

货 huò

Meaning 'goods', the word is composed by the cowry (bei 贝貝 bèi), an ancient Chinese money, and the character (hua 化) which means 'to transform'.

货 / huò is a very common character in Chinese language, which can mean 'goods' or 'commodity'. In the daily life, 货 represents any outcome of work, in manufacturing but also services and products. '干活' gānhuò, literally to 'make goods' is a popular way of saying 'to work' (official documents have even adopted, <https://www.zhihu.com/question/22070909>, the term).

For Chinese new year, people will stock their home with 年货 (nián huò) literally 'yearly goods' : fruits, vegetables, sunflower seeds and other delicacies for the celebrations. Beyond the simple act of producing, 货 is what is transformed by people to make life.