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FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW

**Institute of Home Economics, Agricultural Research Service,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Prepared for home agents and home economics specialists of the Agricultural Extension Service, this publication reports current developments in family and food economics, and economic aspects of home management.

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OLDER PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN FOOD SURVEY

Many older people are being independent these days, and continuing to maintain their separate establishments instead of doubling up with the younger generation. What kind of households are these where one or two older people live in their own home or apartment and do their own cooking? How well are they getting along?

The Institute of Home Economics conducted a survey of this group in Rochester, New York, in the spring of 1957, mainly to learn about the diets and food practices of older persons. Each household in the study included at least one member who was 65 years of age or over who was a beneficiary of Old Age and Survivors Insurance. The Social Security Administration had provided a sample of OASI beneficiaries, from which had been eliminated all those receiving lump sum payments only, benefits for children, or benefits for disabilities. Interviewers visited this sample of households to determine eligibility for the dietary study. The eligible group included only those that (1) lived alone or with one other person 55 years old or over, and (2) kept house in the sense that they prepared at least 10 meals from home food supplies during the week preceding the interview.

Half of the households visited failed to meet the eligibility requirements given above. In this group were 33 percent that had more than 2 members (including 6 percent with all members 55 or over, and 27 percent with 1 or more under 55); 10 percent that would have been eligible except that they did not eat their meals at home; and 7 percent that met all requirements except that they had one member under 55.

About three-fifths of the 1- or 2-person older housekeeping households eligible for the food study had two members. (See table 1.) A little under two-fifths were persons--mostly women--keeping house alone. Still, some elderly men do manage alone--8 percent of the total group were single, housekeeping men as compared with 30 percent who were women living alone. Nearly half of all the households were husband-wife families. There were some other male-female (mostly brother-sister) households--6 percent of the total--and about the same number made up of two women. No households with two older men doing their own cooking were found in this sample.

Home ownership was greater in the 2-person than the 1-person households--72 percent of the 2-person and 42 percent of the 1-person households were homeowners. Car ownership was more apt to depend on whether or not there was a man in the household. Only 12 or 15 percent of the households in which one or two women lived alone owned a car, compared with 40 to 50 percent of those in which there was a male member.

Households that rented their homes paid \$54 a month on the average. The amount averaged about the same for both the 1- and 2-person families.

Homemakers in the husband-wife group had less education, on the average, than those in the other groups. Fifty-five percent of them did not graduate from elementary school, as compared with 24 to 32 percent

Table 1.--Characteristics of households eligible for food survey, ^{1/}
by household composition

[Households of selected OASI beneficiaries in Rochester, New York,
spring 1957]

Household composition	Number of house- holds	Distri- bution by type	Percent owning home	Percent owning auto- mobile	Average monthly rent	Percent of homemakers not gradu- ates of elementary school	Percent of homemakers employed away from home
		Percent					
All households.....	337	100	61	32	\$54	44	18
2-persons.....	208	62	72	39	52	49	17
Husband-wife.....	166	49	70	41	52	55	17
Other male-female..	20	6	80	50	56	24	16
2 females.....	22	7	85	15	53	26	21
1-person.....	129	38	42	20	54	32	19
Male.....	27	8	56	48	49	--	--
Female.....	102	30	39	12	56	32	19

^{1/} Housekeeping (10 or more meals from household food supplies), 1 or 2 persons, neither less than 55 years of age and one at least 65. At least one of members entitled to OASI benefits as of December 1, 1955.

in the other groups. The groups differed little with respect to the employment status of the homemaker. About a fifth of the homemakers were employed away from home full or part time.

Although in general the households were very cooperative, not all of those eligible for the food study provided the requested information on food. Sixteen percent pleaded illness, failed to understand, were suspicious and refused to answer the questions, or for other reasons were not able to participate. The characteristics of the households participating in the food study were very similar, however, to those described above for households eligible for the study. Somewhat more of the homemakers in the nonparticipating than in the participating group were employed, and their average educational level was somewhat lower.

The average money value of the food used in a week by the 2-person households reporting on their food practices was \$16.44. (See table 2.) This amounted to 32 percent of their average weekly money income after tax. The average money value of food used in a week by the 1-person households was \$8.27, or 26 percent of income. In comparison, the 2-person urban families in the Northeast region in the 1955 Household Food Consumption Survey had a money value of \$24.83 for food used in a week--30 percent of income--and 1-person households a value of \$12.35--33 percent of average weekly income.

Table 2.--Average income, money value of food from each source, and percent of families having expense for food away from home and food obtained without direct expense at home in a week, by household composition

[Households of selected OASI beneficiaries in Rochester, New York, spring 1957]

Household composition	Total households	Money income (after tax), 1957 <u>1/</u>	Money value of food <u>2/</u> per family in a week					Families having	
			Total	Purchased			Obtained without direct expense <u>4/</u>	Expense for food away	Food at home obtained without direct expense <u>4/</u>
				Total	Used at home <u>3/</u>	Away from home			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent
All households.....	283	2,274	13.29	12.96	12.50	0.46	0.33	18.1	41.0
2-persons.....	174	2,666	16.44	16.06	15.54	.52	.38	19.1	42.0
Husband-wife.....	143	2,641	16.77	16.38	15.89	.49	.39	17.5	40.6
Other male-female...	13	2,921	14.91	14.66	14.23	.43	.25	25.0	30.8
2 females.....	18	2,880	15.14	14.76	13.74	1.02	.38	36.4	61.1
1-person.....	109	1,649	8.27	8.02	7.65	.37	.25	16.5	39.4
Male.....	23	1,669	8.59	8.38	7.62	.76	.21	17.4	26.1
Female.....	86	1,643	8.18	7.92	7.66	.26	.26	16.3	43.0

1/ Based on households reporting income. A total of 231 out of 283 reported income.

2/ Includes alcoholic beverages.

3/ Includes food eaten in the home by nonfamily members.

4/ Food home-produced or received as gift or as payment for services rendered.

Of course the lesser food needs of the Rochester families would account for some of this difference. All of the persons in the Rochester study were 55 years of age or over, and the average age was 72 years. In the Northeast urban households in 1955, only 46 percent of the meals in the 2-person and 70 percent in the 1-person households were served to persons 55 years and older.

Another factor in the relatively low expense for food by the Rochester group was the limited extent to which they had expense for meals away from home. Only 19 percent of the 2-person and 17 percent of the 1-person households had such expenditures, as contrasted with 78 percent of the 2-person and 66 percent of the 1-person Northeast urban households in the 1955 study.

An appraisal is underway of the diets of the Rochester group in terms of the requirements for their age and activity and as related to some of their health problems as they reported them.

--Janet Murray.

NEW POULTRY INSPECTION LAW IN EFFECT

On January 1, 1959, the poultry inspection law passed in August 1957 went into effect. Now all poultry and poultry products moving in interstate commerce are required to be inspected for wholesomeness. This means that each bird must be examined thoroughly for evidences of disease or other conditions that would make it unfit for food. Inspected poultry and poultry products eligible for movement in interstate commerce are identified by a mark in the form of a circle containing the words "Inspected for Wholesomeness by U. S. Department of Agriculture." The Department of Agriculture provides this inspection service free.

Previously, all poultry inspection was voluntary--that is, the processor could have it done if he wished, but was not obliged to do so. It is still voluntary for processors not engaging in interstate commerce. The processor electing to have his products inspected pays a fee for the service.

Consumers who buy inspected poultry and poultry products bearing the Federal inspection mark can be sure they are getting meat from healthy birds processed in sanitary surroundings, and that it is labeled truthfully.

Further information about poultry inspection, as well as about poultry grading, is available in Poultry - Grading and Inspection, Agricultural Information Bulletin No. 173, USDA.

TRENDS IN PER CAPITA FOOD SUPPLIES

The American food supply contains a wider variety of foods and more of certain important nutrients today than at the beginning of the century. Several factors have played a part in bringing about these changes. Technological advances in agriculture and marketing have increased the quantities and kinds of foods in the market. Higher incomes have enabled more people to buy the kinds of foods they want. Furthermore, people have become more aware of the importance of nutrition.

The national food supply figures, a historical series dating back to 1909, are a means of measuring longtime trends in consumption of food and nutrients. They provide a basis for judging what is happening to the average level of consumption for the country as a whole, though not for evaluating the diets of groups within the population. For the latter type of information we use data obtained directly from families or other groups of consumers.

How we arrive at food supply estimates

Commodity specialists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture provide yearly per capita estimates of the number of pounds of the various foods brought into the Nation's kitchens. These estimates are obtained by adding together the total quantities of food produced in this country each year, the quantities of food carried over from the previous year, and all imported foods. From this total available for consumption are deducted the quantities of foods that are exported, left over at the end of the year, taken by the Armed Forces, or used for feed, seed, or nonfood purposes. Estimated losses occurring in distribution channels are also deducted. The remaining food is considered to have "disappeared" into civilian channels and to approximate annual consumption. This represents economic consumption rather than food actually eaten, since the food supply is measured at the retail level.

These per capita estimates generally reflect year to year changes satisfactorily. However, they may be less satisfactory at times when there is abnormal accumulation or depletion of retail stocks. For example, the years 1945 and 1946 appear to be years of high food consumption and consequently peak years for most of the nutrients. Economists explain these peak years as being partly due to abnormally high stock accumulation by both retailers and consumers.

Trends in food consumption

In brief, the trend has been toward more milk and milk products (other than butter), more meat and poultry, eggs, fats, and sugars. (See charts 1, 2, 3.) We are also eating more green and yellow vegetables and citrus fruits and tomatoes, but less of many of the other kinds of vegetables and fruits, especially potatoes. (See charts 4, 5.) Consumption

of grain products has been steadily downward. (See chart 3.) What effect have these shifts had upon the nutritional value of the food supply?

Total calories are down.--The food supply in 1909 was almost 3,600 calories per person per day, compared with about 3,200 in 1957. The lowered caloric value of the food supply reflects a reduced caloric need. During the past half century we have had a marked decrease in the percentage of the population doing farm work or other kinds of heavy labor. We have had increasing numbers of laborsaving devices on farms, in factories, and in homes. Consequently, people's activities require less energy than formerly. Also contributing to a reduced caloric need is the increasing proportion of elderly persons in the population.

Calories from fat are up.--The share of the total calories derived from nutrient fat increased from 32 percent in 1909 to 41 percent in 1956. Meanwhile the share from carbohydrates decreased from 56 percent to 47 percent. Protein has stayed around 11 to 12 percent.

The average quantity of nutrient fat in the food supply was 126 grams per person per day in 1909-13. In 1935-39 it was 133 grams and by 1956 had reached the high level of 148 grams, an increase of 17 percent since 1909-13. (See chart 6.)

The increase in total fat from 1935-39 to 1956 is derived about equally from animal and vegetable sources. In the contribution to fat of foods from animal sources, the large increase in use of meat, poultry, and fish is somewhat offset by the decrease in use of butter. Lard consumption has decreased slightly and butter consumption is about half of what it was in 1935-39. Although margarine provides 3 times as much fat as in 1935-39, its increase has not quite equaled the decrease of butter. Together the table fats, butter and margarine, are down almost 15 percent as sources of fat. However, salad dressings are now contributing one and a half times as much nutrient fat as two decades ago.

Animal foods move up as source of protein.--At the beginning of the century, flour and cereal products stood first among food groups in supplying protein; the meat, poultry, fish group was second. Consumption of grain products has decreased steadily until now it is only one-half as great as in 1909. As a result, grains have shifted to third place in importance in providing protein. The meat, poultry, fish group has moved to first place and dairy products to second.

All animal products combined have been providing an increasing share of the protein. Two-thirds of the total protein in the food supply today comes from animal sources, compared with one-half in earlier years.

The protein in the food supply was at its highest level in 1909 and again in 1945-46--about 103 grams per person per day. Protein was lowest (88 grams per person per day) in 1935 when meat, poultry, fish consumption dropped to its lowest point. By this time consumption of grain products had declined to a level considerably below what it was in 1909. Since 1946 protein available for consumption has fluctuated between 94 and 97 grams per person per day.

DAIRY PRODUCTS*

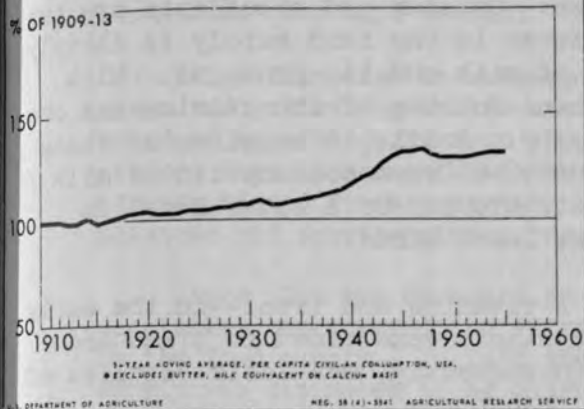


Chart 1

MEAT AND FATS

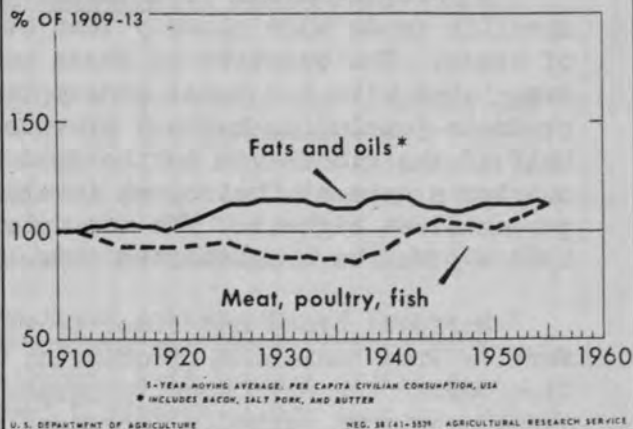


Chart 2

GRAINS AND SUGARS

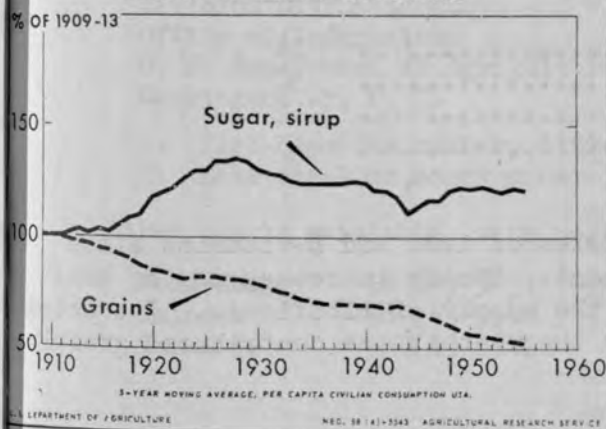


Chart 3

VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

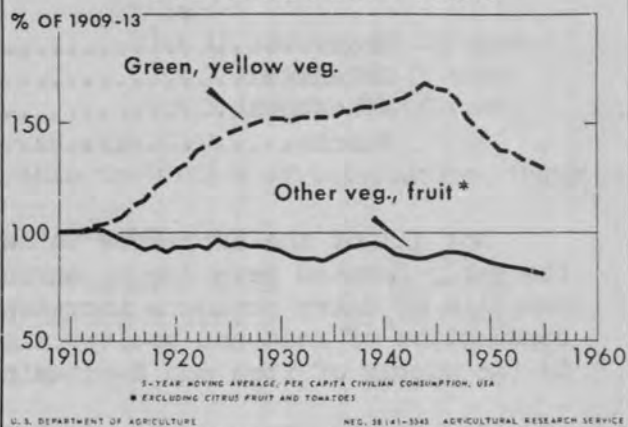


Chart 4

CITRUS, POTATOES

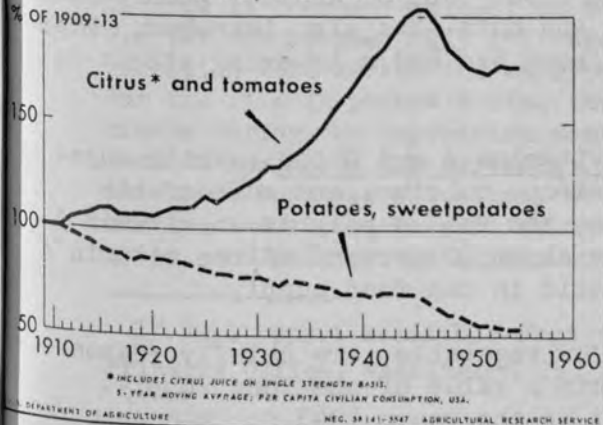


Chart 5

PROTEIN, FAT, CARBOHYDRATE

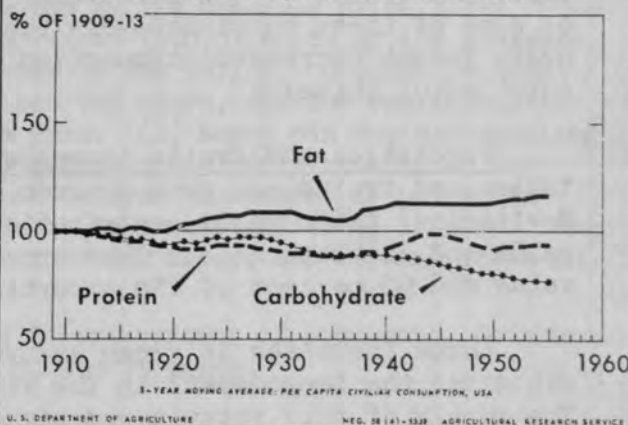


Chart 6

More calcium and riboflavin.--Some nutrients follow the trend of specific foods more closely than others. Calcium and riboflavin are two of these. The quantity of these nutrients in the food supply is closely associated with the total consumption of milk and its products. Milk products (excluding butter) provide three-fourths of the calcium and one-half of the riboflavin in the food supply. Available supplies of these nutrients were at their peak level in 1945-46 when consumption of milk products was highest. The two nutrients dropped to a lower level in 1947-49, and have maintained this lower level since.

Enriched bread and flour provide B-vitamins and iron.--In the early forties iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin were added to bread and flour under the enrichment program. Consequently, available supplies of these nutrients markedly increased at that time.

In 1956 the enrichment of grains added the following to the food supply:

	<u>Percent</u>
Iron.....	14
Thiamine.....	30
Riboflavin.....	11
Niacin.....	15

Not all of the increases in supplies of iron and B-vitamins since the early forties were due to enrichment. Steady increases in the consumption of dairy products increased the supply of riboflavin. Increased consumption of meat and poultry since the midthirties contributed greatly to the supply of iron and B-vitamins.

Despite the important contribution which enrichment of grain products has made to national food supplies of the B-vitamins and iron, these nutrients have been declining in recent years. A major force in counterbalancing the effect of the enrichment program has been the decreasing consumption of grain products which, even before enrichment, were an important source of the B-vitamins and iron. Use of another good source of some of these nutrients--dry beans and nuts--has also lessened. Moreover, recent decreased consumption of pork has had a lowering effect on supplies of thiamine.

Vegetables and fruits increase; vitamins A and C too.--While vegetables and fruits are good sources of iron, calcium, and some of the B-vitamins, their major contribution to the food supply is in vitamin A value and ascorbic acid. They provide about 60 percent of the vitamin A value and 90 percent of the ascorbic acid in the food supply.

Large increases in green and yellow vegetables are chiefly responsible for the improvement in the vitamin A value of the food supply. The supply of this vitamin was highest in the years 1943 to 1946 when victory gardens were popular. The contribution of the potato-sweetpotato

group to vitamin A in the food supply dropped from 27 percent in 1909-13 to about 10 percent in 1956 because sweetpotato consumption dropped by two-thirds over this period.

Large increases in consumption of citrus fruit and tomatoes and green and yellow vegetables accounted for the large and steady upward trend in ascorbic acid from 1909 to 1946. The ascorbic acid level increased more than one-fourth during this period. Increases in the aforementioned foods more than compensated for the marked decreases in potatoes and sweetpotatoes, once major contributors of ascorbic acid.

Since 1946 the decrease in the total consumption of fruits and vegetables has lowered the vitamin A value and ascorbic acid available in the food supply. In 1956 the ascorbic acid content of the food supply was estimated to be only about 8 percent higher than in 1909-13, the vitamin A value 6 percent higher.

--Berta Friend.

Glossy prints of charts on page 7 may be obtained from:

Division of Photography	Prices:
Office of Information	8 x 10 inches, \$1.00 each
U. S. Department of Agriculture	5 x 7 inches, \$0.75 each
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1. List negative number, title, and size.
2. Make check or money order payable to "Office of Information, USDA"

Other charts available, with negative numbers, are:

Food Energy	58 (4) 5537	Vitamin A Value	58 (4) 5544
Calcium	58 (4) 5540	Ascorbic Acid	58 (4) 5546
Thiamine	58 (4) 5542		

RECENT CHANGES IN CONSUMER PRICES

The Economic Report of the President, transmitted to Congress January 20 this year, focused attention on recent changes in prices paid for family living. ^{1/} Consumer prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, rose 2.6 percent between July 1957 and November 1958, in spite of the moderate recession that marked the early months of the period. General reasons for the rise in prices during the last few years, and the continuing increase during the depression months were: (1) heavy and rapidly mounting demands for goods and services; (2) forces not closely related to the immediate business situation, such as delayed adjustment of prices in service industries to earlier increases in prices and costs in other industries, and unfavorable supply conditions for foods; and (3) increases in

^{1/} Full report available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. for 75 cents.

costs of production without commensurate gains in output, due to (a) large additions to and replacement of plant and equipment; (b) rapidly enlarging number of professional and technical personnel; and (c) increased wages, salaries, and fringe benefits.

Prices of some items making up the Consumer Price Index contributed much more to the rise in the index than did others. Higher prices of various kinds of consumer services and of food were major factors in the increase. Prices of manufactured products with the major exception of automobiles, on the other hand, were reasonably stable. (See table 3.)

Services.--The greatest change among major items in the Consumer Price Index was the sharp rise in the price of services, especially services other than rent. (See chart 7.) Service costs were steady during World War II, but have been going up ever since, both absolutely and in relation to commodities. An indication of the growing importance of service costs to consumers is the fact that services including rent accounted for 34 percent of the cost of the entire "market basket" of items making up the index at the end of 1958, compared to 31 percent early in 1950. The change for services less rent was even greater. These services made up 38 percent of the index last year, 20 percent in 1950.

Prices of services provided by public utilities, like electricity, gas, water, telephone, and public transportation, which are government regulated, tend to adjust to inflationary pressures with some time lag. Prices of this group have risen sharply since mid-1957. Such service charges as real estate taxes, car registration fees, postage rates, mortgage interest, and car and property insurance premiums have also made substantial gains.

Another group of consumer services, such as laundry and dry cleaning, domestic help, medical care, personal care, and TV repair, owe much of their total cost to payment for labor. Prices for this group have risen steadily, and considerably more than those of the regulated utilities, because of wage and salary increases.

Rent rose 2.4 percent in the 18 months after mid-1957. This was well below the annual increase just after the war.

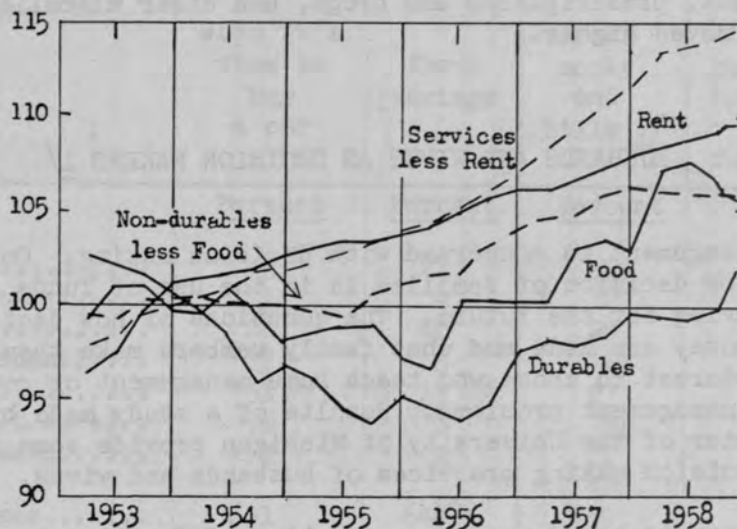
Food prices.--Food prices rose sharply in the first quarter of 1958, leveled off in the second quarter, then declined somewhat. The rise early in the year was due largely to the fact that fewer livestock were marketed and unfavorable weather reduced the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. Also, food marketing costs continued their upward trend because of higher wage rates, freight charges, and expenses incurred in increasing the quality and variety of foods offered consumers in the market.

Commodities other than food.--Increased prices of automobiles, both new and used, were the cause of most of the rise in the index of prices for consumer durables. Prices of appliances continued to decline and furniture prices fell slightly.

Chart 7

CONSUMER PRICES ON A RECENT BASE

Index, 1953-54=100



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 3.--Changes in the Consumer Price Index,
July 1957 - November 1958

Item	Relative importance in index, December 1957 ^{1/}	Percent change, July 1957 - November 1958
All items.....	100.0	2.6
Food.....	28.6	1.7
Other commodities.....	36.4	2.0
Durable goods.....	13.6	4.3
New automobiles.....	3.0	13.6
Used automobiles.....	1.6	9.0
Other durables ^{2/}	9.0	.7
Appliances.....	3.1	^{3/} -1.9
Furniture, bedding.....	1.7	^{3/} -.9
Nondurable goods.....	22.8	.7
Services.....	34.2	4.0
Rent.....	5.8	2.4
Services less rent.....	28.4	4.2

^{1/} Detail will not add to total because a small number of items could not be allocated to any individual group.

^{2/} Includes groups not shown separately.

^{3/} Change from June 1957 to September 1958.

The index for nondurables other than food changed very little between July 1957 and November 1958. Prices of apparel, gasoline, fuel oil, and textile housefurnishings fell, while those of tires, cigarettes, soaps and detergents, prescriptions and drugs, and other miscellaneous consumer nondurables moved higher.

HUSBANDS AND WIVES AS DECISION MAKERS ^{1/}

Home management is concerned with decision making. One of the important areas for decision of families is in the use of funds for buying goods and saving for the future. The questions of how decisions about the use of money are made and what family members make them are of considerable interest to those who teach home management or counsel with families on management problems. Results of a study made by the Survey Research Center of the University of Michigan provide some information about the decision making practices of husbands and wives.

This study is based on a cross section of families in all parts of the United States. The data are from a panel study in which 5 successive interviews were made over a period of 2-1/2 years (1954-1956) and from 2 other studies made in 1955 and 1956. In the interviews, the husbands and wives were questioned as to which made the decision about (1) buying a car; (2) buying household furnishings and equipment; (3) saving; and (4) handling money and bills. Results of the questioning are summarized in table 4.

In urban families the husband was the main decision maker when it came to buying a car. He alone decided about the purchase in 51 percent of the cases, while the wife alone made the decision in only 3 percent. Husband and wife were equally responsible for this decision in 28 percent of the families.

When the purchase of household furniture and equipment was involved it was a different story. This usually took a joint decision of both husband and wife. In 54 percent of the families the two shared equally in the decision. In another 15 percent both took part, but one or the other (usually the wife) took the major responsibility. In cases where one family member alone made the decision it was almost always the wife (25 percent of the cases, compared to 4 percent for the husband).

Decisions about saving were a joint undertaking in approximately half of the families. When such decisions were left to one partner alone it was more frequently the wife than the husband (27 and 15 percent,

^{1/} Adapted from "Do Husbands or Wives Make the Purchasing Decisions?" by Elizabeth H. Wolgast, in the Journal of Marketing, quarterly publication of the American Marketing Association, Vol. 23, No. 2 (October 1958), pp. 151-158. Printed with permission of the author.

Table 4.--Reported decision making patterns in urban families

	Who in your family decides . . . ?			
	When it's time to buy a car	About savings	About money and bills <u>1/</u>	When it's time to buy house- hold goods and furniture
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Wife only.....	3	27	40	25
Wife predominantly.....	1	4	2	11
Both equally.....	28	48	28	54
Husband predominantly...	7	3	2	4
Husband only.....	51	15	27	4
Don't buy (don't save)...	8	3	<u>3/</u>	1
Not ascertained.....	2	<u>2/</u>	1	1
Number of cases.....	651	644	959	661

1/ This question did not appear in the panel study. Comparison of the panel and nonpanel study was made on the savings question, however, and it showed that the two studies matched very closely in this respect.

2/ "Not ascertained's" were excluded here.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

respectively). In the more general area of handling money and bills, decision making was the province of the wife alone in 40 percent of the families, of the husband alone in 27 percent, and of both together in 28 percent.

The general pattern, then, is this: Car purchases are determined by husbands and almost never by wives alone. Decisions to purchase household goods are made jointly or by wives singly. In handling money and bills and saving, responsibility is often shared; where it is not, the wife is more likely than the husband to play the dominant role.

In general, answers from husbands and wives were in agreement about the person or persons who made the decisions. This indicates that family roles were well defined and well understood among family members. The number of responses to the effect that both partners participated in a decision but that one predominated over the other was relatively small. This also seems to indicate that family roles were well defined, and that decisions were usually made either by both husband and wife equally or by one of them alone without undue influence from the other.

Variations in the pattern.--The division of the decision making function seemed to vary little among families at different income levels, except in the case of savings. Higher income increased the husband's

importance on matters of saving, and decreased the wife's. The wife was the sole decision maker on savings in 36 percent of the families with incomes under \$3,000, but in only 9 percent of families with \$10,000 or more. Husbands were somewhat more influential in decisions about car buying and wives in decisions about homefurnishings in higher than in lower income families.

Age had a more marked effect than income in determining who made decisions. With advancing age, and perhaps increased length of marriage, reports of joint decisions declined. In rural families, joint decisions were more frequent than in urban families, and the wife's role seemed somewhat less important. This may be because farm and family finances are usually combined in farm homes.

The fact that the wife was employed seemed to have no effect on her decision making in the areas covered in this study. Wives with children under 6 years of age had considerably less independent responsibility for economic decisions than other wives.

CHANGES IN OCCUPATIONS, 1920 - 1950

The twentieth century has brought many changes in ways U. S. residents earn a living. These occupational shifts reflect social and economic trends of the period, such as (1) the decreasing number of farms; (2) technological advances in industry and agriculture; (3) the rising level of education; (4) improving economic conditions; and (5) increasing employment of women.

The total number of persons in the "economically active civilian population" or work force increased from 42.2 million to 59.0 million during the 30 years from 1920 to 1950. ^{1/} The distribution of these persons among the 3 major occupational groups used in the census classification was as follows:

Occupational group:	Percent of the economically active population	
	1920	1950
All.....	100	100
White-collar workers.....	25	37
Manual and service workers....	48	51
Farmworkers.....	27	12

^{1/} U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Occupational Trends in the United States, 1900 to 1950. Working Paper No. 5 (1958). In the report above, 1920 rather than 1900 is compared with 1950 because of greater comparability of data and because the 1920's are closer to the experience of readers.

Thus, as the importance of farmworkers in the labor force decreased, people moved into other occupations. The greatest actual and relative increase was in the white-collar group, made up of professional and technical workers, managers and officials, clerical workers and sales people. A smaller growth occurred in the manual and service occupations, including craftsmen, operatives, laborers (except farm and mine), household and other service workers.

Changes among men workers

During the 30 years between 1920 and 1950 the number of employed men increased from 33.6 million to 42.6 million, or 27 percent. (See table 5.) This growth represents increase in the number of males of working age almost entirely, for the rate of employment of men remains fairly constant--in other words, most men of employable age work in normal times.

The drop from 10.2 to 6.4 million farmworkers represented a 38 percent decrease. Manual and service workers increased from 16.2 million in 1920 to 23.2 million in 1950, and white-collar workers from 7.2 to

Table 5.--Distribution by major occupational group for men and women in the economically active civilian population, 1920 and 1950 ^{1/}

Occupational group	Number of workers (millions) ^{2/}				Percent of workers			
	1920		1950		1920		1950	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
All.....	33.6	8.6	42.6	16.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
White-collar workers.....	7.2	3.4	13.0	8.6	21.4	38.8	30.5	52.5
Professional, technical..	1.3	1.0	3.1	2.0	3.8	11.7	7.2	12.2
Managers, officials, etc.	2.6	.2	4.5	.7	7.8	2.2	10.5	4.3
Clerical and kindred.....	1.8	1.6	2.7	4.5	5.3	18.7	6.4	27.4
Sales workers.....	1.5	.5	2.7	1.4	4.5	6.3	6.4	8.6
Manual and service workers.	16.2	4.1	23.2	7.2	48.2	47.6	54.6	43.9
Craftsmen.....	5.4	.1	8.1	.3	16.0	1.2	19.0	1.5
Operatives.....	4.8	1.7	8.7	3.3	14.4	20.2	20.5	20.0
Laborers (except farm)...	4.7	.2	3.7	.1	14.0	2.3	8.8	.8
Private household.....	.1	1.4	.1	1.5	.2	15.8	.2	8.9
Other service.....	1.2	.7	2.6	2.1	3.6	8.1	6.0	12.6
Farmworkers.....	10.2	1.2	6.4	.6	30.4	13.5	14.9	3.7

^{1/} Due to changes in Census definitions the "economically active civilian population" was slightly different in makeup in 1920 and 1950. In 1920 it included all "gainful workers" 10 years old or over; in 1950 all persons 14 years old or over in the "experienced labor force." The 10-13 age group was retained in the 1920 data because, the author states, "This approach provides a more accurate picture of the pre-1940 work force..."

^{2/} Figures rounded to the nearest tenth.

13.0 million. Percentagewise, the increase in white-collar workers was the more important (81 percent, compared to 44 percent for manual and service jobs). In the white-collar category the increase in professional and technical men was outstanding. About 7 percent of all male civilian workers were in professional and technical jobs in 1950, compared to 4 percent in 1920.

Changes in women's occupations

During the 30 years the number of economically active civilian women increased from 8.6 to 16.4 million, or 90 percent. In the same years the population of females in the working age groups increased from 41 to 57 million, 2/ or approximately 40 percent. Thus the growth in the number of working women reflects not only population growth, but a substantially higher rate of employment among women in 1950 than in 1920.

In actual numbers, women in white-collar jobs more than doubled (rising from 3.4 million to 8.6 million); those in manual and service jobs increased by about 3/4 (from 4.1 to 7.2 million); and the relatively small group in farmwork was cut in half. In 1950, 52 percent of the employed women were in jobs classed as white-collar work, compared to 39 percent in 1920.

The proportion of all women workers who were doing professional and technical work--a subgroup of the white-collar category--was about the same in 1950 as in 1920 (12 percent). But because the number of men in professional and technical jobs had increased relatively more than that of women, women were a somewhat less important part of the entire professional-technical group in 1950 than 3 decades earlier. They held 40 percent of these jobs at the midcentury, compared with 44 percent in 1920. The following shows the change in three subgroups of professional and technical workers:

Occupational group:	Female workers as a percent of total	
	1920	1950
All professional and technical workers..	<u>44</u>	<u>40</u>
College teachers and presidents.....	30	23
Other teachers (except art, music, dancing, etc.).....	84	75
Technicians (medical, dental, etc.)...	57	36

On the gain among professional women were physicians and surgeons, who increased from 5 percent of all physicians and surgeons in 1920 to 6 percent in 1950. But women in these professions were a small group at both periods--some 7,000 in 1920 and 12,000 30 years later--and less

2/ U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports. Population Estimates, Series P-25, Nos. 114 and 146.

than 1 percent of all women workers. Women in managerial, official, and proprietary capacities (another subgroup of the white-collar category) made more progress, increasing from 7 percent of the total number in these jobs in 1920 to 14 percent in 1950.

Although the number of women in manual and service jobs increased, the proportion dropped from 48 percent of all working women to 44 percent. Notable in this connection is the decline in household servants. In 1920, 16 percent of all employed women were in service in private homes; at midcentury only 9 percent were domestics. Counterbalancing this drop was the rise in employment as other types of service workers, such as waitresses and cooks in places other than private homes, as beauticians, charwomen, and practical nurses. Such service jobs took 8 percent of women workers in 1920, and 13 percent in 1950.

CENSUS ESTIMATES FUTURE POPULATION 1/

Those concerned with long-range planning may want to take another look at their plans, if they are based on projections of U. S. population. The Bureau of the Census has modified its 1955 estimates and come up with higher figures. It sees the possibility of total U. S. population reaching 244 million by 1975 instead of 228 million, the earlier estimate. Looking ahead to 1980, our population may be up as high as 273 million, or half again as much as the 174 million of July 1958.

Changing age groups

No let-down for schools.--The number of children of elementary school age will continue to grow. By 1975, there may be nearly 12 million more between 5 and 13 years old. (See table 6.) Since nearly all children between these ages go to school, it will require careful planning to accommodate them. Percentagewise, this age group will increase somewhat less than population as a whole (38 percent and 40 percent, respectively), and considerably less than the next two age groups.

Classrooms for high school age persons will be a problem, too. This group (between 14 and 17 years) is expected to increase 6 million (60 percent) by 1975. The largest percentagewise increase of all--79 percent--is expected in the college-age group, those between 18 and 21 years of age. Assuming that the same proportion as now tries to enter college, there can be no let-down in planning for college facilities and faculty. If the proportion grows, as it is likely to do, the needs will be even greater.

1/ From: U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports. Series P-25, No. 187 (November 1958) and Series P-20, No. 90 (December 1958).

Table 6.--Growth in school age population

Age group (years)	Total number		Increase, 1958-1975	
	1958	1975 ^{1/}		
	Millions	Millions	Millions	Percent
5 to 13.....	31.1	42.9	11.8	38
14 to 17.....	10.6	17.0	6.4	60
18 to 21.....	9.1	16.3	7.2	79

^{1/} Assumes fertility will remain constant at the 1955-57 level.

Many of these young people will not go to college, of course, but will enter the labor force instead. Persons in the college-age group and those slightly older, 22 to 24 years of age, make up the majority of new workers in the labor force. In about 10 years this group will consist entirely of persons born since the end of World War II, the beginning of the sharp increase in birth rates. The high rate of growth in this group is expected to lower the average age of workers by 1980.

Number of oldsters on increase.--Persons 65 years and over will continue to increase in number and as a proportion of total population. Estimates indicate that by 1980 there will be about 25 million oldsters, almost 10 million more than in 1957. ^{2/}

The proportion of increase expected in our adult population is:

Percent of increase over 1957

	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>
25 to 44 years.....	15	32
45 to 64 years.....	27	27
65 years and over.....	48	66

The ratio of men to women in the 65 years and over group will continue to decline. Women now tend to live longer than men by an average of six years and the spread between death rates of men and women is increasing. Also, the proportion of men to women among immigrants has changed. Early in the century immigrants were mainly men. Beginning about 1930, and after World War II when servicemen began bringing home their war brides, more women than men have come.

The middle years.--The number of adults between 25 and 44 is expected to be about one-third larger in 1980 than in 1957. Since this is a lower rate of growth than expected for the total population, this group will be a relatively less important part of the population than at present--24 percent as compared to 28 percent.

^{2/} 1958 figures not given.

The 45 to 65 year age group will also increase at a lower-than-average rate, becoming a smaller proportion of total population by 1980. It will probably be about 17 percent compared to 20 percent in 1957.

Other changes coming

Here are some additional changes we can look forward to:

- The number of households is expected to increase from the 50 million existing in 1958 to about 69 to 76 million in 1980 (40-50 percent).
- Women living alone or as heads of households including no relatives are becoming more numerous and are expected to increase even faster than heretofore. These households were 9 percent of the total in 1958, but may be 10 to 13 percent in 1980. Only about 4 percent of households are maintained by men living alone or with unrelated persons; this proportion is not expected to change.
- The number of families--groups of related persons living together--is expected to increase from the 1958 total of 44 million to 60-63 million in 1980. The number of families is less than the number of households because some households are composed of a single person, or of a group of unrelated persons.
- Family size, on the average, is likely to increase. It was 3.65 persons in 1958, and may be 3.7 or 3.8 within the next 15 years or so. There will be an increase in the average number of children under 18 years per family during this time, but not much change in the proportion of families with children under 18. This ranges between 56 and 58 percent.

TRAVEL SURVEY - 1957 1/

During 1957, U. S. residents took 231 million trips. This amounts to an average of about 1-1/3 trips per person. Our trips were fairly short in duration and distance. We were away from home an average of approximately 5-1/2 days for each trip. Thirty-nine percent of our trips took us less than 100 miles from home. Ten percent took us 500 or more miles away, and 2 percent extended beyond continental United States.

1/ Adapted from U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Travel Survey - 1957. September 1958.

Other source materials include: Current Population Reports. Series P-25, Nos. 168 and 191; Series P-60, No. 29.

These are estimates based on the first systematic nationwide survey of the traveling habits of people in this country. This survey was made by the U. S. Bureau of the Census at the request and expense of the National Association of Travel Organizations.

Each month during 1957, personal interviews were made in 2,000 households, making a total of 24,000 interviews for the year. Individuals from these households were questioned about the number and kinds of trips they had taken--those out of town overnight, or 1-day trips of at least 200 miles for the round trip. If two or more persons took a trip together, each person counted as having taken a trip.

Why do we go?--The Census report groups reasons for making trips under four main headings--business, visiting friends and relatives, other vacation and pleasure, and other personal. Visiting friends and relatives is the most important one, accounting for almost half of the trips. The number of trips of each kind made during the survey year is shown:

<u>Reason for trip</u>	Number of trips
	<u>Millions</u>
Total.....	230.9
Business.....	44.0
Visit friends and relatives.....	106.8
Other vacation and pleasure.....	61.1
Other personal.....	19.0

How do we travel?--Private automobiles were used for the largest share--87 percent--of all trips. Other means of travel--bus, rail, air, or a combination--made up 13 percent. The auto was used for 72 percent of business trips, and 90 percent of each of the other kinds of trips.

Ninety-three percent of the trips under 100 miles were made by auto. When the trip was 500 or more miles, 69 percent were made by this means of travel. The auto was used relatively less often for trips extending more than 5 days than for those lasting a shorter time.

Who does the traveling?--Persons in families with incomes under \$3,000 do relatively less traveling than others. (See table 7.) In 1957,

Table 7.--Extent of travel, by income group

Income group	Percent of families	Percent of all trips	Average number of days per trip
All.....	100	100	5.6
Under \$3,000.....	25	15	6.0
\$3,000 - \$5,999.....	40	41	4.9
\$6,000 - \$9,999.....	27	30	5.8
\$10,000 and over.....	8	14	6.8

this group made up 25 percent of all families, accounted for 15 percent of the total number of trips. People in the \$10,000 and over group, which included 8 percent of the families, took 14 percent of the trips. Travelers in the high income group also stayed longer than others.

Persons living in the Northeast made relatively fewer trips than those in other regions. This is indicated by the fact that persons in this region, making up 25 percent of total population, took only 19 percent of the trips reported. (See table 8.) Those in South and West made more than average.

Table 8.--Distribution of travel, by regions

Region	Percent of total population	Percent of trips
All.....	100	100
Northeast.....	25	19
North Central.....	30	30
South.....	31	33
West.....	14	18

Season for travel.--The peak period for trips to visit friends and relatives or for other vacation and pleasure was July through September. Business travel seemed to remain practically constant throughout the year. Personal trips that were neither principally for business nor for pleasure were fairly uniform throughout the year also.

ESTIMATED COST OF ONE WEEK'S FOOD

USDA food budgets revised slightly

The USDA food plans for children, boys, and girls have been revised slightly since their issuance in Family Economics Review in October 1957, so that the quantities of food for the different sex-age groups provide the food energy and nutrients suggested in the 1958 revision of the National Research Council's Recommended Dietary Allowances. Some changes have been made in the quantities of food in the plans for pregnant and lactating women. The plans for other adults have not been changed.

The 1958 revision of the NRC allowances suggests an increase above the 1953 recommended allowances in food energy for the children 1-3, 4-6, and 7-9 years. The allowances for boys and girls 10-12 have been combined as allowances for children 10-12 years. The number of calories in the revised NRC table is slightly higher for girls 13-15 years but

lower for boys 13-15 and boys 16-19. The age brackets for men and women now start at 20 instead of 21 as in earlier tables.

The revisions in food plan quantities are minor. They have been made mainly in quantities of fats and oils, sugars and sweets, and grain products. Little change is noted in the total costs of the individual plans since they have been rounded to the nearest \$0.25. The estimated costs of the food plans shown in table 9 are for these revised quantities of food. The costs are based on averages of food prices collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 46 cities, and may not apply to any specific city or region.

Copies of the revised plans will be sent on request to: Household Economics Research Division, ARS, Attention Mrs. Irene Deadmon, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

CONSUMER PRICES

Revised Index of Prices Paid by Farmers

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Family Living, along with other components of the Parity Index, has been revised, based upon nationwide surveys of farm families relating to their 1955 expenditures. Detailed information on expenditures for all groups of family living items bought in 1955, except food, was collected by the Department of Agriculture from about 3,800 farm families early in 1956. The Department had conducted a nationwide survey of household food consumption in the spring of 1955. Results of these two surveys, together with other official information, were used in developing the weighting pattern for the revised index. Some expansion in commodity coverage has been incorporated into the revised index, reflecting recent changes in living patterns.

Previous weights for the index were based on farm family living patterns for the period 1937-41. The revised weighting pattern was linked into the index as of September 1952, and revised indexes are available from that date forward.

Table 10 on page 24 shows the revised Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Family Living. Under the old system, the November index for All Commodities was 120; the revised index for November is 118.

Consumer Price Index for City Wage-Earner and Clerical-Worker Families

The Consumer Price Index for City Wage-Earner and Clerical-Worker Families (table 11, page 24) was 124 in January 1959. It has remained steady since May 1958.

Table 9.--Estimated Cost of One Week's Food, 1/ January 1959

Sex-age groups	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
<u>FAMILIES</u>			
Family of two, 20-34 years of age 2/.....	15.50	21.00	23.50
Family of two, 55-74 years of age 2/.....	14.00	19.00	21.50
Family of four with preschool children 3/	21.00	28.00	31.50
Family of four, school age children 4/...	24.00	32.50	37.00
<u>INDIVIDUALS</u>			
Children:			
Under 1 year.....	3.00	3.75	4.25
1-3 years.....	3.75	4.75	5.25
4-6 years.....	4.50	5.75	6.75
7-9 years.....	5.25	6.75	7.75
10-12 years.....	6.00	8.25	9.50
Girls, 13-15 years.....	6.50	8.75	10.00
16-19 years.....	6.50	8.75	10.00
Boys, 13-15 years.....	7.00	9.75	11.00
16-19 years.....	8.25	11.25	12.75
Women:			
20-34 years.....	5.50	7.75	8.50
35-54 years.....	5.25	7.50	8.50
55-74 years.....	5.00	7.00	8.00
75 years and over.....	5.00	6.50	7.50
Pregnant.....	7.00	9.00	10.00
Nursing.....	8.50	11.00	12.25
Men:			
20-34 years.....	7.25	9.75	11.00
35-54 years.....	6.75	9.25	10.25
55-74 years.....	6.50	8.75	9.75
75 years and over.....	6.25	8.25	9.25

1/ These estimates were computed from quantities in low-cost, moderate-cost, and liberal food plans. These plans were published in tables 2, 3, and 4 of the October 1957 issue of Family Economics Review. Quantities for children were revised Jan. 1959 to comply with the 1958 NRC Recommended Dietary Allowances. The cost of the food plans was first estimated by using the average prices per pound of each food group paid by nonfarm survey families at 3 selected income levels. These prices were adjusted to current levels by use of Average Retail Prices of Food in 46 Large Cities Combined released periodically by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Estimates for individuals have been rounded to nearest \$0.25 and for families to the nearest half dollar.

2/ Twenty percent added for small families.

3/ Man and woman 20-34 years, children 1-3 and 4-6 years.

4/ Man and woman 20-34 years, children 7-9 and 10-12 years.

Table 10.--Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities Used in Family Living
(1947-49 = 100)

February 1958; June 1958-February 1959

Item	Feb. 1958	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1959	Feb.
All commodities.....	117	118	118	118	117	118	118	118	118	118
Food and tobacco.....	--	119	--	--	118	--	--	116	--	--
Clothing.....	--	113	--	--	113	--	--	114	--	--
Household operation.....	--	116	--	--	117	---	--	116	--	--
Household furnishings.....	--	103	--	--	104	--	--	104	--	--
Building materials, house.	--	119	--	--	119	--	--	119	--	--
Auto and auto supplies....	--	139	--	--	136	--	--	139	--	--

Source: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 11.--Consumer Price Index for City Wage-Earner and Clerical-Worker Families
(1947-49 = 100)

January 1958; May 1958-January 1959

Item	Jan. 1958	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan. 1959
All items.....	122	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124	124
Food.....	118	122	122	122	121	120	120	119	119	119
Apparel.....	107	107	107	107	107	107	107	108	108	107
Housing.....	127	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
Rent.....	137	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	139	139
Gas and electricity.....	116	116	117	117	118	118	118	118	118	118
Solid fuels and fuel oil	138	132	132	132	134	135	136	136	137	139
Housefurnishings.....	104	104	104	104	103	104	103	104	104	103
Household operation.....	130	131	131	131	132	132	132	133	133	133
Transportation.....	139	139	139	140	141	141	143	144	144	144
Medical care.....	142	144	144	145	145	146	147	147	147	148
Personal care.....	128	128	129	129	129	129	129	129	129	129
Reading and recreation....	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117
Other goods and services..	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127	127

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

INDEX OF ARTICLES APPEARING JUNE 1957 - DECEMBER 1958

This issue initiates a new feature -- an index of articles that have appeared in past issues of Family Economics Review. The listing below gives articles included since June 1957, the date of the first issue of this publication under its present name (it was formerly called Rural Family Living). Henceforth, an annual index will appear in the spring issue.

Each issue of Family Economics Review includes the latest available figures for "The Estimated Cost of One Week's Food," "The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities Used in Family Living," and "The Consumer Price Index for City Wage-Earner and Clerical-Worker Families." These are not listed separately in the index below.

The Annual Outlook issue (the winter issue) includes excerpts from talks given at the National Agricultural Outlook Conference. Subjects discussed are usually: National Economic Outlook; Agricultural Outlook; Outlook for Family Living; Outlook for Food; Outlook for Clothing and Textiles; Outlook for Housing and Household Equipment.

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