

family

For Building Use Only

economics.

Consumer and Food Economics Research Division
Agricultural Research Service

review

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- 3 Gifts and Handed-down Clothing Important in Family Wardrobes
- 5 Time Spent in Household Work by Homemakers
- 6 Money Value and Adequacy of Diets Compared with the USDA Food Plans
- 9 Use of Apples by U.S. Households
- 10 Occupations of Women Workers
- 12 Budget Guides
- 14 The Cost of Buying a Home
- 16 Home Mortgage Debt
- 18 Price Index Rises for New Houses
- 18 Survey of Occupants of New Housing Units
- 22 The Cost of Chicken, Whole and Parts
- 22 Some New USDA Publications
- 23 Cost of Food at Home
- 24 Consumer Prices

ARS 62-5
September 1969

PROPERTY OF THE
LIBRARY

SEP 29 1969

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT GREENSBORO

D447A

Family Economics Review is a quarterly report on research of the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division and on information from other sources relating to economic aspects of family living. It is developed by Dr. Emma G. Holmes, research family economist, with the cooperation of other staff members of the Division. It is prepared primarily for home economics agents and home economics specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service.

GIFTS AND HANDED-DOWN CLOTHING IMPORTANT IN FAMILY WARDROBES

About 70 percent of the clothing acquired in a year by families with low to moderate incomes in a recent survey in a midwestern city was new readymades bought by the family.^{1/} The 30 percent acquired in other ways included 22 percent received as gifts from outside the family--11 percent new and 11 percent used; 3 percent handed down within the family; 2 percent homemade from new materials; 2 percent bought used; and 1 percent received as pay, bonus, prize, or stamp premium (see table).^{2/}

Children--especially infants--were the most favored members of the family in terms of clothing received from the supplementary sources. For children under 2 years, these items represented 67 percent of the total acquired during the year. These included 31 percent received new and 21 percent used as gifts from outside the family; 12 percent handed down within the family; 1 percent bought in used condition; and 1 percent homemade. Infants' clothing from these sources were mainly dresses, sleeping garments, playsuits, sweaters, coats, sets of skirts or pants with tops, and layettes.

Girls 2 to 17 years old received 39 percent of the clothing they acquired during the year from supplementary sources. These items included 12 percent received new and 14 percent used, as gifts from outside the family; 6 percent handed down within the family; 4 percent homemade; and 1 percent each bought in used condition and received from such sources as prizes and stamp premiums. The girls' items were mainly street dresses, slacks, skirts, blouses, and sweaters.

Boys 2 to 17 years old received less of their clothing from supplementary sources than girls their age. For boys these garments amounted to 29 percent of the year's acquisitions, including 8 percent received new and 13 percent used as gifts; 6 percent handed down within the family; and 1 percent each bought used and received from miscellaneous sources. These garments for boys were mainly sport shirts, sweaters, jackets, and work trousers and jeans.

Women heads of families obtained from supplementary sources 26 percent of the clothing they acquired in a year. This included 6 percent received new and 14 percent used as gifts from persons not in the family; 3 percent bought used; and 2 percent made at home. The items were largely street dresses, blouses, heavy coats, skirts, and slacks.

Wives of male heads of families obtained 25 percent of their clothing from supplementary sources--about the same as the women heads of families. However, these

^{1/} The survey was conducted by the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station under a cooperative agreement with the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division. Geitel Winakor, professor of textiles and clothing, Iowa State University, is the project leader.

^{2/} In this analysis, the number of each type of garment acquired--whether bought new or used, handed down, homemade, or received as a gift--was weighted by the average price paid by the survey families for the new ready-made item. The weights, therefore, do not represent the dollar value of the garments. They are a device for adding together different types of garments, taking into account the relative importance of each in the wardrobe. This method of weighting was described in Family Clothing Inventories and Purchases, U.S. Dept. of Agr., Agr. Inform. Bul. No. 148, 1956, p. 53.

Distribution by source of clothing acquired in a year^{1/} by families with low to moderate incomes and their members, Des Moines, Iowa, 1965

Source of clothing	Total family	Children under 2 years	Girls 2 to 17 years	Boys 2 to 17 years	Female heads of families	Wives of male heads	Male heads of families
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
All sources -----	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Purchased new, readymade	70	33	61	71	74	75	81
Other sources, total ----	30	67	39	29	26	25	19
New clothing, total ---	14	32	17	9	9	14	11
Gifts from outside the family -----	11	31	12	8	6	9	8
Homemade -----	2	1	4	(2/)	2	5	(2/)
Pay, bonus, stamp purchase, prize ----	1	(2/)	1	1	(2/)	1	2
Used clothing, total --	16	34	22	20	17	11	8
Handed down from out- side the family ----	11	21	14	13	14	9	6
Handed down within the family -----	3	12	6	6	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Purchased used -----	2	1	1	1	3	2	2

^{1/} The quantity of each type of garment weighted by the average price paid for new items by these families.

^{2/} 0.05 or less.

wives obtained relatively more of the items as new gifts and homemade garments and relatively less as used gifts and garments bought in used condition. Wives' clothing from these sources were mainly street dresses, heavy coats, suits, blouses, sweaters, skirts, slacks, and nightwear.

Men who were heads of families obtained more of their year's clothing acquisitions by purchase of new items than any other family member. They received only 19 percent of their acquisitions from other sources--8 percent new and 6 percent used, as gifts from outside the family, and 2 percent each bought used and received from miscellaneous sources. The men's garments from supplementary sources were mainly suits, dress and sport shirts, and work clothes.

The data in this study are for the period from Easter 1965 to Easter 1966. They were obtained from 419 families in Des Moines, Iowa, living in census tracts where median family income in 1959 was below the city's median. Of the families in the sample, 15 percent had incomes in 1965 of less than \$3,000, 33 percent \$3,000 to \$5,999, 39 percent \$6,000 to \$9,999, and 13 percent \$10,000 or more. About 12 percent of the families received some money from public or private welfare--8 percent receiving more than 75 percent of their income from this source. The survey included only families with a

husband, a wife under age 45, and 0 to 5 children or with a woman family head under 45 and 1 to 5 children (351 and 68 families, respectively). A total of 367 boys and 342 girls 2 to 17 years old and 124 infants and children under 2 were included.

More information will be available later from this study. The purpose of the study was to investigate acquisition and use of clothing by families, as a basis for low-income clothing budgets.

--Virginia Britton

TIME SPENT IN HOUSEHOLD WORK BY HOMEMAKERS ^{1/}

Despite the automatic equipment and convenience foods available, homemakers today spend many hours on work in and for the home. This is especially true of women with small children and those with large families. Homemakers who are gainfully employed also have long workdays, as they combine homemaking with jobs outside the home. These are conclusions from analysis of data collected in 1967-68 from a stratified random sample of 1,296 husband-wife families in the Syracuse, New York, area.

The average time used for household work by homemakers in the 1,296 families was about 7 hours a day (see table). Those with no children in the home averaged about 5 hours. As the number of children increased, so did the amount of time spent by the homemaker. Her time averaged about 7 hours a day in families with 1 child, 8 hours in families with 2, 3, and 4 children, and about 9 hours in families with 5 or more children. The ages of the children also made a difference. The average time varied from 9.3 hours for homemakers if the youngest child was less than 1 year old to 6 hours if the youngest was 12 to 17 years of age.

In families with gainfully employed homemakers, the number of hours spent in household work decreased as the number of hours in employment increased. The homemakers who were not gainfully employed averaged about 8 hours a day in household work. Homemaking time decreased to about 7 hours a day for women employed 1 to 14 hours a week, 6 hours for those employed 15 to 29 hours, and 5 hours for those employed 30 or more hours a week. If time spent in volunteer work as well as paid employment and household tasks is counted, the working day averaged about 9 hours for full-time homemakers and 10 hours for the women employed 30 or more hours a week.

The reduced homemaking time for gainfully employed homemakers probably reflects, in part, more effective use of time and a tendency to eliminate some household work. But it undoubtedly reflects even more the fact that the gainfully employed homemakers, as a group, had fewer children--small children, especially--than the full-time homemakers.

The New York State College of Human Ecology at Cornell University conducted the survey of use of time in homemaking, on which this report is based. The 1,296 fam-

^{1/} From a paper by Kathryn E. Walker, associate professor in the Department of Consumer Economics and Public Policy, New York State College of Human Ecology, Cornell University. Dr. Walker is principal investigator for the research project that provided the data for this report. The project is being financed in part by a grant from the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division.

Average hours per day spent on household work by 1,296 homemakers, by number of children, age of youngest child, and hours per week of paid employment, Syracuse, New York area, 1967-68

Item	Hours	Item	Hours
All homemakers ---	7.3	<u>Age of youngest child</u>	
<u>Number of children</u>		Under 1 year -----	9.3
0 -----	4.8	1 year -----	8.3
1 -----	6.8	2 to 5 years -----	7.7
2 -----	7.8	6 to 11 years -----	7.1
3 -----	7.7	12 to 17 years -----	6.0
4 -----	8.2	<u>Paid employment per week</u>	
5 or 6 -----	8.5	None -----	8.1
7 to 9 -----	9.2	1 to 14 hours -----	7.3
		15 to 29 hours -----	6.3
		30 hours or more -----	4.8

ilies in the survey provided a total of 2,592 daily records of time use, equally distributed among the days of the week and seasons of the year. Interviewers asked each homemaker to recall time use on the previous day for one record. Another was left for the homemaker to fill out with the help of the family for a designated second day.

Data from the study, which are in the process of being analyzed, will yield much more information about time spent on homemaking tasks. Findings will be reported as they become available.

MONEY VALUE AND ADEQUACY OF DIETS COMPARED WITH THE USDA FOOD PLANS

How does family food spending compare with the cost of the USDA food plans? How likely are diets to be nutritionally adequate in families spending what the USDA food plans cost? Answers to these questions are currently of interest to many people--particularly those using the estimated cost of the USDA plans for setting money allowances for food or for other social welfare purposes. The nationwide household food consumption survey of 1965 is the most up-to-date source of such information on the money value and nutritional adequacy of diets.^{1/}

^{1/} U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dietary Levels of Households in the United States, Spring 1965. U.S. Dept. Agr. Household Food Consumption Survey 1965-66, Rpt. No. 6. 1969. For sale for \$1.00 by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govt. Print. Off., Washington, D.C. 20402.

Money Value of Food Used by Families and the Cost of USDA Food Plans

Of every 10 urban families surveyed in 1965, 1 used food valued below the cost of the economy plan; 2 used food valued below the low-cost plan; and 4 used food valued below the moderate-cost plan (see table). The food used by 4 of every 10 families was valued at or above the cost of the liberal food plan.^{2/}

Percentage of urban families in 3 income groups using food at home valued below the cost of USDA food plans, spring 1965 ^{1/}

Income	Families using food valued below the cost of--			
	Economy plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All -----	10	22	41	60
Under \$3,000 -----	23	38	59	75
\$5,000 to \$6,999 ---	8	19	39	60
\$10,000 and over ---	2	7	21	41

^{1/} Estimated from the distribution of survey families by money value of food per person and the estimated cost of the food plan per person in a family of the average size and composition of the income class.

Of every 10 urban families with incomes under \$3,000, 2 used food with value below the cost of the economy plan; 4 below the low-cost plan; and 6 below the moderate-cost plan. Even among families with incomes of \$10,000 or more, a few used food valued at less than the cost of each of the two lower plans.

To facilitate comparisons such as this, the survey data have been adjusted to the basis of 21 meals per person per week from home food supplies. The estimated costs of the USDA food plan also represent the total cost of a family's food for a week if all meals are eaten at home or carried from home. The survey values include expenditures for food and beverages, plus the retail value of foods that were donated, received as gift or pay, and home produced.

Quality of Diets at Cost Levels of USDA Food Plans

The USDA food plans include foods that provide the Recommended Dietary Allow-

^{2/} Cost estimates for the low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal plans are published quarterly in Family Economics Review (see p. 23). Estimates for the economy plan, which costs less than the low-cost plan, are available upon request from the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

ances set by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.^{3/} A family using food valued at the level of the estimated cost of a USDA plan will have a nutritionally adequate diet if it selects foods of the kinds and quantities given in the plans. However, money alone does not insure an adequate diet. Many families in the 1965 survey who used food with a money value at the level of the cost of the food plans--even the liberal plan--had diets that did not provide recommended amounts of nutrients. Below are preliminary estimates of how many urban families in 1965 had diets that were good and how many diets that were fair or better. Diets were considered good if they provided the recommended allowances (1963) for all nutrients, and fair or better if they provided at least two-thirds of the allowances.

Of the survey families with food valued at the cost of the--	the percentage with good diets was--	and the percentage with diets that were fair or better was--
Economy plan -----	less than 10	less than 50
Low-cost plan -----	30	60
Moderate-cost plan ----	50	80
Liberal plan -----	60	90

On the basis of these findings, about 3 out of 10 families using food valued at the cost of the low-cost plan would be expected to have good diets, and 6 out of 10 might have diets that are fair or better. Less than 1 out of 10 families using food valued at the cost of the economy plan would be expected to have good diets, but as many as 5 out of 10 might have diets that are fair or better.

Because so few families using food at the cost level of the economy plan get good or even fair diets, USDA nutritionists and food economists recommend that public assistance agencies consider the low-cost rather than the economy plan as a standard for money allowances for food. Use of the economy plan as a standard might be justified for families receiving other types of food assistance such as donated foods, free school lunches, or food stamps with value well above what the family pays for them.

A homemaker must have great skill and interest in shopping for and preparing food if she is to provide her family with a good diet at the cost of the economy plan. Many welfare recipients do not have such skill or interest. Moreover, many do not have equipment needed for preparing some of the inexpensive foods that are included in such diets.

Need for expanded programs of education in food selection and nutrition is indicated, because some families at every cost level do not use foods that furnish nutritionally good or fair diets. The need is especially great for families with limited money for food, as at the level of the economy food plan.

--Betty Peterkin and Faith Clark

^{3/} The USDA plans meet the allowances for food energy, protein, calcium, vitamin A value, thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, and ascorbic acid listed in the 1963 and 1968 editions of Recommended Dietary Allowances, Food and Nutrition Board, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. They provide as much iron as the 1963 edition recommends and as the 1968 edition indicates the usual diet is expected to have--that is, 6 mg. per 1,000 calories.

USE OF APPLES BY U.S. HOUSEHOLDS

U.S. households used an average of 32 cents worth of apples a week in spring 1965, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nationwide household food consumption survey. This amount represented about 1 cent of the family's food dollar. About two-thirds of the expenditure was for fresh apples and one-third for processed apple products--mainly canned sauce and juices.

The quantity of fresh apples used during the week of the survey averaged 1.38 pounds per household. The quantity used per person was 0.42 pound, ranging from 0.35 pound in the South to 0.47 in the North Central Region (fig. 1). Assuming 3 or 4 apples to a pound, these levels of use would not permit families to follow the advice of the adage "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." Larger quantities would likely have been reported if the survey had been done in the fall when apples are being harvested.

Information the families gave about the fresh fruits used during the week indicates that apples were more popular than oranges but less so than bananas, since the three fruits were used by 45, 31, and 52 percent of the households, respectively (fig. 2). The proportion using apples varied among income groups, from 30 percent of the families with less than \$1,000 to 51 percent of those at the \$15,000-and-over level.

Canned apples--sauce and slices--were used by 23 percent of the households, varying from 13 percent of farm to 24 percent of city households. More high- than low-income families used canned apples also (fig. 3). Canned applesauce and slices ranked about equal with canned peaches and considerably higher than canned pineapple and apricots in percentage of households using them.

Canned and bottled apple juice, including cider, was used by about 7 percent of U.S. households, varying from 3 percent of those with incomes under \$3,000 to 12 percent with \$10,000 or more (fig. 4). Apple juice ranked considerably lower than canned or frozen orange juice but higher than canned grapefruit juice in the proportion of families reporting its use.

The percentage of households reporting the use of apples and apple products during a week in spring was about the same in 1965 as in 1955. The average quantity of

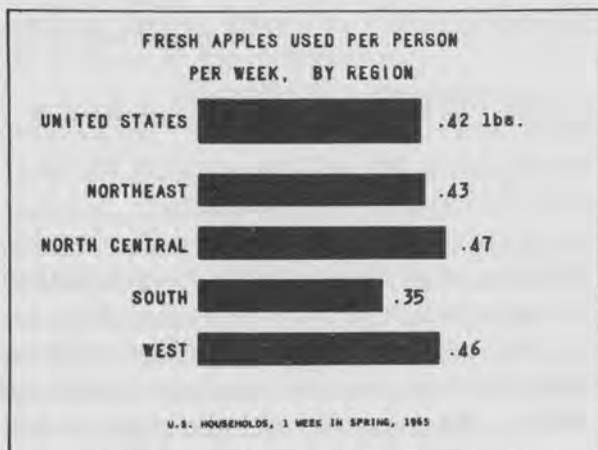


Figure 1

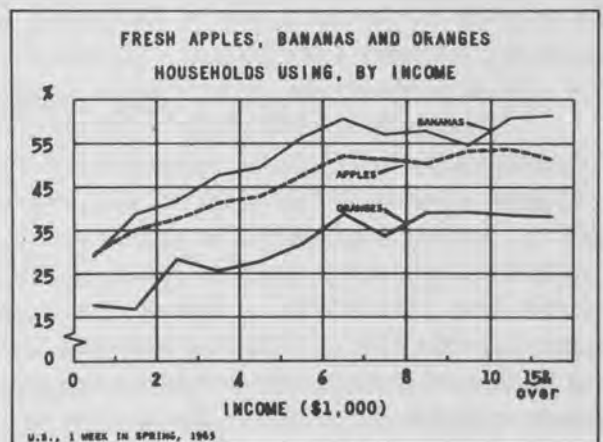


Figure 2

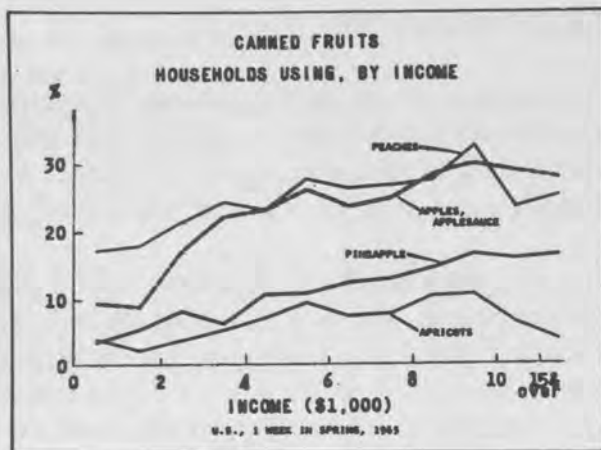


Figure 3

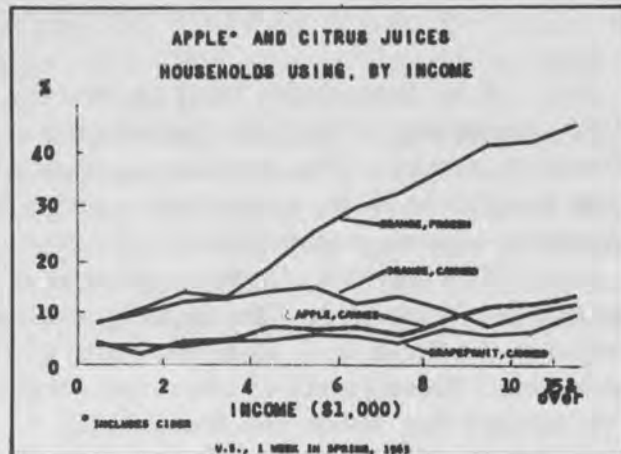


Figure 4

fresh apples used per household was also about the same. However, more families in 1965 than 10 years earlier used canned apple sauce and slices--23 compared with 15 percent--and more used apple juice--7 compared with 2 percent.

Source: Adapted from material in a talk by Daniel A. Swope at the National Apple Utilization Conference in Yakima, Wash., May 1969.

OCCUPATIONS OF WOMEN WORKERS

Women workers in the United States are increasing steadily, both in numbers and as a proportion of the total labor force. The number of women in nonfarm jobs increased from about 16.3 million to 28.2 million between 1950 and 1969, and the proportion of the total nonfarm work force made up of women increased from 31 to 38 percent. The number of women workers increased in each occupational category except private household workers (see table). Women also became a larger percentage of each category except professional and technical workers, and managers and officials.

Women's largest gains in number employed were in clerical jobs. The number of clerical jobs held by women increased from about 4.5 to 9.8 million, raising the proportion of all jobs in this field held by women from 62 percent to 74 percent.

Women's advances in professional and technical jobs--which generally require more education, offer more in job security and income, and involve more responsibility--were less impressive. The number of women in professional and technical jobs increased from 1.9 to 4.1 million between 1950 and 1969. Since the number of men in these jobs increased even more, however, the proportion of professional and technical jobs held by women declined slightly, from 40 to 38 percent. The proportion of the managerial, official, and proprietorial positions held by women remained at 15 percent.

Women in service occupations (other than private household work) advanced from 2.2 to 4.7 million. These occupations include such workers as waitresses, cooks, beau-

Women in nonfarm employment: Number, percentage of total work force,
and distribution, by occupation

Occupation	Number of women ^{1/}			Proportion of work force who were women			Distribution of women workers		
	1969	1960	1950	1969	1960	1950	1969	1960	1950
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total -----	28,224	21,229	16,260	38	35	31	100	100	100
Professional and technical workers	4,114	2,856	1,920	38	38	40	15	13	12
Managers, officials, and proprietors -	1,208	1,021	941	15	15	15	4	5	6
Clerical workers --	9,787	6,525	4,481	74	68	62	35	31	28
Sales workers -----	1,906	1,728	1,516	42	39	39	7	8	9
Operatives ^{2/} -----	4,819	3,676	3,464	17	15	15	17	17	21
Service workers (except private household) -----	4,740	3,277	2,168	59	53	45	17	15	13
Private household workers -----	1,648	2,146	1,771	97	98	92	6	10	11

^{1/} Includes women age 16 and over in 1969, age 14 and over in 1960 and 1950.

^{2/} Includes a few laborers, craftsmen, and foremen.

Details may not add to totals because of rounding. Data are for April of each year.

ticians, practical nurses, policewomen, and cleaning women. Women held 59 percent of the service jobs in 1969, compared with 45 percent in 1950, the largest increase in the proportion of women in any of the occupational fields.

In sales work and in jobs as operatives ^{1/} such as factory workers and laundry and dry cleaning workers, the number of women increased less during the period than in most other occupations, but the increases were still somewhat greater than for men. Women were 42 percent of all sales workers and 17 percent of all operatives in 1969 compared with 39 and 15 percent, respectively, in 1950.

Occupational Distribution of Women in the Nonfarm Labor Force

Of all women working in April 1969, a much larger proportion was employed as clerical workers--such as typists, bookkeepers, office machine operators, and bank tellers--than in any other occupation. About 35 percent were clerical workers, 17 percent operatives, 17 percent service workers (other than private household), and 15 percent professional or technical workers. Only 4 to 7 percent of the women were in each of the other three occupational categories--managerial and official, sales, and private household service. Comparison of these figures with the corresponding ones for 1950 shows that clerical, professional and technical, and service (except household) occupations had increased in favor with women, while the others had declined. The two largest

^{1/} Includes laborers, craftsmen, and foremen.

"white collar" groups--clerical, and professional and technical--together accounted for 50 percent of all women in the nonfarm work force in 1969, compared with 40 percent in 1950.

--Katherine D. Smythe

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Earnings and Monthly Report on the Labor Force. May 1969; and Barry, Carol, "White Collar Employment: II - Characteristics," Monthly Labor Review. February 1961.

BUDGET GUIDES

The Consumer and Food Economics Research Division receives many requests for help with budgets. These requests usually ask how much money or what percentage of income should be spent for food, clothing, rent, and the other budget items. Although no quick and easy formula is available, some useful guides can be provided. These are of two types: "Prepared," "constructed," or "standard" budgets that have been developed by many agencies to answer the question "How much does it cost a family to live?"; and general "how-to" directions for making and carrying out a plan for spending and saving.

Prepared Budgets

USDA food budgets. --One widely used prepared budget is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's estimated cost of food in food plans at low, moderate, and liberal cost. These food plans suggest amounts of food in 11 food groups that together provide a nutritionally adequate diet. The plans and estimates of the cost at home of food in the plans are given for men, women, boys, and girls of different ages. A food budget for any family can be made by adding the costs for persons in that family, using the cost level of the food plan best suited to the family's income and needs. Many welfare agencies use the cost of the low-cost plan to establish money allowances for food.

The estimated cost of food in the USDA food plans is updated every 3 months, to reflect changing food prices. Once a year the costs are calculated for each of the four regions of the United States. The costs of the low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal plans are published in *Family Economics Review* and also as a separate leaflet. An economy plan, costing less than the low-cost plan and for use in emergency situations, is available upon request.

Budgets of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. --The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has prepared budgets for moderate, lower, and higher standards of living for an urban family of four persons--an employed husband aged 38; his wife, who is not employed; a boy 13; and a girl 8. BLS also has a budget for an urban retired couple at a moderate standard of living. Cost estimates for the budgets are given for each of 39 metropolitan areas and for a sample of nonmetropolitan areas with population of 2,500 to 50,000 in each of the four regions. BLS has also developed a scale that can be used to estimate for families of other sizes and types the cost of a budget comparable to that for the 4-person family at a moderate standard of living. BLS plans to revise the budget costs annually.

The BLS budgets are useful as guides for social and legislative programs on wages, prices, credit, public assistance, and taxes; for evaluating adequacy of incomes of groups of families; and for measuring differences in living costs among cities and areas. The budget quantities and pricing specifications can be used to estimate costs for areas not in the BLS list. These budgets are not meant to show how families should spend their money or to use as patterns of spending by families.

Other prepared budgets. -- Many other prepared budgets have been developed, especially by agencies responsible for determining allotments for needy families. These budgets vary widely from place to place, in keeping with local needs, prices, and resources.

Other Budget Guides

The Consumer and Food Economics Research Division of the USDA has prepared three general budget guides. One for beginning families is a bulletin titled "A Guide to Budgeting for the Young Couple." For families a little further along in the family cycle, "A Guide to Budgeting for the Family" is better. These publications give step-by-step directions for planning and carrying out a spending plan, but no set formulas for dividing the income among budget items. They include forms that may be used in setting up the budget and recording expenditures. The third publication, "Helping Families Manage Their Finances," is for use by teachers and other leaders who work with families on budget preparation.

The Federal Extension Service has prepared a publication on budgeting for low-income families called "Managing Your Money... A Family Plan." General budget guides are available from many State Extension offices, financial and business sources.

Following are directions for ordering the budget materials mentioned above, plus a few others. Some are available free, others for sale only. Order by title and number from the source given. Please give your ZIP code with your return address.

- Budget guides prepared by the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division
 - (1) Single copies of the following are available free from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250:
 - A Guide to Budgeting for the Young Couple, HG-98.
 - A Guide to Budgeting for the Family, HG-108.
 - Food for the Young Couple, HG-85.
 - Food for the Family with Young Children, HG-5.
 - Food Guide For Older Folks, HG-17.
 - (2) Single copies of the following are available free from the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782:
 - Cost of Food at Home Estimated for Food Plans at Three Cost Levels. CFE(Adm.) - 256.
 - Sample Menus and Food Lists for One Week Based on the USDA Economy Food Plan. CA 62-20.
 - Family Economics Review. ARS 62-5. (Published quarterly. Includes cost estimates for the USDA food plans and other information relating to budgeting. Mailing list limited to teachers and other professional workers.)

(3) The following are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402:

Helping Families Manage Their Finances. HERR No. 21. (A publication for teachers and adult leaders.) 40 cents.
Food for Families with School Children. HG-13. 15 cents.
Family Food Budgeting... For Good Meals and Good Nutrition.
HG-94. 15 cents.

Budgets prepared by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402:

3 Standards of Living for an Urban Family of Four Persons. Bur. Labor Statis. Bul. No. 1570-5. \$1.00.

Retired Couple's Budget for a Moderate Living Standard. Bur. Labor Statis. Bul. No. 1570-4. 35 cents.

Revised Equivalence Scale for Estimating Equivalent Incomes or Budget Costs by Family Type. Bur. Labor Statis. Bul. No. 1570-2. 35 cents.

Federal Extension Service budget guide for low-income families:

Managing Your Money... A Family Plan. For sale for 10 cents by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

--Emma G. Holmes

THE COST OF BUYING A HOME

Buying a home is the biggest single investment many families make. Few families have enough savings to pay the purchase price outright. The more common practice is to make a downpayment from savings and borrow the remainder, giving a mortgage to the person or agency making the loan. The mortgage terms--the rate of interest and the length of time taken to repay the loan--and the size of the downpayment can make a big difference in the total cost of the home.

At interest rates of 7 1/2 to 10 percent, interest alone on a \$20,000 home may cost from \$12,010 to \$38,720 if the purchase is financed with an \$18,000 mortgage loan payable in 15 to 30 years (see table). A variation of even one-half of one percent in the interest rate makes a considerable difference. The interest on a 25-year, \$18,000 mortgage loan at 7 1/2 percent totals \$21,900, at 8 percent \$23,650, at 8 1/2 percent \$25,380, at 9 percent \$27,200, at 9 1/2 percent \$29,130, and at 10 percent \$31,010. The monthly payments are about \$6 more at 8 than 7 1/2 percent, and \$7 more at 10 than 9 1/2 percent. Although \$6 or \$7 a month may not seem a large amount, it adds up when paid over such a long period of time.

As short a mortgage repayment period as possible is desirable to keep interest costs down. At 8 1/2 percent, interest on an \$18,000 loan repaid in 15 years costs about \$13,900, in 20 years about \$19,480, in 25 years about \$25,380, and in 30 years about

Monthly payments and total interest cost to buy a \$20,000 home, by size of downpayment, rate of interest, and length of mortgage term

Down- payment	Amount borrowed	Monthly payments				Total interest			
		15 yrs.	20 yrs.	25 yrs.	30 yrs.	15 yrs.	20 yrs.	25 yrs.	30 yrs.
7 1/2 percent interest									
Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
0	20,000	186	161	148	140	13,340	18,650	24,330	30,190
500	19,500	181	157	144	136	13,010	18,180	23,720	29,430
1,000	19,000	176	153	140	133	12,670	17,710	23,120	28,680
2,000	18,000	167	145	133	126	12,010	16,780	21,900	27,170
3,000	17,000	158	137	126	119	11,340	15,850	20,680	25,660
4,000	16,000	148	129	118	112	10,670	14,920	19,470	24,150
5,000	15,000	139	121	111	105	10,000	13,980	18,250	22,640
6,000	14,000	130	113	103	98	9,340	13,050	17,030	21,130
8,000	12,000	111	97	89	84	8,000	11,190	14,600	18,110
10,000	10,000	93	81	74	70	6,670	9,320	12,170	15,090
8 percent interest									
0	20,000	191	167	154	147	14,390	20,110	26,280	32,780
500	19,500	186	163	151	143	14,030	19,610	25,630	31,960
1,000	19,000	182	159	147	139	13,670	19,110	24,970	31,140
2,000	18,000	172	151	139	132	12,950	18,100	23,650	29,500
3,000	17,000	163	142	131	125	12,230	17,090	22,340	27,860
4,000	16,000	153	134	124	117	11,520	16,090	21,030	26,220
5,000	15,000	143	126	116	110	10,800	15,080	19,710	24,580
6,000	14,000	134	117	108	103	10,080	14,080	18,400	22,940
8,000	12,000	115	100	93	88	8,640	12,070	15,770	19,670
10,000	10,000	96	84	77	73	7,200	10,060	13,140	16,390
8 1/2 percent interest									
0	20,000	197	174	161	154	15,440	21,640	28,200	35,340
500	19,500	192	169	157	150	15,050	21,100	27,500	34,460
1,000	19,000	187	165	153	146	14,670	20,560	26,790	33,570
2,000	18,000	177	156	145	138	13,900	19,480	25,380	31,810
3,000	17,000	167	148	137	131	13,120	18,400	23,970	30,040
4,000	16,000	158	139	129	123	12,350	17,310	22,560	28,270
5,000	15,000	148	130	121	115	11,580	16,230	21,150	26,500
6,000	14,000	138	122	113	108	10,810	15,150	19,740	24,740
8,000	12,000	118	104	97	92	9,260	12,990	16,920	21,200
10,000	10,000	98	87	81	77	7,720	10,820	14,100	17,670
9 percent interest									
0	20,000	203	180	168	161	16,490	23,160	30,220	37,820
500	19,500	198	176	164	157	16,070	22,580	29,460	36,880
1,000	19,000	193	171	160	153	15,660	22,000	28,710	35,930
2,000	18,000	183	162	151	145	14,840	20,850	27,200	34,040
3,000	17,000	173	153	143	137	14,010	19,690	25,690	32,150
4,000	16,000	162	144	134	129	13,190	18,530	24,180	30,260
5,000	15,000	152	135	126	121	12,360	17,370	22,670	28,370
6,000	14,000	142	126	118	113	11,540	16,210	21,150	26,480
8,000	12,000	122	108	101	97	9,890	13,900	18,130	22,690
10,000	10,000	102	90	84	80	8,240	11,580	15,110	18,910
9 1/2 percent interest									
0	20,000	209	187	175	168	17,560	24,660	32,370	40,490
500	19,500	204	182	170	164	17,120	24,040	31,560	39,480
1,000	19,000	199	177	166	160	16,680	23,430	30,750	38,470
2,000	18,000	188	168	157	151	15,800	22,190	29,130	36,440
3,000	17,000	178	159	149	143	14,920	20,960	27,510	34,420
4,000	16,000	167	149	140	135	14,050	19,730	25,890	32,390
5,000	15,000	157	140	131	126	13,170	18,500	24,270	30,370
6,000	14,000	146	131	122	118	12,290	17,260	22,660	28,340
8,000	12,000	125	112	105	101	10,540	14,800	19,420	24,300
10,000	10,000	104	93	87	84	8,780	12,330	16,180	20,250

Monthly payments and total interest cost to buy a \$20,000 home, by size of downpayment, rate of interest, and length of mortgage term (continued)

Down- payment	Amount borrowed	Monthly payments				Total interest			
		15 yrs.	20 yrs.	25 yrs.	30 yrs.	15 yrs.	20 yrs.	25 yrs.	30 yrs.
		10 percent interest							
<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
0	20,000	215	193	182	176	18,670	26,220	34,460	43,020
500	19,500	210	188	177	171	18,200	25,570	33,600	41,950
1,000	19,000	204	184	173	167	17,730	24,910	32,740	40,870
2,000	18,000	194	174	164	158	16,800	23,600	31,010	38,720
3,000	17,000	183	164	155	149	15,870	22,290	29,290	36,570
4,000	16,000	172	155	145	140	14,930	20,980	27,570	34,420
5,000	15,000	161	145	136	132	14,000	19,670	25,840	32,270
6,000	14,000	150	135	127	123	13,070	18,360	24,120	30,120
8,000	12,000	129	116	109	105	11,200	15,730	20,670	25,810
10,000	10,000	108	97	91	88	9,330	13,110	17,230	21,510

Note: Monthly payments rounded to nearest \$1; total interest rounded to nearest \$10.

\$31,810. When these amounts of interest are added to the original price of a \$20,000 home, the actual cost is between \$33,900 and \$51,810.

A large downpayment also reduces the cost of interest in buying a home. Each \$1,000 of downpayment on a 25-year, 8 1/2 percent loan reduces the interest by about \$1,410. On a \$20,000 home, for example, if the downpayment is \$1,000, total interest on the amount borrowed costs about \$26,790; if the downpayment is \$2,000, the interest costs about \$25,380. A large downpayment may also make a loan easier to obtain and a lower interest rate available, besides giving the buyer a greater equity in the home.

Not long ago the prevailing interest rate was about 6 percent. At 6 percent, interest on an \$18,000 mortgage loan repaid in 25 years would cost about \$16,740 compared with about \$25,380 at 8 1/2 percent--a difference of \$8,640. Monthly payments on the mortgage at 6 percent would be \$116 and at 8 1/2 percent \$145.

A desirable contract for a mortgage loan will provide for the right to repay the loan at a faster rate than originally agreed upon. Then if the family's financial situation improves, it can make larger payments and pay off the debt earlier. This provision is particularly important when interest rates are high.

--Lucile F. Mork

HOME MORTGAGE DEBT

Mortgage debt on 1- to 4-family nonfarm houses totaled \$251 billion at the end of 1968 (see table). It had risen 38 percent during the 5 years since the end of 1963, due to the larger number of mortgaged homes--26 million in 1968 compared with 22 million in 1963--and the larger average debt per home--\$9,600 compared with \$8,395. The average (median) cost of new 1-family homes had increased during the period from \$18,000 to \$24,600. This increase was due partly to higher land and construction costs and partly to the building of larger homes with more equipment included in the price.

About 20 percent of the debt at the end of 1968 was in mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), 13 percent was guaranteed by the Veterans Ad-

Number of mortgaged 1- to 4-family nonfarm houses, total and average mortgage debt, and distribution by type, end of year, 1963 to 1968

Year	Number of mortgaged houses	Mortgage debt					
		Total	Average per mortgaged house	Distribution by type			
				Total	FHA-insured	VA-guaranteed	Conventional
	Mil.	Bil. dol.	Dol.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1963 ---	21.7	182	8,395	100	19	17	64
1964 ---	22.7	198	8,710	100	19	16	65
1965 ---	23.6	213	9,045	100	20	15	66
1966 ---	24.4	224	9,160	100	20	14	66
1967 ---	25.2	236	9,355	100	20	14	66
1968 ---	26.2	251	9,600	100	20	13	66

Detail may not add to totals because of rounding.

ministration (VA), and 67 percent was in other mortgages, commonly known as conventional mortgages. Most of the funds for all three types of mortgage loans were from savings and loan associations, banks, and life insurance companies. Foreclosures on mortgages were at the rate of 3.47 per thousand in 1968 compared with 4.52 per thousand in 1963.

In 1968, 95 percent of the purchases of new 1-family houses were financed with a mortgage loan--62 percent conventional, 20 percent FHA-insured, and 13 percent VA-guaranteed. The median sales prices of the new homes financed with the three types of loans were \$28,500, \$19,400, and \$19,900, respectively. Buyers of higher priced new houses are likely to use conventional mortgage financing, partly because of the ceiling on the amount that can be borrowed on an FHA- or VA-backed loan. Details similar to these are not available on purchases of existing homes, though many more existing than new homes are bought in a year.

The loan/price ratio was higher and the mortgage repayment period longer for FHA-insured than conventional loans made in 1968. On new homes, the average FHA mortgage covered 92 percent of the price and allowed 29.9 years to pay; the average conventional mortgage covered 74 percent of the price and allowed 25.5 years to pay. On existing homes, average repayment periods were shorter--28.4 and 22.7 years for the respective types of loans--but loan/price ratios were about the same as on new homes.

The average interest rate on conventional mortgages in 1968 was 6.83 percent on new and 6.90 percent on existing homes. On FHA-insured and VA-guaranteed mortgages, the highest permissible interest rate was 6 percent until May 1968 and 6 3/4 percent for the rest of the year.

--Lucie G. Krassa

Sources: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: (1) Housing and Urban Development Trends, May 1969, and (2) FHA Trends of Home Mortgage Characteristics, 4th Qtr. 1968. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System: Federal Reserve Bulletin, Oct. 1968.

PRICE INDEX RISES FOR NEW HOUSES

The price index for new one-family houses sold increased about 7 percent from 1967 to 1968, according to the Bureau of the Census. This increase accounted for over one-third of the 18 percent gain in the index since 1963, the first year for which it is available. Indexes for 1963 to 1968 (1963 = 100) and the year-to-year changes are as follows:

Year	Index	Percent change from previous year
1963	100.0	-
1964	101.1	1.1
1965	103.5	2.4
1966	106.5	2.9
1967	110.3	3.6
1968	117.9	6.9

The index is designed to measure changes in sales prices of new houses with the same characteristics. Changes in the average prices actually paid for new houses reflect changes in the characteristics of the houses as well. In contrast to the 18 percent rise in the price index for houses from 1963 to 1968, the average price actually paid for new homes increased about 37 percent due, in part, to the shift to larger houses with more equipment.

SURVEY OF OCCUPANTS OF NEW HOUSING UNITS

The typical owner moving into a new home between October 1965 and March 1966 was a family of 4 or more, headed by a man 25 to 44 years old and his wife, according to a survey by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The nationwide Survey of Occupants of New Housing Units included a sample of households that, between October 1965 and March 1966, had moved as owners into new single-family homes or as renters into new buildings with 5 or more dwelling units. Mailed questionnaires filled in and returned by 2,110 owners and 629 renters provided information HUD has reported in a publication that also reports on a mobile homes survey.^{1/} This article summarizes the survey of new housing units.

New Owner-Occupied Housing and Its Occupants

The occupants.--Most--94 percent--of the households that moved into new homes as owners were families with both husband and wife present (table 1). Nearly all of the couples had been married at least 2 years, and most of them had been married 5 years or more. Almost three-fifths of the households had 4 or more members.

^{1/} U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Housing Surveys, Parts 1 and 2: Occupants of New Housing Units; Mobile Homes and the Housing Supply. For sale for \$1.25 by the Supt. Doc., U.S. Govt. Print. Off., Washington, D.C. 20402.

Many more households owning new homes were headed by persons aged 25 to 44 years than by younger or older persons. Heads aged 25 to 44--the period when family housing needs are likely to be growing--comprised almost two-thirds of the total. In contrast, households with heads under 25 years and 65 years or older were only 6 and 4 percent of the total, respectively.

Annual earnings--wages and salaries--between \$6,000 and \$9,999 were reported by 39 percent of the new owners. About 20 percent earned less than \$6,000 and 27 percent \$10,000 or more. No report on earnings was received from 14 percent.

Of the households that moved into new owner-occupied homes, 54 percent had owned the house from which they moved, 42 percent moved from rented quarters, and 4 percent were newly formed households establishing their first home. Why did they move? The reason mentioned more often than any other--by 26 percent of the households--was that they wanted a home of their own. Other reasons of about equal importance--given by 17 to 20 percent--were the desire for a better house or neighborhood, the desire for a larger or smaller dwelling (usually larger), and job-related motives, such as a job change to a new location or a need to be closer to work. Another 7 percent of the households moved because of a change in family status, such as an increase or decrease in size.

Most of the moves were quite short, 78 percent being less than 25 miles. Only 8 percent of the households moved 500 miles or more.

The houses.--The trend toward larger houses with more comforts is evident in this study. The new owner-occupied houses included 36 percent with 7 or more rooms and only 7 percent with less than 5 rooms (table 2). According to the 1960 Census, houses completed in 1959 and early 1960 included only 16 percent with 7 or more rooms and 21 percent with less than 5. The new homes the survey families moved into were mainly 3- and 4-bedroom houses with more than one bathroom.

About one-fourth of those moving into new owned homes reported paying less than \$15,000 for them. These families probably included most if not all of the 14 percent who did at least part of their own construction work. Only 8 percent paid \$35,000 or more. Mortgage loans were used to finance 86 percent of the purchases, including 23 percent backed by the Federal Housing or Veterans Administration. Downpayments ranged from less than 10 percent (28 percent of buyers) to 40 percent or more (10 percent). Mortgage payments amounted to less than \$100 a month for about 25 percent of the new-home occupants, \$100 to \$150 for 31 percent, and \$150 or more for 24 percent. The rest were not paying on a mortgage or did not report.

New Rental Units and Their Occupants

The occupants.--The households that moved into new rental units of the type surveyed were, as a group, quite different from the new homeowners. Only 62 percent of them were husband-wife households, the other 38 percent included 25 percent made up of a person living alone and 13 percent with other combinations of related or unrelated persons sharing the unit. Almost three-fourths of the renters had households of 1 or 2 persons, and only 9 percent were in the 4-or-more person class that was most common among the new homeowners. The renters were a relatively young group, also. In about one-fourth of the renter households the head was under 25 years and in another one-fourth, 25 to 34 years old. On the other hand, households headed by persons 55 years old or

Table 1.--Characteristics of households moving as owners into new one-family homes and as renters into new units in buildings with 5 or more units, October 1965 to March 1966

Item	Households moving into--		Item	Households moving into--	
	Owned	Rented		Owned	Rented
	Percent	Percent		Percent	Percent
<u>Composition</u>			<u>Tenure, previous dwelling</u>		
Husband-wife -----	94	62	Owner -----	54	21
Other -----	5	38	Renter -----	42	54
Not reported -----	1	-	Newly formed household	4	25
<u>Size</u>			<u>Annual earnings</u>		
1 person -----	2	25	Less than \$6,000 -----	20	25
2 persons -----	21	48	\$6,000 to \$9,999 -----	39	33
3 persons -----	19	18	\$10,000 to \$14,999 ----	19	18
4 or 5 persons ---	44	8	\$15,000 and over -----	8	6
6 or more persons	14	1	Not reported -----	14	18
<u>Age of head</u>			<u>Reasons for moving</u>		
Under 25 years ---	6	23	Desire for own place --	26	2
25 to 34 years ---	32	26	Better home, neighbor-		
35 to 44 years ---	30	12	hood -----	20	19
45 to 54 years ---	17	7	Larger or smaller unit	18	14
55 to 64 years ---	7	9	Job related -----	17	23
65 years or over -	4	7	Change in family status	7	26
Not reported -----	4	16	Other or not reported -	12	16

Table 2.--Characteristics and financing of new owner-occupied one-family homes moved into between October 1965 and March 1966

Item	Homes Percent	Item	Homes Percent
<u>Number of rooms</u>		<u>Purchase price ^{1/}</u>	
4 or less -----	7	Less than \$10,000 -----	8
5 -----	29	\$10,000 to \$14,999 ----	18
6 -----	28	\$15,000 to \$19,999 ----	25
7 -----	17	\$20,000 to \$24,999 ----	17
8 or more -----	19	\$25,000 to \$34,999 ----	18
<u>Number of bedrooms</u>		\$35,000 or more -----	8
2 or less -----	12	Not reported -----	6
3 -----	62	<u>Monthly payments</u>	
4 or more -----	25	Less than \$100 -----	25
Not reported -----	1	\$100 to \$149 -----	31
<u>Number of bathrooms</u>		\$150 to \$199 -----	16
None or partial only --	2	\$200 or more -----	8
1 -----	24	Not reported -----	6
1 plus partial -----	25	None (no mortgage) ----	14
2 -----	30	<u>Financing</u>	
2 plus partial -----	13	Mortgage loan -----	86
3 or more -----	6	Other -----	14

^{1/} For homes built by the owner, out-of-pocket costs only were reported.

over were a somewhat larger part of the renter than the owner sample--16 percent compared with 11 percent.

Of those moving into new rental units, 54 percent moved from another rented place and 21 percent from homes they owned. The others were newly formed households, such as newlyweds and single persons setting up their first homes. Reasons for moving were related mainly to changes in family status, jobs, or a desire for a better home or neighborhood. Relatively more renters than owners had moved 500 miles or more--17 compared with 8 percent.

The income (earnings) distribution was about the same for the renter households as for the owners of new homes.

Table 3.--Characteristics of new renter-occupied units moved into between October 1965 and March 1966

Item	Rental Units	Item	Rental Units
	Percent		Percent
<u>Number of rooms</u>		<u>Gross rent per month</u>	
1 -----	4	Less than \$100 -----	11
2 -----	9	\$100 to \$124 -----	19
3 -----	37	\$125 to \$149 -----	32
4 -----	37	\$150 to \$199 -----	27
5 or more -----	13	\$200 or more -----	7
		No cash rent, no report	4
<u>Number of bedrooms</u>		<u>Utilities included in rent</u>	
None -----	7	None -----	7
1 -----	46	Hot water only -----	13
2 -----	44	Hot water and heat only	4
3 -----	3	Hot water, heat, and	
<u>Number of bathrooms</u>		gas <u>1/</u> -----	31
1 -----	86	Hot water, heat, gas,	
1 plus partial -----	6	and electricity <u>1/</u> ---	29
2 or more -----	8	Other combinations or no	
		cash rent -----	16

1/ Gas either included in rent or not available.

The rental units.--Apartments with 1 or 2 bedrooms were the choice of 90 percent of the renter households and the new units they moved into were about equally divided between these two sizes (table 3 above). About 14 percent of the new units had more than one bathroom. Monthly rents ranged from \$125 to \$149 for 32 percent of the new units and \$150 to \$199 for 27 percent. Only a few--11 percent--rented for less than \$100. All or most utilities were included in the rent for most of the units.

THE COST OF CHICKEN, WHOLE AND PARTS

Poultry is among the least costly and most popular of main dishes. The form in which poultry is purchased often determines how good a bargain it is. Chicken sold whole generally costs a few cents less per pound than chicken cut up. Whole chicken is usually a better buy than chicken pieces, such as breasts and legs, in terms of the amount of meat provided. When whole fryers are 39 cents a pound, chicken breasts are an equally good buy at 55 cents (see table). With whole fryers at 39 cents, breasts provide more meat for the money at prices under 55 cents a pound, less meat for the money at prices over 55 cents.

Price per pound of whole chicken fryers, ready to cook, and of chicken parts providing equal amounts of edible meat for the money

If the price per pound of whole fryers, ready to cook, is--	Chicken parts are an equally good buy if the price per pound is--				
	Breast half	Drumstick and thigh	Drumstick	Thigh	Wing
Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
27 -----	38	35	33	36	21
29 -----	41	37	36	39	23
31 -----	44	40	38	41	25
33 -----	47	42	41	44	26
35 -----	49	45	43	47	28
37 -----	52	47	46	49	29
39 -----	55	50	48	52	31
41 -----	58	53	50	55	33
43 -----	61	55	53	57	34
45 -----	63	58	55	60	36
47 -----	66	60	58	63	37
49 -----	69	63	60	65	39
51 -----	72	65	63	68	41
53 -----	75	68	65	71	42
55 -----	78	71	68	73	44

SOME NEW USDA PUBLICATIONS

(Please give your ZIP code in your return address when you order these.)

Single copies of the following are available free from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250:

- KEEPING FOOD SAFE TO EAT ... A Guide for Homemakers, HG No. 162.
- HOUSE CONSTRUCTION ... How to Reduce Costs. HG No. 168.

The following publications are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402:

- HOW TO BUY MEAT FOR YOUR FREEZER. HG No. 166. 20 cents.
- THE POOR: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY. MP No. 1145. 60 cents.
- LOW-COST WOOD HOMES FOR RURAL AMERICA. AH No. 364. \$1.00.

COST OF FOOD AT HOME

Cost of food at home estimated for food plans at three cost levels, June 1969, U.S. average 1/

Sex-age groups <u>2/</u>	Cost for 1 week			Cost for 1 month		
	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>FAMILIES</u>						
Family of 2:						
20 to 35 years <u>3/</u> ----	17.50	22.30	27.50	75.80	96.90	119.20
55 to 75 years <u>3/</u> ----	14.30	18.70	22.40	62.20	81.00	97.50
Family of 4:						
Preschool children <u>4/</u>	25.40	32.50	39.60	110.10	140.70	171.50
School children <u>5/</u> ---	29.50	37.90	46.50	127.80	164.10	201.80
<u>INDIVIDUALS <u>6/</u></u>						
Children, under 1 year	3.40	4.30	4.80	14.70	18.50	20.80
1 to 3 years -----	4.30	5.50	6.60	18.80	23.70	28.40
3 to 6 years -----	5.20	6.70	8.00	22.40	28.90	34.70
6 to 9 years -----	6.30	8.10	10.10	27.20	35.00	43.80
Girls, 9 to 12 years --	7.10	9.30	10.90	31.00	40.20	47.10
12 to 15 years -----	7.90	10.30	12.50	34.10	44.50	54.00
15 to 20 years -----	8.00	10.20	12.10	34.80	44.10	52.60
Boys, 9 to 12 years ---	7.30	9.50	11.40	31.70	41.00	49.60
12 to 15 years -----	8.60	11.30	13.50	37.10	48.90	58.50
15 to 20 years -----	9.90	12.60	15.20	42.80	54.50	65.90
Women, 20 to 35 years -	7.40	9.40	11.40	32.00	40.90	49.40
35 to 55 years -----	7.10	9.10	11.00	30.70	39.40	47.60
55 to 75 years -----	6.00	7.80	9.30	26.00	33.90	40.50
75 years and over ---	5.40	6.90	8.50	23.60	30.10	36.90
Pregnant -----	8.80	11.00	13.10	38.10	47.70	56.60
Nursing -----	10.20	12.70	14.90	44.10	54.90	64.40
Men, 20 to 35 years ---	8.50	10.90	13.60	36.90	47.20	59.00
35 to 55 years -----	7.90	10.10	12.40	34.30	43.80	53.70
55 to 75 years -----	7.00	9.20	11.10	30.50	39.70	48.10
75 years and over ---	6.60	8.80	10.70	28.50	38.20	46.20

1/ Estimates computed from quantities in food plans published in Family Economics Review, October 1964. Costs of the plans were first estimated by using average price per pound of each food group paid by urban survey families at 3 income levels in 1965. These prices were adjusted to current levels by use of Retail Food Prices by Cities, released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Persons of the first age listed up to but not including the second age.

3/ 10 percent added for family size adjustment. For derivation of factors for adjustment, see Family Food Plans and Food Costs, USDA, HERR No. 20.

4/ Man and woman, 20 to 35 years; children 1 to 3 and 3 to 6 years.

5/ Man and woman, 20 to 35 years; child 6 to 9; and boy 9 to 12 years.

6/ Costs given for persons in families of 4. For other size families, adjust thus: 1-person, add 20 percent; 2-person, add 10 percent; 3-person, add 5 percent; 5-person, subtract 5 percent; 6-or-more-person, subtract 10 percent.

CONSUMER PRICES

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

(1957-59 = 100)

Group	July 1968	May 1969	June 1969	July 1969
All items -----	121.5	126.8	127.6	128.2
Food -----	120.0	123.7	125.5	126.7
Food at home -----	116.7	119.8	121.8	123.0
Food away from home -----	136.5	142.8	143.7	144.8
Housing -----	119.5	125.8	126.3	127.0
Shelter -----	124.2	132.4	133.0	134.0
Rent -----	115.1	118.1	118.5	118.8
Homeownership -----	127.8	138.0	138.7	140.0
Fuel and utilities -----	110.6	112.6	112.7	112.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.7	117.5	117.5	117.4
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	111.2	111.3	110.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.1	117.4	117.9	118.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	119.7	126.6	127.0	126.8
Men's and boys' -----	120.1	128.1	128.5	128.1
Women's and girls' -----	115.7	122.4	122.7	122.5
Footwear -----	132.0	139.6	140.1	139.9
Transportation -----	119.8	124.0	124.6	124.3
Private -----	117.6	121.2	121.8	121.4
Public -----	138.5	148.0	149.1	149.5
Health and recreation -----	130.2	135.7	136.3	137.0
Medical care -----	145.1	154.5	155.2	155.9
Personal care -----	120.4	125.8	126.2	126.6
Reading and recreation -----	125.9	130.2	130.4	130.7
Other goods and services -----	123.9	126.9	127.9	129.1

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Family Living Items

(1957-59 = 100)

Item	July 1968	March 1969	April 1969	May 1969	June 1969	July 1969
All items -----	118	122	122	123	123	123
Food and tobacco -----	-	121	-	-	125	-
Clothing -----	-	137	-	-	137	-
Household operation -----	-	118	-	-	119	-
Household furnishings -----	-	105	-	-	105	-
Building materials, house --	-	127	-	-	126	-

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Reporting Service.