Introduction

Data for the prices has been excerpted from the ledgers of the merchant house Thomas Clayhills & Son. The firm was active in Tallinn (*Reval* in German), a harbour city on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea that later become the capital of the Republic of Estonia. Even though Tallinn was actively involved in international trade at the time of the Hanseatic League, the days of prosperity were well over by the 18th century. Though, as a capital of the Russian Governorate of Estonia, it remained the main gate of trade between the provincial market and overseas. Th. Clayhills & Son was one of the leading trading houses in Tallinn from its founding year in 1716 to Soviet nationalization in 1940. Rye was traditionally main production and export article of the province of Estonia as well most important trading goods in the port of Tallinn. Th. Clayhills & Son was over the years one of the biggest rye exporter in the town. Though, importance of rye as an export good to western market declined sharply starting from the second half of the 18. century as the vodka distillation in Estonian manors increased. Rye was the main feedstock for vodka industry and Russia became the main export market for it.

The yearly prices are the weighted average of the wholesale purchase prices for the calendar year in Tallinn. The nominal prices are expressed in Russian silver ruble and also in so-called silver price (g Ag per litre).

Sources

The data that are presented in this database have been compiled by the author from his following publication:

H. Vinnal (2012). Der baltische Getreidehandel und das internationale Preisniveau: Der Roggenpreis in Reval im 18. Jahrhundert [Baltic corn trade and the international price level: The price of rye in 18th century Tallinn]. *Forschungen zur baltischen Geschichte* 8, pp. 103-126.

Source for the silver weight of the Russian ruble:

B. Mironov. Silver and gold content of the Russian ruble, 1535-1913, Global Price and Income History Group, <http://www.iisg.nl/hpw/data.php> .

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