

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Wartime Food Purchases



Bulletin No. 838

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Letter of Transmittal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,
Washington, D. C., July 13, 1945.

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on food purchases by city families during one week in September–October 1944 as compared with one week in March–June 1942. The bulletin was prepared by Lenore A. Epstein under the general supervision of Dorothy S. Brady, Chief of the Cost of Living Division.

This is the first of several reports to be prepared on wartime purchases, based on data collected in the Bureau's survey of prices paid by consumers in cities in 1944. Others will deal with clothing, housing, medical care, transportation, etc. A summary report will present, by income class, data on expenditures, tax payments, and bond purchases in 1944 for a representative cross section of city families.

A. F. HINRICH, *Acting Commissioner.*

Hon. L. B. SCHWELLENBACH,
Secretary of Labor.

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**Bulletin No. 838 of the
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics**

[Reprinted from the MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW, June 1945, with additional data]

Wartime Food Purchases

Summary

In the fall of 1944, just prior to the current meat shortage, the diet of city families compared very favorably with the diet of families with similar incomes in the spring of 1942. The lowest income groups, in particular, bought more meat, milk, sugar, flour and bakery goods than in 1942 when the drain of war needs on the civilian food supply had barely been felt. Purchases of fruits and vegetables declined but the total consumption of these items was supplemented by increased home production. At the highest income level, the amount of meat, butter, and cheese obtained was also smaller than in 1942, despite a greater food expenditure.

The improved diets of the lowest income families meant a very heavy drain on family resources, with food outlays taking about 70 percent of their income as contrasted with 50 percent in 1942. Food costs presented an especially serious problem for large families, not only in the lowest income group, but at income levels up to \$3,000. In the upper portion of the income scale, the average family paid considerably more for food in the later period, despite smaller purchases.

These are the findings of a survey of prices paid by consumers in 1944, which was conducted in two parts for the primary purpose of comparing price changes reported by city consumers with price changes indicated by urban store reports. The first part of the survey, made in the fall of 1944, provided detailed information on food purchases during 1 week, purchases of clothing and household textiles during the first 8 months of the year, tenure and rental in August 1944, and sufficient information on family composition, living arrangements, and income to provide a basis for classification. The second part will provide data on food purchases during 1 week early in 1945, on purchases of clothing and other textiles during the last 4 months of 1944, and of other goods and services throughout that year. As a by-product of the reports required for analysis of prices, certain data are available on family expenditures and quantities of selected goods purchased. This article deals with the information obtained on food purchases in the fall of 1944 by housekeeping families and single persons at different income levels. It is the only information of this nature that has been obtained since the spring of 1942.

For this earlier period, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in cooperation with the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, conducted the survey of spending

and saving in wartime for the primary purpose of providing national estimates of expenditures and savings by income class for the year 1941 and the first 3 months of 1942. In conjunction with the main survey, detailed information was obtained on food purchases and food consumption during 1 week in the spring of 1942. The reports on food consumption have been analyzed and published for urban as well as rural areas by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics in U. S. Department of Agriculture Miscellaneous Publication No. 550 (Food Consumption in the United States). The data collected on food purchases have not been published.

The methods used in the two surveys were practically identical. The samples are very similar as to coverage; both related to the civilian noninstitutional population in cities of 2,500 or more scattered throughout the country. Information was obtained by personal interview in each case. The figures on purchases of various types of food, from both studies, were compiled from reports on purchases of a list of approximately 200 food items.¹

Since the findings of the survey of spending and saving in wartime on weekly food purchases in the spring of 1942 have not been published, they are presented here to permit comparison between the fall of 1944 and the earlier period, shortly before widespread rationing was instituted² and before significant shortages of certain foods had developed. When making comparisons, it must be recognized that many of the foods that are under the OPA rationing program were temporarily off the ration list during part or all of the fall of 1944. Some of these foods were nevertheless in short supply in several sections of the United States.

Food-purchasing habits are by no means the same in all sections of the United States. Furthermore, price movements during the war have differed somewhat by region and by city size. Establishment and expansion of shipyards and of war plants, while causing a considerable migration to the South and West, also improved very greatly the employment opportunities in those areas. The distribution of the housekeeping families represented in the urban sample surveys at each income level, shown in table 1, clearly illustrates this point. Thus, at low income levels, the highly industrialized Northeast was much more heavily represented in the fall of 1944 than in the spring of 1942, and the South and West proportionately less. At the opposite end of the income scale, the importance of the Northeast declined sharply during the period, and the representation of the South nearly doubled, although it remained below the average for all income classes combined. The West was better represented at the top of the income scale than in the population at large, and had greatly improved its position during the war.

There is similar, though less striking, evidence of an improved income position for cities having a population below 25,000 in 1940.

¹ See Appendix (pp. 16 to 22) for a statement on the sampling procedure used in the survey of prices paid by consumers and an evaluation of the differences between the sample for that survey and the sample for the survey of spending and saving in wartime. The former covered approximately 1,700 families, of which 1,500 were keeping house and provided information on purchases of food for use at home. In the survey of spending and saving in wartime the corresponding numbers were approximately 1,300 and 1,100.

The reports on food purchases pertain in each survey to the 7-day period immediately preceding the interview, or the previous calendar week. The proportion of food reports that covered a week in each of the designated months was as follows: 1944—September, 69 percent, October, 30 percent, and November, 1 percent; 1942—March, 5 percent, April, 42 percent, May, 45 percent, and June, 10 percent.

² Sugar rationing was put into effect in March 1942, but meats, fats and oils, cheese, and processed foods were not covered until a year later.

TABLE 1.—Percentage Distribution of City Families and Single Persons Surveyed in 1944 and in 1942 by Region, City Size,¹ and Annual Money-Income Rate

Region and city size ¹	September-October 1944						
	All families and single persons	Housekeeping families and single persons by annual rate of money income ²					
		All ³	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
All cities.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast.....	32.4	31.6	31.1	28.7	32.8	30.9	31.6
South.....	24.4	24.4	25.2	32.5	23.1	20.9	19.6
North Central.....	28.1	29.6	33.3	25.7	29.6	33.3	29.8
West.....	14.1	14.4	10.4	13.1	14.5	14.9	19.0
500,000 or more population.....	33.6	32.4	30.4	28.0	35.7	33.4	34.8
100,000-500,000 population.....	20.7	21.4	24.4	21.8	18.7	22.5	21.8
50,000-100,000 population.....	10.1	10.2	11.9	14.0	10.1	7.2	6.6
25,000-50,000 population.....	9.0	8.9	5.9	10.4	9.9	7.2	8.9
Under 25,000 population.....	26.6	27.1	27.4	27.8	25.6	29.7	27.9
	March-June 1942						
All cities.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast.....	36.2	35.7	19.4	35.3	37.6	48.6	44.2
South.....	20.1	19.4	32.9	21.2	14.7	14.1	10.9
North Central.....	32.6	33.8	32.9	34.0	38.9	24.6	32.7
West.....	11.1	11.1	14.8	9.5	8.8	12.7	12.2
500,000 or more population.....	31.0	30.6	19.9	31.4	31.4	38.8	34.7
100,000-500,000 population.....	20.9	20.3	18.0	20.6	20.6	21.8	21.1
50,000-100,000 population.....	9.1	9.2	9.3	6.5	9.1	14.1	10.2
25,000-50,000 population.....	10.6	11.2	13.0	9.5	14.7	6.3	9.5
Under 25,000 population.....	28.4	28.7	39.8	32.0	24.2	19.0	24.5

¹ Cities were classified by size as shown by the 1940 census. Each place covered was classified by region and size, regardless of whether or not it was part of a metropolitan district.

² See p. 25 for definition of income.

³ Includes a small number that did not report income.

Small-city families were much less numerous in the low-income population in 1944, but they did not show a corresponding increase at the highest income level. Housekeeping families in cities of 25,000 to 100,000 in 1940 made some gains also, though less significant ones, relative to those in cities of 100,000 or more. The shift of small-city families out of the lowest income group meant that they were no longer overrepresented in that group, in comparison with the entire population of housekeeping families in cities. Among families with incomes of \$4,000 or more, those in large cities remained relatively more numerous than in the 1944 population at large, though the disparity was less marked than in 1942 when large-city families comprised 51 percent of all city families. The middle-sized cities, by contrast, were not so well represented in the highest income class as in the general population in 1944.

Two significant facts emerge from the comparison of weekly food purchases by housekeeping families³ in cities throughout the United States in the fall of 1944 with those reported in the spring of 1942. First, there was a striking increase over the period in the food expense of families and single persons with incomes below \$1,000. Second, a leveling off occurred among income groups in the quantities of many

³ The term, "family," is used in this to include single persons. All data presented are based on reports by housekeeping families. See p. 24 for definitions.

basic foods purchased for home consumption, with increased purchases by the low-income groups and reduced purchases of many foods by higher-income families. These developments result in part from the population shifts just described and the changes in the prices and supplies of various foods between the two periods.

Changes in Outlay for Food, 1942 to 1944

At the lowest income level there was a rise of 45 percent in outlays for food to be served at home or carried from home, and a rise of 50 percent if the increased amounts for food purchased away from home are taken into account (table 2). This contrasts with increases of 14 percent in amounts spent for food at home by families with incomes of \$1,000 to \$3,000 and about 16 percent in their total food expenses. The increases in expenditure exceed by a considerable margin the increases in quantities purchased. For the middle income groups, the rise in expenditures closely approximates the 13-percent increase over the period shown by the Bureau's index of retail food costs in large cities. For the higher income groups, expenditures for food at home increased less than might be expected in view of the 13-percent rise—6 and 8 percent, respectively, at the \$3,000-\$4,000 and \$4,000 and over levels. The difference appears, however, to have been made up in part by more frequent restaurant meals.

The allocation of the budget for food at home among the major types of food was remarkably similar throughout the income scale in each period (table 3). Cereal and bakery products, fats and oils, and (in 1942) sweets each tended to decrease slightly in relative importance as income increased. In 1942, proportionately more went for meat, poultry, and fish at successively higher income levels, 25 percent at the lowest, and 30 percent at the highest; but in the fall of 1944, outlays for this food group represented 28 to 29 percent of total expense for food at home at all income levels.

TABLE 2.—Average Expense for Food and Alcoholic Drinks, and Family Size,¹ House-keeping Families in Cities, by Annual Money-Income Rate,² Week in 1944 and 1942

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Total food ³	\$8.42	\$11.87	\$17.04	\$18.70	\$23.51	\$5.61	\$10.32	\$14.54	\$16.41	\$21.00
Food at home.....	7.57	10.44	14.43	15.08	18.49	5.24	9.16	12.68	14.21	17.11
Food away from home....	.85	1.43	2.61	3.62	5.02	.37	1.16	1.86	2.20	3.89
Alcoholic drinks.....	.22	.48	.90	1.16	1.96	.10	.27	.52	.67	1.13
Average family size ⁴	2.10	2.52	3.24	3.56	3.93	2.10	2.52	3.24	3.56	3.93

¹ For comparability, purchases reported in the 1942 study have been adjusted to represent the spending of families of the sizes found in the sample population in September-October 1944. See p. 22 for description of method.

² Annual rate of income was based on reports for August 1944 in the recent study and on reports covering the first 3 months of 1942 in the earlier one. In both instances, family income represents the sum of all types of income received by family members during those periods: Wage and salary earnings, entrepreneurial net income or withdrawals, and unearned income from all sources, exclusive of inheritances, large gifts, and lump-sum insurance settlements. For the 1942 study, total wage and salary earnings less occupational expense was used in computing family's total money income, but for the 1944 study, wage and salary earnings after pay-roll deductions was used. See p. 25.

³ Food expense includes cost of all food purchased during the week, whether or not paid for at the time. See p. 25.

⁴ Family-size figures are based on the number of family members living at home during all or part of the week covered by the food report. See p. 24.

TABLE 3.—Distribution of Expense for Food at Home, by Food Groups, Housekeeping Families in Cities, by Annual Money-Income Rate, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942¹

Commodity	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expenditures for food at home.....	\$7.57	\$10.44	\$14.43	\$15.08	\$18.49	\$5.24	\$9.16	\$12.68	\$14.21	\$17.11
	Percentage distribution of expense									
Meat, poultry, and fish.....	28.3	28.5	27.9	27.6	29.2	25.2	26.9	27.4	28.9	30.2
Dairy products and eggs.....	21.2	22.5	22.6	23.4	22.1	22.1	24.4	23.6	24.4	22.5
Fats and oils.....	3.8	3.5	2.8	2.9	2.7	4.4	3.8	3.2	2.5	2.2
Fruits and vegetables.....	20.5	20.6	21.8	21.1	21.1	24.4	22.5	23.9	22.7	24.6
Sugar and other sweets.....	4.2	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.0	3.3	2.8	2.5	2.4
Cereals and bakery products.....	14.1	13.3	13.0	12.9	12.9	13.6	11.9	11.5	11.5	10.8
Other food and beverages.....	7.9	8.2	8.2	8.7	8.1	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.5	7.3

¹ See tables 5 through 11 for components of each food group. See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size.

Differences in price movements of various foods between the spring of 1942 and September-October 1944, together with changes in quantities purchased, resulted in some changes in the allocation of food expense at corresponding income levels. Thus, although dollar expenditures at each income level for every food group (except fruits and vegetables at the two highest income levels) were larger last fall than in the spring of 1942, the increases were not in the same proportion. Slightly less went for dairy products, considerably less for fruits and vegetables, slightly more for sugar and sweets, cereal and bakery products, and miscellaneous foods and nonalcoholic beverages. Fats and oils became less important at the low and more important at the high levels. Amounts spent for meat, poultry, and fish represented a larger share of the total at the lower income levels in 1944 than in 1942, and a smaller share at the higher levels.

Amounts of Food Purchased

The second significant fact revealed by the survey of prices paid by consumers—the leveling off among income groups in home consumption of many of the basic foods—is strikingly illustrated by the figures in table 4 on weekly per-capita purchases of meats and poultry.

TABLE 4.—Per-Capita Purchases of Meats and Poultry by Housekeeping Families, by Annual Money-Income Rate, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942¹

Annual money income	Average per-capita purchases (in pounds) of—			
	Meats		Poultry	
	1944	1942	1944	1942
Under \$1,000.....	1.99	1.78	0.48	0.20
\$1,000 to \$2,000.....	2.21	2.37	.55	.29
\$2,000 to \$3,000.....	2.30	2.52	.55	.34
\$3,000 to \$4,000.....	2.04	2.54	.55	.46
\$4,000 and over.....	2.44	2.70	.60	.63

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

The meat figures may well reflect the rationing program which is designed to distribute short supplies equally among all groups. They suggest also a tendency for the low income groups to buy close to the limit of their red-point supply, even though they have customarily bought less meat. Since poultry has never been rationed, the change in purchasing habits cannot be explained in quite the same manner. Chicken was unusually plentiful in the early fall of 1944 and it is possible that the attitudes developed with respect to meat may have carried over to poultry. Since the price per pound was higher for poultry than for meats as a group, it cannot be argued that poultry purchases by low-income families were an economy measure.

Beef made up a smaller proportion of meat purchases in 1944 than in 1942 except for families with incomes below \$1,000. This group bought somewhat less pork, proportionately, perhaps because Southerners comprised a smaller segment of the low-income urban population in 1944 than previously (see table 5). At higher income levels pork products represented about the same proportion of meat purchases in the two periods. Veal was consistently purchased in somewhat greater quantity by all families, though the differences were not

TABLE 5.—Purchases of MEAT, POULTRY, AND FISH by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate¹

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Meat, poultry, and fish.....	\$2.14	\$2.98	\$4.03	\$4.16	\$5.39	\$1.32	\$2.46	\$3.48	\$4.10	\$5.16
Meat.....	1.52	2.15	2.99	2.98	3.93	1.10	2.06	2.89	3.25	4.08
Beef.....	.59	.78	1.10	1.15	1.51	.43	.87	1.23	1.31	1.77
Veal.....	.12	.18	.24	.20	.34	.04	.12	.15	.20	.24
Pork ².....	.50	.67	.89	.82	1.11	.43	.69	.89	1.07	1.30
Lamb.....	.09	.16	.23	.27	.34	.07	.12	.26	.33	.30
Variety meat and game ³.....	.22	.36	.53	.54	.63	.13	.26	.36	.34	.47
Poultry.....	.44	.64	.81	.92	1.12	.13	.25	.38	.56	.86
Fish and seafood.....	.18	.19	.23	.26	.34	.09	.15	.21	.29	.22
Fresh and frozen.....	.15	.13	.15	.13	.24	.06	.09	.13	.19	.14
Canned ⁴.....	.03	.06	.08	.13	.10	.03	.06	.08	.10	.08
Average quantity purchased in 1 week (in pounds)										
Meat, poultry, and fish.....	5.67	7.43	9.79	9.81	12.65	4.69	7.44	10.36	11.91	14.05
Meat.....	4.17	5.57	7.44	7.28	9.57	3.73	5.97	8.18	9.04	10.61
Beef.....	1.65	2.01	2.79	2.82	3.65	1.45	2.57	3.49	3.74	4.57
Veal.....	.31	.46	.61	.48	.80	.12	.36	.44	.55	.62
Pork ²	1.39	1.81	2.36	2.14	2.89	1.49	1.96	2.49	2.93	3.30
Lamb.....	.22	.43	.52	.58	.78	.27	.37	.76	.88	.89
Variety meat and game ³.....	.60	.86	1.16	1.26	1.45	.40	.71	1.00	.94	1.23
Poultry.....	1.01	1.38	1.77	1.96	2.36	.42	.73	1.10	1.65	2.47
Fish and seafood.....	.49	.48	.58	.57	.72	.54	.74	1.08	1.22	.97
Fresh and frozen.....	.43	.36	.41	.35	.54	.33	.38	.52	.78	.60
Canned ⁴.....	.06	.12	.17	.22	.18	.21	.36	.56	.44	.37

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

² Includes bacon and salt pork as well as fresh and other smoked or cured pork.

³ Includes in both periods liver, bologna, frankfurters, luncheon meats, cold cuts, head cheese, scrapple, etc., and also all types of game purchased. In 1944 includes all tongue, heart, kidney and other entrails; in 1942 includes such meats only when the type as beef, lamb, etc., was not known; if the type was known, such meats were included with other beef, lamb, etc.

⁴ Includes also smoked or cured fish, but purchases of such fish were very small, on the average, in both periods.

great enough to make up for the smaller beef purchases. Variety and ready-to-eat meats were more important both in amount and in relation to the total in the later period. Since there was no point value on variety or ready-to-eat meats last fall, their purchase was undoubtedly encouraged. A slight difference in classification of variety meats (other than liver) in the two surveys⁴ was not sufficient to account for more than a small part of the larger purchases.

Fish has never had an important place in the average city family's diet. As might be expected, canned fish, which was difficult to obtain and had a relatively high point value in September-October 1944, was bought much less often than in the spring of 1942. Purchases of fresh fish and shell fish were not increased correspondingly; in fact, they were smaller last fall at every income level except the lowest. As a result, purchases of all types of fish averaged less than one-fourth pound per person.

At every income level, purchases of fluid milk were somewhat greater last fall than in March-June 1942 (table 6), but there was little evidence of leveling off among income groups. Approximately 2 quarts per person per week were bought by the lowest-income families as compared with about 3 per person in families that had \$3,000 or more. Butter and cheese purchases were, of course, lower in 1944 than in 1942. In this case, as with meats, the effect of rationing was to cut much more deeply into the consumption of the high than the low income groups.

Purchases of other fats and oils, most of which had a zero point value last fall, were about the same for families with incomes under \$1,000 in the two periods, but relatively larger in 1944 at higher income levels (table 7). On a per-person basis, purchases declined with increasing income in both periods. The increase with income in 1944 in purchases (per family) of oleomargarine, which is the most direct butter substitute, is in striking contrast to the sharp drop, as income increased, in the period before the butter shortage. The reduction in butter purchases was not fully compensated for, however; butter, oleomargarine, lard, and other shortening together averaged 0.2 to 0.4 pound less per family in the later period.

More sugar was purchased in the fall of 1944 than in 1942 at every income level, with the increase most marked among families that received less than \$1,000 (table 8). In 1942, per-capita purchases showed no consistent relationship to income, but in 1944 they were greater the lower the income. The relatively larger purchases of sugar last fall are undoubtedly explained in part by the severe sugar shortage in the spring of 1942 when sugar rationing was instituted, and in part by requirements for home canning of fruits which come on the market in late summer and fall and were purchased in considerable quantity in September-October 1944. The amount of other sweets bought was similar at most income levels in the two periods.

Bakery products were bought in slightly greater quantity in September-October 1944 than during the earlier period in 1942 (table 9). Since the use of commercially baked goods instead of home baked foods serves to extend a family's supply of shortening and sugar, and saves the time of an employed housewife, a considerable increase was to be expected. That they are more expensive, however, is evidenced

⁴See table 5, footnote 3.

TABLE 6.—Purchases of DAIRY PRODUCTS AND EGGS by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate¹

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Dairy products and eggs.....	\$1.60	\$2.35	\$3.27	\$3.53	\$4.09	\$1.16	\$2.24	\$2.99	\$3.46	\$3.85
Dairy products.....	1.11	1.72	2.50	2.62	3.06	.88	1.75	2.40	2.84	3.12
Fluid milk.....	.59	.98	1.53	1.52	1.79	.43	.87	1.27	1.37	1.44
Cream.....	.03	.05	.09	.15	.14	.01	.08	.12	.23	.27
Ice cream.....	.04	.12	.18	.21	.28	.02	.10	.18	.20	.22
Butter.....	.20	.28	.35	.36	.47	.22	.41	.53	.66	.75
Cheese.....	.09	.14	.19	.23	.23	.07	.17	.20	.26	.29
Evaporated milk.....	.15	.15	.15	.14	.15	.11	.10	.08	.11	.14
Condensed milk ².....	.01	(³)	.01	.01	(³)	.02	.02	.02	.01	.01
Eggs.....	.49	.63	.77	.91	1.03	.28	.49	.59	.62	.73
Average quantity purchased in 1 week										
Dairy products:										
Fluid milk.....qt..	4.01	6.78	10.27	10.06	11.81	3.56	6.54	9.19	9.80	10.01
Cream.....pt..	.11	.17	.31	.49	.46	.05	.31	.48	.82	.98
Ice cream.....qt..	.07	.26	.40	.41	.53	.04	.23	.40	.38	.43
Butter.....lb..	.39	.54	.68	.69	.90	.53	.98	1.24	1.56	1.72
Cheese.....lb..	.24	.33	.44	.49	.52	.26	.57	.64	.81	1.03
Evaporated milk, 14½ oz..	1.37	1.41	1.46	1.28	1.41	1.32	1.06	.98	1.17	1.56
Condensed milk ².....lb..	.06	.02	.03	.04	.02	.15	.15	.16	.06	.03
Eggs.....doz..	.93	1.22	1.43	1.67	1.86	.80	1.39	1.62	1.71	1.89

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

² Includes also dried milk, but purchases were negligible in both periods.

³ Less than 0.5 cent.

TABLE 7.—Purchases of FATS AND OILS, by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate¹

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Fats and oils.....	\$0.29	\$0.36	\$0.41	\$0.44	\$0.50	\$0.23	\$0.35	\$0.40	\$0.36	\$0.38
Oleomargarine.....	.06	.08	.08	.10	.11	.04	.03	.03	.02	.01
Lard.....	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	.10	.06	.06	.06	.05
Other shortening.....	.08	.10	.12	.13	.11	.04	.07	.09	.07	.08
Salad dressing, salad and cooking oil.....	.08	.12	.15	.16	.23	.05	.19	.22	.21	.24
Average quantity purchased in 1 week (in pounds)										
Fats and oils.....	1.26	1.49	1.68	1.72	1.96	1.24	1.37	1.61	1.49	1.68
Oleomargarine.....	.27	.30	.33	.37	.44	.23	.13	.15	.12	.05
Lard.....	.35	.33	.32	.26	.23	.58	.34	.37	.34	.38
Other shortening.....	.34	.45	.52	.56	.50	.22	.35	.40	.31	.27
Salad dressing, salad and cooking oil ².....	.30	.41	.51	.53	.74	.21	.55	.69	.72	.98

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

² A pint contains approximately 1 pound.

TABLE 8.—Purchases of SUGAR AND OTHER SWEETS by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate ¹

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Sugar and other sweets.....	\$0.32	\$0.35	\$0.53	\$0.51	\$0.73	\$0.16	\$0.30	\$0.36	\$0.36	\$0.42
Sugar.....	.18	.19	.23	.24	.23	.09	.13	.15	.15	.18
Jam, jelly, molasses, sir- up, candy, etc.....	.14	.16	.30	.27	.50	.07	.17	.21	.21	.24
Average quantity purchased in 1 week (in pounds)										
Sugar and other sweets.....	3.16	3.49	4.25	4.51	4.74	1.74	2.69	3.10	2.99	3.51
Sugar.....	2.67	2.82	3.33	3.54	3.34	1.26	1.83	2.14	2.02	2.53
Jam, jelly, molasses, sir- up, candy, etc.....	.49	.67	.92	.97	1.40	.48	.86	.96	.97	.98

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

TABLE 9.—Purchases of CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate ¹

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Cereals and bakery products..	\$1.07	\$1.39	\$1.87	\$1.94	\$2.38	\$0.71	\$1.09	\$1.46	\$1.64	\$1.84
Flour.....	.20	.18	.21	.20	.22	.08	.08	.09	.10	.12
Ready-to-eat and un- cooked cereals ².....	.17	.19	.26	.22	.24	.11	.12	.16	.14	.19
Other cereal products ³.....	.04	.05	.07	.08	.10	.04	.06	.09	.06	.05
Bakery products.....	.66	.97	1.33	1.44	1.82	.48	.83	1.12	1.34	1.48
Bread and rolls.....	.41	.53	.71	.79	.90	.30	.48	.60	.80	.81
Crackers.....	.07	.07	.08	.10	.09	.05	.06	.09	.08	.10
Cake, cookies, pastry, etc.....	.18	.37	.54	.55	.83	.13	.29	.43	.46	.57
Average quantity purchased in 1 week (in pounds)										
Cereals and bakery products..	10.00	11.39	14.37	14.47	16.97	8.00	9.92	12.58	13.11	14.70
Flour.....	3.07	2.73	2.98	2.82	3.06	1.75	1.88	2.00	1.53	2.11
Ready-to-eat and un- cooked cereals ²	1.67	1.53	1.92	1.46	1.54	1.55	1.05	1.33	1.08	1.56
Other cereal products ³.....	.30	.38	.53	.58	.78	.41	.45	.77	.55	.46
Bakery goods.....	4.96	6.75	8.94	9.61	11.59	4.29	6.54	8.48	9.95	10.57
Bread and rolls.....	3.89	5.08	6.69	7.27	8.35	3.37	4.82	6.20	7.53	7.64
Crackers.....	.36	.38	.41	.52	.43	.31	.38	.54	.43	.48
Cake, cookies, pastry, etc.....	.71	1.29	1.84	1.82	2.81	.61	1.34	1.74	1.99	2.45

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

² Includes rice, hominy grits, corn meal, cornstarch, and cereals prepared for infants.

³ Includes macaroni, spaghetti, noodles, etc. Popcorn was included here in 1944, but with flour in 1942.

by the smaller per-capita purchases by families with incomes below \$1,000 than by higher income families. Purchases per person of flour and other cereal products, by contrast, dropped off markedly as income increased. As between 1942 and 1944, flour purchases rose by at least 40 percent at each income level and by 75 percent at the lowest, whereas purchases of other cereal products, which are an important ingredient of meat-saving dishes, showed no change at that level and a relatively small increase at higher levels.

Although seasonal differences in the supply of fresh fruits and vegetables limit the significance of any comparison of purchases of such foods during September–October 1944 and March–June 1942, a few striking facts are noted. The average family in 1944 bought less than half as many cans of fruit and vegetables—presumably because of lack of ration points for more—and much less dried fruit and vegetables, but purchases of fresh produce also totaled somewhat less than in 1942 (table 10).

The comparatively small purchases of citrus fruit in the fall of 1944, which undoubtedly reflect a seasonal low in supplies, were more than compensated for by the large amounts of other fresh fruit bought. It seems probable, however, particularly in view of the large sugar purchases, that a portion of this fruit was canned for winter use and not eaten at the time of purchase. Certainly every effort has been made to encourage home canning during the war.

The smaller quantity of potatoes, a relatively cheap and filling food, not rationed, is difficult to explain, particularly in the case of low-income families. It may have been due to shortages in certain areas in 1944, and to a considerably higher price per pound. Purchases of other fresh vegetables were consistently smaller than in the spring of 1942, although their average price was not a great deal higher. Victory gardens may easily have made up the difference, and possibly meant even more fresh vegetables for home consumption than in the spring of 1942. One-third of the families occupying dwellings with house-keeping facilities reported consumption during the week of interview of some home-produced food. It is probable that without this supplement, food expenditures would have been somewhat greater than they were in 1944.

Taken in combination, fresh (and frozen) fruit and vegetable purchases provide a further illustration of the leveling that has occurred. In the spring of 1942, about 7.5 pounds were bought per person by families with incomes below \$1,000 and 11 pounds by those at the top of the income scale. By contrast, purchases in the fall of 1944 averaged 7 and 9 pounds per person in the lowest and highest income groups, respectively.

Although beverages and miscellaneous foods accounted for about 8 percent of all expenditures for food at home in 1944, it is not practical to analyze the purchases in terms of quantity. The increases shown in table 11 in average expense for beverages at the two lower income levels and for soups and prepared foods throughout the income scale, though striking, contribute a negligible share to the increase in total food expenditures.

TABLE 10.—Purchases of FRUITS AND VEGETABLES by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate¹

Item	September-October 1944					March-June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Fruits and vegetables.....	\$1.55	\$2.15	\$3.14	\$3.19	\$3.90	\$1.28	\$2.06	\$3.03	\$3.23	\$4.21
Fresh and frozen.....	1.23	1.72	2.57	2.60	3.13	.87	1.48	2.13	2.30	3.24
Fruits.....	.67	.87	1.41	1.44	1.68	.30	.58	.83	.96	1.39
Citrus.....	.20	.27	.47	.44	.55	.16	.31	.43	.52	.69
Other fresh.....	.47	.60	.94	1.00	1.10	.03	.27	.40	.44	.70
Other frozen.....	.00	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	.14	.31	.43	.52	.70
Vegetables.....	.61	.85	1.16	1.16	1.45	.57	.90	1.30	1.34	1.85
Potatoes.....	.22	.30	.39	.34	.41	.21	.24	.32	.31	.36
Other fresh.....	.38	.53	.74	.79	.95	.36	.66	.98	1.03	1.49
Other frozen.....	.01	.02	.03	.03	.09					
Canned.....	.22	.37	.50	.52	.68	.32	.50	.79	.84	.90
Fruits.....	.09	.16	.20	.22	.30	.09	.17	.24	.35	.35
Regular canned.....	.03	.08	.10	.10	.15					
Strained and chopped for infants.....	.01	.01	.01	.02	.02	.07	.13	.19	.26	.28
Juices.....	.05	.07	.09	.10	.13	.02	.04	.05	.09	.07
Vegetables.....	.13	.21	.30	.30	.38	.23	.33	.55	.49	.55
Tomato products and juices ³.....	.05	.05	.07	.09	.09	.08	.10	.13	.17	.20
Other canned (regular) ⁴.....	.07	.14	.20	.18	.27					
Strained and chopped for infants.....	.01	.02	.03	.03	.02	.15	.23	.42	.32	.35
Dried.....	.05	.06	.07	.07	.09	.09	.08	.11	.09	.07
Fruits.....	.03	.03	.04	.04	.06	.04	.04	.06	.05	.05
Vegetables (excluding canned).....	.02	.03	.03	.03	.03	.05	.04	.05	.04	.02
Average quantity purchased in 1 week										
Fresh and frozen.....lb.	14.73	20.65	30.94	31.83	35.54	15.76	22.95	32.55	36.31	43.05
Fruits.....lb.	6.67	9.42	15.77	17.38	17.17	4.67	8.82	13.28	16.58	17.74
Citrus.....lb.	2.17	3.04	5.15	4.91	6.27	2.98	5.97	8.75	12.02	11.46
Other fresh.....lb.	4.50	6.37	10.61	12.46	10.79	1.69	2.85	4.53	4.56	6.28
Other frozen.....lb.	.00	.01	.01	.01	.11					
Vegetables.....lb.	8.06	11.23	15.17	14.45	18.37	11.09	14.13	19.27	19.73	25.31
Potatoes.....lb.	3.85	6.14	7.63	7.08	8.20	6.25	6.88	8.81	8.70	11.17
Other fresh.....lb.	4.19	5.04	7.46	7.26	9.89	4.84	7.25	10.46	11.03	14.14
Other frozen.....lb.	.02	.05	.08	.11	.28					
Canned:										
Fruits:										
Regular canned.....										
No. 2½ can.....	.11	.27	.31	.30	.45					
Strained and chopped for infants.....oz.	.46	.54	.71	1.08	1.14	.29	.51	.75	1.03	1.16
Juices.....No. 2 can.....	.29	.39	.53	.58	.67	.25	.29	.44	.81	.48
Vegetables:										
Tomato products and juices ³.....No. 2 can.....	.35	.38	.42	.61	.53	.71	.79	1.05	1.51	1.58
Other canned (regular) ⁴.....No. 2 can.....	.47	.81	1.23	.98	1.60					
Strained and chopped for infants.....oz.	.55	.82	1.32	1.49	1.12	1.18	1.65	3.33	2.19	2.15
Dried.....lb.	.25	.42	.48	.44	.52	.78	.67	.96	.75	.45
Fruits.....lb.	.13	.16	.25	.23	.29	.26	.26	.43	.36	.29
Vegetables (excluding canned).....lb.	.12	.26	.23	.21	.23	.52	.41	.53	.39	.16

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

² Less than 0.5 cent.

³ Includes canned tomatoes, catsup, chili sauce, tomato sauce, puree, tomato juice, and mixed vegetable juices.

⁴ Includes a very small amount of vegetable juice without a tomato base

TABLE 11.—Purchases of MISCELLANEOUS FOODS by Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1944 and in 1942, by Annual Money-Income Rate¹

Item	September–October 1944					March–June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average expense in 1 week										
Miscellaneous foods.....	\$0.60	\$0.86	\$1.18	\$1.31	\$1.50	\$0.38	\$0.66	\$0.96	\$1.06	\$1.25
Beverages.....	.34	.49	.61	.66	.71	.21	.40	.59	.60	.84
Coffee ².....	.21	.28	.34	.33	.37	.15	.24	.31	.33	.38
Soft drinks.....	.07	.14	.18	.23	.25	.03	.11	.18	.18	.39
Other ³.....	.06	.07	.09	.10	.09	.03	.05	.10	.09	.07
Nuts and peanut butter.....	.02	.06	.08	.10	.15	.02	.04	.06	.07	.10
Packaged desserts ⁴.....	.02	.03	.05	.06	.05	.02	.04	.05	.07	.05
All soups, etc.....	.13	.16	.25	.28	.35	.03	.05	.07	.08	.06
Soup, canned.....	.08	.09	.17	.16	.17					
Soup, dehydrated.....	.01	(⁵)	.01	.01	.01					
Prepared and partially prepared food and food mixtures.....	.04	.07	.07	.11	.17					
Relishes, pickles, olives.....	.02	.04	.06	.07	.06	.02	.05	.07	.11	.06
Seasonings, flavorings, and other accessories.....	.06	.07	.08	.08	.14					
Foods prepared for infants, except vegetables, fruit, and cereals.....	.01	.01	.05	.05	.03	.08	.08	.12	.13	.14
Other food.....	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	.01	.01					

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size. Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.

² Includes concentrates, decaffeinated coffee, and coffee substitutes.

³ Includes tea, cocoa, malted drinks, powdered fruit drink mixes, etc., in 1944; tea and cocoa only in 1942.

⁴ In 1942 includes malted drinks and powdered fruit drink mixes.

⁵ Less than 0.5 cent.

Food Expense in Relation to Income

It appears that most Americans in cities were eating much better in the fall of 1944 than might be expected under wartime conditions. The similarity of per-capita purchases at low and high income levels must not be overemphasized, however, because the relatively large expenditures for meals away from home by the high-income families provided an important supplement to the food they brought home. Moreover, the diet of the low-income groups, though improved, was barely adequate, if that, and it was obtained at a relatively high cost.

Increased food purchases by low-income families may be attributed in some part to the fact that in 1944 a smaller proportion of this group lived in small communities and in the South and West than was the case early in 1942. Since small communities—particularly in the South and West—offer families more opportunity than do large cities to produce food for their own use, relatively greater purchases would be required on the average by this group to maintain their customary diet. Similarly, since proportionately more of the middle and upper income families were living in small cities and in the South and West, they could maintain the same level of living with somewhat smaller purchases.

A more significant factor may be the types of families represented at different income levels in the two periods. The under-\$1,000 group comprises—in varying proportions—newly employed single persons, young couples, retired persons, and persons requiring public assistance.

The latter two groups presumably spend less for food than the former, since they have little expectation of improving their economic status. In 1944, because of high wage levels, the proportion of young persons with incomes under \$1,000 was probably smaller than in 1942, but those that were in the group may have felt that employment prospects were so bright that they could spend freely. In addition, there must have been represented in 1944 a sizable group of servicemen's wives living on allotments, but accustomed to incomes that permitted a much better scale of living. Information collected in the survey of spending and saving in wartime suggests families do not immediately adjust their diet to correspond with a decline in income.

The converse operates also, according to the findings of the 1941-42 study, i. e., families whose incomes have increased do not immediately increase their expenditures for food to an amount that is customary among families that have been living at the same income level for a long period of time. There is no doubt that many of the families with incomes of \$3,000 or more in 1944 had never before earned so much.

Regardless of the reason for the high food expenditures by families with incomes below \$1,000, it seems obvious that they must have run up large debts, cut seriously into any savings they had, or reduced their purchases of other living essentials to a very low point.

In the spring of 1942 families and single persons that cooked at home spent \$5.61 per week for food, out of an average weekly income of \$10.90—51 percent; this left them heavily in debt.⁵ In the fall of 1944, in contrast, families of the same size in the same income group spent \$8.42 per week for food, or about 71 percent of their weekly income of \$11.85.⁶

At the three middle income levels, the proportion of income spent for food was about 4 percent greater in the recent period than in the earlier one, ranging from 39 to 36 to 28 percent as contrasted with 35 to 31 to 25 percent at successively higher income levels. The somewhat larger food expenditures in 1944 than in 1942 by families in the highest income group were covered by their higher average income. Hence, in both periods, the food bill absorbed about 17 percent of income. This group probably saved a larger proportion of their income in 1944, since new automobiles and many other durable goods, which normally absorb a significant share of their spending, were not available.

Although there were fewer city families with incomes below \$1,000 and \$2,000, respectively, in 1944 than at any previous time in our history,⁷ this fact does not reduce the seriousness of the situation for that group, particularly if present price levels are maintained or increased.

⁵ See Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 724, tables 9 and 10, for data on expenditures and savings or debts in relation to income, for all city families and single persons, including the nonhousekeeping group.

⁶ This income figure and those used in the discussion that follows are preliminary estimates based on the findings of the second part of the survey of prices paid by consumers as to income (after pay-roll deductions) received during the entire year 1944. Income averages are not available by class for 1944, based on reports for August, since in a considerable number of cases the information provided for August was sufficient only as a basis for classification.

⁷ Estimates of the distribution by income of city families and single persons will be available in a few months from data collected in February 1945 in the study of prices paid by consumers in 1944.

Food Expense in Relation to Family Size

Family outlays for food are of course directly related to the number of persons to be fed, but amounts spent per person at each income level are smaller as family size increases (table 12). In the case of food bought for use at home, there is some economy in large-scale buying. However, the small savings that may be effected are by no means sufficient to make up the differences in diet suggested by the lower per-capita expenditures for food at home.

TABLE 12.—Average Expense for Food at Home and Away by Housekeeping Families in Cities, by Family Size and Annual Money-Income Rate, Week in 1944 and 1942¹

Number of persons in family	September–October 1944					March–June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average total food expense in 1 week										
All families.....	\$8.42	\$11.87	\$17.04	\$18.70	\$23.51	\$5.61	\$10.32	\$14.54	\$16.41	\$21.00
1 person.....	5.16	9.93	9.76	(²)	(²)	4.12	8.99	(²)	(²)	(²)
2 persons.....	8.26	10.17	14.42	17.10	18.21	5.42	9.93	12.87	12.93	15.98
3 persons.....	14.36	13.59	16.53	17.88	21.77	8.36	11.52	14.02	16.34	18.19
4 persons.....	(²)	14.23	18.53	19.43	23.07	7.95	12.30	16.65	17.82	21.05
5 persons.....	(²)	18.53	20.55	21.23	27.05	9.36	10.90	17.04	18.48	23.95
6 or more persons.....	(²)	19.01	24.51	25.33	29.53	(²)	13.35	21.20	22.41	30.34
Average expense for food at home in 1 week										
All families.....	\$7.57	\$10.44	\$14.43	\$15.08	\$18.49	\$5.24	\$9.16	\$12.68	\$14.21	\$17.11
1 person.....	4.41	7.29	7.54	(²)	(²)	3.66	6.38	(²)	(²)	(²)
2 persons.....	7.44	8.85	11.21	12.57	11.82	5.19	8.88	10.99	10.12	12.03
3 persons.....	12.92	12.32	14.03	14.82	16.95	7.90	10.20	12.50	14.03	14.36
4 persons.....	(²)	12.96	16.17	15.99	18.42	7.27	11.61	14.40	16.05	16.69
5 persons.....	(²)	16.93	18.24	18.13	22.67	8.29	10.12	15.23	16.58	20.22
6 or more persons.....	(²)	18.06	22.77	22.07	24.52	(²)	12.14	19.32	20.32	26.71
Average expense for food away from home in 1 week										
All families.....	\$0.85	\$1.43	\$2.61	\$3.62	\$5.02	\$0.37	\$1.16	\$1.86	\$2.20	\$3.89
1 person.....	.75	2.04	2.22	(²)	(²)	.46	1.41	(²)	(²)	(²)
2 persons.....	.82	1.32	3.21	4.53	6.39	.23	1.05	1.88	2.81	3.95
3 persons.....	1.44	1.27	2.50	3.06	4.82	.46	1.32	1.52	2.31	3.83
4 persons.....	(²)	1.27	2.41	3.44	4.65	.68	.69	2.23	1.77	4.36
5 persons.....	(²)	1.60	2.31	3.10	4.38	1.07	.78	1.81	1.90	3.74
6 or more persons.....	(²)	.95	1.74	3.26	5.06	(²)	1.51	1.88	2.09	3.63

¹ See p. 25 for income definition; p. 22 for note on adjustment of 1942 reports for comparability with respect to family size.

² Averages not shown for fewer than 10 cases.

Since average expenditures for food away from home by families in the same income group show no consistent relation to family size, it is clear that restaurant meals do not serve to round out the diet of large families as compared with small ones. Rather, it appears that persons in large families carry their lunches to work and to school much more often than single persons or members of small families.

Information is not available on the amounts of various foods purchased by families of different size. It is logical to assume, however, that families with incomes of \$4,000 or more, and most of those receiving \$3,000 to \$4,000, were able to allocate their income in a manner that allowed sufficient money for food to purchase a good diet even when the family consisted of 5 or more members.

Among large families with smaller incomes, adequate diets were probably the exception rather than the rule, even in 1942, and certainly in 1944. Furthermore, the proportion of income required to cover their food bills was far in excess of that required by small families. The general problem posed above on the basis of class averages is thus in fact much more critical for large families. Since this usually means families with young children, it is particularly serious. Families of one or two and, at income levels above \$2,000, somewhat larger families do not, of course, face the same problem.

The percentage increase in food expenditures between the spring of 1942 and the fall of 1944 tended to be greater among large than among small families at each of the lower income levels. This indicates merely that the usual food purchases of small families provided more leeway for purchase of cheaper—or less—food in the face of price increases, while this was not true for the larger families whose diets were already restricted.

Appendix.—Survey Method

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Selection of Sample for 1944 Study

The Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers in 1944 was based on a sample of approximately 1,700 families and single persons in 28 metropolitan districts and 20 cities with populations under 50,000 outside of metropolitan districts. These places were selected to represent, with respect to region, State, and city size, all cities in the United States with a population of 2,500 or more. Each metropolitan district with a population in excess of 1,275,400 was automatically included in the sample. Each of the smaller metropolitan districts and the cities with populations under 50,000 represented a stratum of cities of approximately the same size in the same region.

For classification of cities by size, the November 1943 population of each city in the United States was estimated by applying to the 1940 census population figure the percentage change in the population of the county in which the city is located, as indicated by the registration for OPA Ration Book No. 4. The number of dwelling units¹ in each stratum was estimated for 1943 by dividing the estimated population of all the cities in the stratum by the average size of private household,² as shown by the 1940 census, for the city selected to represent the stratum. The quota of 1,400 dwelling units for the survey was distributed among the 48 cities (28 metropolitan districts and 20 small cities) in proportion to the number of dwelling units in the stratum represented by the sample city, for the purpose of determining the sampling ratio for each city. This was obtained by dividing the dwelling-unit quota for the city by the estimated number of dwelling units in that city in 1943.

The quota for each metropolitan district was distributed between the central city or cities and a sample of other cities and towns in the district. To select the sample places within a metropolitan district, all urban places in the district were divided into four strata on the basis of their population. The dwelling-unit quota for each metropolitan district was distributed among the four strata in proportion to their population. Within the stratum of the largest communities, all cities with sufficient population to warrant a dwelling-unit quota of 3 or more were automatically included in the sample. Within the other strata, the dwelling-unit quota of the stratum was allocated to a city

¹ A dwelling unit was defined in the 1940 census as the living quarters occupied by, or intended for occupancy by, one household. A dwelling unit may be a detached house; a tenement, flat, or apartment in a larger building; or a room in a structure primarily devoted to business or other nonresidential purposes. It may be a superintendent's living quarters in a public building; a watchman's living quarters in a factory; or a tourist cabin, trailer, railroad car, boat, tent, etc., if occupied by persons having no other place of residence.

The following special types of dwelling places were not considered dwelling units: Hotels for transient guests, and similar places maintained by the Y. M. C. A. or kindred organizations; missions; cheap one-night lodging houses; dormitories for students; nurses' homes; educational or religious institutions; military institutions; penal institutions; soldiers' homes; homes for orphans and for the aged, blind, deaf, infirm, or incurable; Civilian Conservation Corps camps; Coast Guard stations; and lumber camps, and railroad or other construction camps, in which the workers live in a common barracks.

² The term private household was used in the 1940 census to include the related family members and the lodgers, servants, or hired hands, if any, who regularly lived in the home.

selected at random. Eighty-two places within metropolitan districts were chosen, making a total of 102 separate urban places in the final sample. (See table A.)

A sample of blocks was selected in each of the 102 urban places. For cities which had over 50,000 population, census "block statistics" were used,³ but for smaller places, for which block statistics are not available, block maps were used. The block sample for the former group of cities comprised blocks that contained dwelling units in 1940 and blocks that contained no dwelling units in 1940, i. e., undeveloped blocks, business blocks, blocks containing only hotels, YMCA's, dormitories, etc.

For each city having a population of 50,000 or more, the number of sample blocks with dwelling units was equal to the dwelling-unit quota for the city. These blocks were selected at random in such a way that each represented a group of blocks having approximately the same total number of dwelling units in 1940. They were grouped according to density of dwelling units and the within-block sampling ratio for each group was determined in such a way that each block would yield one dwelling unit, on the average, provided the number of dwelling units was the same as in 1940. For each large city, the sample of blocks without dwelling units in 1940 was 50 to 100 percent as large as the sample of blocks with dwelling units. The exact number of such blocks to be included in the sample for each city was determined in such a way that the within-block sampling ratio would not be excessively low or excessively high, the limits being fixed by the city sampling ratio, i. e., the product of the within-block sampling ratio and the block sampling ratio.

For cities under 50,000, sample blocks equal in number to the dwelling-unit quota for each were drawn at random from city maps on which were numbered all blocks except those known positively to contain no dwelling units. The within-block sampling ratio was accordingly the same for all blocks and equaled the city sampling ratio divided by the ratio of the number of sample blocks to the total number of blocks.

For each sample block a listing was prepared of all residences, (i. e., of all dwelling units occupied by private households and of all rooms in lodging houses, hotels, nurses' homes, etc.) in the block.⁴ Thus, while the sampling unit used for selection of blocks was a dwelling unit, a residence was used as the unit for selection of assignments for interview. For scheduling and analysis, an economic family (see definition, p. 24) formed the basic sampling unit.

In cities with a population of 50,000 or more, the listings for blocks having the same sampling ratio were grouped and every n th residence was selected, n being determined by the within-block sampling ratio for the group of blocks. In smaller places, the block lists were combined and every n th residence selected, n being determined by the

³ Sixteenth Census of the United States, 1940: Housing, Supplement to First Series—Block Statistics. Block statistics for 1940 were prepared by the Census only for cities which had a population of 50,000 or more in 1930. Of the cities with a population of 50,000 or more in 1940 covered in the Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers, block statistics are not available for Corpus Christi, Tex.; of those with a population below 50,000 in 1940, block statistics are available for Jackson, Mich., and Kenosha, Wis. All subsequent references to sampling procedures in the two city-size groups relate to cities of the designated size in 1940, with these exceptions.

⁴ Residences as defined for purposes of the survey included dwelling units as defined by the census (except that the separate rooms in lodging houses rather than the lodging houses themselves were treated as residences) and all rooms in hotels, nurses' homes, etc.

TABLE A.—Cities Included in Sample for Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers, by Region

Cities within metropolitan districts		Cities outside metropolitan districts
Central city or cities	Other cities and unincorporated places	
New England		
Boston, Mass.	Bridgewater, Mass. Cambridge, Mass. Chelsea, Mass. Dedham, Mass. Malden, Mass.	New London, Conn. North Adams, Mass.
Providence, R. I.	Manville, R. I. Newport, R. I. Pawtucket, R. I.	
Middle Atlantic		
Buffalo, N. Y. ¹	Tonawanda, N. Y.	Berwick, Pa. Olean, N. Y.
New York, N. Y., and Jersey City and Newark, N. J. ²	Fort Lee Borough, N. J. Hoboken, N. J. Long Branch, N. J. Williston Park Village, N. Y.	
Philadelphia, Pa.	Bridgeport Borough, Pa. Norristown Borough, Pa.	
Pittsburgh, Pa.	Bridgeville Borough, Pa. Canonsburg Borough, Pa.	
Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	Dickson City Borough, Pa. Moosic Borough, Pa.	
Syracuse, N. Y.	Solvay Village, N. Y.	
South Atlantic		
Baltimore, Md.	Sparrows Point, Md.	Goldsboro, N. C. Kingstree, S. C. Rome, Ga.
Jacksonville, Fla.		
Roanoke, Va.	Vinton, Va.	
Washington, D. C.	Arlington County, Va. Hyattsville, Md.	
East South Central and West South Central		
Corpus Christi, Tex.		Gulfport, Miss. Kingfisher, Okla. McAllen, Tex.
Houston, Tex.	West University Place, Tex.	
Little Rock, Ark.	North Little Rock, Ark.	
Memphis, Tenn.		

¹ Niagara Falls, N. Y., was not included in the sample for the Buffalo-Niagara metropolitan districts, although it is one of the two central cities.

² In New York City, Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens Boroughs were sampled, and not Richmond Borough. Elizabeth and Paterson, N. J., were not included in the sample for the New York—North-eastern New Jersey metropolitan district, although they are classified as central cities in the New Jersey division.

TABLE A.—Cities Included in Sample for Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers, by Region—Continued

Cities within metropolitan districts		Cities outside metropolitan districts
Central city or cities	Other cities and unincorporated places	
East North Central		
Chicago, Ill.	Berwyn, Ill. Brookfield, Ill. Gary, Ind. Hobart, Ind.	Bluffton, Ind. Jackson, Mich. Jacksonville, Ill. Wooster, Ohio
Cincinnati, Ohio	Covington, Ky. Lawrenceburg, Ind.	
Cleveland, Ohio	Berea, Ohio Garfield Heights, Ohio	
Detroit, Mich.	Dearborn, Mich. Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. River Rouge, Mich.	
Racine and Kenosha, Wis.		
Toledo, Ohio	Maumee Village, Ohio	
West North Central		
Cedar Rapids, Iowa		Detroit Lakes, Minn. Grand Island, Nebr.
Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kans.	Independence, Mo.	
St. Louis, Mo.	Edwardsville, Ill. Granite City, Ill. University City, Mo.	
Mountain		
		Cheyenne, Wyo. Deming, N. M.
Pacific		
Los Angeles, Calif.	Beverly Hills, Calif. Fullerton, Calif. Glendora, Calif. Long Beach, Calif.	Corvallis, Oreg. Riverside, Calif.
San Francisco and Oakland, Calif.	Menlo Park, Calif. Redwood City, Calif.	
Seattle, Wash.		

within-block sampling ratio for the city. Whenever a residence contained more than one economic family, each such family was included in the sample.

Substitutions were required whenever the occupants of an assigned residence refused to provide the information requested or when it proved impossible to contact the occupants after repeated visits. Substitute residences were drawn at random from the listing of residences between the one requiring a substitute and the next assigned residence. The only control on substitutions was that a housekeeping unit should replace a housekeeping unit and a room should replace a room. The final substitution rate was approximately 12 percent.

Substitutions were not required for vacancies, for residences closed for 2 or more weeks by virtue of the occupants' absence from the city, or for residences (usually rooms) occupied by persons who were members of an economic family residing elsewhere. When visiting families were found at an assigned address, a schedule was taken provided the family did not expect to return to its regular residence for 2 or more weeks. Persons living temporarily apart from their family were included as part of that family whenever such a family was drawn in the sample.

Use of a sampling ratio based on a dwelling-unit quota of 1,400 yielded a sample of more than 1,700 families of one or more persons. The excess over the dwelling-unit quota resulted principally from use of ratio sampling, applied uniformly to all residences—rooms as well as private dwelling units—and from scheduling the separate families living in the same dwelling unit. A total of 1,728 residences were selected for the sample. Residences that were vacant, closed for 2 or more weeks, or occupied by families returning home within 2 weeks or by persons who were members of families living elsewhere totaled 154. This left a total of 1,574 residences which should have yielded at least one schedule. The number of schedules obtained was 1,719, or an average of 1.09 families to each "occupied" residence.

Selection of Sample for 1942 Study⁵

The urban sample for the Survey of Family Spending and Saving in Wartime covered approximately 1,300 families and single persons in 62 cities with a population of 2,500 or more in 1940. The communities were selected to give proper representation with respect to size, proximity to a metropolis (for cities under 50,000), region and State, rental level of the city, and racial composition.

The number of residences to be visited in each city (totaling 1,200) was fixed on the basis of a quota determined by the number of occupied dwelling units in the stratum represented, as shown by the census of 1940.

A sample of blocks was selected for each city, the number of blocks being the same as the number of residences to be visited. For cities of 50,000 or more, average block rent in 1940 was used as a basis for stratification in the selection of blocks; only blocks with occupied dwelling units in 1940 were included. For cities under 50,000 for which census block statistics were not available, all blocks on a detailed block map were numbered consecutively and every n th block selected.

A listing was then prepared of all families containing one or more persons living in each sample block. For the cities of 50,000 or more, one family was selected at random from the listing for each block. For the small cities, the block lists were combined into one consecutive listing and every n th family selected, n being equal to the number of sample blocks in the city. In some instances, an assigned unit proved to consist of two or more independent economic units. In every such case, each of the economic families was scheduled separately. The 1,200 original assignments thus yielded almost 1,300 economic families of one or more persons.⁶

⁵ For complete discussion see *Family Spending and Saving in Wartime*, Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 822, Part I. (In press.)

⁶ In accordance with the quota sampling plan, substitutions were required for vacancies as well as for families that refused the information requested or that could not be contacted. The final substitution rate was 7 percent.

Comparison of the Two Samples

The primary differences between the two samples were the use of ratio sampling in the selection of sample residences in 1944 as against the use of fixed quotas in 1942 and the coverage in 1944 (in cities of 50,000 or more) of a sample of blocks which in 1940 had no occupied dwelling units as defined by the census and the exclusion of such blocks in 1942.

The use of 1940 population figures to determine the distribution of a sample in the spring of 1942, together with the use of fixed quotas, resulted in an underrepresentation of war production centers with marked increases in population and, therefore, a probable understatement of wage and salary income. While this feature of the sampling method does not appear to have seriously affected the data with respect to income distribution,⁷ it may have resulted in underestimates of some of the expenditures at the various income levels. The comparison of the two surveys may, therefore, exaggerate somewhat the changes that have taken place. There is no doubt that the 1944 data were greatly improved by including blocks in which there had likely been home construction in the period since the census, as well as hotel blocks, and by use of ratio sampling which takes full account of population changes.

Since considerable migration is known to have taken place during the 4½-year period from April 1940 to the time of selection of the 1944 sample, the distribution of families at a given income level by region and city size is somewhat different in the two studies. Table 1 shows the distribution by region and 1940 city-size class of families and single persons sampled at given income levels in the two studies. While it would be desirable for certain purposes to isolate the effect of changes in regional and city-size distribution, it is nevertheless true that, given the population changes that have taken place, each survey provides a reliable picture of urban spending at the respective dates.

One serious limitation to valid comparison arises from the underrepresentation of single consumers in the 1942 study.⁸ Exclusion in the 1942 study of blocks containing no dwelling units in 1940, contributed in large measure to the apparent underrepresentation of lodgers and hotel residents—typically single consumers—as well as occupants of recently constructed war housing or trailer camps, which might be expected to have housed a heavy proportion of single persons.⁷ A second factor was the selection of blocks with reference to the number of dwelling units, whereas the general sampling unit used in the survey was an economic family. Thus, for example, a block with a few private dwellings and a number of dormitories and lodging houses (i. e., a large proportion of single persons) had a relatively small chance of inclusion in the sample since a dormitory was not counted as a dwelling unit and a lodging house was considered only one dwelling unit. Similarly, a block in which most private families had a few lodgers had a relatively small chance of inclusion. This was true in both surveys, but the ratio sampling plan followed in 1944 gave the lodgers and hotel residents the same chance of inclusion in the final sample as all other families and single persons. In 1942, because of the quota sampling plan, lodgers had a smaller chance of inclusion than did other families and single persons.

⁷ See *Family Spending and Saving*, Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 822, Part II. (In press.)

⁸ This is less serious when purchases of housekeeping families and single persons are compared, as in the present report, than when outlays by all families and single persons are compared, since lodgers comprised a large proportion of the single persons lost to the 1942 sample.

ADJUSTMENT OF 1942 DATA FOR COMPARABILITY AS TO FAMILY SIZE

The average family size was considerably smaller in 1944 than in 1942, particularly at income levels under \$2,000 and over \$4,000, as a result of the underrepresentation of single consumers in the 1942 sample and the heavy drain of the armed services between March 1942 and August 1944.

The effect of the war on total expenditures and on the amounts of various foods purchased by families at different income levels can be measured accurately only by comparing the reports of families of the same size. Both surveys were too small to allow presentation of the detailed data by family size and income.⁹

Accordingly, 1942 averages presented for families of all sizes at each income level have been standardized as to family size, i. e., adjusted to represent the purchases characteristic of families of the sizes found in the 1944 study. The adjusted average family expense for all food at home and away from home, respectively, was derived by weighting the averages for each of 7 family-size groups (families of 1 through 7 or more) by the number of such families in the same income group covered in the 1944 survey. Standardized averages for expense for food at home at each income level were then converted to a per-capita basis and the component items (quantity as well as expense) estimated from the detailed tabulations for 1942 by linear interpolation, at the point in the income scale where actual per-capita expenditures coincided with the standardized estimate.¹⁰

The distribution of housekeeping families by family size in the two studies is given in table B. The average family size in 1942 and in 1944 is shown in table C, together with the average weekly expenditure for food at home in the spring of 1942, as reported and adjusted.

TABLE B.—Percentage Distribution of Housekeeping Families in Cities by Size and Annual Money-Income Rate,¹ September–October 1944 and March–June 1942

Family size	Annual rate of money income									
	September–October 1944					March–June 1942				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
All families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Families containing—										
1 or 2 persons.....	77.0	59.7	32.0	28.1	18.4	70.0	45.7	33.8	25.7	13.5
3 or 4 persons.....	17.8	33.1	54.2	52.6	50.6	22.3	39.1	49.3	54.3	57.4
5 or more persons.....	5.2	7.2	13.8	19.3	31.0	7.7	15.2	16.9	20.0	29.1

¹ See p. 25 for definition of income.

⁹ Comparison on a per-capita basis is not satisfactory because the distribution of families among the size groups varied considerably and food purchasing habits of large and small families with similar incomes differ markedly.

¹⁰ Previous studies indicate that within certain limits, the distribution of total food expense among items is similar for families with similar per-capita outlays for food.

TABLE C.—Average Food Expense of Housekeeping Families in Cities, 1 Week in 1942, as Reported and as Adjusted to Represent the Spending of Families of the Sizes in the Sample Population in 1944, by Annual Money-Income Rate ¹

Item	Annual rate of money income				
	Under \$1,000	\$1,000 to \$2,000	\$2,000 to \$3,000	\$3,000 to \$4,000	\$4,000 and over
Average family size—					
As reported in 1942.....	2.28	3.03	3.30	3.59	4.20
As reported in 1944.....	2.10	2.52	3.24	3.56	3.93
Food at home in 1 week:					
Average expense per family—					
As reported.....	\$5.39	\$9.71	\$12.84	\$14.43	\$17.83
As adjusted.....	5.24	9.16	12.68	14.21	17.11
Average expense per person—					
As reported.....	2.36	3.20	3.89	4.02	4.25
As adjusted.....	2.50	3.63	3.91	3.99	4.35

¹ See p. 25 for definition of income.

COLLECTION OF FOOD DATA

Information on 1 week's purchases of food for home use was obtained in 1942 and in 1944 by personal interview, using a detailed list of approximately 200 food items. There were certain differences, however, in the design of the two food schedules and in the emphasis placed on the food reports.

The differences in schedule design were relatively minor. A greater effort was made in 1944 than in 1942 to obtain an exact description of the foods bought with respect to quality, unit of purchase, brand, etc., because of the interest in comparison of prices reported by consumers with prices reported to the Bureau by retail stores. The arrangement of items varied somewhat. Furthermore, prepared and partially prepared foods, and foods put up especially for infants, were itemized in more detail on the 1944 than on the 1942 schedule, on the ground that purchases of such foods had become more common in recent years.

In the Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers, primary emphasis was placed on the collection of information on food purchases, whereas in 1942 the food schedule was appended to a detailed schedule covering the income and expenditures of the family during 1941 and the first quarter of 1942. In 1944, therefore, the food report was obtained early in the interview, immediately after a few preliminary questions on family composition and living arrangements. In 1942, by contrast, the week's food report was usually taken last in the interview or series of interviews required to complete the schedules. It might be expected, therefore, that the 1942 food reports would be somewhat less complete than the 1944 reports. If this were the case, differences would be expected principally in the case of small purchases in the miscellaneous group which are made irregularly and might easily be forgotten. Preliminary examination of the reports on miscellaneous food purchases, however, suggests that there is no clear bias of this nature. Reports on dairy product and meat purchases, which would be expected to be the most complete and accurate in a hasty recital, generally showed greater outlays in 1944 than in 1942, except in the case of rationed food purchases by families whose incomes probably allowed larger meat purchases than the general supply or their red points permitted.

DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, the definitions cited below are common to both the Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers and the Survey of Family Spending and Saving in Wartime.

Economic family.—(1) A group of persons, usually related, who lived together during a designated period, contributing to the family income or receiving a large part of their support from family funds.

All relatives of the head of the family who ordinarily lived with the family but were temporarily away from home (at work in a civilian occupation, at school, in a hospital, or on a visit) were included as family members, provided they either contributed to the family income or received a large part of their support from family funds. Related persons in military service, living on military reservations, were not included as family members.

(2) An individual who lived independently, apart from relatives, as a 1-person economic family. In the 1942 survey, adult sons or daughters who made regular payments to their parents for room and board were sometimes treated as 1-person families, but more often as members of their parents' family. Inmates of institutions, as well as residents of military camps and posts, were excluded from the surveys.

Family size.—Family-size figures presented in conjunction with data on food represent the number of family members living at home during all or part of the week covered by the food report. Measurement of family (or household) size in relation to the number of meals consumed in the home during the week (i. e., considering 21 meals to represent 1 person) provides a more refined tool for analysis of food purchased for home consumption.

A count of all meals eaten in the home during the survey week was available for the earlier but not for the later study. Hence the rougher measure, i. e., the count of family members, was used in both instances to insure comparability. It is apparent from the similarity at each income level in 1942 in average family size as measured by the two methods, that meals eaten away from home by family members are largely balanced by meals served in the home to boarders, guests, and servants:

*Average family size in March-June 1942,
as measured by—*

Annual rate of money income:	<i>Number of family members living at home</i>	<i>Number of meal- equivalent persons</i>
Under \$1,000	2. 28	2. 20
\$1,000 to \$2,000	3. 03	2. 38
\$2,000 to \$3,000	3. 30	3. 27
\$3,000 to \$4,000	3. 59	3. 51
\$4,000 and over	4. 20	4. 05

Housekeeping.—A family occupying a house, flat, or apartment with regular cooking facilities was defined as housekeeping.¹¹ One occupying an apartment without cooking facilities, or a room or suite of rooms, was defined as nonhousekeeping, even though some of the latter had hot plates in their rooms or kitchen privileges, which enabled them to do some cooking. In 1944 about 11 percent of the roomers had light-housekeeping privileges and prepared some food at

¹¹ A few residences were occupied by two or more families that cooked and ate together. In each case, the week's purchases of food for home use were recorded on the schedule of one of the families. For analysis of food purchases, the others were treated as boarders.

home. The family (usually 1-person) that had cooking facilities but did not cook at home is excluded from the group on which the data on food at home are based.

Of the 1,700 families covered in the Survey of Prices Paid by Consumers in 1944, approximately 1,500 were keeping house and provided information on food purchases for home consumption. In the Survey of Spending and Saving in Wartime in 1942 the corresponding numbers were approximately 1,300 and 1,100.

Money income.—The annual rate of income was based on reports for August 1944 in the recent study and on reports covering the first 3 months of 1942 in the earlier one. In both surveys, family income represents the sum of all types of income received by family members during those periods: wage and salary earnings, entrepreneurial net income or withdrawals, and nonearned income from all sources, exclusive of inheritances, large gifts, and lump-sum insurance settlements. For the 1942 study, total wage and salary earnings less occupational expense was used in computing the family's total money income, but for the 1944 study, wage and salary earnings after pay-roll deductions was used. Because of the increase in income-tax rates since early 1942, an income classification for 1944 based on take-home pay is believed to provide a better basis for comparison, at corresponding income levels, of food purchases in the two periods.

Income averages are not available by income class for 1944 based on reports for August, since in a considerable number of cases the information provided for August was sufficient only as a basis for classification.¹² Since the proportion of families with high incomes was very much greater in 1944 than for 1942, it might be expected that the average income of the lowest and highest classes would be considerably greater in the more recent period. Preliminary figures obtained in the second part of the survey of prices paid by consumers on money income received during the entire year 1944 indicate that the income of housekeeping families and single persons receiving less than \$1,000 (after pay-roll deductions) averaged \$616 in 1944 as compared with \$567 in 1942, based on the first 3 months; the income of those receiving \$4,000 or more averaged \$7,235 as compared with \$6,513 in 1942. In 1944, as in 1942, the average for each of the middle income groups was near the midpoint of the class.

Food expense.—Includes the cost of all food purchased during the week for use at home during that week or at a later time, and all food purchased away from home during the week, whether or not the items purchased were paid for at the time.

Food at home includes all food and nonalcoholic drinks purchased to be served at home or to be carried from home (as box lunches), whether the food was served to boarders, guests, servants, or family members. Expense figures exclude amounts paid as sales taxes in places having a sales tax on food. It is practically impossible to allocate a sales tax to specific items since a sales tax is customarily collected on the total expense for all items bought at one time.¹³

¹² Approximately 3 percent of the sample families either failed to report income or provided information that was inadequate as a basis for classification. Most of them were keeping house. The size of their families and their food expenditures averaged about the same as for housekeeping families that reported income.

¹³ In the 1942 study, the sales tax in cities where applicable was computed as a single item on the weekly food schedules. The amount of these taxes, averaging 7 cents or less for all families at an income level, is not included in the total food expense figures for 1942 because similar figures are not available for the 1944 survey.

Food away from home includes board, meals, and between-meal snacks purchased in restaurants and cafeterias, and at counters and fountains, and ice cream, nonalcoholic drinks, etc., bought to eat with meals carried from home.

Quantity of food purchased for home consumption.—Every effort was made in both studies to obtain an accurate measure of the quantity purchased and the unit of purchase for every item. For summarization, purchases were converted to a common unit. When the diversity of purchase units for items included in a particular food group was very great, however, conversion to a common unit was impractical and figures are presented only on amounts spent.

Basis of item averages.—Averages are based on all housekeeping families and single persons in the class, whether or not they purchased the item during the week.