 only.

TABLE 25

Summary of Industries Existing in Vientiane,  
1958

<u>Category</u>	<u>Number</u>
Sawmills	11
Carpenter Shops	12
Garages	21
Rice Mills	11
Print Shops	7
Ice Works	3
Charcoal, Charcoal Bricks	160
Hotels	5
Moving Picture Theatres	5
Construction Firms	50
Airlines	4
Carbonated Water	3
Candles	3
Beauty Products	3
Raw Sugar	2
Soap Works	2
Alcoholic Beverages	3
Fruit Syrups	1
Automatic Laundry	1
Tobacco Products	1
Metal Parts Supplier (for construction)	1

Source: Lao Ministry of Finance

TABLE 26

## Licensed Business Houses in Vientiane

	1957		1958		1959	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
<u>Import-Export</u>						
Lao	232	52	380	60	124	56
Other Asians	158	36	188	30	75	34
(Mainly Chinese)						
Europeans	53	12	60	10	22	10
(Mainly French)						
Total	443	100	638	100	221	100
<u>Other Businesses</u>						
Lao	710	53	1071	57	904	55
Other Asians	602	45	743	39	699	42
(Chinese, Vientianese, and Indians)						
Europeans	36	2	66	4	56	3
Total	1,348	100	1,880	100	1,659	100

Source: Ministry of Finance

Note: Many businesses formally owned by Lao have non-Lao partners who supply capital and direction.

TABLE 27

Monthly Salaries of Civilian Government  
Personnel in Luang Prabang Town, 1959

Category of Salary	# of Officials in each category	Total amount paid in each category	% of Grand Total
Less than 2000 K	9	16,950 K	1.3
2001 - 2500	10	21,660	1.7
2501 - 3000	7	18,549	1.5
3001 - 3500	54	184,612	14.6
3501 - 4000	55	208,274	16.5
4001 - 4500	26	111,505	8.8
4501 - 5000	18	84,506	6.7
5001 - 5500	17	88,651	7.0
5501 - 6000	12	69,110	5.5
6001 - 6500	8	50,382	4.0
6501 - 7000	12	80,194	6.3
7001 - 7500	10	72,304	5.7
7501 - 8000	5	39,105	3.1
8001 - 8500	3	24,624	1.9
8501 - 9000	4	34,679	2.7
9001 - 9500	5	45,691	3.6
9501 - 10,000	3	29,278	2.3
10,001-10,500	2	20,562	1.6
10,501-11,000	-	-	-
11,001-11,500	2	22,657	1.8
11,501-12,000	3	35,227	2.8
Total	265	1,258,520 K	100.

\* 51.4% of the grand total is paid to officials earning less than 5000 K/mo.

Note: In 1959 the free market exchange rate was 80 kip per \$1 U.S. These salaries do not include family allotments, which range from 800-950 kip per month for a wife and 400-500 kip for each child.

Five officials were not included in the salary survey.

Source: Statistical Service of Laos

Enquetes sur les salaires des fonctionnaires a Luang Prabang, 1959

TABLE 28

American Aid to Laos  
1955 - 1960

	Military Budget Support	Non-Project <sup>*</sup> Assistance	Project Assistance	Total
	(Millions of Dollars)			
1955	13.4	3.6	1.4	18.4
Percent	72.9	19.4	7.7	
1956	34.9	13.5	6.4	54.8
Percent	63.7	4.7	11.6	
1957	35.1	8.1	6.0	49.2
Percent	71.4	16.3	12.3	
1958	30.4	8.3	4.6	43.3
Percent	70.1	19.3	10.6	
1959		18.3	5.9	
1960				34.2

\* This involves a general support fund for various Ministries of the Lao Government.

Note: According to information released by the Department of Defense in February 1960, from 1950 to 1959 \$72,235,000 has been programmed for military aid to Laos. This included supplies and equipment, services such as training, military construction, and other items. Of this total \$7,620,000 had been programmed for the fiscal year 1959, and \$12,975,000 for 1960. It does not appear, however, that these figures include salaries for the Army, which is the major expense of the program.

Net grants to Laos for all types of aid have amounted to the following: 1955 - \$40,931,000; 1956 - \$48,307,000; 1957 - \$44,424,000; 1958 - \$31,219,000 or a total of \$164,881,000 from 1948 - 1958. (Prior to 1955 Laos was included in the over-all Indochina figures). Based on The Statistical Abstract of the United States (1959) p. 876.

TABLE 29

U.S. Aid to Laos, 1958-1959  
Project Aid (000 U.S.\$) <sup>a</sup>

	1958	1959
Agriculture	142	301
Industry and Mining	114	215
Transportation	1,062	2,325 <sup>b</sup>
Health and Sanitation	40 <sup>b</sup>	61
Education	333	434
Civil Police Administration	188 <sup>c</sup>	149 <sup>c</sup>
Public Administration	97	57
Community Development	659	600
General and Miscellaneous	6	100
Total	2,641	4,242

a. Does not include counterpart kip funds.

b. Does not include regional funds for malaria eradication in Laos totalling \$237,000 in 1958 and \$120,000 in 1959.

c. Does not include salary funds.

TABLE 29-A

Summary of U.S. Project Aid for Fiscal Year 1959  
(all figures in 000's of dollars)

<u>PROJECT TITLE (Abbreviated)</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Kip<sup>a</sup></u>
<b>Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources</b>		
Agriculture Extension	50	21
Irrigation Development	53	302
Livestock & Poultry	100	57
Crop Development	70	29
Forest Resources	28	25
Total Agriculture and Natural Resources .....	301	434
<b>Industry &amp; Mining</b>		
Mining & Mineral Survey	215	
Vientiane Power	-	27
Total Industry and Mining	215	27
<b>Transportation</b>		
National Road System	1,265	875
Rivers, Harbors & Ferries	295	
Vientiane Airport	765	
Total Transportation .....	2,325	875
<b>Public Health</b>		
Yaws eradication		9
Training of Health Workers	61 <sup>b</sup>	9
Malaria Eradication		157
Total Public Health .....	61 <sup>b</sup>	175
<b>Education</b>		
Teacher Training	384	269
Rural Education	50	88
Total Education .....	434	357
<b>Public Administration - Police - Other</b>		
Police	149 <sup>c</sup>	940
Government Purchasing Office	42	31
Public Administration	--	--
Banking	12	--
Customs	3	88
American Aid Commission	--	16
Statistics & Census	--	19
Total Public Administration - Police - Other ...	206	1,094
<b>Community Development</b>		
Xieng Khouang Demonstration Project	70	15
Civic Action	70	579
Rural Self-Help	210	313
Operation Brotherhood	250	--
Total Community Development .....	600	907
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Leo Photo Press	100	114
Total Miscellaneous .....	100	114
<b>TOTAL COUNTRY PROGRAM .....</b>	<b>4,242</b>	<b>3,933</b>

a Figures converted into U.S. dollars at 80 kip equals 1 U.S. dollar.  
All figures are preliminary.

b. Does not include regional funds for malaria eradication in Laos totalling \$120,000 in 1959.

(continued on next page)



TABLE 29-A

Summary of U.S. Project Aid for Fiscal Year 1959  
(all figures in 000's of dollars)  
(continued)

(Note: In addition to the Malaria Eradication Project, Laos benefits from two other regional projects: Regional Telecommunications Project and Regional English Project. Both projects include multi-year contracts. Project funds are allocated on a regional basis and therefore specific amounts for Laos can not be identified.)

Note: Summary of Foreign Aid Activities in Laos Other than American.

French Aid

Next to American aid, French assistance is the most important source of outside help Laos is receiving. For calendar year 1958, it amounted to approximately \$5.8 million. Some \$2.4 million was used to provide French advisors and instructors to the Royal Lao Army.

Funds of some \$3.4 million were allocated to economic, technical and cultural aid activities. The building of two high schools and the salaries of some 125 French instructors and educational advisors accounted also for approximately \$1 million. The remaining funds were used for a variety of projects including mining exploration, construction of a telephone exchange in Vientiane (not yet completed), provision for French advisors to various Lao ministries and assumption of expenses of Lao who are being trained in France.

In addition to these activities, France placed at the disposal of the Credit National Lao a revolving loan fund equivalent to \$1 million. This fund is not yet operative but when activated should assist materially to broaden present very limited credit facilities in Laos.

Japanese Aid

The Royal Lao Government and Japan recently agreed to liquidate long standing World War II reparation claims in the form of Japanese assistance projects with a value of \$2.8 million. The main project is a \$2 million waterworks for the city of Vientiane. Technical details of this project are still under discussion. The balance of the funds will be used in bridge construction and various technical surveys, particularly of the hydro-electric potential of the Nam Ngum River near Vientiane.

United National and Special Agencies

Assistance to Laos by these agencies takes almost exclusively the form of providing technical experts in the fields of public administration, education, disease control and agricultural research. For the past years the value of this assistance has slowly increased from \$170,000 in FY 1957 to \$230,000 for FY 1959.

Colombo Plan

The Colombo Plan is helping Laos mainly through scholarships at universities of the member nations. The value of this assistance is estimated at approximately \$50,000 per year. In addition, Australia, under the Plan, has supplied some surplus construction equipment. New Zealand has also announced that it will present Laos in the course of 1959 with some \$45,000 worth of mobile veterinary dispensaries.

Source: United States Operations Mission to Laos, American Cooperation with Laos, 1959

**TABLE 30**  
**REVENUE RECEIPTS OF LAOS\***  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1959**

	AMOUNT IN KIP	AMOUNT IN DOLLARS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
<b>DIRECT TAXES</b>			
Income Taxes	39,891,811	498,648	5.72
Tax on Foreigners	2,803,500	35,044	.40
Urban Real Estate	89,241	1,116	.01
Business Licenses	16,694,025	208,675	2.39
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>59,478,577</b>	<b>743,483</b>	<b>8.52</b>
<b>INDIRECT TAXES</b>			
Turnover of Business	81,827,678	1,022,846	11.72
Admissions and Other	8,882,349	111,029	1.27
Rentals - Tax	3,713,368	46,417	.53
Miscellaneous	1,398,835	17,486	.20
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>95,822,230</b>	<b>1,197,778</b>	<b>13.72</b>
Customs and Excises	415,826,563	5,197,832	59.9
Registration Fees and Stamp Duties	24,531,882	306,650	3.52
Forest Royalties	4,340,329	54,254	.62
Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Revenues	33,845,898	423,074	4.85
Miscellaneous Government Service Revenues	10,556,777	131,960	1.52
National Lottery	2,281,174	28,515	.33
Collections for Prior Years	51,091,912	638,646	7.33
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>697,775,282</b>	<b>8,722,192</b>	<b>100.00</b>

\* Excludes national bank advances of U.S. and other foreign aid.  
 SOURCE: Ministry of Finance, Laos.

**TABLE 31**  
**NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS ON SALARIES AND ON PROFITS,**  
**ACCORDING TO AMOUNT OF TAX PAID, 1959**

AMOUNT OF TAX PAID (DOLLARS)	NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS-SALARIES		NUMBER OF TAXPAYERS-PROFITS	
	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL	NUMBER	PERCENT OF TOTAL
1.00 - 2.50	184	10.16%	-	-
2.50 - 8.00	218	12.04%	-	-
8.00 - 7.50	442	24.41%	-	-
7.50 - 10.00	151	8.34%	-	-
10.00 - 12.50	149	8.23%	-	-
12.50 - 25.00	267	14.74%	21	9.13%
25.00 - 37.50	77	4.25%	17	7.39%
37.50 - 50.00	55	3.04%	3	1.30%
50.00 - 62.50	43	2.37%	16	6.96%
62.50 - 75.00	27	1.49%	13	5.65%
75.00 - 87.50	25	1.38%	8	3.48%
87.50 - 100.00	18	.99%	29	12.61%
100.00 - 112.00	7	.39%	14	6.09%
112.00 - 125.00	6	.33%	6	2.61%
125.00 - 1,250.00	142	7.84%	77	33.48%
1,250.00 - 12,500.00	-	-	19	8.26%
OVER 12,500.00	-	-	7	3.04%
	<b>1811</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

SOURCE: Department of Internal Revenue, Laos

TABLE 32

NUMBER OF BUSINESS LICENSES ISSUED IN LAOS DURING  
FISCAL YEAR 1959, BY PROVINCE AND BY MAJOR CLASS OF LICENSE

Province	Ordinary Licenses	Import-Export Licenses
Vientiane	981	95
Savannakhet	517	15
Thakhek	174	7
Pakse	691	2
Xieng Khouang	56	2
Luang Prabang	330	6
Sayaboury	-	-
Nam Tha	90	-
Saravane	207	-
Attapeu	85	-
TOTALS	3,131	127

Source: Department of Internal Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Laos.

TABLE 33

NATIONAL INCOME AND TOTAL TAX REVENUES IN SELECTED  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES DURING RECENT YEARS

	National Income	Total Tax Revenue	% Tax Revenues to Nat'l Income
South Vietnam (1956-million piastres)	59,496	7,074	12
Burma (1957-million Kyats)	4,497	909	20
Cambodia (1956-million riels)	12,790	1,548	12.0
Laos (1959-million dollars)	90.0	8.7	10
Thailand (1956-million baht)	36,563	4,650	13

Source: United Nations, *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*, 1958, pp. 170, 171, and Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, Bangkok, Thailand.

TABLE 34

MAJOR SOURCES OF TAX REVENUE IN SELECTED COUNTRIES  
OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING RECENT YEARS

	Burma (1958-59 million Kyats)	Cambodia (1958- million riels)	Afghanistan (1955-56 million afghanis)	Thailand (1958- million baht)	Laos (1957- million Kip)
	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount
Income & Wealth	255	158	105	431	72
Land	26	14	76	-	-
Custom Duties	282	639	401	1,936	583
Transaction & Sales	162	711	222	1,569	183
Licenses, Registra- tion & Stamp	22	300		70	54
Other	109	274	41	1,185	7
	856	2,096	845	5,191	899

Source: United Nations, *Economic Survey of Asia and the Far East*, 1958, Table K, pp. 171-72.

TABLE 35

LAO BALANCE OF TRADE, 1939-1958  
(IN MILLIONS OF KIP)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>
1939	4.3	0.6
1940	2.8	0.2
1941	0.8	0.1
1942	2.9	0.8
1943	7.9	0.3
1944	10.6	0.2
1945	1.6	0.7
1946	0.8	0.9
1947	7.5	2.2
1948	32.0	4.9
1949	65.4	7.3
1950	46.1	7.6
1951	41.5	7.6
1952	66.0	24.0
(1953)	12.49)	2.76)
(1954)	16.10)*	0.95)*
1955	663	48.0
1956	1,236	44.3
1957	1,459.8	37.7
1958	1,040.9	54.7

\*1953-1954 listed by value in U.S. dollars.

Source: Annuaire Statistique du Laos, 1951-1952, III, p. 115  
and Services des Douanes et Regis du Laos.

TABLE 36

LAO EXPORTS, BY COMMODITIES, 1956-58  
(IN THOUSANDS OF KIP)\*

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u> (first 3/4 only)
Tin concentrates	16,285	18,050	11,700
Benyoin	8,720	4,984	4,315
Green coffee	7,435	3,338	2,018
Stic-lac	275	2,159	274
Cardamon	2,854	1,583	4,433
Wood and wood products	2,654	1,613	6,319
Hides and skins	3,302	1,173	1,352
Cotton	763	1,009	4,922
Other	1,980	3,835	5,782

\*At the rate of 35 kip to \$1.

Sources: Adapted from United States Department of Commerce, Basic Data on the Economy of Laos, 1958; and Kingdom of Laos, Ministère des Finances de l'Economie Nationale et du Plan, Bulletin Statistique du Laos, No. 1-3, 1958.

TABLE 37

LAO IMPORTS BY COMMODITIES, 1956-58  
(IN THOUSAND KIP)\*

Commodity	1956	1957	First nine months of 1958
Yarns, textiles, and clothing	276,436	311,468	122,151
Transport equipment and parts	144,477	219,785	101,615
Metal and metal products	95,987	157,477	101,346
Processed foods, beverages, tobacco	104,033	151,803	98,216
Chemicals and products	67,016	100,960	41,240
Mineral products	52,194	96,566	105,973
Fruits, vegetables and products	141,572	93,717	42,217
Machinery and parts	52,507	60,075	80,034
Paper and paper products	47,888	39,689	39,493
Animals and animal products	24,194	38,132	10,464
Shoes, umbrellas and hats	24,482	28,280	8,035
Stoneware, ceramics, glass, and products	16,552	27,714	14,658
Plastic and rubber products	20,498	25,730	13,005
Wood and wood products	36,092	20,293	7,824
Animal and vegetable fats, and oils	1,863	13,261	4,299
Scientific instruments, clocks, etc.	22,338	7,305	4,953
Leather, skins, and leather products	5,399	6,312	1,693
Arms and ammunition	1,743	6,276	1,269
Precious stones, metals and jewelry	2,718	768	272
Other (electrical equipment, toys, art objects, etc.)	17,357	55,290	14,350

\*35 kip: \$1.

Source: Adapted from United States Department of Commerce, Basic Data on the Economy of Laos, 1958; and Kingdom of Laos, Ministère des Finances de l'Economie Nationale et du Plan, Bulletin Statistique du Laos, No. 1-3, 1958.

TABLE 38

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES OF THE LAO FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
(JUNE 30, 1959 TO JULY 1, 1964)  
(IN MILLIONS OF KIP)

Social Projects

-Public Health	359
-Education	690
Sub-total	1,049
-Public Works	806
-Posts, Telephone and Telegraph	97
-Urban Development and Housing	200
-Information Services	61
Sub-total	1,164

Economic Development

-Village Development	57
-Rural Economy	251
-Mining and Industry	82
-Water Works and Electricity	156
Sub-total	546

Grand total 2,585

Source: Lao Ministry of the Plan, March 1959. Based on expenditures of 500 million kip per year.