

Section 3.—Consumer Expenditure

A continuing program of surveys of family expenditure in urban areas was begun in 1953 and surveys were conducted since then at two-year intervals up to and including 1959. No expenditure surveys were taken in 1961, the decennial census year, but the regular program was resumed in 1962, when monthly surveys of food expenditure were made throughout the year, and a recall survey of the complete budget was made in February and March 1963.

The primary purpose in most of these surveys was to collect information for reviewing and revising, when necessary, the weights of the consumer price index. Therefore the surveys, with the exception of that for 1959, have been restricted to cover only the families comparable in 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 four survey periods covering 1953, 1955, 1957 and 1962, 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. In the 1959 survey program, the monthly surveys were omitted and a larger recall survey was made referring to all families and individuals in cities with populations of 15,000 or over. 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 *Urban Family Expenditure, 1959* (Catalogue No. 62-521).

Summary results of the 1959 survey appear in the 1962 Year Book at pp. 934-937 where tables are given showing how expenditure patterns varied among families grouped by income level, and the average dollar expenditure per family and per person for major items. Summary results of the 1962 survey of family food expenditure are shown in Tables 11 and 12. Results of the 1962 survey of the complete budget were not yet available at the time of printing.

Table 11 shows weekly food expenditure patterns in 1962 for seven cities individually and the seven-city composite. Approximately 150 families in each month kept weekly diaries of food purchases for a four-week period; the families belonged to one of eight family types (two to four adults, two adults and one to four children, three adults and one child) with family incomes ranging from \$3,000 to \$7,500.

On the average, 29 p.c. of the family food dollar went for meat, poultry and fish, 14 p.c. for fruits and vegetables, 13 p.c. for bakery and cereal products, 12 p.c. for dairy products, 4 p.c. for fats and oils, 3 p.c. for eggs, 1 p.c. for frozen foods, 12 p.c. for other groceries for home use and 12 p.c. for food purchased and eaten away from home, including out-of-town board. This distribution differs only slightly from that recorded in a similar survey made in 1957. The most pronounced differences between the 1957 and 1962 distributions were in the proportions of food expenditure going to meat, from 28.2 p.c. in 1957 to 29.3 p.c. in 1962 and to fats and oils from 4.9 p.c. to 4.2 p.c. Among the seven cities surveyed, total weekly food expenditure ranged from an average of \$20.61 per family in Edmonton to \$24.85 in Montreal; average expenditure per person varied from \$5.78 in Halifax to \$7.41 in Montreal.

Table 12 shows how weekly food expenditure varied among families at different income levels. Average expenditure per family increased from \$21.33 in the lowest income group to \$26.57 in the highest, with over half the increase occurring between the two upper income classes. Family spending on food away from home and on frozen foods increased as income rose, not only in dollars but as a percentage of total expenditure. Expenditure on fruits and vegetables also increased with rising income but the percentage of total expenditure declined slightly at successive income levels. Expenditure per family and per person on