

COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION

There are 17 main groups of commodities. The codes here are used both in tables and the database.

I. Grain

I.1	Wheat
I.2	Rye
I.3	Barley
I.4	Malt
I.5	Oats
I.6	Buckwheat
I.7	Peas
I.8	Hops
I.9	Hay
I.10	Straw
I.11	Clover

II. Grain Products

II.1	Wheat Flour
11.4	Buckwheat Groats
11.6	Pearl Barley

III. Livestock and Meat

III.1	Horses
III.2.a	Cows
III.2.b	Bullocks
III.3	Calves
III.4	Pigs
III.5	Lambs
III.6.a	Geese
III.6.b	Ducks
III.7.a	Hens
III.7.b	Capons
III.8	Chickens
III.10	Beef

- III.13 Lamb
- III.14 Veal
- III.16.a Hare
- III.16.b Partridge
- III.16.c Roe Deer

IV. Dairy Produce

- IV.1 Butter
- IV.2 Cheese
- IV.3 Eggs
- IV.4 Milk
- IV.4.a Cream

V. Fish and Train Oil

- V.1 Herring
- V. 1.a Salt Herring
- V.2 Cod
- V.4 Split Cod
- V.4.a Split Cod/Bergefisk
- V.5 Train Oil

VI. Vegetables

The amount of data registered in this main group is extremely small, and it has not been possible to tabulate it. It consists of sparse information regarding leeks, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, beans, asparagus, peas and potatoes.

VII. Fruit

- VII.1 Apples
- VII.2 Lemons
- VII.3 Raisins
- VII.4 Currants
- VII.6 Prunes

VIII. Spices

- VIII.1 Sugar
- VIII.2 Pepper
- VIII.3.a Mace
- VIII.3.b Nutmeg
- VIII.4 Cinnamon
- VIII.5 Cardamons
- VIII.6 Cloves
- VIII.7 Ginger

- VIII.8 Coffee
- VIII.9 Tea
- VIII.10 Cocoa (Chocolate)
- VIII.11 Almonds
- VIII.12 Rice (Hulled Rice)
- VIII.13.a Wine Vinegar

IX. Salt

- IX.1 Salt
- IX.2 Luneburg Salt

X. Beverages

- X.1 Beer
- X.2.a Danish Brandy
- X. 5 French Brandy

XI. Light and Fuel

- XI.3 Peat
- XI.4 Charcoal
- XI.6 Wax
- XI.7 Tallow
- XI.8. a Tallow Candles
- XI.9 Coal

XII. Textiles

- XII.1 Flax
- XII.2. Hemp
- XII.4. Cloth
- XII.5. Linen (and Canvas)
- XII.6. Wool
- XII.7. Twine
- XII.8. Silk

XIII. Hides and Skins

- XIII.1 Lambskin
- XIII.3 Cowhide
- XIII.4 Calf skin

XIV. Building Materials

- XIV.1.a Limestone
- XIV.b Quicklime
- XIV.1.c Slaked Lime
- XIV.2.a Ten *alen* Timbers (Single)

- XIV.2.b Twelve *alen* Timbers (Single)
- XIV.2.c Twelve *alen* Timbers (Double)
- XIV.2.d Sixteen *alen* Timbers
- XIV.3 Bricks
- XIV.4 Roof Tiles
- XIV.5.b Long Straw
- XIV.5.c Thatching Twine

XV. Metals

- XV.1 Bar Iron
- XV.2 Copper
- XV.3 Lead
- XV.4 Tin
- XV.6 Gold
- XV.7.b Three-*tomme* Nails
- XV.7.c Four-*tomme* Nails
- XV.7.d Five-*tomme* Nails
- XV.7.e Six-*tomme* Nails
- XV.7.f Lath Nails
- XV.7.g Ceiling Nails

XVII. Other Articles of Common Use

- XVII.1 Tar
- XVII.2 Pitch
- XVII.3 Turpentine
- XVII.4 Green Soap
- XVII.5 Olive Oil
- XVII.6 Linseed Oil

DESCRIPTION OF GOODS

I. Grain and Other Crops

1. Commodity Classification.

The main group is subdivided into the following commodity tables:

- I. 1 Wheat
- I. 2 Rye
- I. 3 Barley
- I. 4 Malt
- I. 5 Oats
- I. 6 Buckwheat
- I. 7 Peas
- I. 8 Hops
- I. 9 Hay
- I. 10 Straw
- I. 11 Clover

2. Delimitation Problems.

With the exception of malt, this main group consists of unprocessed commodities. Thus, prices for the purchase of "bolted wheat" in the Taasinge accounts for 1785-1787 have been omitted, as the entry most likely refers to wheat flour.

3. General Remarks.

Although some exceptions can be found, the produce of the home farm is, as a rule, sold at higher prices than the grain delivered in payment of manorial dues. Sales are normally made on a cash basis, and frequently with a stipulation providing for payment on the last day of the current settlement term. After 1750 a particular form of agreement tends to be increasingly important: the sale is made in the autumn at a price that anticipates the coming chapter rates, but delivery is at convenience, which in most cases means during the winter, when the peasants have time for it, and the frozen roads facilitate transportation.

The sale of grain to skippers for buyers in Norway is likewise of importance in the later part of the period. Wheat, rye, barley, malt, oats, peas and vetches

are traded by the *tønde*; in 1.7 Peas, however, the prices from the Herlufsholm accounts are per *skæppe*. With regard to deviations in the size of the *tønde*, the reader is referred to the commodity descriptions. Buckwheat is traded by the *tønde*, hops and clover by the *lispund* and hay and straw by the *læs*.

The term “round measure,” which occurs in a number of entries, derives from public ordinances of 1683 and 1687 regarding weights and measures, in which it is stipulated that payment in kind of tithe and manorial dues is to be made with round measure: a *fjerdingkar* per *tønde* for wheat, rye, barley, buckwheat, peas and malt; and $1\frac{1}{2}$ *fjerdingkar* per *tønde* for oats. This means that for every level measured *tønde* of grain, one or one and a half *fjerdingkar* is to be added in order to make a “chapter” *tønde*, which corresponds to the chapter rates. In other words, a *tønde* of round or heaped measure was used for grain made in payment of dues, while a *tønde* of level measure was used for all other grain transactions.¹⁾

I.1 Wheat

The commodity is commonly designated merely as wheat, but in certain entries it is specified by terms such as spring wheat, winter wheat, or terms denoting origin: Baltic, Dutch, Fehmarn, Lolland, Zealand, Holstein etc. Characterizations of quality also occur: good, poor, old, etc. As a rule, the amount is given in *tønde* of eight *skæppe*. There are some exceptions to this, however, as in the Løvenborg accounts for 1770, where both Danish and Holstein measures are given. In the Holsteinborg accounts for 1778 it is noted that the wheat was sold in a *tønde* “of round measure” (*opmål*) without, however, indicating any thing more specific. Prices are normally given in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*. Exceptions to this are found in the Taasinge accounts: under 1790 the price is given in Lübeck currency, and under 1792 in the Schleswig-Holstein *kurant*. These have been converted to Danish currency in a ratio of one to two. Prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	227	75	2

I.2. Rye

The commodity is commonly designated merely as rye, but it is also specified at times as Holstein rye, seed grain, Mecklenburg, Lolland and Baltic rye, Dutch grain, summer rye and wasting grain (*tærekorn*). Qualifying terms such as poor, good, large, small and new are also found. The amount is usually given in *tønde* of eight *skæppe*. An exception is found in the Herlufsholm accounts, where the *tønde* is given at six *skæppe* between 1661 and 1674. These accounts also show examples of older grain measures such as the *pund* (= $3\frac{1}{3}$ *tønde*) and the *læst* (24 *tønde*). The terms “level” measure and “round” or “chapter” measure occur

1) R. W. Bauer, *Haandbog i Mønt-, Maal- og Vægtforhold*. Copenhagen (1882), p. 11 f. K. Glamann: “Om kapitelstakst og kornmål,” *Historisk Tidsskrift*, 11. Rk., Bd. IV (1955), p. 489 ff.

a number of times; a chapter measure is normally 1 *fjerdingkar* per *tønde*. But in the Lindenberg accounts for 1733 it is 1½ *fjerdingkar* per *tønde*, while for the years 1734, 1745 and 1760 it is given at “one *tønde* to the score.” The Gaunø accounts for 1751 record the use of an “old measure,” and in the Sorø accounts for 1770 the use of a “merchant’s measure” is found. Prices are normally given in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*, but in the Herlufsholm and Fussingø accounts the prices are occasionally given in *sletdaler* (= 64 *skilling*), *sletmark* (= 16 *skilling*) and *rigsort* (=24 *skilling*). The Taasinge accounts for 1790 and 1792 record a few prices in Lübeck *mark* and the Schleswig-Holstein *kurant*, which are converted at a ratio of one to two.

Transactions are normally carried out on a cash basis, sometimes accompanied by a stipulation of payment at a later date. In a number of instances the supply is auctioned, e.g. Sorø 1796. In such cases payment falls due, at the latest, twelve weeks after the auction, while confirmation must take place within eight days, immediately after which the grain is measured out. There are, moreover, a few cases of sales contracts and even barter in the sense that the manor exchanges grain for labour.

There are considerable seasonal price fluctuations, and purchases are mostly for rye seed, thus taking place in autumn. The prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	848	405	328

I.3 Barley

The commodity is usually designated simply as barley, but there are also instances of supplementary terms such as spring seed, seed grain, himmel barley, late barley, six-rowed barley, two-rowed barley, feed grain, lease grain, chicken grain, Holstein barley etc. As a rule, the amount is given in *tønde* of eight *skæppe*. But in the Herlufsholm accounts other measures are frequently used: the *læst* (= twelve *pund* of four *tønde*) and a *tønde* of six *skæppe*. There are frequent instances of the terms “level measure” and “rounded measure;” the latter is normally equivalent to one *fjerdingkar* per *tønde*, but there are entries in the Lindenberg accounts for 1745 and 1759 which note “one *tønde* rounded measure to the score,” and a 1733 entry gives one and a half *fjerdingkar* per *tønde*. The terms “new even measure” (Giesegaard 1767) and “merchant’s measure” (Sorø 1770) also appear. Finally, an entry in the Odden accounts for 1724 record the following: “by chapter measure 2 *tønde* + measure (*mål*) = 6.5 *skæppe* barley.”

Prices are normally given in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*. Herlufsholm, however, often uses the *sletdaler*, *sletmark* and *rigsort*. In a few entries it is noted whether the price includes or excludes costs, but only in one instance (Holsteinborg 1796) is the charge actually noted, namely one *mark* per *tønde* for transportation.

Besides the normal manner of payment (cf. above under 1.2 Rye), there are cases of contract sales and remuneration for labour and supplies.

As with other types of grain there is considerable seasonal price variation. Most purchases, by far, are of sowing seed, and thus probably take place in the spring. It can, nevertheless, be seen that on a number of occasions the manors bought seed in the autumn just to make sure of delivery. The prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	1079	362	280

I.4. Malt

The commodity is commonly designated merely as malt, but occasionally it is specified as white malt, English malt or stove malt, and qualitative terms such as “good” and “best” also occur.

The measure universally used is the *tønde* of 8 *skæppe*, except for a single entry in the Gaunø accounts under 1751, where the amount is given in old measure (one *tønde* = six *skæppe*).

Prices are recorded throughout in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*, except for one instance in the Herlufsholm accounts for 1710, where the price is noted in *sletmark*. There are a few examples of delivery contracts, e.g. Taasinge 1760. Prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	109	41	49

I.5 Oats

The commodity is frequently designated simply as oats, but in certain cases it is specified as white or yellow sowing oats, red oats, plough oats, Funen oats and winter or spring seed, etc. Moreover, qualitative terms such as “new,” “old” and “best” occur; and in the case of purchase prices it is sometimes noted that the oats are for horses.

The amount is usually given in *tønde* of eight *skæppe*, but there are some notable exceptions. In the early years of the Gissselfeld accounts the old *tønde* measure of twelve *skæppe* is used simultaneously with the new measure of eight *skæppe*. The Herlufsholm accounts record the use of a *tønde* of both five and six *skæppe*. The Giesegaard accounts for 1763 use the old measure. The Taasinge accounts for 1795 use an old measure which is converted to nine *skæppe* according to the new measure. Finally the Odden accounts for 1724 record the use of an old measure which is set at seven *skæppe* by the new measure. The terms level and round measure occur frequently, the latter sometimes described as “loose.” A round measure is usually one and a half *fjerdingkar* per *tønde*, but it is set at two *fjerdingkar* in the Støvringgaard manorial accounts for 1739-1740, and at one *fjerdingkar* per *tønde* in the accounts of Fussingø 1709, Støvringgaard 1741-1799 and Lindenberg 1787 and 1790. The latter accounts record a purchase “with one *fjerdingkar* per *tønde* instead of a heaped measure” under the year 1766, and in 1759 a sale “with one *tønde* per score to a round measure.” The

Fussingø accounts for 1708 note a sale “with loose heaped measure, 2 *tønde* per 100.” Finally, the Frederiksgave accounts for 1774 tell us that 100 *tønde* round measure is equivalent to 107 *tønde* level measure.

Prices are normally given in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*. But the Herlufsholm accounts for 1661-1667 give prices in *sletdaler* (equivalent to 64 *skilling*), *sletmark* (16 *skilling*), *kurantdaler* (80 *skilling*) and *ort* (24 *skilling*). A single entry records costs for transportation, excise and auction fees. It is evident that small amounts bought for the horses while traveling are much more expensive than purchases in large quantities. As opposed to other grains, purchases of oats are not only for the purpose of sowing, but also and to a very large extent for feed. Prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	827	261	265

I.6 Buckwheat

The commodity is designated throughout simply as buckwheat, and with very rare exceptions there is no further specification. Once, mention is made of “Tartar buckwheat,” and a few entries refer to seed grain and spring seed.

Amounts are normally given in *tønde* of eight *skæppe*. An exception is found in the Herlufsholm accounts, where the measure used is a *pund* of 20 *skæppe*, which corresponds to four and a half *tønde*. (In one Herlufsholm entry for 1699, however, the measure recorded is the *tønde*.) The prices shown in the table are per *tønde*, except for Herlufsholm 1668-1674, where original prices are given per *skæppe*. Herlufsholm is also an exception with regard to prices, which are given in *sletmark* for individual years. Prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	47	143	17

I.7 Peas

The most frequent designation for the commodity is peas, which may further be specified as field peas, white peas, green peas, split peas, German peas and English peas. The terms sugar peas, feed or pig peas and cooking or household peas also occur. Qualitative characteristics such as “poor,” “good” and “best” are also found.

Amounts are normally given by the *tønde* of eight *skæppe*, but the *skæppe* alone is used in the accounts of Herlufsholm 1661-1668 and Støvringgaard 1764-1798.

Prices are normally given in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*. But in the Herlufsholm accounts the *rigsort* (equivalent to 24 *skilling*) occurs a number of times, and in the Taasinge accounts for 1759 there is a single entry where the price is in Mecklenburg *kurant*. This has been converted to Danish currency via a 40% increment. Prices shown in the tables are per *tønde*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	234	239	53

1.8. Hops

The commodity is commonly designated merely as hops, but origin is sometimes indicated by the terms Braunschweig, Brenderup and Funen or, more broadly, Danish, German and English hops. Qualitative specifications such as “old,” “poor,” “good” and “best” are also found.

Amounts are normally given in *lispund* of 16 *pund*, but there are notable exceptions. The Herlufsholm accounts record a number of transactions in *skip-pund* (= 20 *lispund*) as well as in the older measure, the *skaalpund* (= *pund*). The *skæppe* (eight to the *pund*) is used more than a few times in the Støvringgaard household accounts and the manorial accounts of Frijsenborg, which also record one transaction by the *fjerdings* (under the year 1799).

The following exceptions to the normal manner of noting prices are to be found: the Herlufsholm accounts for 1664 give prices in *rigsdaler* and *ort* (= 24 *skilling*) or in *sletmark* (= *mark*); and the Lindenberg accounts for 1770 in Lübeck *skilling* (= two *skilling*) and Lübeck *mark* (= 32 *skilling*). Prices shown in the table are per *lispund*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	91	71	105

1.9 Hay

The commodity is commonly designated merely as hay, but in a few instances it is specified as meadow hay, old, coarser or fine hay.

Amounts are always given in *læs* of 32 *lispund*. The prices shown in the table are per *læs*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	244	1	11

1.10 Straw

The commodity is commonly designated merely as straw, but sometimes it is specified as rye straw, barley straw, fodder straw or pea straw.

Amounts are always given in *læs* of 32 *lispund*. A number of transactions are based on leasing contracts, e.g. in the Holsteinborg accounts for 1775-1795. The prices shown in the table are per *læs*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	117	0	1

1.11 Clover

The commodity is commonly designated merely as clover, but in a number of entries it is specified by type as red clover, white clover, new Holstein clover,

Dutch clover, Femern clover etc. The amount is always given in *lispund*. Prices are normally given in *rigsdaler*, *mark* and *skilling*. The exceptions are a few prices in the Bregentved accounts for 1799-1800, which are given in Lübeck *kurant*. These are converted to Danish currency on the basis of one Lübeck *kurant rigsdaler* being equal to two Danish *rigsdaler*. The prices shown in the table are per *lispund*.

Geographical distribution	Zealand	Funen	Jutland
	24	88	6

II. Grain Products

1. Commodity Classification.

The main group is subdivided into the following commodity tables:

II. 1 Wheat Flour

II. 4 Buckwheat Groats

II. 6 Pearl Barley

The following items, which are included in the general commodity list, are omitted here: II.2 Barley Groats, II.3 Oatmeal and II.5 Bread. There are 53 price notations for II.2 Barley Groats, most of which, by far, stem from Gissselfeld 1706-1720 and Frijsenborg 1781-1791. For II.3 Oatmeal there are only 27 notations, almost all of which stem from Gissselfeld 1706-1720. The II.5 Bread group includes 58 notations for seven different qualities and types: bread, fine bread, white bread, rye bread, bolted rye bread, bolted wheat bread and coarse bread. They have not been included, as their price levels vary too much to incorporate them in a single table, and there is a lack of a standardized and unequivocal unit of measure. Prices are usually given for a certain number of loaves, but aside from Copenhagen²⁾ there were no fixed rates for bread, so a loaf could come in many sizes.

During the process of registration there were a number of items that were noted, but that subsequently have not been included. The following items are thus omitted: rye flour, oatmeal flour, crushed buckwheat (i.e. rolled buckwheat groats), hulled barley and hulled wheat.

2. Delimitation Problems.

What distinguishes this group is that it includes only processed commodities. While this has entailed no significant problems in defining the group in relation to other main groups, there have been some difficulties in distinguishing some of the commodities from each other within the group. The main problem is that some of the items included in the commodity list are produced during phases of the same production process which are not easily distinguishable. Thus hulled barley is the designation for a product that cannot be located in

2) Astrid Friis and Kristof Glamann: *A History of Prices and Wages in Denmark, 1660-1800*, Vol I. Copenhagen 1958 ("Friis and Glamann"). pp. 143-151.