

# Hungary Is Small, Changing Country Today

(Editor's note: Hungary in its long history has suffered much under conquerors as have so many of the countries of middle and eastern Europe. More than 1,000 years ago the Asiatic Huns came sweeping in from the Siberian plain, in this century it has been the Nazis and Russians. But life goes on, and here is a look at Hungary today. The dispatch is another in a series by United Press International reporters living and working in countries around the world.)

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Budapest — Hungary, once part of central Europe's sprawling and powerful Austro-Hungarian empire, is a small country today — and a changing one.

Once almost entirely agrarian, it is becoming ever more industrialized. The switchover has been dramatic, with 61.9



SHOWS LANDMASS — This UPI newspaper shows the Austro-Hungarian landmass (top) in 1914, and Hungary's land area as it is today (bottom). (UPI)



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a wide variety of rulers. Today, chewed down by wars and politics, it covers 35,910 square miles, roughly the size of the state of Indiana. But it is 11 times more densely populated than Indiana, with 10,800,000 people.

Hungary is bordered, geographically, by Austria on the west, Romania on the east, Yugoslavia on the south and Czechoslovakia and the USSR to the north. Its climate is typical middle European, hot dry summers and cold winters.

Roughly one-fifth of Hungary's people, or 2,200,000, live in Budapest, the capital city. The Danube runs through the city with Buda on one side and Pest on the other.

Hungary is a "people's democracy" in government, tied to the East. Its premier is Janos Kadar who also is first secretary of the Hungarian Communist party.

Hungary's economy is based on the "plan" system. After World War II a land reform program was instituted which ended in 1961 with complete collectivization of the agricultural industry. All the country's industry is state owned and operated and has been since 1949.

**Living Is Modest**

The standard of living, by Western standards, is modest but there is no unemployment. The average monthly income in business and industry is about 1,580 forints or just under \$70 (the tourist rate of exchange equals 23 forints to the dollar). There is no income tax, and premiums for children and other benefits raise

the family income slightly. The state provides free medical, dental and maternal care and schooling through the first eight years is state-financed.

A low birth rate is a national concern. Exact figures are not known but a recent estimate noted that the number of legal abortions exceeded the birth rate by some 20 per cent.

**Both Work**

A typical middle class family in Hungary today is that of Endre Szekely and his wife Klari.

A black-haired and powerfully built man, Szekely works in a motorcycle repair factory where he earns about 2,000 forints a month. Klari also works, at an elementary school where she takes care of children whose parents are at work. For this she earns about 1,250 forints a month, for a 4½ hour day six days a week. Klari has another source of income, painting colorful designs on textiles during spare time at home, for a housing industry cooperative. The demand for this work is not steady but when

## Business Said at High Level for Retail Merchants

For Jackson county's retail merchants, business was at a high level in the past year as local residents returned to the market place in force.

One reason given for this upsurge was that incomes were higher, on the average. Another is that the recession that was threatened failed to materialize.

Just how consumers in the local area and those in other sections of the country spent their money during the year is brought out by the Standard Rate and Data Service in its annual study of the nation's markets.

**For Food, Cars**

In Jackson county, it shows, much of the consumer's dollar went for food and for automotive equipment.

Stores selling these products accounted for over 52 per cent of all retail business.

That was more than they attracted elsewhere in the United States, 43 per cent. In the Pacific States it was also 43 per cent.

The breakdown reveals that total purchases of food last year in the local bakeries, grocery stores, butcher shops, supermarkets and the like amounted to \$24,456,000, an increase over the previous year's \$23,600,000.

**Not Restaurants**

The total, which constituted 26 per cent of all retail business locally, covers only food that was bought for home consumption. It does not include expenditures in restaurants and in other eating and drinking places.

Food purchases in Jackson county were equivalent to \$990 per family, determined by dividing the total amount by the number of local households.

Outlets for cars and other automotive equipment, such as boats, motorcycles and accessories, accounted for \$25,161,000. This was equal to more than 25 per cent of the retail dollar.

Good sales volumes were also recorded by other retail lines.

Department stores and variety shops selling general merchandise grossed \$8,587,000, equal to 9 per cent of the dollar.

Those selling apparel, including shoes, hats, underwear and other clothing, had a \$2,737,000 total, or 3 per cent.

Home furnishings stores reported a \$3,868,000 volume, equivalent to 4 per cent.

## GSA Announces Sale Of Used Equipment

The General Services Administration has announced sale by sealed bid of government properties including used vehicles, equipment and miscellaneous items. The sales will be located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

Locations of property and description of items in this area and information for procuring bid forms are being released by the General Services Administration, Seattle, Wash.

she has orders she supplements the family income by about 500 forints a month.

The Szekelys have two children, a son and daughter both in their teens. Each child is given 60 forints a month pocket money.

The family's apartment on the sixth floor of a Budapest apartment house is rather too small for its needs — three rooms plus kitchen, bath, boyer and a walk-in closet — but the rent of 383 forints a month is all they can afford. They also have the benefit of a two-room summer and

week end cottage on the shore of Lake Balaton. It was bought by Szekely's mother, who lives with them and contributes 100 forints per month of her 421 forints pension — she is the widow of a railroad worker — to the family budget.

**Have a TV Set**

Endre and Klari have a television set and it is a popular form of entertainment for the family. Their only other appliance is an electric coffee grinder. Klari is saving for a refrigerator and expects to get it next year. Grand-

mother Szekely is putting aside for a vacuum cleaner and both women of the family dearly would like to own a floor-waxer.

The Szekelys are relatively content. They have all they really need but, like most other Hungarian families, not much more. Endre Szekely is philosophic about his life. He summed it up for a reporter this way:

"One shouldn't take life too unhappily. We've seen bad days enough but now it is little by little getting better. One can't really complain."



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