

beverages; and the collection of information by annual recall of all money transactions of families and individuals — expenditures, income and changes in assets and liabilities — from a survey carried out in February and March 1977.

For the 1976 record-keeping survey, the usable sample of 3,536 non-boarding spending units was distributed in the cities of St. John's, Nfld., Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The annual recall survey was conducted in the same eight cities. However, data from this survey are not yet available.

6.2.1 Family (spending unit) concept

The definition of a family or spending unit used in the family expenditure surveys is not the same as that of the census, or the economic family concept used in the surveys of consumer finances (see Section 6.1.1). The family or spending unit is defined as a group of persons dependent on a common or pooled income for the major items of expense and living in the same dwelling or one financially independent individual living alone. Never-married sons or daughters living with their parents are considered as part of their parents' spending unit. In the great majority of cases the members of spending units of two or more are related by blood, marriage or adoption, and are thus consistent with the economic family definition employed in surveys of family income, i.e. "a group of individuals sharing a common dwelling unit and related by blood, marriage or adoption". However, it should be noted that according to the economic family definition, unrelated persons living in the same household would be counted as unattached individuals. Under the definitions in the expenditure survey, it is possible for two or more unrelated persons to comprise one family or spending unit.

6.2.2 Family food expenditure patterns

It is useful to classify the expenditure patterns of families by a number of related variables (e.g. family income, size of family, family life cycle, and so on) to determine the influence and effects of these various factors on family spending habits. Such classifications will be available in the Statistics Canada report *Urban family food expenditure, 1976*. This section provides a classification of family food expenditures in 1976 by income quintiles, income being the most influential of all factors bearing on most items of family spending.

Food expenditure patterns by family income quintile, 1976. Table 6.8 shows the food expenditure patterns in 1976 of survey families of two or more persons arranged by income quintiles (families ranked in ascending order of income size and then divided into five equal groups). For example, the average net income before taxes of the 20% of all families comprising the lowest quintile was \$7,077 as compared to an average of \$34,159 for the 20% of families forming the highest quintile. Of the 2,931 families of two or more persons who provided at least one usable diary, 6.5% refused to give income information. Expenditures for these families are shown separately in Table 6.8. They are also included in the all classes column.

The percentages of total food expenditure on specific food items showed the most significant differences for the five family income quintile groups between food purchased for preparation at home and food in restaurants. The 20% of families in the lowest group spent on the average 13.7% of their total food expenditure in eating places such as restaurants, cafeterias, and drive-ins. The proportion ranged upwards to 33.8% for the 20% of families in the highest group. The offsetting difference was the amount for food purchased for preparation at home, which averaged 84.4% of total food expenditure for families in the lowest group compared with only 63.2% for those in the highest quintile.

The component items of food prepared at home as percentages of total food expenditure reflect a similar downward trend. Therefore, as proportions of total expenditure on food prepared at home, these components do not show any marked differences between income classes.

Successive income classes are not homogeneous with respect to family size; average family size rose from 2.84 persons in the lowest class to 3.55 persons in the