

factor may be assessed by studying living expenditure tendencies when other factors are held constant and differences in expenditure patterns are examined in relation to variations in these factors separately. Such studies of tendency may be related, also, to typical as well as average conditions of income, family size, age, etc. It is desirable to have a clear-cut picture of living expenditure patterns of the more numerous family types which are to be found in the community. In the studies which the Bureau is making, living expenditure records are shown grouped according to three principles of classification with a view to examining the relationships between living expenditures and the factors in family composition noted above, *viz.*, number of children in the family, age of the father, and principal types of families. Certain results of the preliminary analyses are summarized here:—

Summary of Results.—There appeared to be no general tendency in urban wage-earner families of British origin for the number of children to increase in the higher family income groups, although in French families the average number of children was larger at higher income levels.

There seemed to be a significant relationship between the rise in average expenditure levels of two-children British wage-earner families over those with one child, but average expenditures for two-, three- and four-children families showed only minor differences, and averages for five-children families dropped back sharply to very near the one-child family expenditure level. Average expenditures of French families covered by the survey moved steadily upward as the number of children increased.

In both racial origin groups, amounts spent per person declined as the number of children in the family increased. Average expenditure per person dropped from \$516 in British families with one child to \$212 in households with five children. Corresponding averages from French families were \$397 and \$219. All budget groups contributed to this decline, with food outlay per person falling from \$127 to \$74 for British families and from \$109 to \$75 for French families with one and five or more children, respectively.

A different picture was obtained when expenditure records were classified according to the age of the father. The number of children per family tended to increase until the father's age was somewhere between 45 and 54, and amounts spent per person on food and clothing increased slightly as the age of the father moved upward into that range. This was associated with a more rapid rise in income than in numbers of children at progressive age levels of the father.

Analyses of records for living expenditure tendencies related to numbers of children and the length of time the family had been formed, did not reveal the existence of a "typical" family. Families with one child under 13 years, or with two children from 4 to 12 years apparently possess some claim to this title, but contrary to popular opinion, families with three children form a definite minority. The tendency already noted, for income to increase as the family life span lengthened was apparent in family groups with the same number of children. The earnings of older children were partly responsible for this increase. For families with the same number of children, expenditures on food and clothing mounted as the family life span extended but not by the full amount of the income increase. Housing and household furnishing expenditures actually declined as the number of children increased. Most other budgetary outlays showed very little relation either to rising income or the lengthening family life span. Apparently a wide diversity in consumer tastes exists, which is scattered fairly evenly among "non-necessity" expenditures such as recreation, transportation, and savings.