

8.—Index Numbers of Retail Prices in Canada and Other Countries, 1958-60

(BASE: 1953=100. SOURCE: *United Nations Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, November 1958, 1959 and 1960.*)

Country	1958	1959	1960	Country	1958	1959	1960
Belgium.....	108	110	110	India.....	109	114	116
Brazil.....	237	326	439	Iran.....	138	152	164
Britain.....	119	120	121	Israel.....	139	141 ^r	144
Canada.....	108	110	111	Korea, South.....	339	353	382
Chile.....	752	1,043	1,164	Netherlands.....	117	119	121
Denmark.....	117	New Zealand.....	118	123	124
Dominican Republic.....	102	102	98	Norway.....	118	120	121
Egypt.....	102	Sweden.....	119	120	124
France (Paris).....	122	129	134	Switzerland.....	107	106	108
Germany, Federal Republic of	109 ^r	110 ^r	111	Turkey.....	171	216	228
Greece.....	131	134	..	United States.....	108	109	111

Section 3.—Consumer Expenditure Surveys

A continuing program of surveys of family income and expenditure in urban areas was begun in 1953 and surveys have been conducted since then at two-year intervals. The primary purpose of these surveys has been to collect information for reviewing and revising, if necessary, the weights of the consumer price index. The surveys have therefore been restricted to cover only those families which were comparable in family composition and income level to the consumer price index target group which was selected for index number purposes from a nation-wide survey conducted in 1947-48. For each of the three survey periods covering 1953, 1955 and 1957, respectively, the program consisted of a series of monthly surveys in which the major objective was the collection of detailed expenditure data on food, followed by a recall survey of all expenditures and income for the same calendar year. Detailed results for each survey have been published in two series of occasional publications, of which the latest are *Urban Family Food Expenditure, 1957*, (Catalogue No. 62-516) and *City Family Expenditure, 1957* (Catalogue No. 62-517).

The 1959 survey, carried out in March and April of 1960, marked a departure from this pattern in that the program of monthly food expenditure surveys was omitted, and the universe of the recall survey was enlarged to include all families and individuals, regardless of income level, in urban centres of 15,000 or over. The results shown in Tables 9 and 10 are therefore not comparable with results of the nine-city expenditure survey of 1957.

Table 9 shows how expenditure patterns varied among families grouped by income levels. For the basic necessities of food and shelter, expenditure per family increased as income rose, but relative importance of these categories in total expenditure decreased from 58 p.c. for families with incomes under \$2,500 to 39 p.c. for families with incomes of \$10,000 and over. Relative expenditure on household operation also declined fractionally as income rose. The proportions spent on clothing and other commodities and services, which included transportation, personal care, medical care and recreation, increased as income rose. The largest relative increase was shown by gifts and contributions and personal taxes and security which increased from 5 p.c. in the lowest income groups to 25 p.c. in the highest.