

2.3 LETTERS INLAND - HYPERINFLATION PERIOD - 1945-1946

Postal services were progressively disrupted from mid-1944 to early 1945 as the Russian Red Army advanced across Hungary. Wartime rates continued until 01.05.1945 when postal stability was achieved, but the rates were immediately increasing as a result of the start of hyperinflation.

Table 1: Second inflation period – 1945-1968

Rate period	Start date	Local			National		
		20 g	250 g	500 g	20 g	250 g	500 g
1	01-05-1945	50 <i>f</i>	1 <i>P</i>	1.5 <i>P</i>	1 <i>P</i>	2 <i>P</i>	3 <i>P</i>
2	02-07-1945	2 <i>P</i>	3 <i>P</i>	4 <i>P</i>	3 <i>P</i>	4 <i>P</i>	5 <i>P</i>
3	16-09-1945	6 <i>P</i>	8 <i>P</i>	10 <i>P</i>	10 <i>P</i>	15 <i>P</i>	20 <i>P</i>
4	01-11-1945	40 <i>P</i>	50 <i>P</i>	60 <i>P</i>	60 <i>P</i>	90 <i>P</i>	120 <i>P</i>
5	16-11-1945	80 <i>P</i>	100 <i>P</i>	120 <i>P</i>	120 <i>P</i>	180 <i>P</i>	240 <i>P</i>
6	14-01-1946	400 <i>P</i>	600 <i>P</i>	900 <i>P</i>	600 <i>P</i>	900 <i>P</i>	1.2 <i>eP</i>
7	01-02-1946	2 <i>eP</i>	3 <i>eP</i>	4 <i>eP</i>	3 <i>eP</i>	4 <i>eP</i>	6 <i>eP</i>
8	01-03-1946	10 <i>eP</i>	15 <i>eP</i>	20 <i>eP</i>	20 <i>eP</i>	30 <i>eP</i>	40 <i>eP</i>
9	16-03-1946	20 <i>eP</i>	30 <i>eP</i>	40 <i>eP</i>	40 <i>eP</i>	60 <i>eP</i>	80 <i>eP</i>
10	26-03-1946	30 <i>eP</i>	45 <i>eP</i>	60 <i>eP</i>	60 <i>eP</i>	90 <i>eP</i>	120 <i>eP</i>
11	01-04-1946	40 <i>eP</i>	60 <i>eP</i>	80 <i>eP</i>	80 <i>eP</i>	120 <i>eP</i>	160 <i>eP</i>
12	11-04-1946	80 <i>eP</i>	120 <i>eP</i>	160 <i>eP</i>	160 <i>eP</i>	240 <i>eP</i>	320 <i>eP</i>
13	23-04-1946	250 <i>eP</i>	375 <i>eP</i>	500 <i>eP</i>	500 <i>eP</i>	750 <i>eP</i>	1 <i>mP</i>
14	01-05-1946	1.2 <i>mP</i>	2 <i>mP</i>	3 <i>mP</i>	2 <i>mP</i>	3 <i>mP</i>	4 <i>mP</i>
15	10-05-1946	6 <i>mP</i>	10 <i>mP</i>	15 <i>mP</i>	10 <i>mP</i>	15 <i>mP</i>	20 <i>mP</i>
16	20-05-1946	24 <i>mP</i>	40 <i>mP</i>	60 <i>mP</i>	40 <i>mP</i>	60 <i>mP</i>	80 <i>mP</i>
17	27-05-1946	72 <i>mP</i>	120 <i>mP</i>	180 <i>mP</i>	120 <i>mP</i>	180 <i>mP</i>	240 <i>mP</i>
18	01-06-1946	240 <i>mP</i>	400 <i>mP</i>	600 <i>mP</i>	400 <i>mP</i>	600 <i>mP</i>	800 <i>mP</i>
19	11-06-1946	2.4 <i>mdP</i>	4 <i>mdP</i>	6 <i>mdP</i>	4 <i>mdP</i>	6 <i>mdP</i>	8 <i>mdP</i>
20	17-06-1946	12 <i>mdP</i>	20 <i>mdP</i>	30 <i>mdP</i>	20 <i>mdP</i>	30 <i>mdP</i>	40 <i>mdP</i>
21	24-06-1946	24 <i>mdP</i>	400 <i>mdP</i>	600 <i>mdP</i>	400 <i>mdP</i>	600 <i>mdP</i>	800 <i>mdP</i>
22	01-07-1946	24 <i>bP</i>	40 <i>bP</i>	60 <i>bP</i>	40 <i>bP</i>	60 <i>bP</i>	80 <i>bP</i>
23	04-07-1946	1.2 <i>ebP</i>	2 <i>ebP</i>	3 <i>ebP</i>	2 <i>ebP</i>	3 <i>ebP</i>	4 <i>ebP</i>
24	08-07-1946	60 <i>ebP</i>	100 <i>ebP</i>	150 <i>ebP</i>	100 <i>ebP</i>	150 <i>ebP</i>	200 <i>ebP</i>
25	12-07-1946	10 <i>eaP</i>	20 <i>eaP</i>	30 <i>eaP</i>	20 <i>eaP</i>	30 <i>eaP</i>	40 <i>eaP</i>
26	18-07-1946	50 <i>eaP</i>	100 <i>eaP</i>	150 <i>eaP</i>	100 <i>eaP</i>	150 <i>eaP</i>	200 <i>eaP</i>
27	24-07-1946	200 <i>eaP</i>	400 <i>eaP</i>	600 <i>eaP</i>	400 <i>eaP</i>	600 <i>eaP</i>	800 <i>eaP</i>
	01-08-1946	30 <i>f</i>	60 <i>f</i>	1 <i>Ft</i>	60 <i>f</i>	1.20 <i>Ft</i>	2 <i>Ft</i>
No further changes until 15.11.1968							

Key:	e = ezer = 1,000	<i>f</i> = <i>fillér</i>
	m = millió = 1,000,000	<i>P</i> = <i>Pengő</i>
	md = milliard = 1,000,000,000	<i>Ft</i> = <i>Forint</i>
	b = billió = 1,000,000,000,000	
	a = adó = tax	

Sources: 'Black Book', Morgan.

Note on 'days of grace'

The frequent changes in postal rates during the Hyperinflation period were often not well-publicised, or failed to get communicated to postal staff in time, and this led to considerable confusion. Consequently, the postal authorities allowed 'days of grace' at the beginning of most new rate periods. On one of these days an item which:

1. had been posted on a designated 'day of grace', and
2. had been posted in a post box and not at a post office counter, and
3. was correctly franked for the previous period

would be delivered without extra charges, *i.e.* without postage due being levied.

The 'days of grace' varied with the length of rate period as follows:

Periods 1-2 –	none
Periods 3-5 –	14-15 days
Periods 6-9 –	7-9 days
Periods 10-11 –	none
Periods 12-21 –	3 days
Periods 22-27 –	1 day

For periods 12-27 recipients had only to pay any postage shortfall as the amount due, but not any extra penalty.

Postage due stamps were available until 1946, but had little effective value after January 1946 because the highest value available was only 20 *P*.