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RURAL FAMILY LIVING

CHARTS

U.S.

Prepared for 1950 Outlook Conference

Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Issued October, 1949

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Foreword

Each year the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics brings together for the Outlook Conference the available material on the situation of rural families. The emphasis is on families--where they are, how they are living, the amount of their incomes and the kind of living these incomes will buy.

More family statistics are available than formerly, but there are still important questions about which little is known. Current information on spending of rural families is one neglected area. For some consumption categories few pertinent data applicable to the present period can be found. Data with which to portray regional or State differences are largely lacking. This picture of rural family living is necessarily incomplete. It is offered to those who work with rural families and those who wish to look at the rural economy from the family point of view.

For the most part this report is limited to rural families. A survey of urban food consumption provided recent data not available for rural families. The urban communities studied included towns with a population of 2,500 or more. Much of the information about food consumption and factors affecting it applies equally well to rural families.

Some of the material presented is available from research carried on by the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. In addition other sources are used: in the Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Rural Electrification Administration; in the Department of Labor, the Bureau of Labor Statistics; in the Department of Commerce, the Census Bureau; and in the Federal Security Agency, the Office of Education. Summaries of farm family accounts sent to the State Agricultural Colleges and account books of some Farmers Home Administration borrower families also have been used.

How to order charts

Reproductions of the charts in this book are available. Photographic prints may be ordered at a cost of 51 cents per square foot. Prices for two sizes are shown below:

Size	Cost
8" x 10"	$ .36
16" x 20"	1.13

Larger sizes are available.

Address requests to the Family Economics Division, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. All orders must be accompanied by check or money order to cover the cost of the charts. These should be made payable to The Treasurer of the U. S. Allow at least one week for delivery.

Population

Four out of ten U. S. families live in rural areas--a total of almost 15 million. Farm families number 6½ million. Families living in the open country but not on farms and those in small villages make up the rural nonfarm group. They number over 8 million. Before the Second World War farm families were more numerous than rural nonfarm families. Recently farm population has declined, especially in the South, and the rural nonfarm population has been increased by the growth of suburbs and open country homes for city people. By 1948 farm families were 3 percent less than in 1940, but there were five rural nonfarm families for every four in 1940.

Almost half of the farm households in the country are in the South, about a third are in the North Central States, and the Northeast and the West each have about 10 percent. The rural nonfarm families are more evenly distributed among the regions. About one-third are in the South, a seventh in the West, and the remainder about equally divided between the Northeast and the North Central States.

Less than half (46%) of all households in the South are living in areas classified as urban. On the other hand, 3 out of 4 households in the Northeast and 3 out of 5 in the North Central States and the West are located in urban areas. (All incorporated places with a population of 2,500 persons or more in 1940 are considered urban). Families living in predominantly urban areas are likely to have higher income, more modern facilities in their houses, and better educational and medical facilities than families living in rural areas. The South with its many farm families is the least urban part of the country.

Many people now living in cities have come from rural homes, and rural families continue to supply more than their proportionate share of the Nation's children. Nearly half of the children now under 14 are in rural families. Provision for rural children is therefore a matter of importance. Accordingly, this Chartbook includes a section on education--one of the important ways in which the community influences the family situation.

Farm Population, 1910-49

Year	Number of persons on farms January 1 (millions)	Year	Number of persons on farms January 1 (millions)	Year	Number of persons on farms January 1 (millions)	Year	Number of persons on farms January 1 (millions)
	Civilian		Civilian		Civilian		Civilian
1910....	1/ 32.1	1920....	2/ 31.6	1930....	30.2	1940....	30.3
1911....	32.1	1921....	31.8	1931....	30.5	1941....	30.0
1912....	32.2	1922....	31.7	1932....	31.0	1942....	29.0
1913....	32.3	1923....	31.1	1933....	32.0	1943....	26.7
1914....	32.3	1924....	30.8	1934....	31.9	1944....	3/ 25.5
1915....	32.4	1925....	30.8	1935....	2/ 31.8	1945....	3/ 25.2
1916....	32.5	1926....	30.6	1936....	31.4	1946....	3/ 26.8
1917....	32.3	1927....	30.2	1937....	30.9	1947....	3/ 27.6
1918....	31.8	1928....	30.2	1938....	30.6	1948....	3/ 27.4
1919....	30.9	1929....	30.2	1939....	30.5	1949....	3/ 27.8

1/ Estimated, U. S. Bureau of the Census.
2/ Enumerated, U. S. Bureau of the Census.
3/ Estimated cooperatively by Bureau of the Census and Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

FARM POPULATION, 1910-49

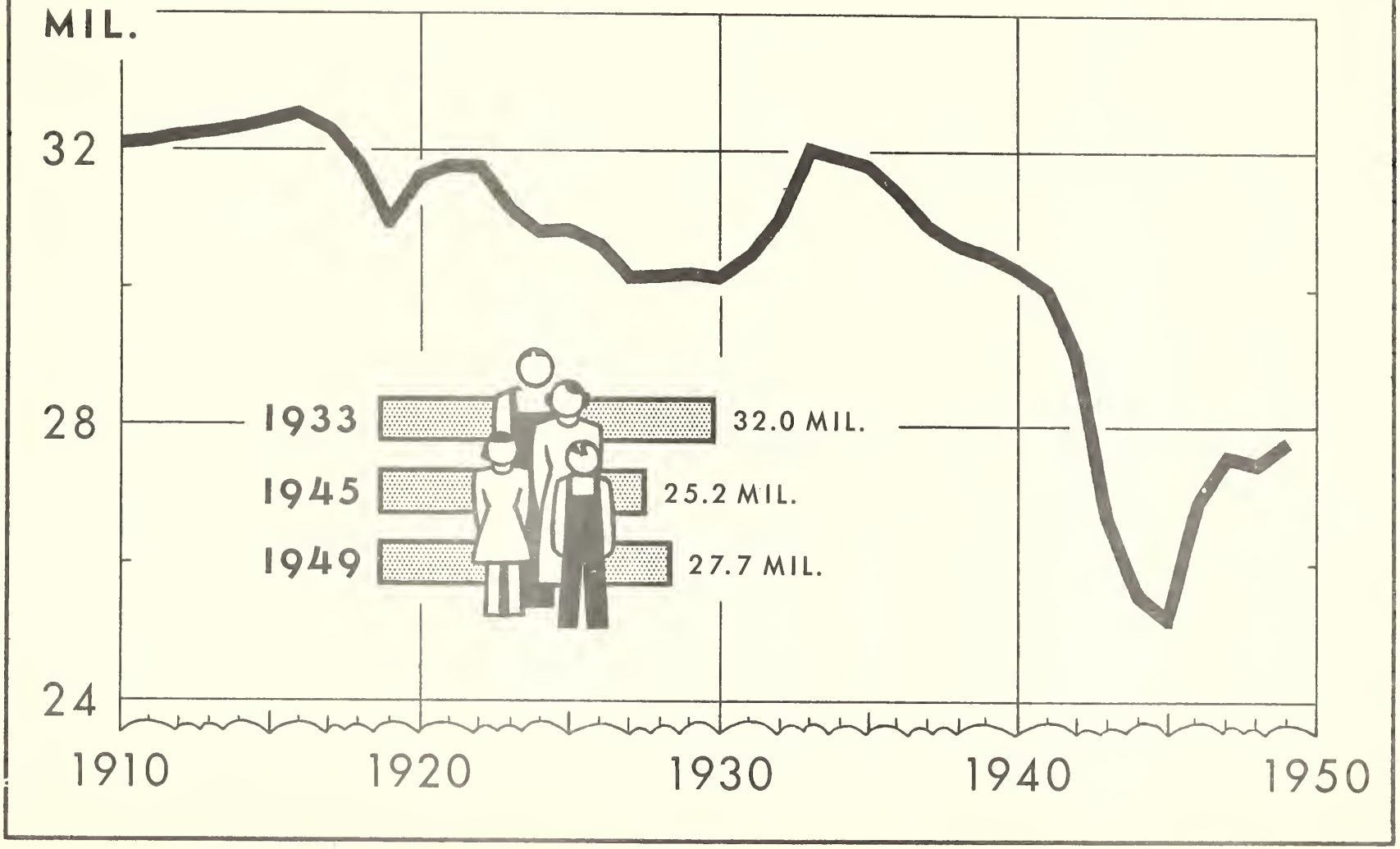


Chart 1

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

BAE 43457-XX

Distribution of Families and Children by Place of Residence

Percent of families and percent of children under 14 living in urban, rural nonfarm and rural farm areas, April 1947

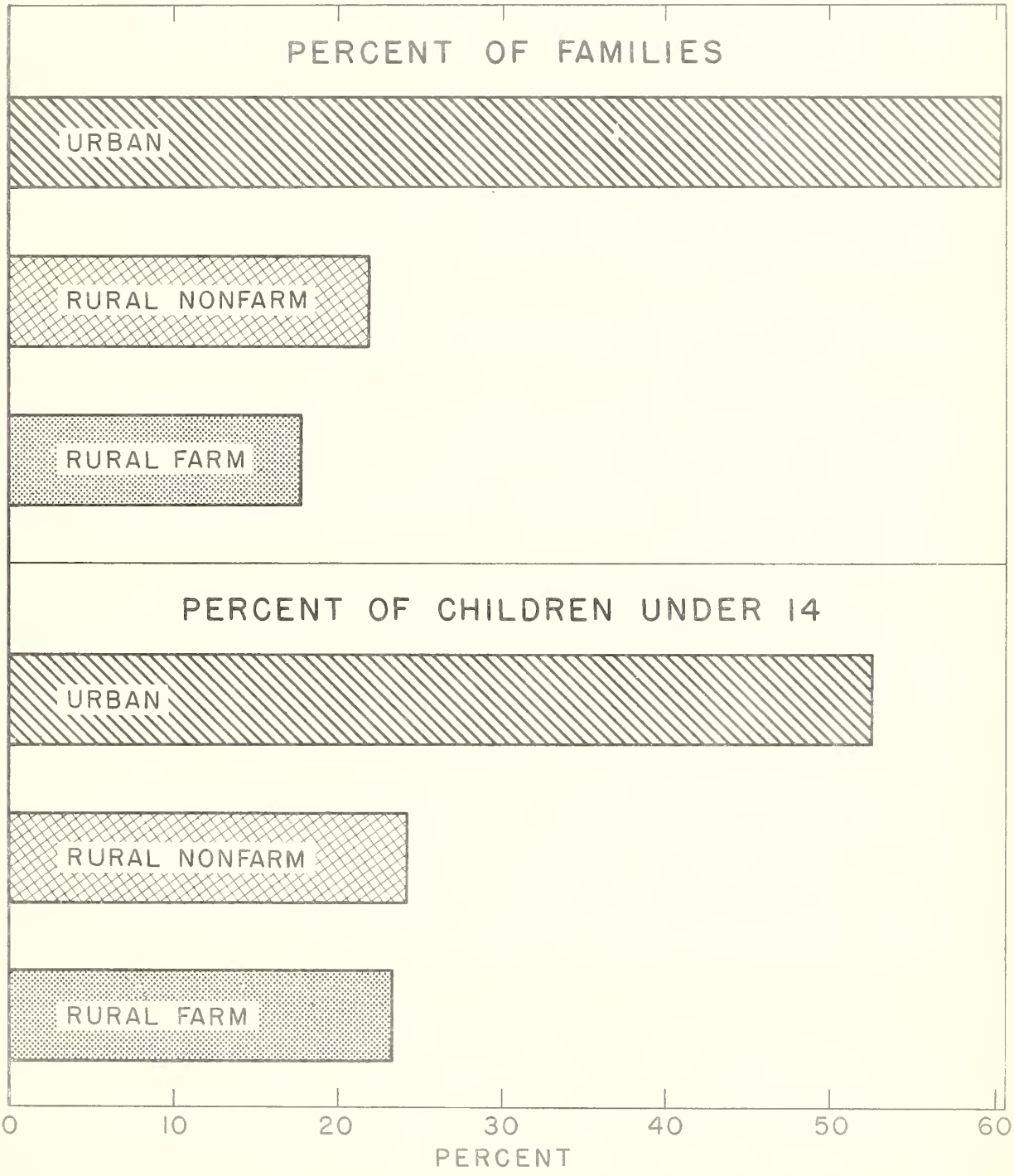
Place of residence	Families		Children under 14	
	Number (thousands)	Percent	Number (thousands)	Percent
Total.....	36,071	100.0	36,999	100.0
Urban.....	21,721	60.2	19,433	52.5
Rural nonfarm.....	7,937	22.0	8,961	24.2
Rural farm.....	6,413	17.8	8,605	23.3

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, Nos. 9 and 17.

Chart 2

DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

PERCENT OF FAMILIES AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 14 LIVING IN URBAN, RURAL NONFARM, AND RURAL FARM AREAS, APRIL 1947



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9000-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Income

The sharp rise in farm income during the war and post-war years has been checked. Income from farming has been decreasing in 1949, with cash receipts through September about 11 percent less than for the corresponding period in 1948. The peak year for net farm income of farm operators and other persons living on farms is either 1947 or 1948, depending on whether adjustments for inventory change are made. Without this adjustment, realized net farm income of farm operators (that is, net income from agriculture including government payments, value of farm-furnished food, fuel, and housing, but without adjustment for inventory change) reached a peak in 1947 and then began to decline slightly. With the adjustment for inventory change, 1948 becomes the peak year. Regardless of the method of estimating chosen, 1949 farm income is expected to be less than in previous years, but it will still be far above the pre-war level.

Although in the aggregate the agricultural income situation of farm families is still very good compared to earlier years, great variation by areas and even among families in the same area still exists. In general, the States that rank low in per capita total income also have lower average farm income (chart 4). When the states are ranked by per capita income payments to all individuals, the more urban and industrialized states cluster at the top while those with the largest proportion of farm and rural people are generally found at the bottom. When the states are ranked by average net farm income of farm operators, the same states for the most part fall at the bottom of the list.

To complete the picture of money available to farm families for family living the income many families obtain from off-farm work must be considered. Almost $200 or 21 percent of the $900 per capita net income (including value of farm-furnished food, fuel, and housing) of persons on farms in 1948 came from off-farm work. A recent report on the work experience of farm operators showed 1 out of 4 doing nonfarm work for wages or salary in 1948. There is some evidence that the incidence of nonfarm work among the total farm population is increasing. In April 1948, 1 in every 5 persons over 14 living on a farm was employed in a non-agricultural industry, compared with only 1 in 10 eight years previous. This fact is particularly significant in terms of family spending patterns. As farm operators and other members of their families increase off-farm work experience and come into more frequent contact with urban standards, farm family living patterns may tend to become more like patterns of city families.

Taking into account all sources of money income, a Census Bureau survey found the income position of the farm family improved considerably since the war. (Money income in the Census survey is income before taxes. It includes net income from farm or other business; total money wages or salary before any deductions for taxes, bonds, union dues, etc.; and income from other sources such as dividends, interest, veterans' payments, and pensions.) Between 1944 and 1947, the median family money income increased by more than half. Only 25 percent of farm families had incomes less than $1,000 in 1947 compared with 40 percent four years earlier. But in spite of this improvement half the farm families in the country had less than $2,000 to spend on family living, investment in home or business, or other savings in 1947.

In terms of present prices this is not a large sum, even when allowances are made for the housing, fuel, and the part of the family food provided by the farm. One-fourth of the Nation's farm families had less than $1,000 in cash to spend during the year. The Census income surveys are known to understate the total money income families receive, particularly farm income, but they do indicate the broad income groups into which farm families may be divided. The $4,000 or $5,000 a year farm family is still relatively unusual and is probably found only in certain sections of the country (chart 5).

The large group of families that make up the remainder of the rural population, those living in villages or in the open country, have somewhat higher incomes than do families on farms. The variety of circumstances under which these families live is great, as the group includes those on the fringe of cities, as well as the farm laborers and others in rural areas that do not live on farms. In 1947 the median net money income for these families was about $2,800. Only about one-tenth had incomes below $1,000; about one-fourth had $4,000 or more to spend on family living, investment in home or business, or other savings. These families have less in the way of home-furnished food and fuel than do farm families.

Family incomes are higher in cities than in the country, and the income level of city families appears to be related to the size of the city. The 1947 median money income for families in cities of one million or more was estimated at $3,800. For much smaller cities (less than 50,000 in size) median family income was about $700 less (chart 6). These small cities include a large share of the urban population and are especially important in the predominantly rural sections of the country. There are a large number of small cities, and except in the South, families living in them outnumber either the farm or rural nonfarm groups. It is with these small-city families that the rural population most often has contact. To the extent that exposure to urban patterns helps effect changes in rural patterns, the incomes in smaller cities and the levels of living they make possible are the most significant urban levels for farm families.

Economic changes from 1944 to 1947 brought higher incomes for each group of families--city, farm, and rural nonfarm. The gain in family incomes has been greatest for the farm group. This is true, on both a dollar and a percentage basis (chart 7). Median income for farm families was up from $1,300 to $2,000 in this four-year period, an increase of more than 50 percent. For the nonfarm group, rural and all city sizes combined, the increase was about 17 percent. Thus, the difference in net money income level between farm families and other groups has been narrowed during these years, but it still remains large.

Within so large a country as the United States rural families live under greatly differing economic circumstances. The spread of the income distribution shows this. It cannot show, however, the types of farming, the kinds of communities, the States or even the regions in which families of high- or low-incomes live. Hence, these charts are presented as background material, necessary for the understanding of the way of living of rural families, the housing they have, the things they buy, and the education that they and their communities are able to provide for their children.

Farm Income and Expenses of Farm Operators
1910-48

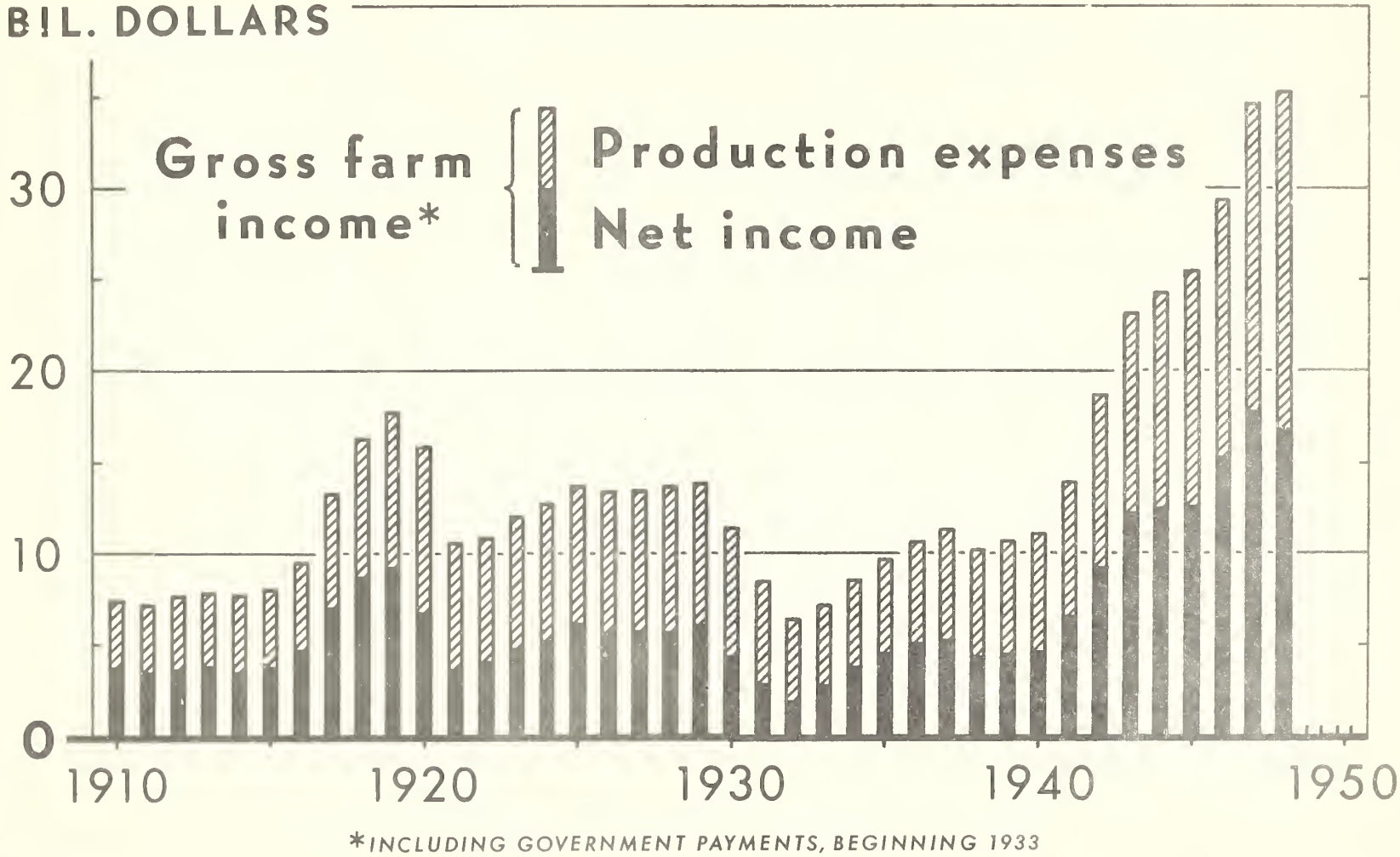
Year	Gross farm income 1/	Production expenses	Realized net income from agriculture 2/	Year	Gross farm income 1/	Production expenses	Realized net income from agriculture 2/
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars		Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
1910.....	7,352	3,599	3,753	1930.....	11,388	7,059	4,329
1911.....	7,081	3,646	3,435	1931.....	8,378	5,634	2,744
1912.....	7,561	3,890	3,671	1932.....	6,406	4,574	1,832
1913.....	7,821	4,035	3,786	1933.....	7,055	4,374	2,681
1914.....	7,638	4,120	3,518	1934.....	8,486	4,727	3,759
1915.....	7,968	4,223	3,745	1935.....	9,595	5,111	4,484
1916.....	9,532	4,845	4,687	1936.....	10,643	5,581	5,062
1917.....	13,147	6,136	7,011	1937.....	11,265	6,126	5,139
1918.....	16,232	7,558	8,674	1938.....	10,071	5,744	4,327
1919.....	17,710	8,461	9,249	1939.....	10,547	6,088	4,459
1920.....	15,908	9,130	6,778	1940.....	11,009	6,464	4,525
1921.....	10,478	6,875	3,603	1941.....	13,881	7,469	6,412
1922.....	10,883	6,826	4,057	1942.....	18,551	9,465	9,086
1923.....	11,967	7,125	4,842	1943.....	23,008	10,882	12,126
1924.....	12,623	7,495	5,128	1944.....	24,159	11,640	12,519
1925.....	13,567	7,464	6,103	1945.....	25,419	12,629	12,790
1926.....	13,204	7,505	5,699	1946.....	29,255	14,238	15,017
1927.....	13,251	7,545	5,706	1947.....	34,643	16,849	17,794
1928.....	13,550	7,855	5,695	1948 3/.....	35,299	18,556	16,743
1929.....	13,824	7,780	6,044				

1/ Not adjusted for inventory changes; beginning with 1933, includes Government payments.
2/ Includes Government payments to farm operators.
3/ Preliminary.

Note: All income figures include value of home-consumed food and fuel and gross rental value of farm homes.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

FARM INCOME AND EXPENSES



*INCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS, BEGINNING 1933

Chart 3

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

B A E 39404A-XX

Per Capita Income by State, 1948

Income payments to individuals

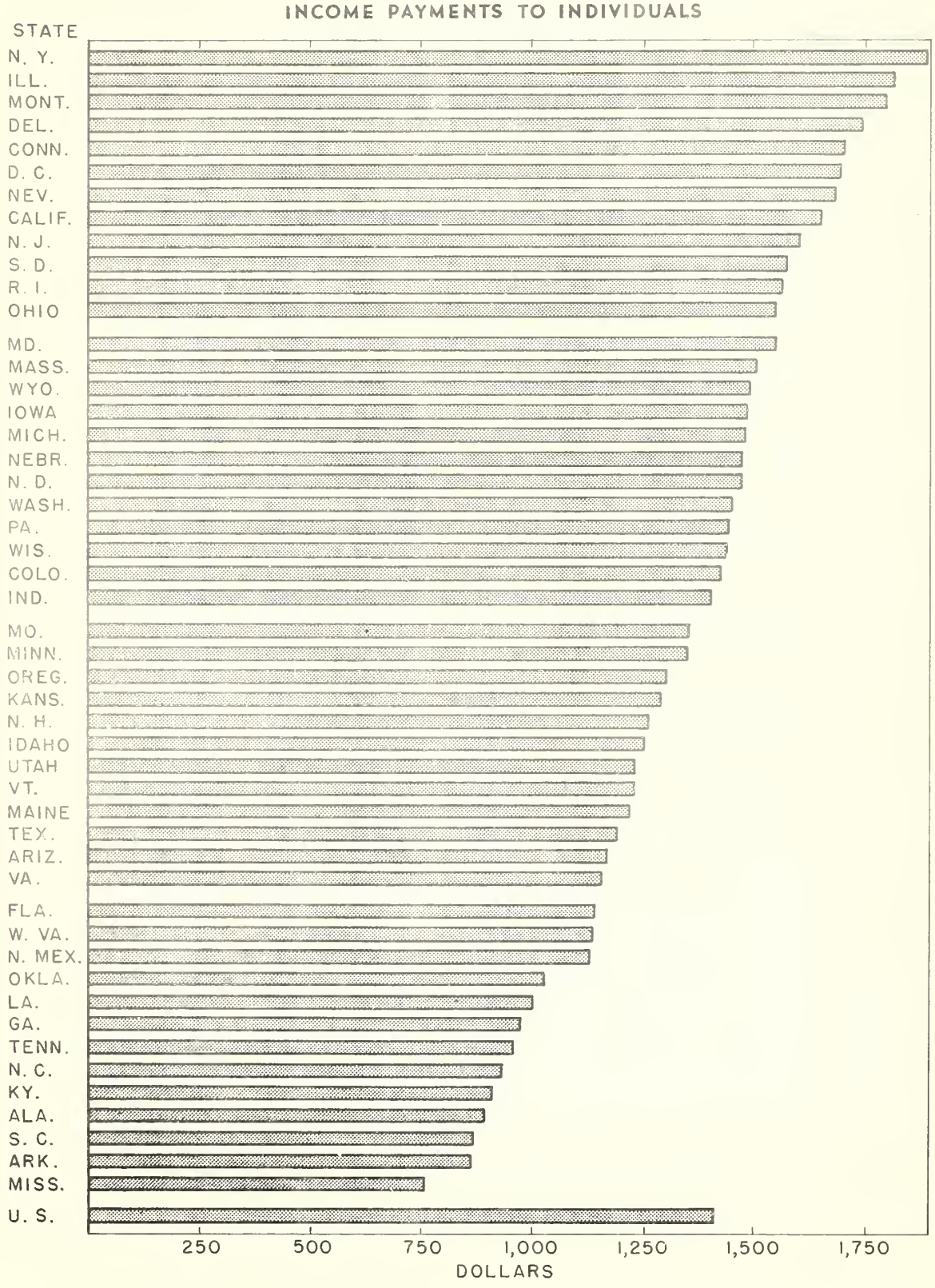
State	1948 Per capita income	State	1948 Per capita income
United States.....	$1,410		
Alabama.....	891	Nevada.....	$1,679
Arizona.....	1,168	New Hanpshire.....	1,261
Arkansas.....	863	New Jersey.....	1,605
California.....	1,651	New Mexico.....	1,125
Colorado.....	1,429	New York.....	1,891
Connecticut.....	1,700	North Carolina.....	930
Delaware.....	1,741	North Dakota.....	1,473
Florida.....	1,137	Ohio.....	1,548
Georgia.....	971	Oklahoma.....	1,029
Idaho.....	1,252	Oregon.....	1,302
Illinois.....	1,817	Pennsylvania.....	1,444
Indiana.....	1,403	Rhode Island.....	1,564
Iowa.....	1,491	South Carolina.....	865
Kansas.....	1,291	South Dakota.....	1,577
Kentucky.....	909	Tennessee.....	955
Louisiana.....	1,002	Texas.....	1,192
Maine.....	1,219	Utah.....	1,231
Maryland.....	1,546	Vermont.....	1,229
Massachusetts.....	1,509	Virginia.....	1,159
Michigan.....	1,484	Washington.....	1,453
Minnesota.....	1,353		
Mississippi.....	758	West Virginia.....	1,133
Missouri.....	1,356	Wisconsin.....	1,443
Montana.....	1,791	Wyoming.....	1,494
Nebraska.....	1,473	District of Columbia	1,691

Source: U. S. Department of Commerce, Survey of Current Business, August 1949.

Chart 4

PER CAPITA INCOME BY STATE 1948

INCOME PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS



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SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Farm Family Money Income 1/

Distribution of rural farm families of two or more, by net money income 1947

Net money income level	Number of farm families (thousands)	Percent of farm families
All incomes.....	6,520	100.0
Under $1,000.....	1,637	25.1
$1,000-$1,999.....	1,682	25.8
$2,000-$2,999.....	1,206	18.5
$3,000-$3,999.....	704	10.8
$4,000-$4,999.....	359	5.5
$5,000-$5,999.....	333	5.1
$6,000-$9,999.....	404	6.2
$10,000 and more.....	189	2.9

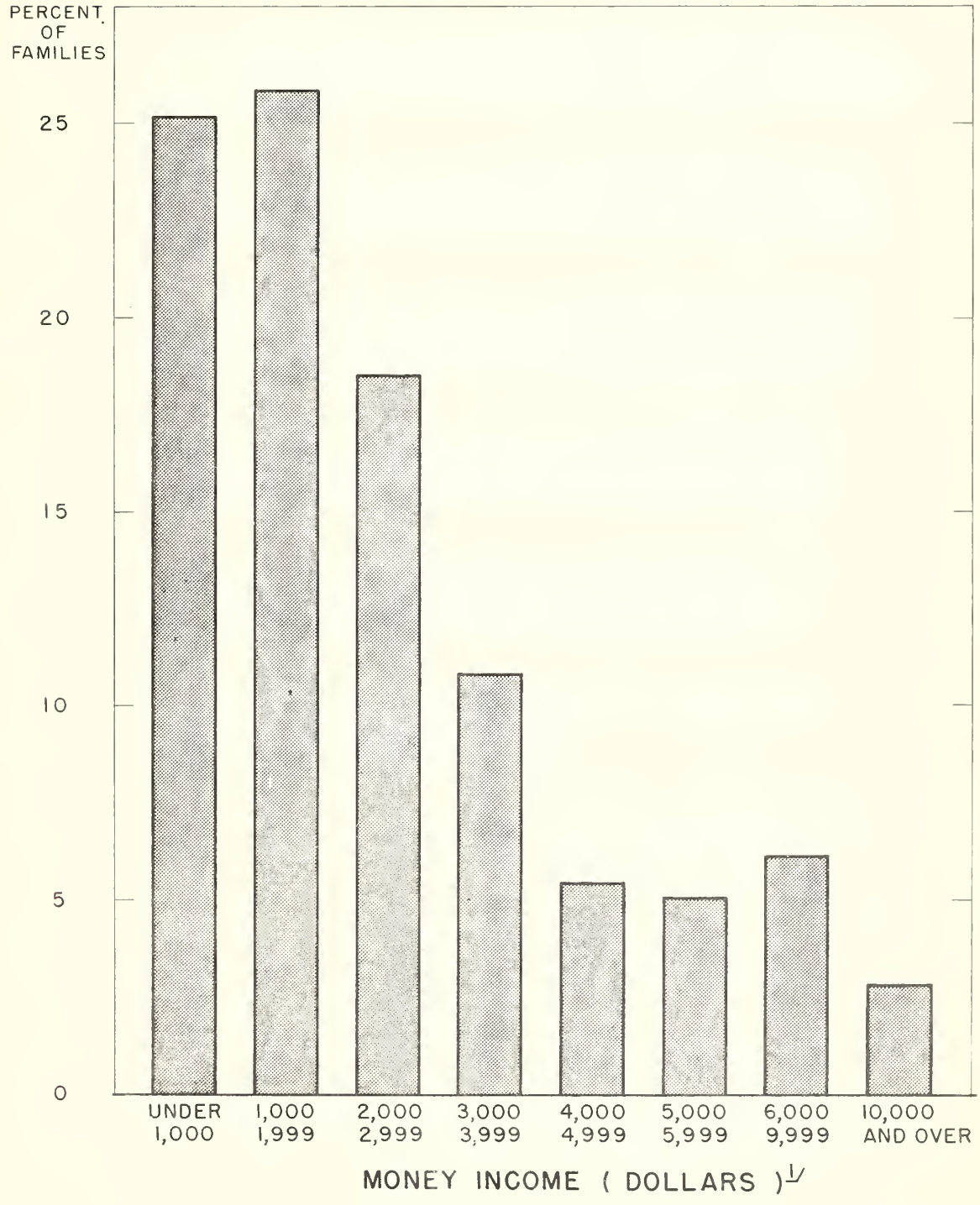
Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 5.

1/Income includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, and other income such as dividends, interest, or pensions.

Chart 5

FARM FAMILY MONEY INCOME[1/]

DISTRIBUTION OF RURAL FARM FAMILIES OF TWO OR MORE, BY NET MONEY INCOME, 1947



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9002-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1/ Income includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, and other income such as dividends, interest, and pensions.

Family Income by Size of Community 1/

Median net money income of families of two or more, by place of residence, 1947

Place of residence	Median net money income (dollars)
Total	3,031
Urban	
Metropolises (1,000,000 and over population)	3,826
Large cities (250,000-999,000 population)	3,430
Middle-sized cities (50,000-249,999 population)	3,291
Small cities (2,500-49,999 population	3,119
Rural nonfarm (villages with population less than 2,500 and open country)	2,826
Rural farm (includes all persons living on farms)	1,963

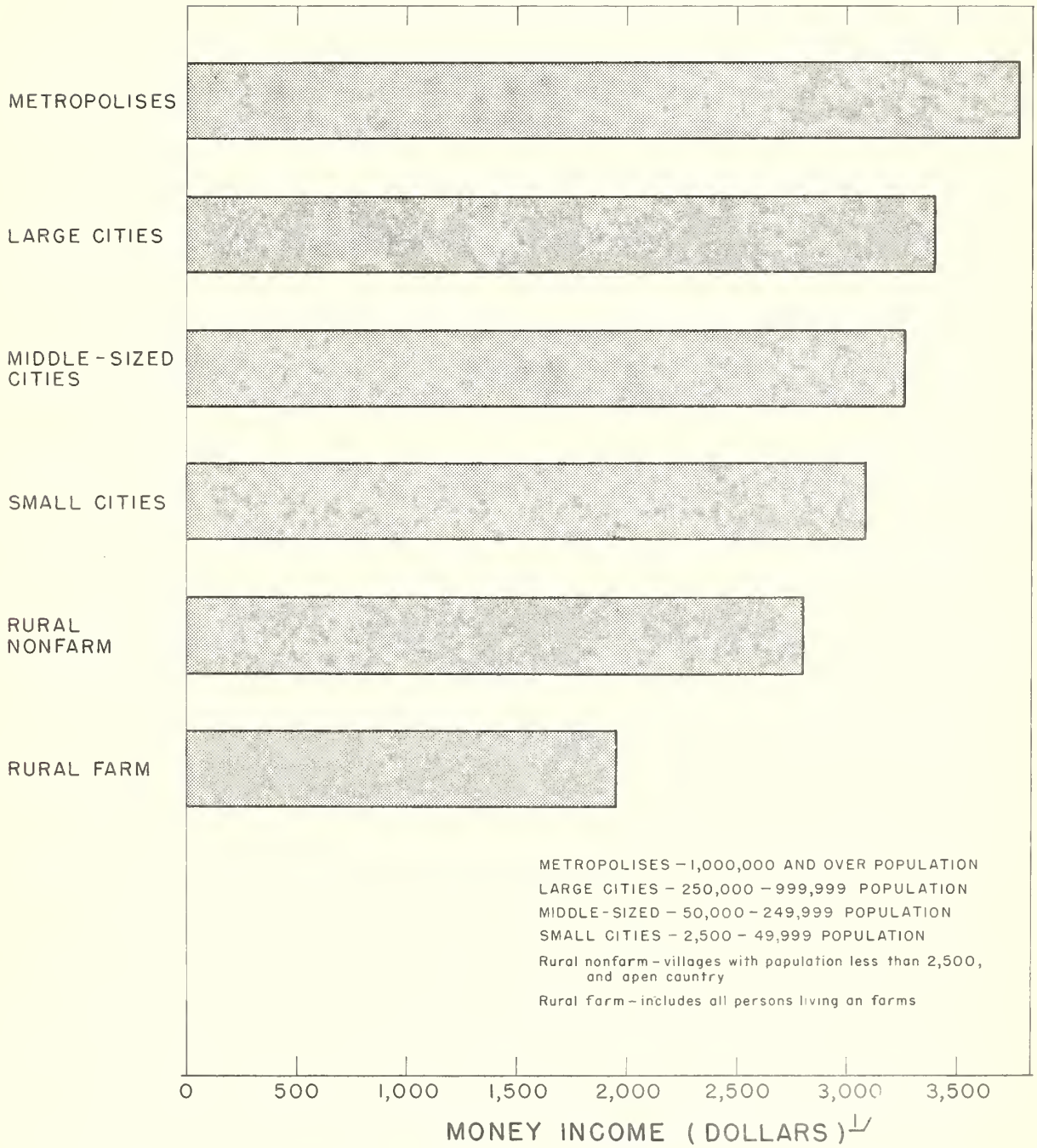
Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 5.

1/ Income includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, and other income such as dividends, interest, or pensions.

Chart 6

FAMILY INCOME BY SIZE OF COMMUNITY[1/]

MEDIAN NET MONEY INCOME OF FAMILIES OF TWO OR MORE, BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, 1947



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg 9003-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1/ Income includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, and other income such as dividends, interest, and pensions.

Trends in Family Income

Median net money income of urban, rural nonfarm and rural farm families of two or more persons, 1944-1947 1/

Type of community	Median money income			
	1944	1945	1946	1947
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
United States.....	2,533	2,621	1/	3,033
Urban.....	2,918	2,995	3,131	3,350
Rural nonfarm.....	2,388	2,445	2,548	2,826
Rural farm.....	1,272	1,410	1/	1,958
	Relative income (1944 = 100)			
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States.....	100.0	103	1/	120
Urban.....	100.0	103	107	115
Rural nonfarm.....	100.0	102	107	118
Rural farm.....	100.0	111	1/	154

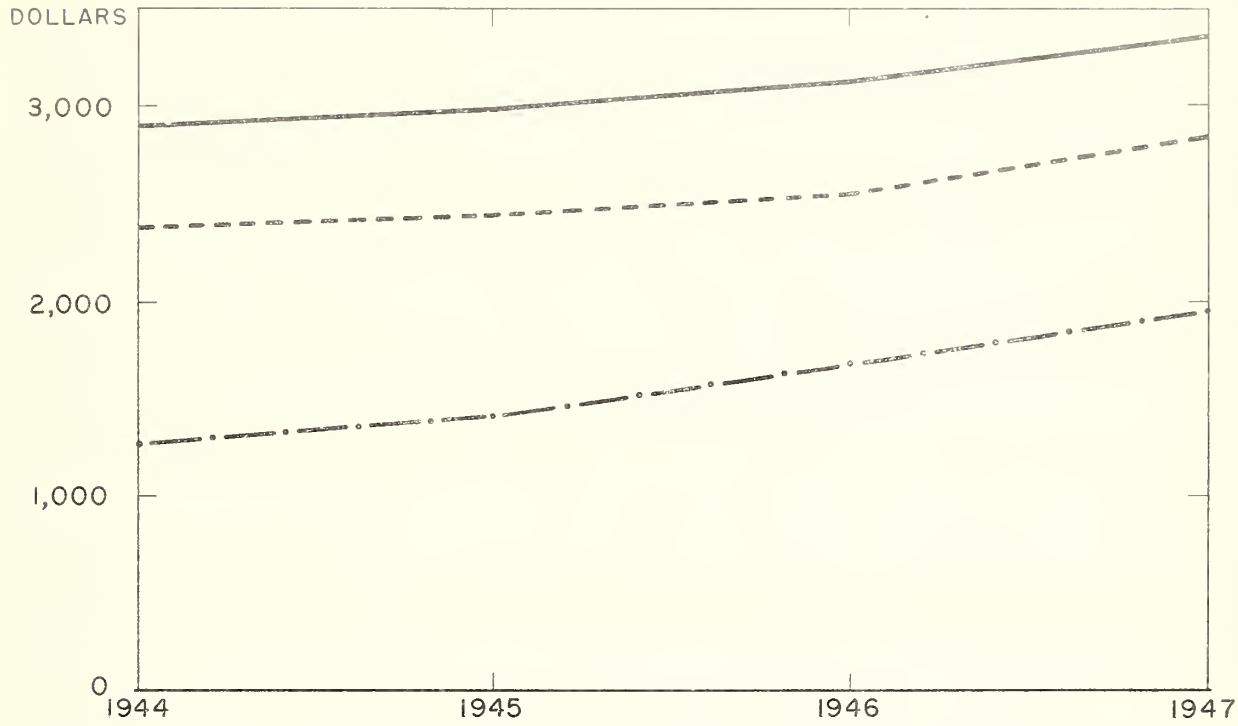
1/ Median net money income of rural farm families in 1946 not available. To facilitate historical comparison, figures in this table refer only to families in households. The small number of families living in hotels, lodging houses, etc., included in Charts 5 and 6 for 1947, are excluded here. Income includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, and other income such as dividends, interest, or pensions

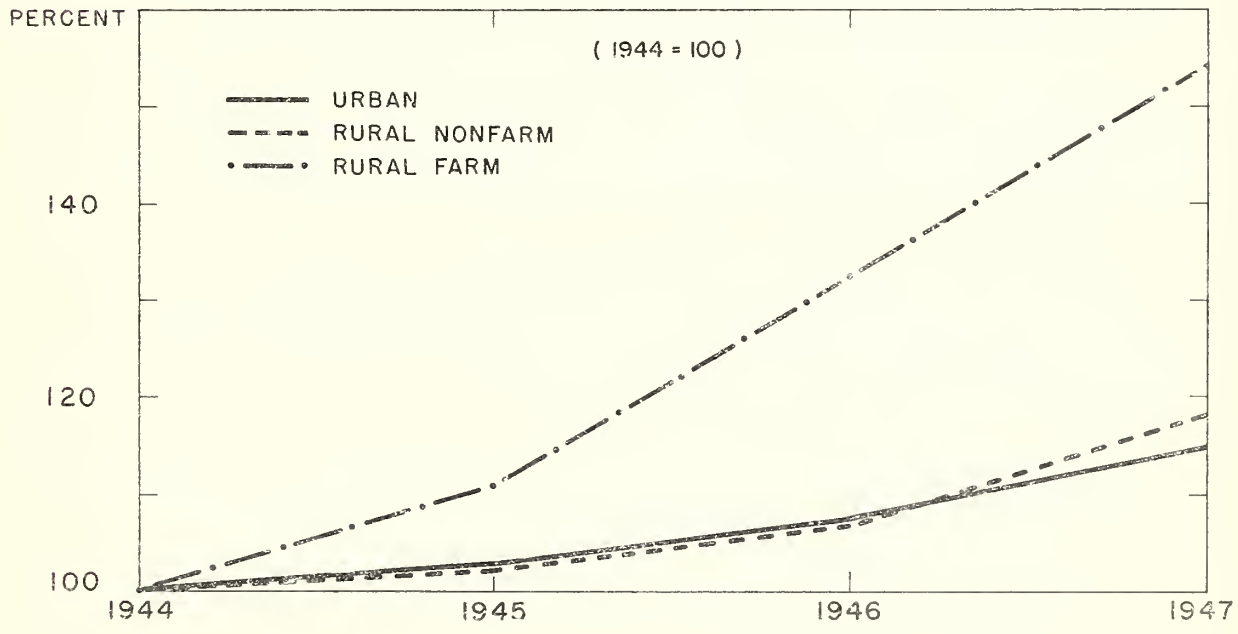
Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 5.

Chart 7

TRENDS IN FAMILY INCOME

MEDIAN NET MONEY INCOME OF URBAN, RURAL NONFARM AND RURAL FARM FAMILIES OF TWO OR MORE PERSONS, 1944-47 1/





U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9004-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1/ Median net money income of rural farm families in 1946 not available. Income includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, and other income such as dividends, interest, and pensions.

Price Indexes

The purchasing power of increased postwar incomes has been cut by the rise in prices. One measure of such price changes is The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities Used for Family Maintenance. Included in this index are prices for food, clothing, operating expenses, furniture and furnishings, building materials for the house, and automobiles.

Food prices as shown by this index were down 5 percent in the winter and spring of 1949 from the high point reached in the previous fall. By June, prices of food had increased slightly to offset some of this decline. These changes were small compared with the great increase that occurred in 1946. As of June 15, 1949, the food group of the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers stood at a little more than twice the prewar level (chart 8).

Clothing prices at the retail level declined from the fall of 1948. By June the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers was down 7 percent for clothing from the high of the previous September.

Prices of house furnishings also declined slightly over the same period--roughly 4 percent. Price cuts have been much discussed as they have occurred for individual items of house furnishings. But when account is taken of the importance of each item in the average farm family budget the over-all decline has been small.

The price index of house building materials declined 5 percent from September 1948 to June 1949. As of June it stood at 242 with the average for the period 1935-39 taken as 100. In other words, although prices of house building materials were down slightly, they were nearly 2½ times prewar levels.

The "Operating expenses" index for farmers is heavily weighted by fuel. It also includes some household supplies, but electricity is not included. For this index neither the increase during the postwar period nor the decline in June 1949 was as much as for food, clothing, or house furnishings.

The movement of prices for city families is measured by the Consumers' Price Index of Prices Paid by Moderate-Income Families in Large Cities. This index is shown here because of the general interest in the urban situation where rent is a more important element than on farms and because this index covers services not at present included in the index for farm families.

Rents for moderate-income city families have risen slightly (chart 9). The increase, as shown by the rent index, was 3 percent from June 1948 to June 1949. Rent control kept rents down during

the War and the first postwar years although adjustments have been permitted recently. This index however does not attempt to indicate the total increase in housing costs to city families since it does not cover costs of home ownership. Many families, unable to find suitable places to rent, have been forced to buy houses at high prices.

In total, there was little net change from the high point of the fall of 1948 to June 1949 in the cost of goods and services typically bought by city families (chart 10). Prices for some family living items were up slightly; others were down. Taking account of the relative importance of all these goods and services in the total family budget, the decrease was only 3 percent.

The two price indexes discussed are constructed differently, and do not measure precisely the same thing. The Consumers' Price Index measures changes in prices of a list of goods and services typically bought by moderate-income families in large cities, with quality of goods kept the same from year to year, insofar as that is possible. The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers measures changes in price most frequently paid by farmers for a list of goods typical of farm family purchases.

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers may overstate the price rise in periods when increasing income causes a shift to purchases of higher quality. The index of prices paid by families in large cities may understate the price rise in a changing price situation when disappearance of low-price lines makes higher quality substitutions necessary. Neither index is a wholly reliable measure of "the cost-of-living." But in the last few years, both indexes have been moving in similar manner. In fact, since the latter part of 1946, for those categories which are roughly comparable, namely, food, clothing, and house furnishings, both indexes have been moving at about the same rate.

Current prices have been related to the level in 1935-39 to show trends--but this does not assume that the prewar period is a norm to which prices will or should return. People generally want high prices for the things they sell and low prices for the things they buy, whether these be labor, food, or manufactures. All families would like to see "the cost-of-living" come down and yet have incomes stay high. Actually prices and income do not move independently. Though they may not move at the same rate, in the long run they are apt to move in the same direction.

Index of Prices Paid by Farmers

Commodities used for family living
March 1935-June 1949

(1935-39 = 100)

Date	Food	Clothing	Operating expenses	Furniture and furnishings	Building materials for house	Date	Food	Clothing	Operating expenses	Furniture and furnishings	Building materials for house
1935: March 15....	104	102	99	100	97	1943: March 15....	140	147	111	132	122
June 15.....	106	98	99	99	98	June 15.....	146	149	112	136	124
September 15	105	99	99	99	99	September 15	143	152	114	139	128
December 15.	105	100	100	99	97	December 15.	145	156	117	141	131
1936: March 15....	100	98	100	99	98	1944: March 15....	146	158	118	144	134
June 15.....	100	98	97	98	99	June 15.....	146	160	118	146	136
September 15	104	99	99	97	98	September 15	144	163	119	148	138
December 15.	103	102	100	99	99	December 15.	145	169	120	152	139
1937: March 15....	106	104	102	102	105	1945: March 15....	146	171	120	155	140
June 15.....	109	104	102	104	106	June 15.....	147	172	120	158	141
September 15	106	106	101	104	106	September 15	147	175	121	161	142
December 15.	100	103	102	104	104	December 15.	150	179	121	165	144
1938: March 15....	97	102	101	101	101	1946: March 15....	154	183	122	168	145
June 15.....	96	100	101	101	99	June 15.....	158	190	123	175	153
September 15	94	100	101	100	99	September 15	180	201	131	183	159
December 15.	92	99	100	99	99	December 15.	204	217	138	193	185
1939: March 15....	92	99	100	99	99	1947: March 15....	214	226	140	201	222
June 15.....	93	97	99	98	100	June 15.....	215	224	140	200	226
September 15	100	97	99	98	100	September 15	223	229	146	202	230
December 15.	94	99	99	99	101	December 15.	228	237	151	207	242
1940: March 15....	95	100	99	99	101	1948: March 15....	221	240	154	209	249
June 15.....	96	99	97	99	101	June 15.....	229	240	154	212	253
September 15	94	99	98	99	102	September 15	229	242	160	213	255
December 15.	95	101	98	99	105	December 15.	218	241	160	213	254
1941: March 15....	97	102	98	100	107	1949: March 15....	215	233	160	209	247
June 15.....	105	105	100	104	107	June 15.....	219	225	159	205	242
September 15	111	114	104	109	112						
December 15.	113	122	107	115	115						
1942: March 15....	122	129	107	118	117						
June 15.....	126	134	108	120	119						
September 15	127	139	110	124	120						
December 15.	132	144	110	128	121						

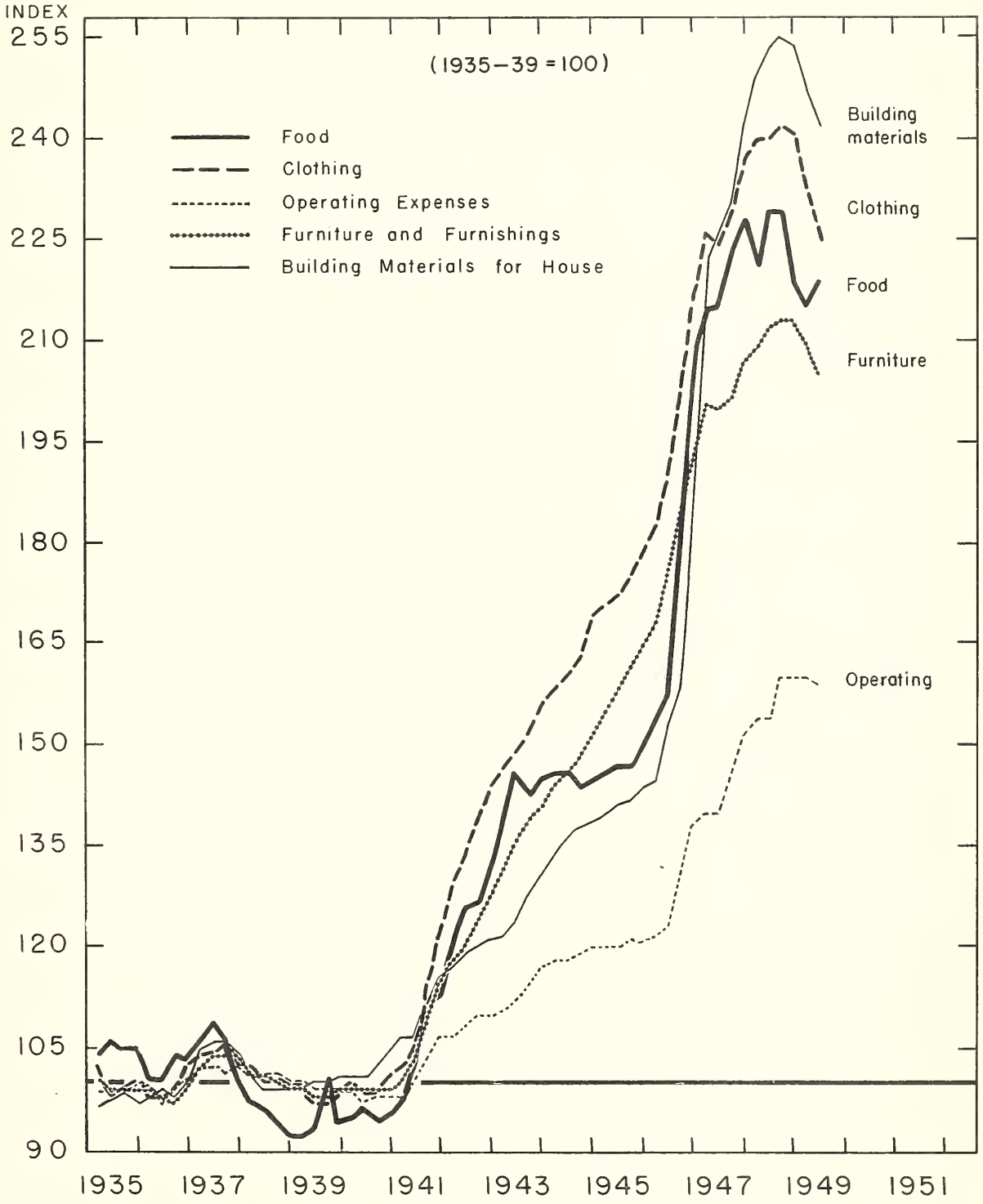
Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Chart 8

INDEX OF PRICES PAID BY FARMERS

COMMODITIES USED FOR FAMILY LIVING

MARCH 1935--JUNE 1949



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9005-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Consumers' Price Index

Prices paid by moderate-income families in large cities, certain items
March 1935-June 1949
(1935-39 = 100)

Date	Food	Apparel 1/	Rent	Fuel electricity and ice	House furnishings	Miscellaneous
1935: March....	100	97	94	102	94	98
July.....	99	97	94	99	94	98
October..	100	97	95	100	96	98
1936: January..	102	97	95	101	96	98
April....	98	97	96	101	96	99
July.....	103	97	96	99	96	99
September	105	98	97	100	97	99
December.	102	99	98	100	98	99
1937: March....	105	101	99	101	103	100
June.....	106	102	101	99	104	101
September	108	105	102	100	107	102
December.	103	105	104	101	107	102
1938: March....	98	103	104	101	105	102
June.....	98	102	104	99	103	102
September	98	101	104	99	102	102
December.	97	101	104	100	102	101
1939: March....	95	100	104	100	101	100
June.....	94	100	104	98	101	100
September	98	100	104	99	101	101
December.	95	101	104	100	103	101
1940: March....	96	102	104	101	100	101
June.....	98	102	105	99	100	101
September	97	102	105	99	100	101
December.	97	102	105	101	100	102
1941: March....	98	102	105	101	102	102
June.....	106	103	106	101	105	103
September	111	111	107	104	112	105
December.	113	115	108	104	117	108
1942: March....	119	124	109	104	121	110
June.....	123	125	108	105	122	111
September	127	126	108	106	124	111
December.	133	126	108	106	124	113
1943: March....	137	128	108	107	124	114
June.....	142	128	108	108	125	116
September	137	132	108	108	126	117
December.	137	135	108	109	128	118
1944: March....	134	137	108	110	129	119
June.....	136	138	108	110	138	122
September	137	141	108	110	141	122
December.	137	143	108	109	143	123
1945: March....	136	144	108	110	144	124
June.....	141	145	108	110	146	124
September	139	148	108	111	147	125
December.	141	149	108	110	148	125
1946: March....	140	153	108	110	150	126
June.....	146	157	108	110	156	128
September	174	166	109	114	166	130
December.	166	176	2/	116	177	136
1947: March....	190	184	109	118	182	138
June.....	190	186	109	118	183	139
September	204	188	114	125	188	141
December.	207	191	115	128	191	144
1948: March....	202	196	116	130	195	146
June.....	214	197	117	133	195	148
September	215	201	118	137	198	153
December.	205	200	120	138	199	154
1949: March 15.	202	194	120	139	194	154
June 15..	204	190	121	136	187	154

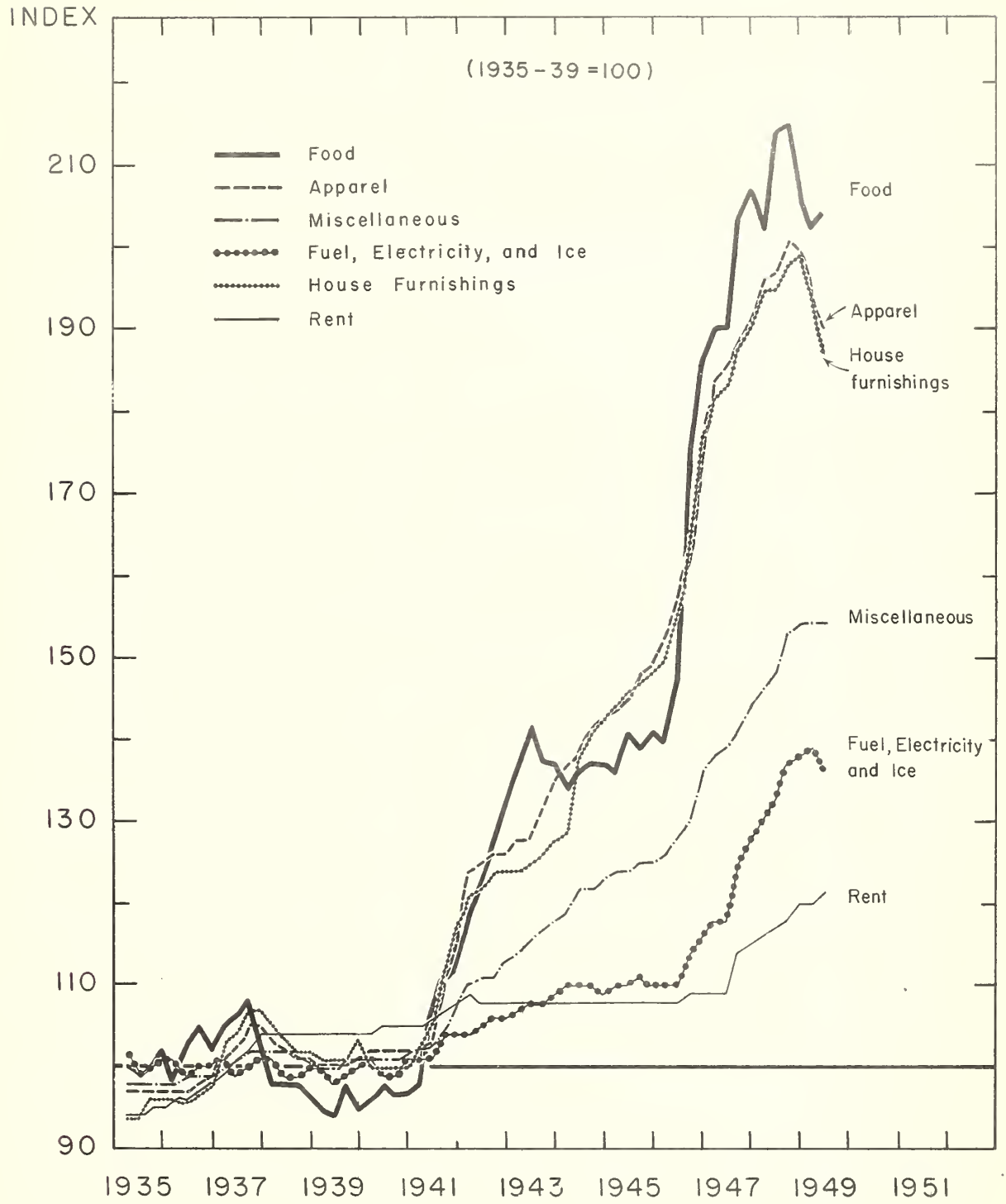
1/ Formerly called "Clothing."
2/ Not available.

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Chart 9

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

PRICES PAID BY MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES IN LARGE CITIES, CERTAIN ITEMS, MARCH 1935--JUNE 1949



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9006-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Consumers' Price Index
Prices paid by moderate income families in large cities, all items
(1935-39 = 100)

World War I

Month	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
January	-	72.3	74.7	83.4	99.7	118.2	138.0	136.1	121.1
February	-	71.9	74.8	85.4	100.9	115.5	139.4	131.7	120.5
March	-	71.3	75.3	86.0	100.3	116.8	141.0	130.6	119.3
April	-	71.7	76.0	89.6	101.3	119.0	144.9	129.0	119.2
May	-	72.0	76.4	91.7	103.4	120.5	147.4	126.6	119.2
June	-	72.2	77.3	92.5	105.4	121.0	149.4	125.9	119.5
July	71.7	72.2	77.3	91.8	107.8	124.2	148.8	126.0	119.7
August	72.8	72.3	78.2	93.1	109.7	126.4	144.8	126.6	118.6
September	73.1	72.6	79.6	94.8	112.5	127.2	143.3	125.3	118.7
October	72.6	73.3	80.6	96.5	114.4	129.3	142.4	124.9	119.5
November	72.7	73.7	82.1	96.6	116.0	132.2	141.6	124.3	120.0
December	72.6	74.0	82.4	97.8	118.0	135.3	138.3	123.6	120.4

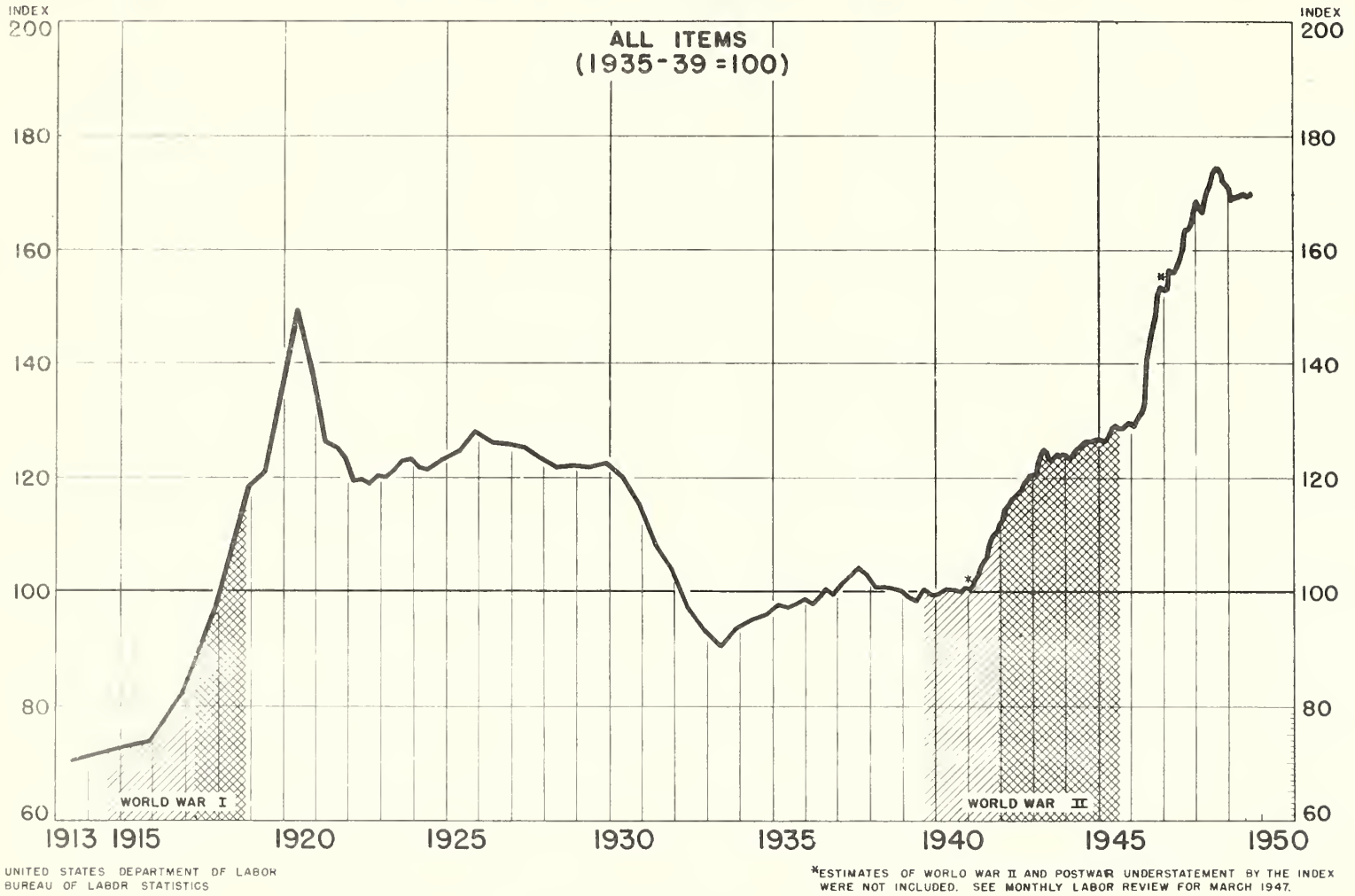
World War II

Month	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
January	-	99.5	100.8	112.0	120.7	124.2	127.1	129.9	153.3	168.8	170.9
February	-	100.1	100.8	112.9	121.0	123.8	126.9	129.6	153.2	167.5	169.0
March	-	99.8	101.2	114.3	122.8	123.8	126.8	130.2	156.3	166.9	169.5
April	-	99.9	102.2	115.1	124.1	124.6	127.1	131.1	156.2	169.3	169.7
May	-	100.1	102.9	116.0	125.1	125.1	128.1	131.7	156.0	170.5	169.2
June	-	100.5	104.6	116.4	124.8	125.4	129.0	133.3	157.1	171.7	169.6
July	-	100.3	105.3	117.0	123.9	126.1	129.4	141.2	158.4	173.7	-
August	98.6	100.0	106.2	117.5	123.4	126.4	129.3	144.1	160.3	174.5	-
September	100.6	100.4	108.1	117.8	123.9	126.5	128.9	145.9	163.8	174.5	-
October	100.3	100.2	109.3	119.0	124.4	126.5	128.9	148.6	163.8	173.6	-
November	100.1	100.1	110.2	119.8	124.2	126.6	129.3	152.2	164.9	172.2	-
December	99.6	100.7	110.5	120.4	124.4	127.0	129.9	153.3	167.0	171.4	-

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX

PRICES PAID BY MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES IN LARGE CITIES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

*ESTIMATES OF WORLD WAR II AND POSTWAR UNDERSTATEMENT BY THE INDEX WERE NOT INCLUDED. SEE MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW FOR MARCH 1947.

Chart 10

Family Spending

Records of farm families sending accounts to State Agricultural Colleges supply information on trends in family spending from year to year. These account-book summaries are one of the few sources of family expenditure data with continuous reporting over a period of years. No comparable data are available for city families.

Records from families in four North Central States--Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas, and Iowa--for the years 1936 through 1948 indicate that these farm families were still increasing their spending for family living in 1948, although not as fast as in earlier years. While total family expenditures of these families continued to increase, spending for furnishings and equipment (which had shown the sharpest rise of all groups since 1945) had levelled off.

In the absence of comparable data from other groups of families, the spending of these account-keeping farm families has been compared with that of all U. S. consumers. Expenditures per person of these farm families for all family living other than housing and automobile, though still less than the per capita average for the U. S. as a whole, increased much more than the U. S. average between 1945 and 1947. In 1948 the expenditures of the account-keeping families increased by about the same percent as the U. S. average (chart 11).

Outlays for individual categories did not all change at the same rate for this group of farm families and for all U. S. consumers. By 1948 these farm families had increased their expenditures for clothing about as much as all other consumers since 1936. Between 1942 and 1945, with clothing shortages hitting the rural areas harder than urban communities, the farm families did not increase clothing purchases as fast as all U. S. consumers, but since 1945 expenditures by these farm families have been increasing at a greater rate (chart 12). On the other hand the account-keeping farm families slowed down their purchases of house furnishings and equipment in 1948, but the average expenditures of all U. S. consumers for these items continued to increase slightly (chart 13).

The use of summaries from families submitting accounts to State Agricultural Colleges to estimate spending trends for other groups of farm families for whom information is not available has certain limitations. First, the states for which records are available are states with high average farm income. Second, within these states, the families submitting accounts are likely to be high income families.

A cooperative study with the University of Illinois now in progress indicates some differences between the self-selected group of Illinois account-keeping families and a sample selected to be representative of all farm families in the state. This latter sample of farm families was drawn so as to give representation to all areas in Illinois. As the accompanying map shows, the account-keeping families are not distributed geographically in the same proportion.

The Illinois account-keeping families differ markedly in income from the sample of all farm families in the state. Proportionately fewer families in the low-income groups submit accounts for analysis, and the high-income group is over-represented (chart 14). The proportion of owners and

tenants in the two groups is approximately the same and average family size differs little between the two groups, but there are other differences related to size that might be expected to affect spending patterns. Proportionately fewer of the operators in the account-keeping families were in the older age groups than among the families in the state-wide sample. The proportion of operators below 40 was approximately the same.

The account-keeping families undoubtedly have higher incomes than the average for the total farm population. Further analysis from the Illinois Study will show how the expenditures of the account-keeping families differ from the average for all farm families. Some of the results may be anticipated. Other studies have shown that spending for family living is affected by the average income of the group to which the family belongs as well as by the income of the individual family. Chart 17 illustrates the fact that families submitting accounts to the state colleges are likely to be a high-spending group. Not only is their average income higher than the average for all farm families, but at any given income they are likely to spend more than families in a group of lower average economic status.

The expenditures reported by the families submitting accounts to the University of Illinois in 1946 were compared with records obtained from a group of borrower families on the rolls of the Farmers Home Administration in Illinois in 1946. The manner in which these families were selected would not give a sample representative in all respects of all Illinois Farmers Home Administration clients but the average income of these families and their expenditures for family living approximated closely the average for all clients in the state. Their income levels, and their family situation provide a marked contrast with the situation of families that send accounts to the University.

Further interpretation of the expenditure trends shown by the account-keeping families can be gained by comparison with records from another group of Farmers Home Administration clients. Records for 1944-46 were obtained from each of a selected group of families in the farm operating loan and farm ownership loan programs during this 3-year period or longer. Like the families that send accounts to the State Colleges, these were not selected as a representative sample of farm families or of Farmers Home Administration clients. However, the average income of the farm ownership loan families and their expenditures for family living approximated closely the average income and expenditures for all families on the program in the state in 1946. The operating loan families selected were somewhat above the average in income and expenditures for all operating loan families in the state in 1946. Farm ownership loans are long-term loans to help finance purchase of farms. Operating loans are short-term loans not to exceed five years to finance purchase of livestock, seed, feed, equipment, etc.

Because the records of the Farmers Home Administration clients selected are continuous they provide the basis for studying the change in expenditures from one year to another. Their trends in spending may be compared with those of the account-keeping families. Results are shown for some Kansas families for food, clothing, and furnishings expenditures (chart 18). In each year the account-keeping families reporting to the State College spent more than the Farmers Home Administration borrowers for these three categories. The percent increase in expenditures, however, is less for the account-keeping group than for the FHA families. Similar

results were found for other categories, and for Minnesota, the other state for which the comparison could be made.

Thus, in the absence of other information on spending from year to year, the families sending accounts to the state colleges, though not a representative group, give data useful as a point of departure in indicating trends. The account-keeping families are above average in income and spend more for farm family living than other families. But for the very reason that they start at a higher level, the rate of increase in their spending from year to year is likely to be less than that of families in different economic situations. Therefore the relative increase in their expenditures during recent years, illustrated in charts 11-13, appears not to overstate the increase in spending by the farm population as a whole.

Spending per Person for All Family Living Items Except Housing and Automobile, Selected Farm Families and All Consumers in United States, 1936-48
(1937-40 = 100)

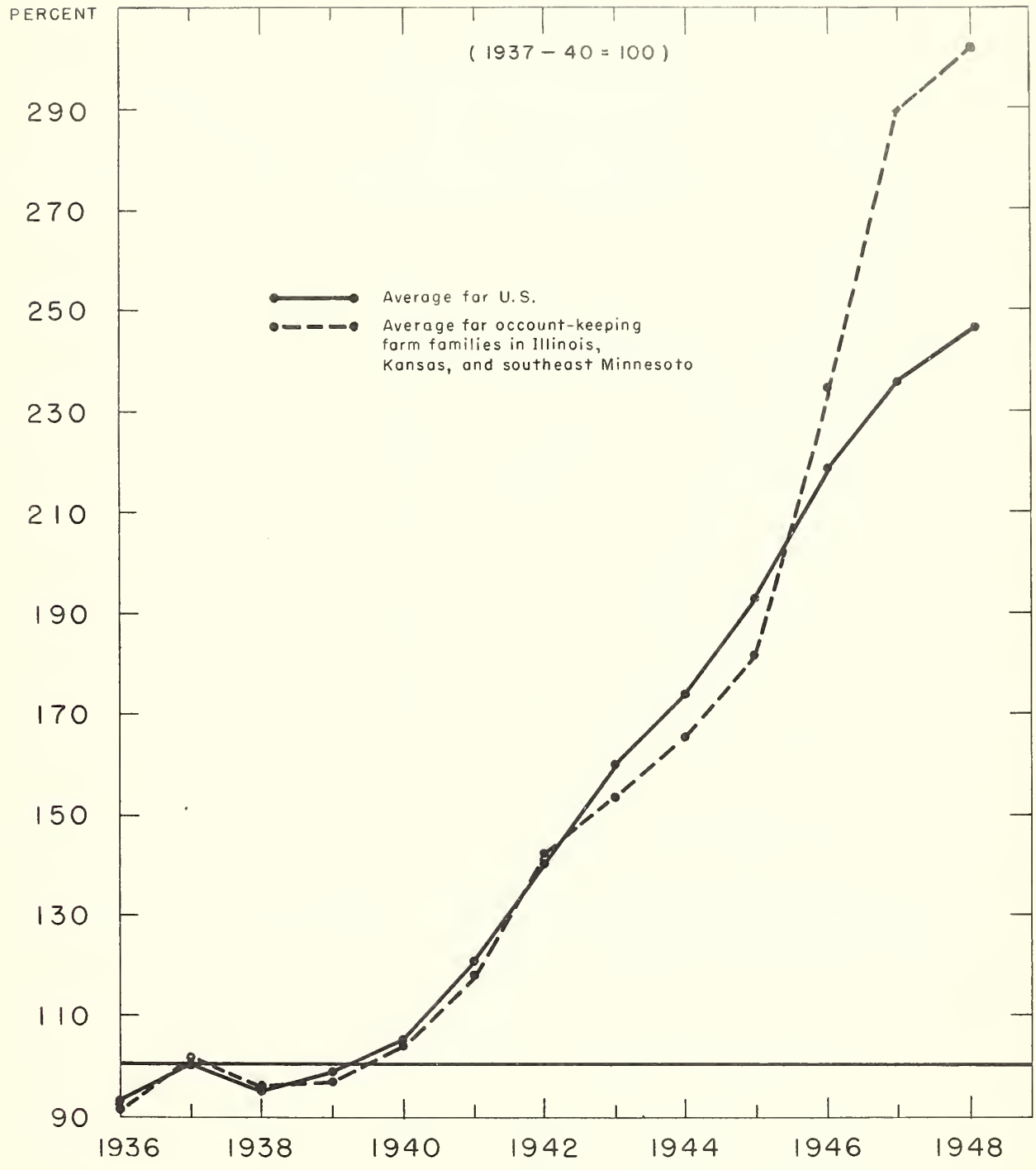
Year	Account-keeping farm families in three states		All U. S. consumers	
	Expenditure per person	Relative spending (1937-40 = 100)	Expenditure per person	Relative spending (1937-40 = 100)
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
1936	196	91	352	93
1937	219	102	378	100
1938	206	96	360	96
1939	208	97	373	99
1940	224	104	397	105
1941	253	118	454	120
1942	304	142	528	140
1943	329	153	602	160
1944	354	165	655	174
1945	388	181	726	193
1946	502	234	823	218
1947	620	290	894	237
1948	648	302	929	247

Source: Derived from data of U. S. Department of Commerce and annual summaries of farm and family accounts submitted to State colleges in Kansas, Illinois and Southeast Minnesota.

Chart 11

SPENDING PER PERSON FOR ALL FAMILY LIVING ITEMS EXCEPT HOUSING AND AUTO

SELECTED FARM FAMILIES AND ALL CONSUMERS IN UNITED STATES, 1936-48



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9008-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS.

SOURCE: DERIVED FROM DATA OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED TO STATE COLLEGES IN ILLINOIS, KANSAS, AND SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA.

Spending for Clothing per Person,
Selected Farm Families and All Consumers in United States, 1936-48

(1937-40 = 100)

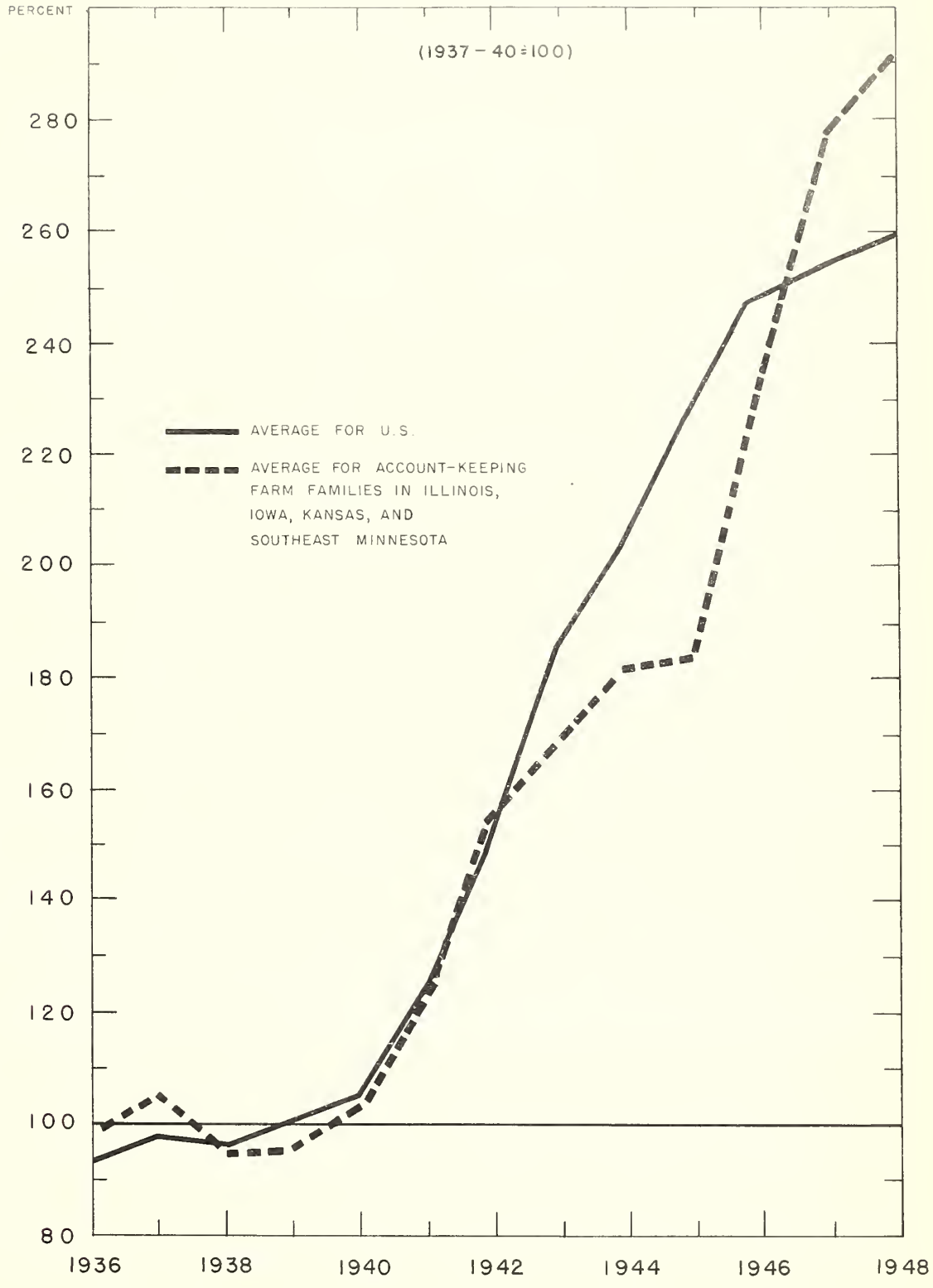
Year	Account-keeping farm families in four States		All U. S. consumers	
	Expenditure per person	Relative spending (1937-40 = 100)	Expenditure per person	Relative spending (1937-40 = 100)
	(Dollars)	(Percent)	(Dollars)	(Percent)
1936	33	98	59	94
1937	35	106	61	98
1938	32	95	60	96
1939	32	96	63	101
1940	35	103	66	105
1941	41	124	78	124
1942	55	154	94	151
1943	56	167	116	186
1944	61	182	127	203
1945	62	184	142	227
1946	78	234	155	248
1947	93	277	159	254
1948	98	291	162	259

Source: Derived from data of U. S. Department of Commerce and annual summaries of farm and family accounts submitted to State colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Southeast Minnesota.

Chart 12

SPENDING FOR CLOTHING PER PERSON

SELECTED FARM FAMILIES AND ALL CONSUMERS IN UNITED STATES 1936-48



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9009-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS.

SOURCE: DERIVED FROM DATA OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED TO STATE COLLEGES IN ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, AND SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA.

Spending for Furniture and Equipment per Person,
Selected Farm Families and All Consumers in United States, 1936-48

(1937-40 = 100)

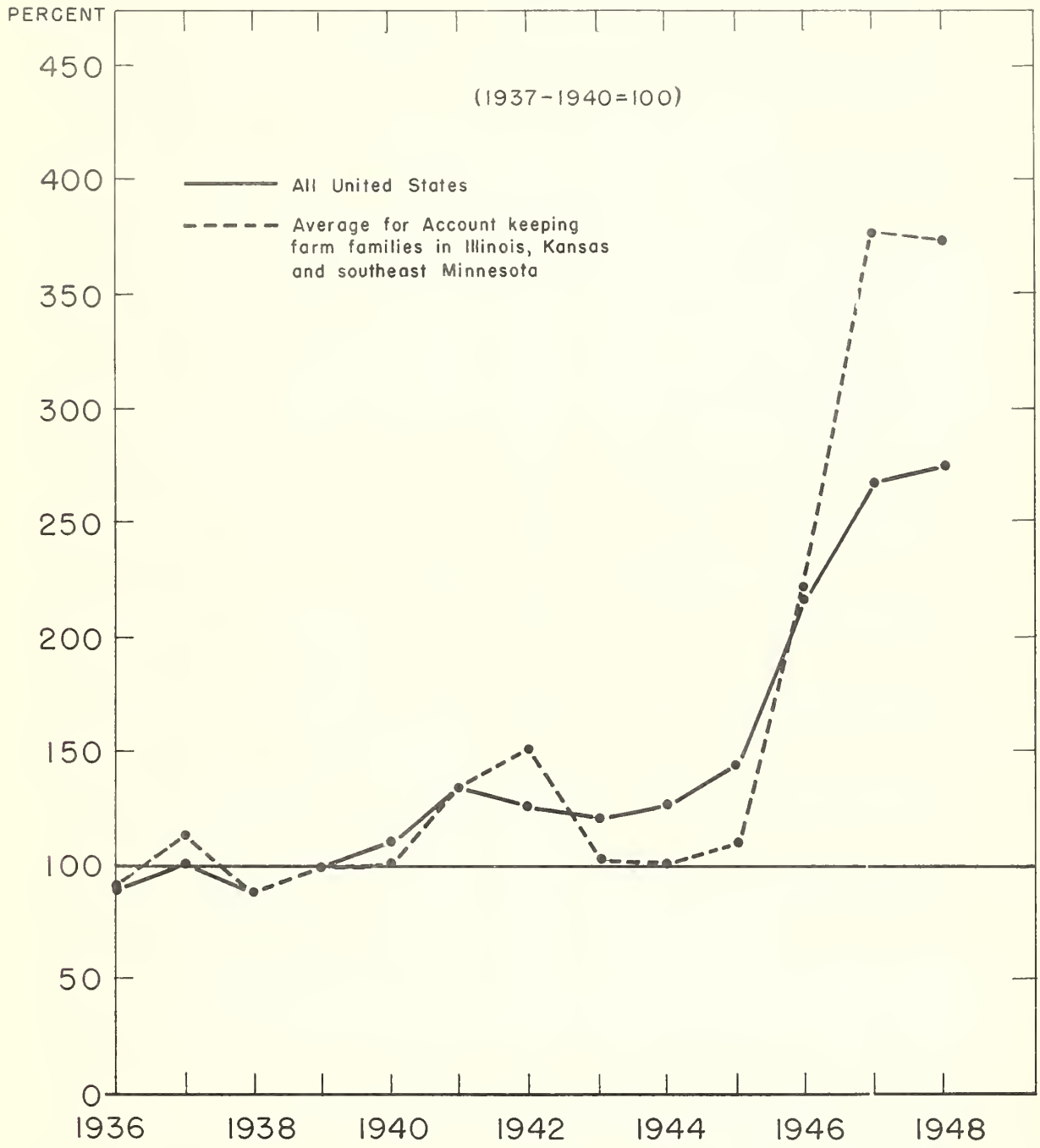
Year	Account-keeping farm families in three States		All U. S. consumers	
	Expenditure per person	Relative spending (1937-40 = 100)	Expenditure per person	Relative spending (1937-40 = 100)
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
1936	23	90	28	93
1937	29	113	30	102
1938	22	87	27	90
1939	25	98	30	100
1940	26	101	32	109
1941	35	135	40	134
1942	39	152	38	126
1943	27	103	36	120
1944	26	101	37	126
1945	26	101	43	143
1946	57	223	64	216
1947	97	376	79	267
1948	96	374	82	275

Source: Derived from data of U. S. Department of Commerce and annual summaries of farm and family accounts submitted to State colleges in Illinois, Kansas and Southeast Minnesota.

Chart 13

SPENDING FOR FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT PER PERSON

SELECTED FARM FAMILIES AND ALL CONSUMERS IN UNITED STATES
1936 – 1948



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9010-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS.

SOURCE: DERIVED FROM DATA OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED TO STATE COLLEGES IN ILLINOIS, KANSAS, AND SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA.

Income of Account-Keeping Farm Families and a Sample of All Farm Families in a State

Distribution of farm families in Illinois by net cash receipts, 1946

Net cash receipts class (dollars)	Account-keeping families (percent)	Sample of all farm families (percent) 1/
All classes.....	100.0	100.0
Under 1,000.....	.0	14.8
1,000-1,999.....	6.3	24.8
2,000-2,999.....	18.1	19.4
3,000-3,999.....	17.2	14.8
4,000-4,999.....	18.9	9.8
5,000-6,999.....	18.9	8.0
7,000-8,999.....	9.7	4.2
9,000 and over.....	10.9	4.2

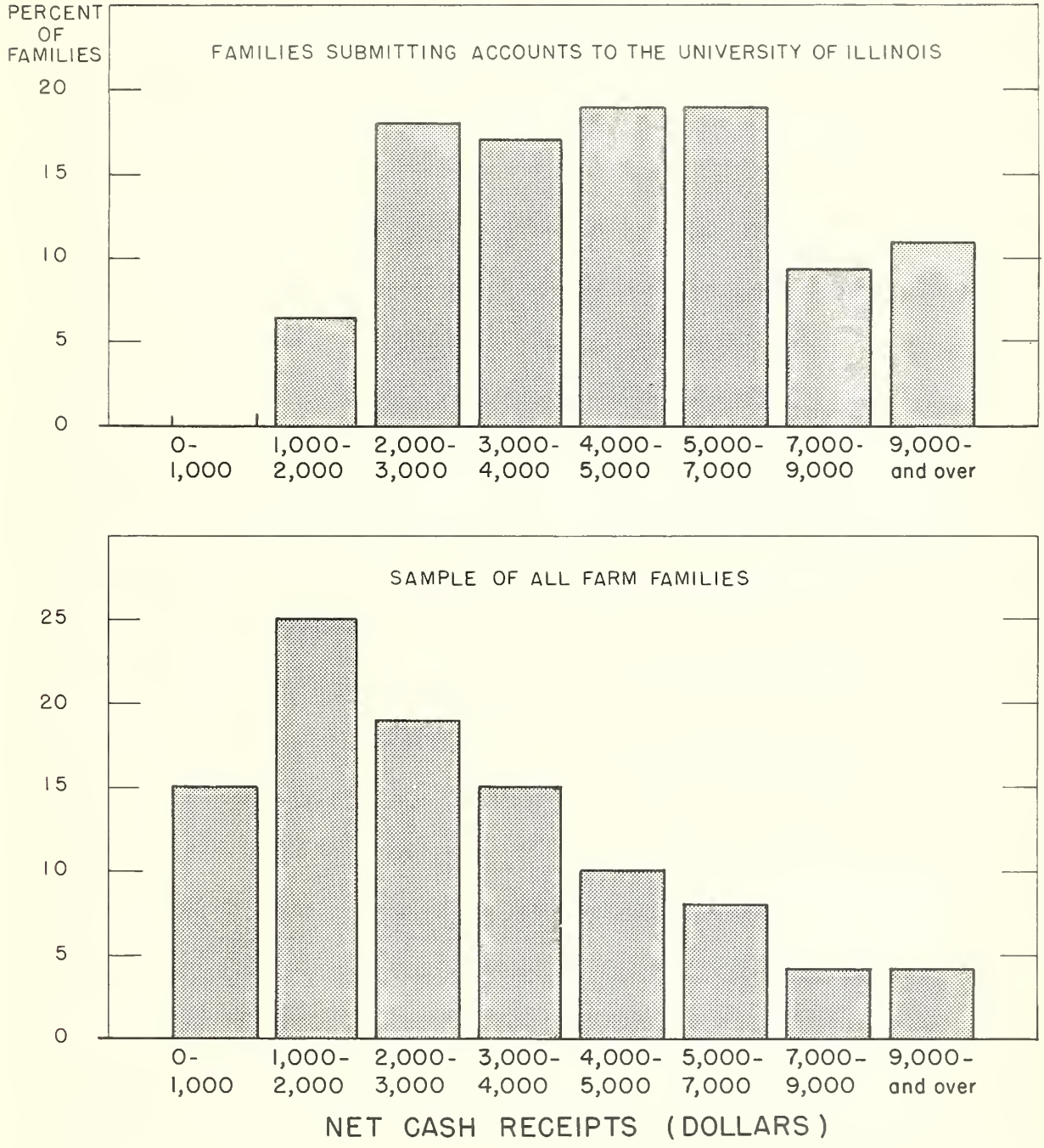
1/ Based on families of known income. Income was not determined for 1.5 percent of all families.

Source: Cooperative project of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station.

Chart 14

INCOME OF ACCOUNT-KEEPING FARM FAMILIES AND A SAMPLE OF ALL FARM FAMILIES IN A STATE

DISTRIBUTION OF FARM FAMILIES IN ILLINOIS BY NET CASH RECEIPTS, 1946



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9011-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS AND THE ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Age of Operator in Account-Keeping Farm Families and a Sample of All Farm Families in a State

Distribution of farm families in Illinois by age of operator, 1946

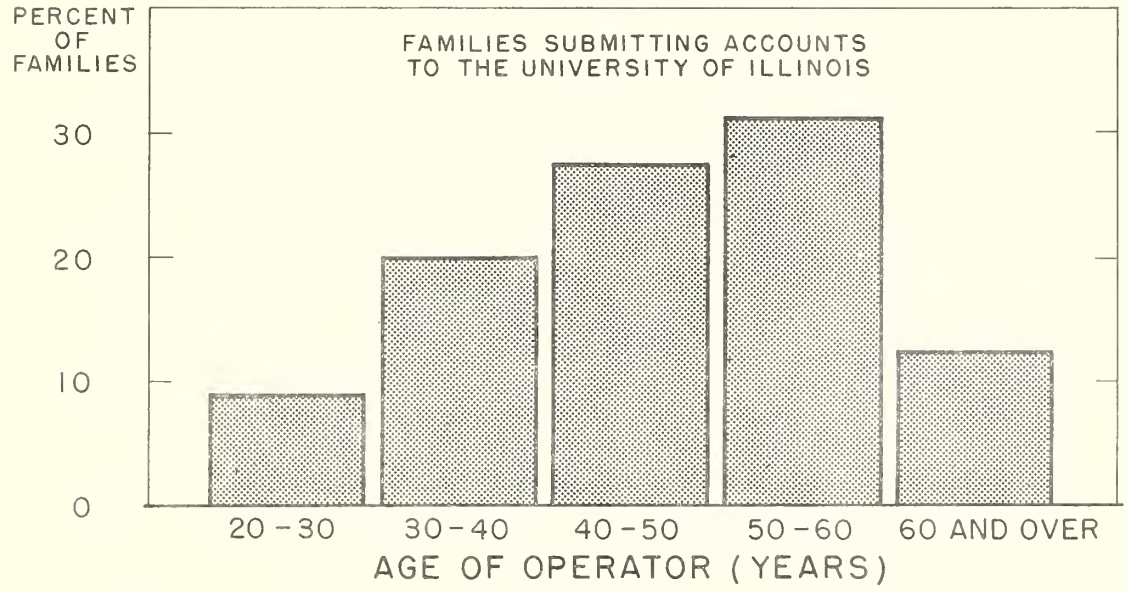
Age of operator	Account keeping families (percent)	Sample of all farm families (percent)
All ages.....	100.0	100.0
Under 20 years.....	.0	.0
20-29 years.....	8.3	6.6
30-39 years.....	20.2	21.2
40-49 years.....	27.3	24.0
50-59 years.....	31.6	24.0
60 years and over..	12.6	23.8
Unknown.....	.0	.4

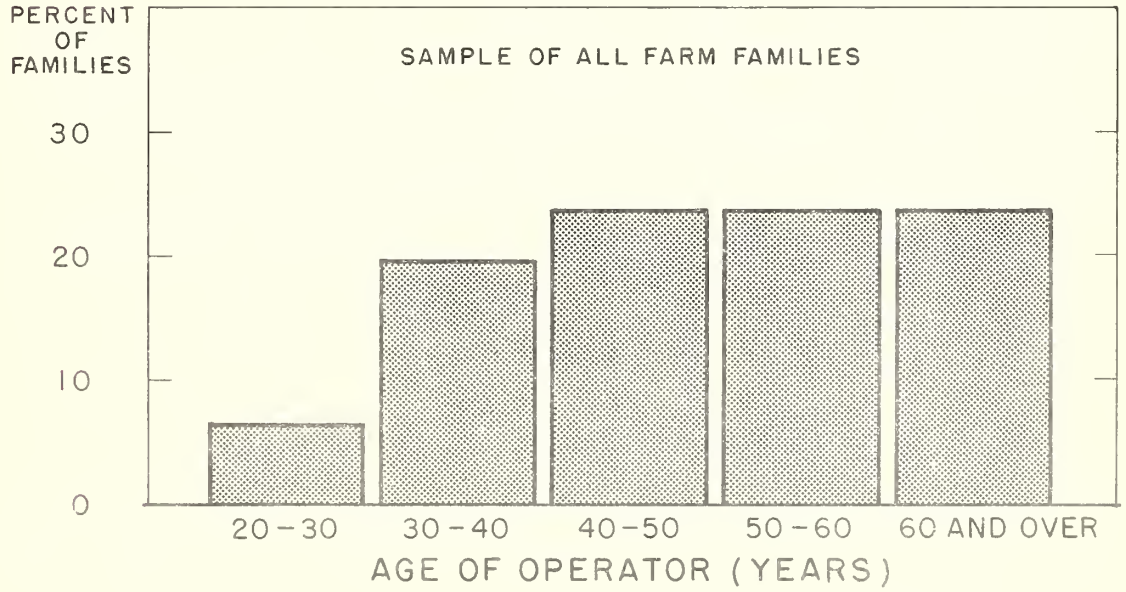
Source: Cooperative project of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station.

Chart 15

AGE OF OPERATOR IN ACCOUNT-KEEPING FARM FAMILIES AND A SAMPLE OF ALL FARM FAMILIES IN A STATE

DISTRIBUTION OF FARM FAMILIES IN ILLINOIS BY AGE OF OPERATOR, 1946





U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9012-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS AND ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Location of Account-Keeping Farm Families
and a Sample of All Farm Families in a State

Geographic distribution of farm families in Illinois, 1946

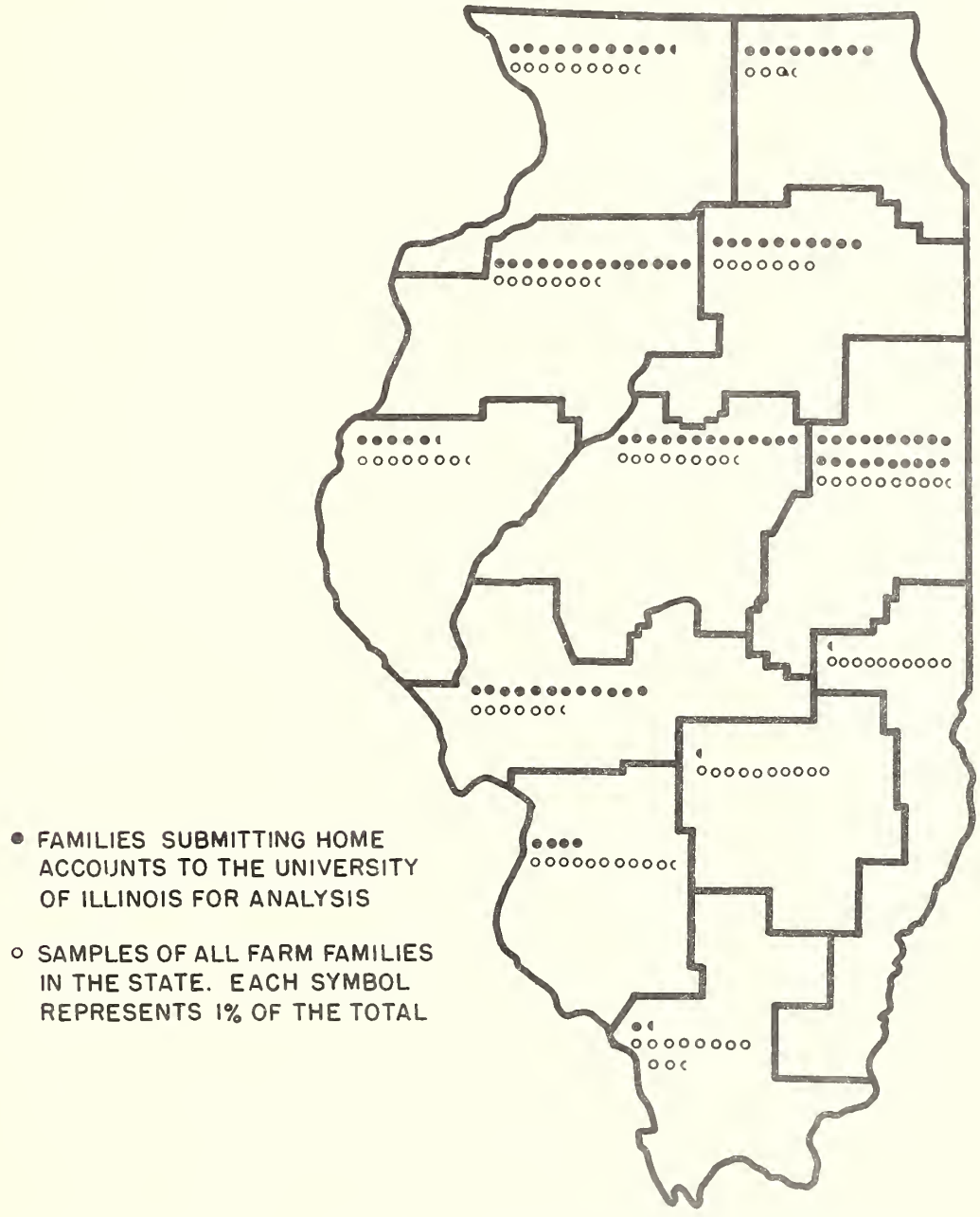
State area	Account-keeping families (percent)	Sample of all families (percent)
The State.....	100.0	100.0
I.....	10.5	8.6
II.....	8.8	3.7
III.....	13.9	7.3
IV.....	10.1	7.0
V.....	5.5	7.7
VI.....	13.0	8.6
VII.....	20.1	9.7
VIII.....	11.8	6.6
IX.....	.4	10.1
X.....	3.8	10.3
XI.....	.4	9.9
XII.....	1.7	10.5

Source: Cooperative project of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics and the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station.

Chart 16

LOCATION OF ACCOUNT-KEEPING FARM FAMILIES AND A SAMPLE OF ALL FARM FAMILIES IN A STATE

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FARM FAMILIES IN ILLINOIS, 1946



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9013-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS AND ILLINOIS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Spending for Farm Family Living, by Income 1/

Farm families submitting accounts to University of Illinois and some Farmers' Home Administration borrowers, Illinois 1946

Family class and income level	Net cash income	Total family expenditures 1/	Family class and income level	Net cash income	Total family expenditures 1/
Farmers' Home Administration			College-account-keeping families		
Operating loan borrowers					
All incomes	$1,855	$867	All incomes	$5,239	$2,147
$0-$999	638	673	$1,000-$1,499	1,346	1,022
$1,000-$1,999	1,476	833	$1,500-$1,999	1,822	1,326
$2,000-$2,499	2,219	885	$2,000-$2,499	2,224	1,554
$2,500-$2,999	2,776	997	$2,500-$2,999	2,744	1,726
$3,000-$4,999	4,005	1,189	$3,000-$3,999	3,474	2,001
Farm ownership borrowers					
All incomes	3,464	1,319	$4,000-$4,999	4,435	2,167
$500-$1,999	1,317	645	$5,000-$5,999	5,489	2,297
$2,000-$2,999	2,506	1,212	$6,000-$8,999	7,215	2,527
$3,000-$3,999	3,447	1,437	$9,000 and over	12,723	3,209
$4,000-$7,499	5,297	1,715			

1/ Expenditures for family use of automobile not included.

Source: Derived from farm and family accounts of Farmers' Home Administration borrowers and from annual summary of farm and family accounts submitted to University of Illinois.

SPENDING FOR FARM FAMILY LIVING, BY INCOME[1/]

FARM FAMILIES SUBMITTING ACCOUNTS TO UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND SOME FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION BORROWERS, ILLINOIS, 1946

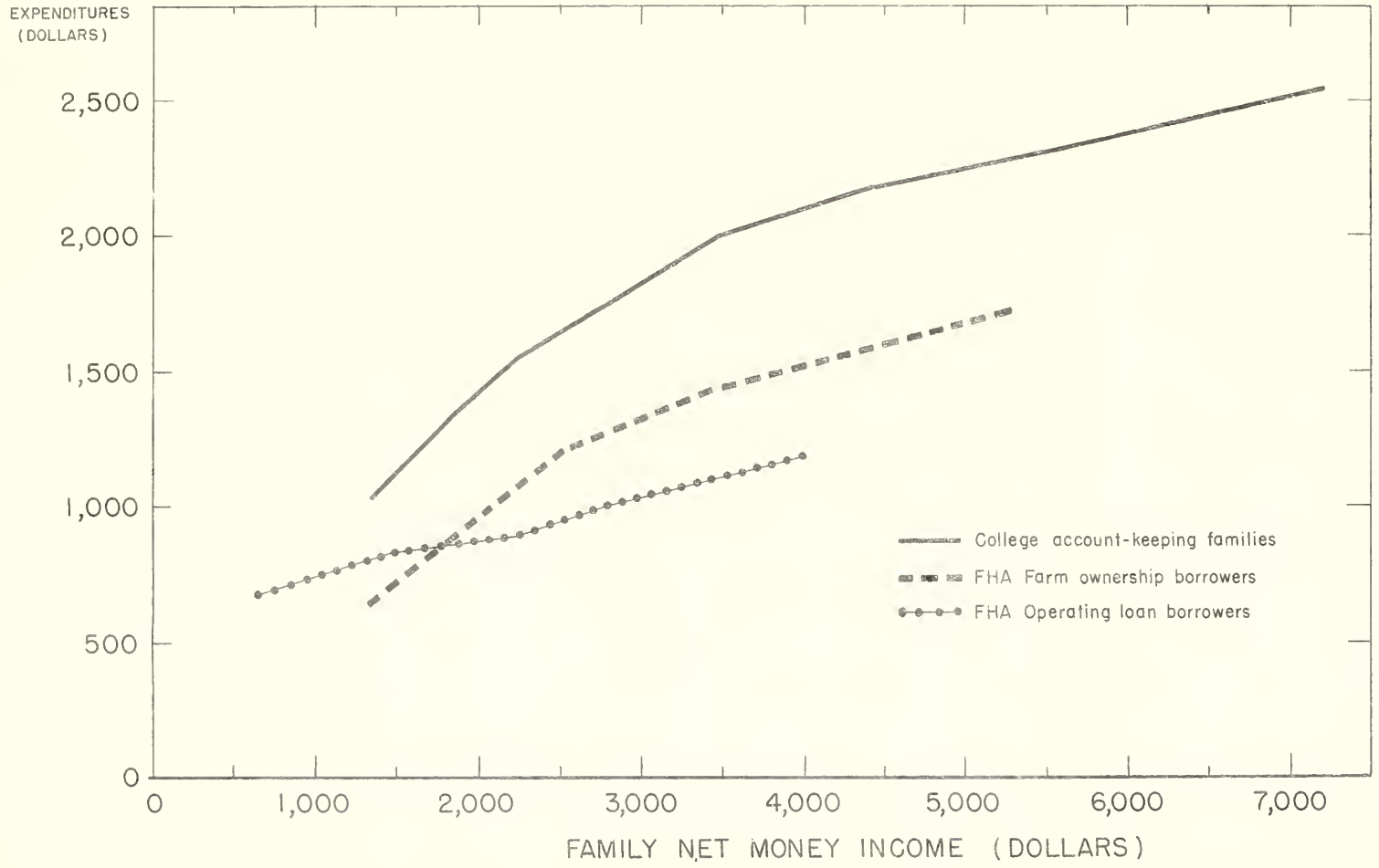


Chart 17

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. NFG. 9014-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: DERIVED FROM FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS OF SOME FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION BORROWERS AND FROM ANNUAL SUMMARY OF FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED TO UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

1/ Expenditures for family use of automobile not included.

Spending For Farm Family Living, 1944-46

Farm families submitting accounts to State College and some Farmers' Home Administration borrowers, Kansas

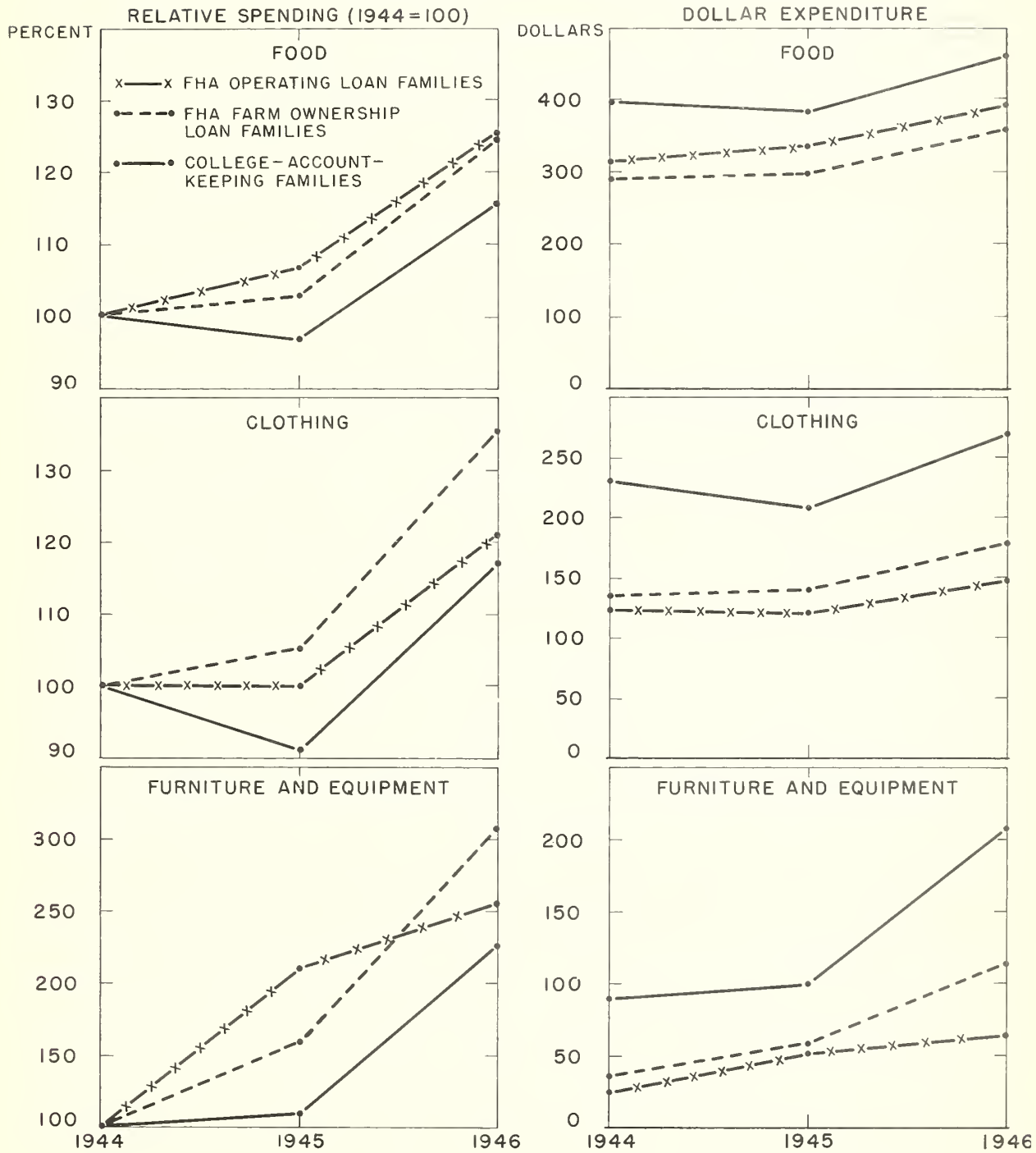
Expenditure item and family class	Average annual expenditure			Relative expenditure (1944 = 100)		
	1944	1945	1946	1944	1945	1946
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent
Food						
FHA operating loan families.....	314	337	396	100.0	107	126
FHA farm ownership loan families.	290	300	363	100.0	103	125
College account-keeping families.	398	387	463	100.0	97	116
Clothing						
FHA operating loan families.....	123	122	148	100.0	100	121
FHA farm ownership loan families.	134	140	180	100.0	105	135
College account-keeping families.	230	209	270	100.0	91	117
Furniture and equipment						
FHA operating loan families.....	25	52	64	100.0	210	255
FHA farm ownership loan families.	37	59	114	100.0	159	306
College account-keeping families.	92	100	207	100.0	109	225

Source: Derived from farm and family accounts of Farmers' Home Administration borrower families, submitting records for three consecutive years, and from annual summaries of farm and family accounts submitted to Kansas State College.

Chart 18

SPENDING FOR FARM FAMILY LIVING, 1944-46

FARM FAMILIES SUBMITTING ACCOUNTS TO STATE COLLEGE AND SOME FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION BORROWERS, KANSAS



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9015-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: DERIVED FROM FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS OF FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION BORROWER FAMILIES SUBMITTING RECORDS FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS, AND FROM ANNUAL SUMMARIES OF FARM AND FAMILY ACCOUNTS SUBMITTED TO KANSAS STATE COLLEGE

Food

Judging from estimates of food available for consumption, the Nation's larder continues to be well-stocked with an abundance and variety of foods, although there has been some falling-off from the peak years of 1945 and 1946. Consumption of milk and its equivalent in other products (except butter), although still above the prewar level, has been decreasing since 1946. In 1948 consumption was down about 8 percent, with the decrease in fluid milk rather than in cheese or other products. There were small decreases also in meat, poultry, and fish as a group; in citrus fruit and tomatoes, leafy green and yellow vegetables, and other vegetables and fruit (chart 19).

Consumption of potatoes and grain products in 1948 was the lowest on record, continuing the long-term downward trend. Several factors contribute to this decline. Improved marketing practices have resulted in wider distribution and lower prices of a variety of vegetables. Popular interest in a varied diet has grown and higher incomes have enabled many people to purchase a greater variey of foods.

Supplies of nutrients reflect these changes in consumption of foods. Thus the average quantities of protein, calcium, iron, and five vitamins were from 9 to 13 percent lower for the year 1948 than for the peak year, 1945-46 (chart 20). The decrease in calcium follows directly from the decline in milk consumption since about three-fourths of the calcium available from agricultural sources in the diet comes from milk and milk products other than butter. The decrease in calcium is especially significant since the present quantity per capita allows no margin over estimated needs of the population even if one might assume equitable distribution.

Despite these decreases, we as a nation have been eating better than we did--say in 1942. With incomes remaining relatively high, families have been able to buy the kinds of food they like. A study of the diets of urban families in spring 1948 showed that they bought larger quantities of such foods as milk, meat, eggs, sugars, citrus fruit, and tomatoes, and some of the other vegetables and fruit than they did in 1942 (chart 21). The effect of family income level on consumption was about the same in both years, but more families were higher up on the income scale in 1948 than 6 years earlier. For two food groups--citrus fruit and tomatoes, and meat, poultry, and fish--the difference in consumption between low- and high-income families was less marked in 1948 than in 1942.

These larger quantities of food meant larger money outlays. Urban families in spring 1948 spent over 80 percent more for food than in 1942. Food prices, as measured by the Consumers' Price Index, increased 70 percent over the period. Expenditures for food also took a larger share of the urban family income in 1948 than in 1942, 32 percent as compared with 27 percent. As in 1942, food expenditures increased markedly with income in 1948 but the percentage of income spent for food by families was lower in the higher income groups (chart 22).

Food patterns differ not only among different economic groups but in various sections of the country. Studies of family diets in each of four cities--Birmingham, Buffalo, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and San Francisco--in the winter of 1948 bring out some of these differences (chart 23). Food habits characteristic of the South showed up in the Birmingham data. These families used more fats, flour and cereals, and sugars and sweets than

those in the other three cities. Specifically, they reported greater quantities of lard and other shortening, margarine, white flour and corn meal, sirups, and molasses. Other foods more prominent in Birmingham meals were buttermilk, evaporated milk, pork, sweetpotatoes, dry beans and peas, cabbage and other greens.

In this four-city comparison San Francisco families used the largest quantities of milk or its equivalent; of meat, poultry, and fish (including bacon and salt pork); and of fruits and vegetables (excluding potatoes). As a result the average diet in San Francisco was slightly higher, compared to the other three cities, in protein, calcium, riboflavin, niacin, and vitamins A and C.

Buffalo families used more portatoes and bread and other bakery products than those in the other three cities.

Food consumption data for these four cities and for the cross section of urban families depict, on the average, a varied and fairly liberal level of food intake in early 1948. Estimates of the nutritive value of the foods used by these groups of families bear this out. This is not to say that all families had diets meeting present day nutritional standards. Some families did not have enough money, and others with enough money did not select the foods that make good diets. For example, nearly a third of the families in the four cities with incomes of $4,000-6,000 failed to obtain the National Reseach Council's recommended allowance for calcium. In lower income groups the proportion was higher.

Many families with enough money to buy the foods they like do obtain a good diet nutritionally, but not necessarily through economical food choices. A study of nutritive returns in relation to money spent for different types of food shows which are "good buys" in nutrition (chart 24). For example, Minneapolis-St. Paul families spent 18 percent of their food dollar for milk, cheese, and ice cream, which in turn contributed 70 percent of the total calcium, 47 percent of the riboflavin, 27 percent of the protein, and 18 percent of the calories. Milk then would be considered an economical source of these four nutrients, and in addition, it provides smaller proportions of the other nutrients considered. At the other extreme are sugars which took about 5 percent of the food dollar but contributed this much or more of only one nutrient, food energy, which can be obtained along with many other nutrients from other food sources.

Home-produced food is an important resource for rural families. Families in large cities have little opportunity even for gardens, but in samller towns, gardens, fruit trees, a small poultry flock, and sometimes a cow or two help out the family food supply. By Census definition "urban" means towns of 2,500 or more people. In the 1948 study of urban families a relatively small proportion of each type of food was home-produced, on the average. But 12 percent of the families interviewed reported consumption of home-produced vegetables in the "leafy green and yellow group;" 18 percent, of foods in the "other vegetable and fruit group;" and smaller proportions, of other foods (chart 25).

The families that had home-produced food during the week used substantial quantities. For example, those reporting it used an average of 12 quarts of home-produced milk a week. Home-grown potatoes amounted to over 6 pounds a week in households having them. Figures for other types of food are found on page 58.

Selected Food Groups in National Food Supply

Quantities available for consumption, per person per year, 1909-48 1/

Year	Dairy products, excluding butter, in milk equivalents	Meat, poultry, and fish	Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	Citrus fruit	Year	Dairy products, excluding butter, in milk equivalents	Meat, poultry, and fish	Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	Citrus fruit
	Quarts	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds		Quarts	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
1909.....	194	161	76	15	1929.....	206	140	92	38
1910.....	185	154	73	17	1930.....	206	139	88	30
1911.....	180	159	69	19	1931.....	204	137	92	40
1912.....	200	153	75	17	1932.....	205	137	92	35
1913.....	197	150	72	16	1933.....	206	142	86	38
1914.....	190	148	72	23	1934.....	203	149	93	38
1915.....	189	143	75	22	1935.....	207	129	96	44
1916.....	187	147	73	21	1936.....	211	141	91	45
1917.....	191	143	76	21	1937.....	214	136	98	44
1918.....	204	148	83	16	1938.....	216	135	107	49
1919.....	194	148	76	22	1939.....	219	142	104	62
1920.....	198	145	88	24	1940.....	221	149	104	58
1921.....	199	141	73	29	1941.....	227	154	104	60
1922.....	197	146	81	23	1942.....	237	153	119	59
1923.....	194	153	77	31	1943.....	247	164	116	61
1924.....	198	153	84	32	1944.....	248	168	121	72
1925.....	198	148	81	27	1945.....	264	166	133	71
1926.....	199	147	83	28	1946.....	270	168	128	69
1927.....	199	145	89	30	1947.....	257	168	114	71
1928.....	201	141	84	28	1948.....	249	158	114	65

1/ Based on estimates of food available for consumption at the retail level.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

SELECTED FOOD GROUPS IN NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY

QUANTITIES AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMPTION, PER PERSON PER YEAR, 1909-48 1/

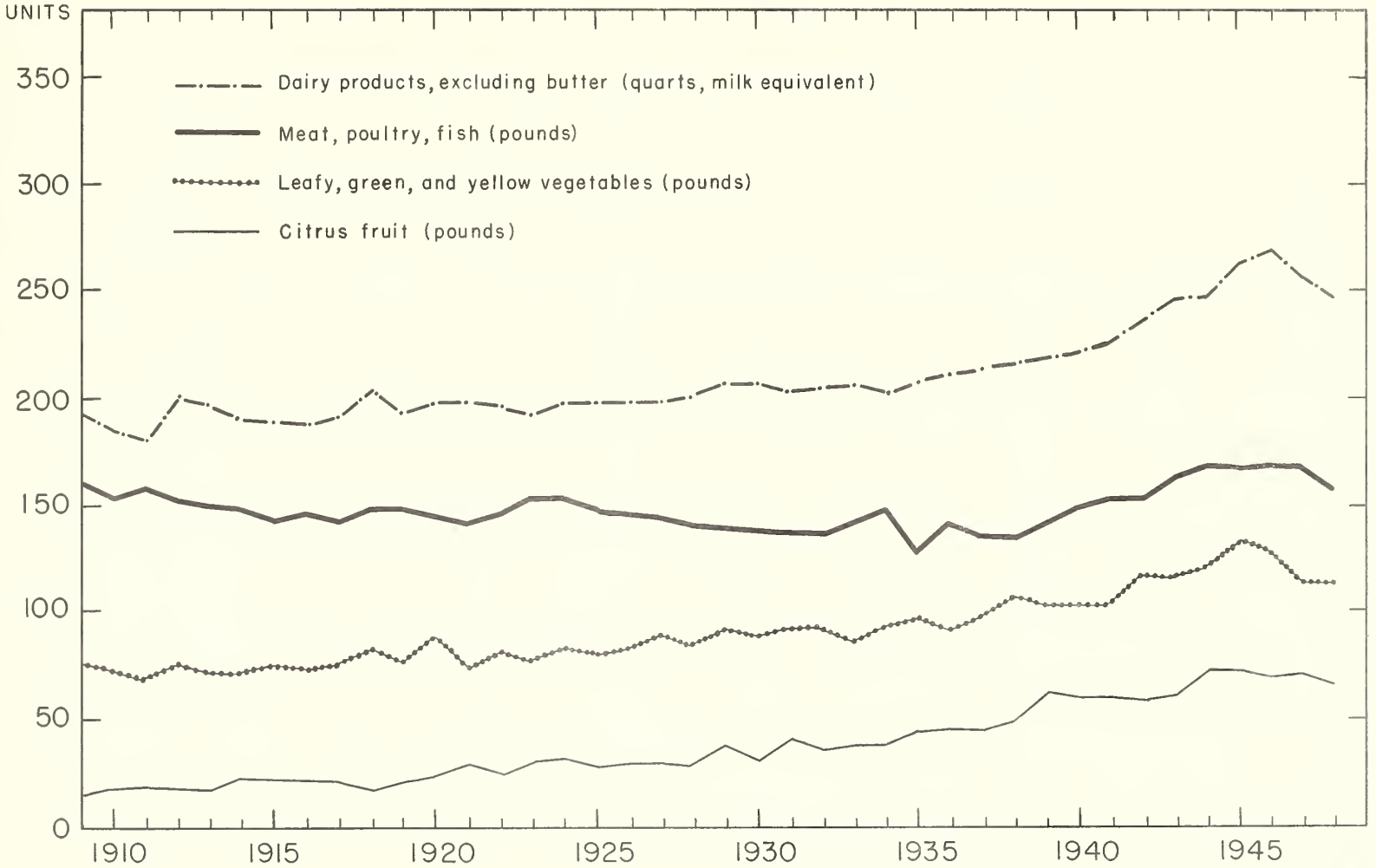


Chart 19

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9016-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

1/ Based on estimates of food available for consumption at the retail level.

Minerals and Vitamins in National Food Supply

Relative quantities available for consumption, per person per day, 1909-48 1/
(1935-39 = 100)

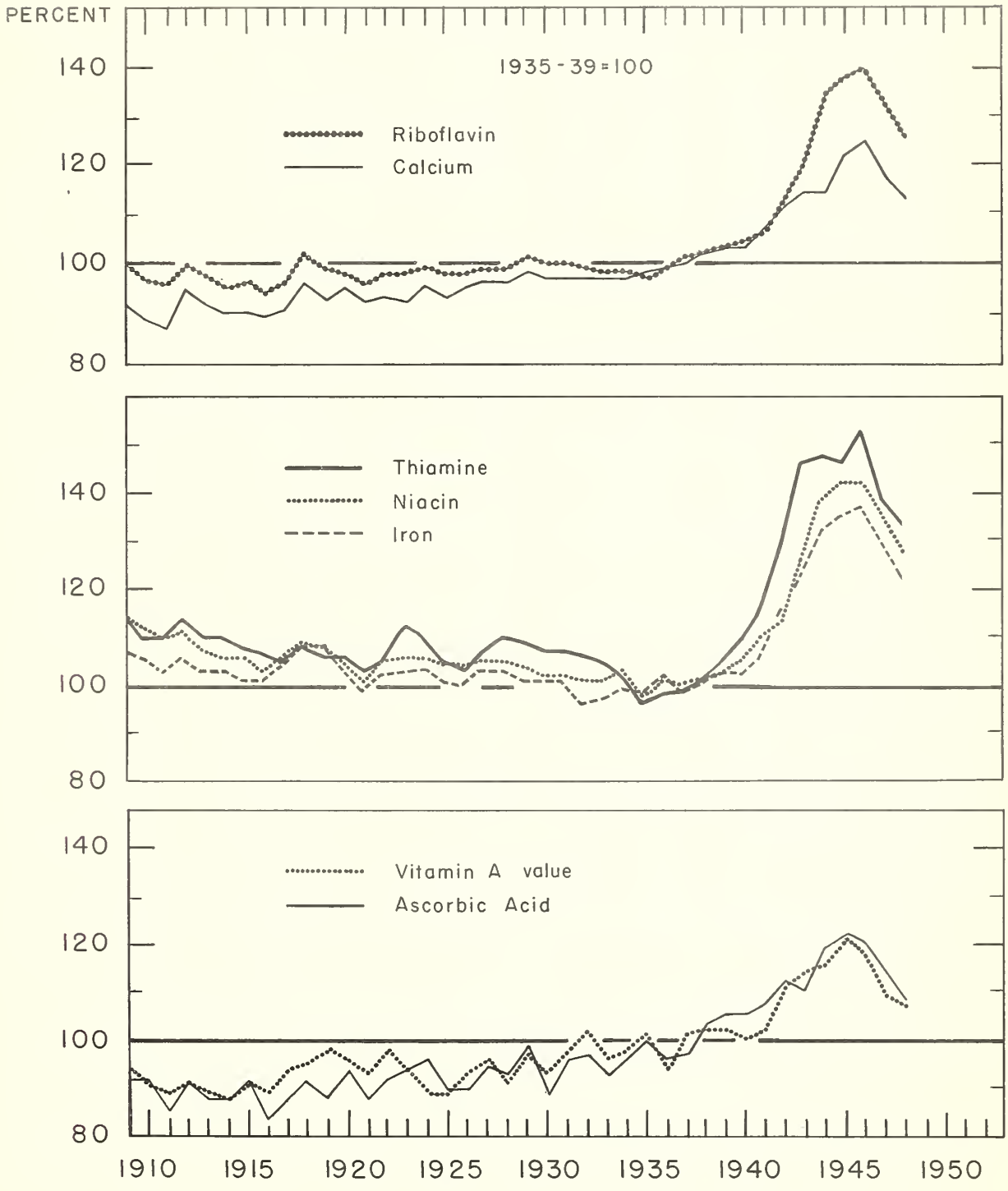
Year	Calcium	Iron	Vitamin A value	Thiamine (vitamin B_1)	Ribo-flavin	Niacin	Ascorbic acid (vitamin C)
1909	92	107	94	115	100	115	92
1910	89	106	91	110	97	112	92
1911	87	103	89	110	96	110	85
1912	95	106	91	114	100	111	91
1913	92	103	89	110	98	107	88
1914	90	103	88	110	95	106	88
1915	90	101	91	108	96	106	92
1916	89	101	89	107	94	103	83
1917	91	104	94	105	96	106	88
1918	96	108	95	108	102	109	92
1919	93	108	98	106	99	108	88
1920	95	104	96	106	98	105	94
1921	92	99	93	103	96	101	88
1922	93	102	98	105	98	105	92
1923	92	103	94	112	98	106	94
1924	95	104	89	110	99	106	96
1925	93	101	89	105	98	105	90
1926	95	100	93	103	98	104	90
1927	96	103	96	107	99	105	95
1928	96	103	91	110	99	105	93
1929	98	101	98	109	101	104	99
1930	97	101	93	107	100	102	88
1931	97	101	98	107	100	102	96
1932	97	96	102	106	99	101	97
1933	97	97	96	105	98	101	93
1934	97	99	98	102	98	103	96
1935	98	98	101	96	97	97	100
1936	99	102	94	98	99	101	96
1937	100	99	101	99	101	100	97
1938	102	100	102	101	102	101	103
1939	103	102	102	105	103	102	105
1940	103	102	100	110	104	105	105
1941	107	106	102	115	106	110	107
1942	111	115	111	127	112	113	112
1943	114	122	114	145	120	126	110
1944	114	131	115	146	133	137	118
1945	121	134	121	145	137	141	122
1946	124	136	117	152	139	141	120
1947	117	129	109	137	131	134	114
1948 (preliminary)	113	121	107	132	125	126	108

1/ Quantities of nutrients computed on the basis of estimates of apparent consumption (retail basis), including estimates of foods supplied by farm and city gardens, prepared by Bureau of Agricultural Economics. No deductions have been made in the nutrient estimates for the loss or waste of food in the home or for destruction or loss of nutrients during the preparation of food. Estimates for 1909-40 based on total population; 1941-48 based on civilian population only. Data for 1941-48 for iron, thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin include estimates of the quantities of these nutrients added to prepared cereals, white flour and bread.

Chart 20

MINERALS AND VITAMINS IN NATIONAL FOOD SUPPLY

RELATIVE QUANTITIES AVAILABLE FOR CONSUMPTION, PER PERSON PER DAY, 1909-48



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9017-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Food Consumption of Urban Families by Income, 1942 and 1948
Quantities of foods consumed at home per household in a week

Income class 1/ (dollars)	Households	Average household size (21 meals at home = 1 person)	Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables	Citrus fruit, tomatoes	Potatoes, sweetpotatoes	Other vegetables and fruits	Milk equivalent 2/	Meat, poultry, fish 3/	Eggs	Dry beans and peas, nuts 4/	Grain products (flour equivalent) 5/	Fats and oils 6/	Sugars, sweets 7/
SPRING 1948	Pct.	No.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Qts.	Lbs.	Doz.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
All classes.....	100.0	3.42	7.63	11.80	7.26	13.43	15.92	10.29	1.94	0.94	9.34	3.80	4.86
Under 1,000....	3.4	2.81	6.70	6.45	4.96	8.26	9.71	6.95	1.43	.92	8.84	3.68	3.74
1,000-1,999....	13.1	3.23	6.46	9.57	6.48	10.17	12.92	8.29	1.67	1.18	10.28	3.89	4.73
2,000-2,999....	26.3	3.49	7.30	11.13	7.72	12.63	15.68	9.88	1.90	.97	9.62	3.79	4.80
3,000-3,999....	22.6	3.65	7.91	11.79	8.51	15.06	17.80	11.14	2.08	1.00	10.17	4.06	5.68
4,000-4,999....	10.7	3.50	8.96	13.17	7.71	15.48	17.31	11.34	2.20	.31	9.27	3.83	4.92
5,000-7,499....	9.9	3.31	7.81	14.22	6.03	14.74	17.36	11.09	1.94	.73	7.79	3.48	4.29
7,500 and over.	4.6	3.84	10.31	17.07	6.71	17.83	19.83	13.40	2.36	.78	8.58	4.19	4.70
Not classified.	9.4	2.93	6.84	12.06	5.91	12.31	13.45	9.84	1.79	.86	7.57	3.29	4.25
SPRING 1942													
All classes 8/...	100.0	3.34	7.69	10.96	8.83	11.11	12.93	9.21	1.73	.89	9.00	3.72	3.26
Under 500.....	3.6	2.95	4.85	3.71	8.87	7.50	7.76	4.16	1.13	1.11	8.54	3.09	2.31
500-999.....	11.3	2.81	5.97	5.70	6.85	7.54	8.95	5.61	1.10	.99	9.15	3.16	2.44
1,000-1,499....	12.5	3.15	6.67	8.29	8.09	9.58	11.00	7.00	1.17	1.16	9.14	3.51	3.09
1,500-1,999....	15.6	3.15	6.87	8.53	8.59	9.27	13.09	7.56	1.42	.80	7.96	3.70	2.88
2,000-2,499....	16.3	3.39	7.97	11.58	9.43	11.67	13.26	9.73	1.50	.80	9.29	3.76	3.62
2,500-2,999....	12.8	3.30	8.30	12.74	8.69	12.27	13.40	10.59	1.50	.95	8.47	3.47	3.28
3,000-4,999....	20.5	3.60	8.38	14.36	9.39	12.67	14.67	11.61	1.47	.78	9.43	3.96	3.57
5,000-9,999....	5.9	4.15	10.78	16.00	11.17	15.30	16.68	13.81	1.73	.73	10.04	4.59	4.22

1/ For spring 1948, classification was by 1947 income after Federal income tax; for spring 1942, classification was by first quarter 1942 income, annual rate, before income tax.

2/ Includes the quantity of fluid milk to which milk products are equivalent in minerals and protein.

3/ Excludes bacon and salt pork.

4/ For spring 1948, includes chocolate and cocoa; for spring 1942, excludes chocolate and cocoa since only expense for these two items was obtained.

5/ Includes the weight of flour, meal, cereals, and pastes added to approximately 60 percent of the weight of bakery products.

6/ Includes bacon and salt pork.

7/ Includes the sugar equivalent of soft drinks and packaged desserts.

8/ Includes families with incomes of $10,000 or over, not shown separately.

Source of 1942 data: Urban food schedules from the Study of Family Spending and Saving in Wartime were re-tabulated to exclude housekeeping units of fewer than 2 persons. Quantities of the different food items have been grouped, insofar as possible, according to the classification used in table 3 of this report. Food consumption data for all housekeeping families in the spring of 1942 were published in Family Food Consumption in the United States, U. S. Department of Agric. Misc. Pub. 550.

Source of 1948 data: 1948 Food Consumption Surveys, Preliminary Report No. 5 and unpublished data.

FOOD CONSUMPTION OF URBAN FAMILIES BY INCOME, 1942 AND 1948

QUANTITIES OF FOODS CONSUMED AT HOME PER HOUSEHOLD IN A WEEK

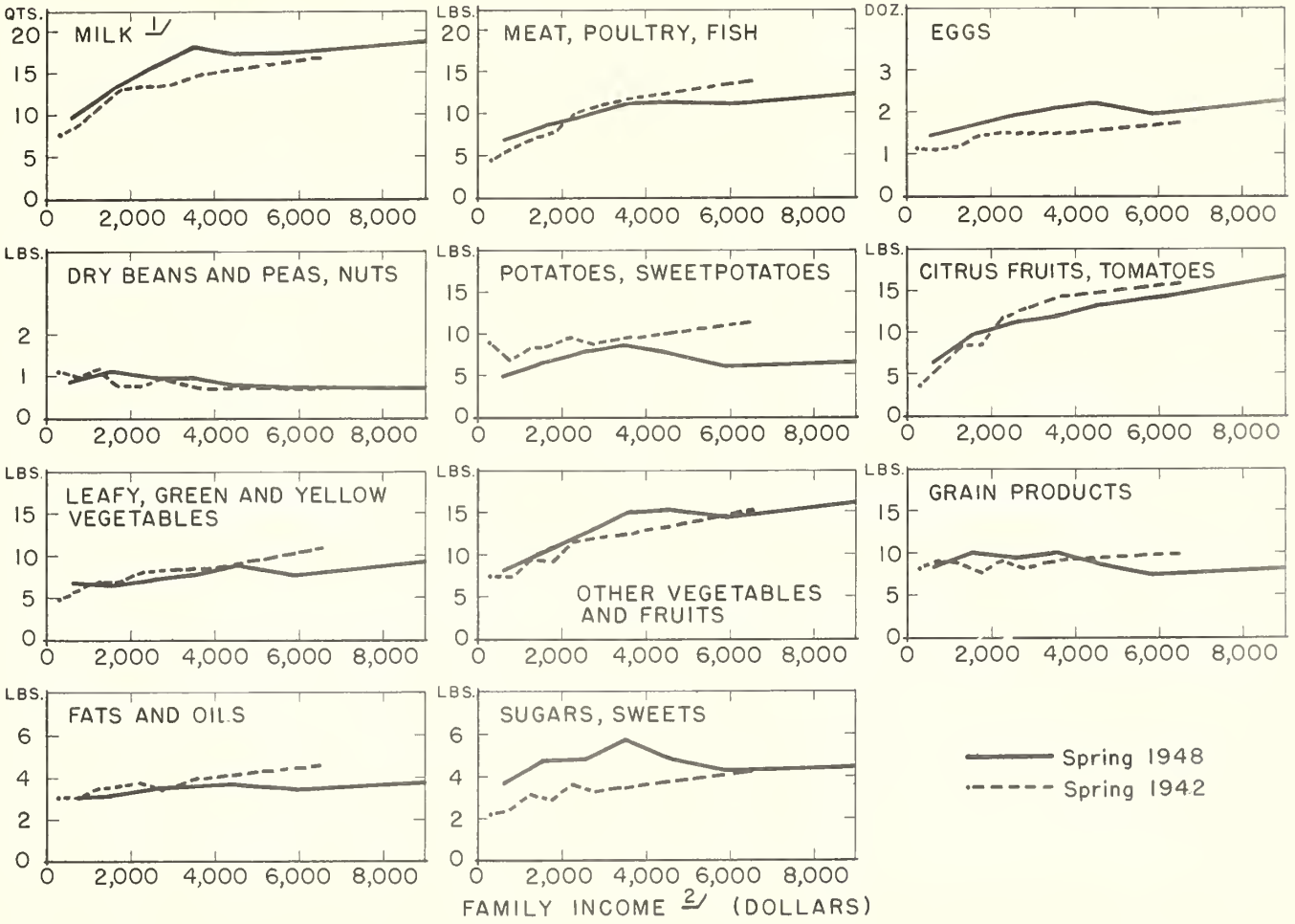


Chart 21

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9018-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

1/ Includes the quantity of fluid milk to which milk products are equivalent in minerals and protein.
2/ In spring 1942, families classified by first quarter 1942 income, annual rate, before income tax; for spring 1948, classification was by 1947 income after Federal income tax.

Food Expenditures of Urban Families by Income, 1942 and 1948

Amount and percent of income spent for food per household 1/

Income class 2/ (dollars)	Average food expenditure per household (dollars)		Percent of income 3/ spent for food	
	1942	1948	1942	1948
All incomes.....	14.02	25.57	27.2	32.1
Under 1,000.....	6.10	13.76	52.8	74.0
1,000-1,999.....	10.23	17.12	35.0	45.1
2,000-2,999.....	13.90	22.35	30.5	40.7
3,000-4,999.....	18.46	28.03	26.1	33.9
5,000 and over...	27.87	35.41	18.9	22.0

1/ Includes a few nonhousekeeping families in 1942.

2/ For spring 1942, classification was by first quarter 1942 income, annual rate, before income tax; for spring 1948, classification was by 1947 income after Federal income tax.

3/ For 1942, percent spent for food was based on income for 1st quarter; for 1948, percent was based on income during survey week in spring 1948.

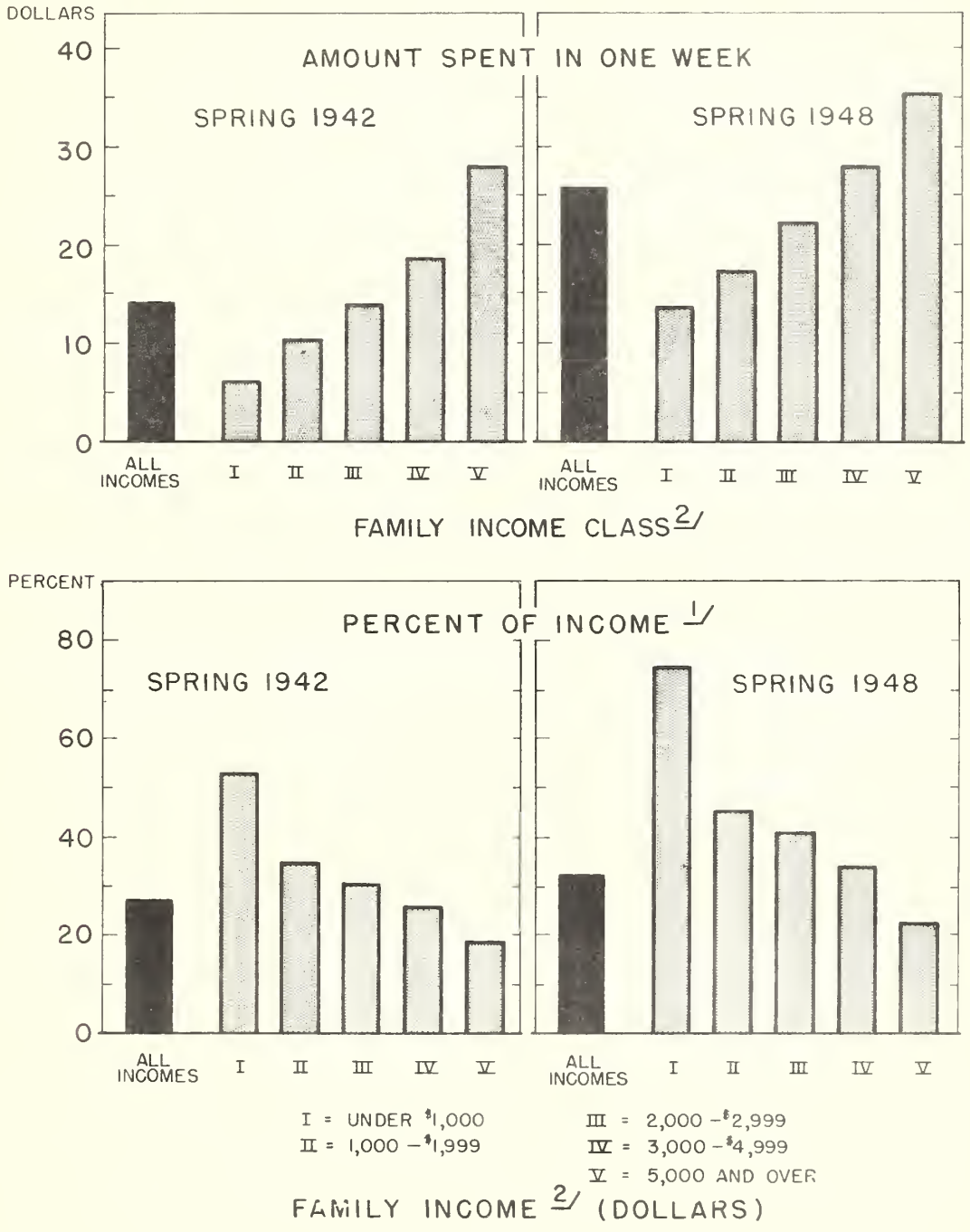
Source of 1942 data: Family Spending and Saving in Wartime, United States Department of Labor, Bulletin 822.

Source of 1948 data: 1948 Food Consumption Surveys, Preliminary Report No. 5.

Chart 22

FOOD EXPENDITURES OF URBAN FAMILIES BY INCOME 1942 AND 1948

AMOUNT AND PERCENT OF INCOME SPENT FOR FOOD PER HOUSEHOLD



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9019-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

1/ For 1942, percent spent for food was based on income for 1st quarter; for 1948, percent was based on income during survey week in spring 1948.

2/ For spring 1942, families classified by first quarter 1942 income, annual rate, before income tax; for spring 1948, families classified by 1947 income after Federal income tax.

Family Food Consumption, Four Cities, Winter 1948

Purchased quantities used at home per person in one week

City	Milk 1/	Meat, poultry, fish 2/	Potatoes, sweet-potatoes	Fruits and vege-tables, fresh, frozen, canned	Flour and other cereal foods	Bakery products	Fats and oils 3/	Sugars, sweets
	Quarts	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Birmingham.....	4.21	3.14	1.76	7.18	2.77	2.04	1.16	1.64
Buffalo.....	5.09	3.49	2.74	8.70	1.17	2.82	.86	1.33
Minneapolis-St. Paul.....	5.12	2.85	2.40	7.81	1.08	2.44	.77	1.18
San Francisco..	5.69	3.90	1.80	10.70	1.21	2.37	.90	1.08

1/ Includes quantity of fluid milk to which milk products are equivalent in minerals and protein.

2/ Includes bacon and salt pork.

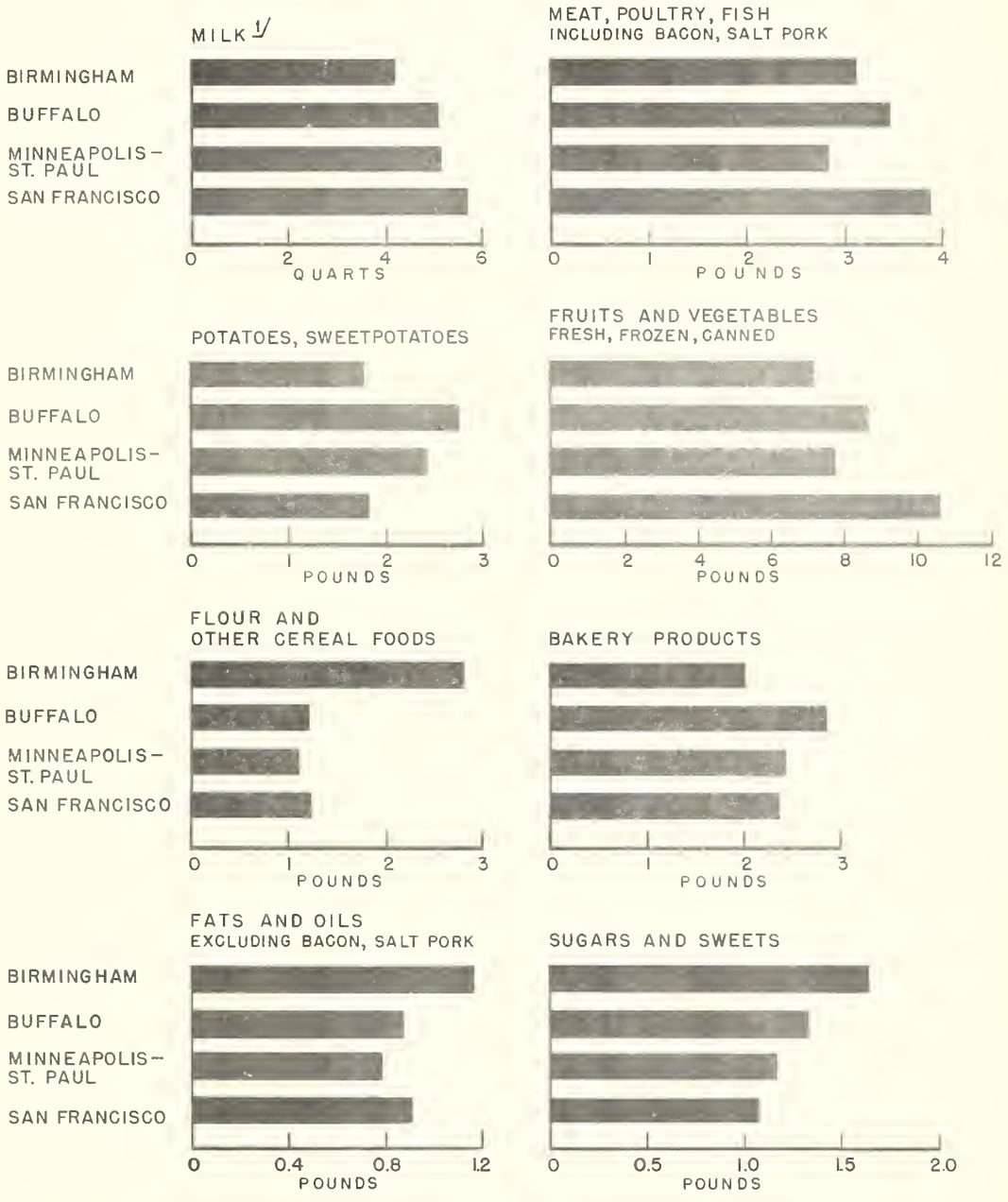
3/ Excludes bacon and salt pork.

Source: 1948 Food Consumption Surveys, Preliminary Reports 1 to 4.

Chart 23

FAMILY FOOD CONSUMPTION, FOUR CITIES, WINTER 1948

PURCHASED QUANTITIES USED AT HOME PER PERSON IN ONE WEEK



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9020-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

1/ Includes the quantity of fluid milk to which milk products are equivalent in minerals and protein.

Cost and Nutritive Return of Major Food Groups in Urban Family Diets

Percent of food dollar spent for major food groups and percent of nutrients in diet contributed by each group, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Winter 1948

Food group	Percent of food dollar	Percent of specified nutrient contributed by food group								
		Food energy	Protein	Calcium	Iron	Vitamin A value	Thiamine	Riboflavin	Niacin	Ascorbic acid
All food.....	1/ 100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Leafy, green and yellow vegetables	4.0	1.3	2.1	3.0	6.5	39.3	4.2	3.1	2.7	15.3
Tomatoes, citrus fruit.....	4.5	2.6	1.7	3.4	4.9	9.2	5.7	2.3	3.9	49.7
Other vegetables and fruit.....	8.7	5.1	2.1	3.3	8.2	6.3	4.6	3.4	4.1	10.5
Dry beans and peas, nuts.....	1.9	2.8	3.6	1.2	4.8	.1	2.6	1.3	6.5	0
Potatoes and sweet-potatoes.....	2.3	4.0	3.0	1.4	6.1	3.3	7.7	2.3	8.3	17.4
Milk, cream, ice cream, cheese	18.3	17.6	26.8	70.2	3.2	16.0	11.7	46.9	3.7	5.7
Eggs.....	4.4	2.4	6.4	2.1	7.7	6.0	2.9	6.5	.2	0
Meat, poultry, fish.	24.6	14.0	29.8	1.9	25.7	8.0	27.7	15.7	41.6	.9
Fats and oils.....	9.9	14.7	1.3	.5	1.2	11.4	2.6	.7	1.3	0
Grain products.....	10.7	24.0	22.5	12.2	28.6	.4	30.2	17.6	27.4	0
Sugars and sweets..	4.8	11.5	.7	.8	3.1	0	.1	.2	.3	.5

1/ 5.9 percent of food dollar spent for accessories such as alcoholic beverages, coffee, tea, leavening agents, salt, vinegar, extracts.

Source: 1948 Food Consumption Surveys, Preliminary Reports 2 and 6.

Chart 24

COST AND NUTRITIVE RETURN OF MAJOR FOOD GROUPS IN URBAN FAMILY DIETS

PERCENT OF FOOD DOLLAR SPENT FOR MAJOR FOOD GROUPS AND PERCENT OF NUTRIENTS IN DIET CONTRIBUTED BY EACH GROUP, MINNEAPOLIS--ST. PAUL, WINTER 1948



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9021-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Home-Produced Foods Consumed by Urban Families, Spring 1948

Food group	Percent of all food consumed reported as home-produced	Families using home-produced food	Average quantity of home-produced food used by home-producing families	
	Percent	Percent	Unit	Quantity
Milk, cream, ice cream, cheese.....	1.3	0.8	Quarts	12.09
Meat, poultry, fish.....	2.7	5.5	Pounds	5.04
Eggs.....	6.3	5.3	Dozen	1.53
Leafy, green, and yellow vegetables.	7.2	11.9	Pounds	4.63
Citrus fruit, tomatoes.....	5.0	7.5	Pounds	7.81
Potatoes, sweetpotatoes.....	1.0	1.2	Pounds	6.33
Dry beans and peas, nuts.....	0.2	0.3	Pounds	.67
Other vegetables and fruits.....	5.8	18.5	Pounds	4.22
Grain products.....	0	0	Pounds	0
Fats and oils.....	0.8	1.3	Pounds	2.23
Sugars, other sweets.....	1.5	6.4	Pounds	1.16

Source: 1948 Food Consumption Surveys, unpublished data.

HOME-PRODUCED FOODS CONSUMED BY URBAN FAMILIES, SPRING 1948

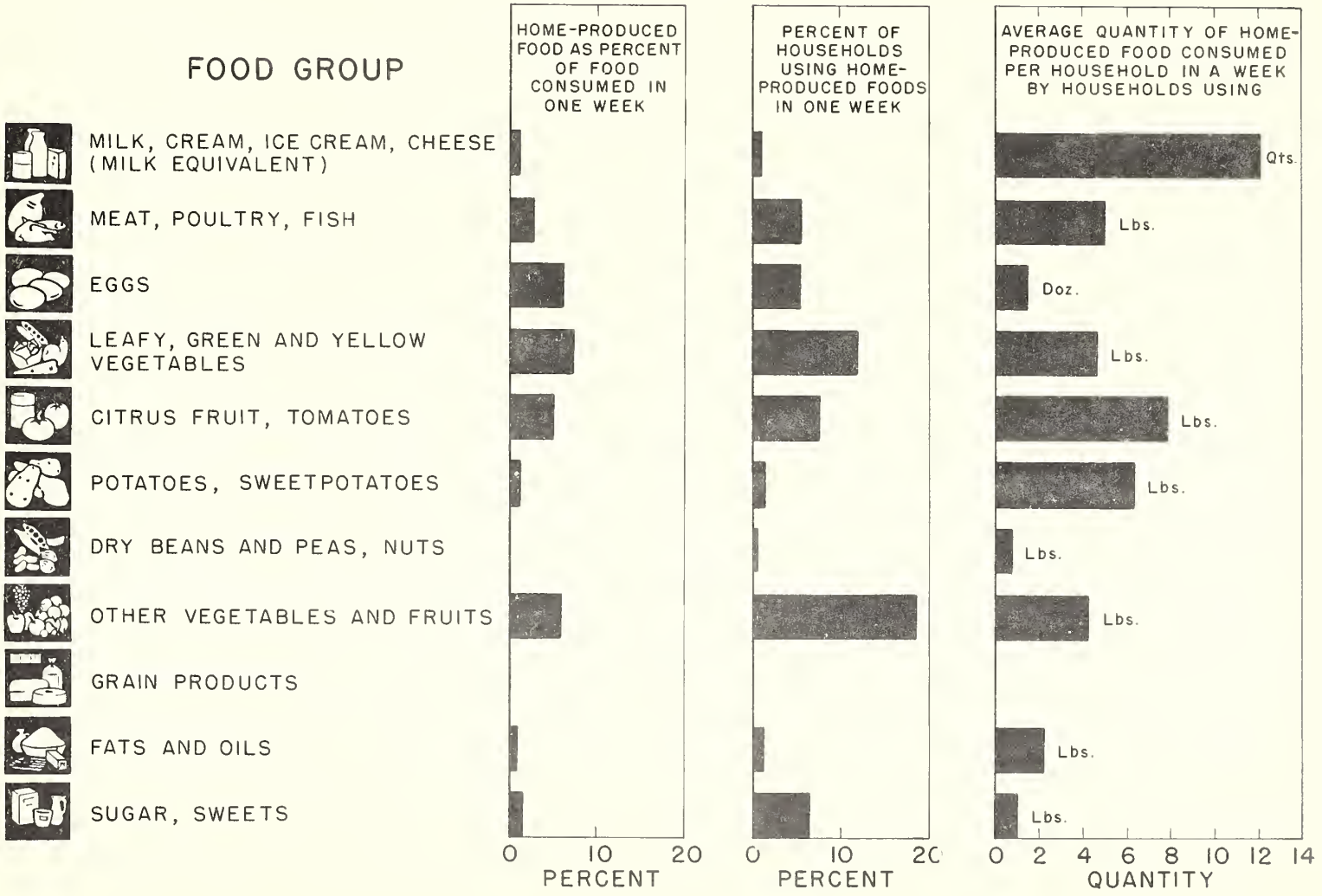


Chart 25

Housing and Facilities

Many farm houses lack modern facilities making for comfort and convenience. As farm incomes have continued high and as supplies have improved, electricity has been extended into rural areas and many farm families have been modernizing their homes and acquiring new furnishings and equipment. But the majority of farm families are still living in houses deficient in modern facilities compared with what most city families have.

Installing electricity is an important step forward in the improvement of farm houses. During the year ended June 30, 1948, the Rural Electrification Administration reported over 400,000 farms newly connected with electric power lines bringing the proportion of the country's farms receiving electric service to more than two-thirds. In 1940 only 30 percent had electric service (chart 26).

Electrification of farm homes has not proceeded uniformly throughout the country. In Ohio, for example, electric service has been extended to almost all farms while in North and South Dakota it reaches only about a fourth (chart 27). Low income may deter a family from putting in electricity, but other factors may be equally important in retarding expansion of electricity in an area. For example, in States with scattered farms such as Nebraska and the Dakotas, the small number of power consumers to the mile of line is a factor.

Once the farm home has electric service, it is possible to add other features such as running water and a modern bathroom. But often there is a delay. In April 1947, despite high incomes and large expenditures for housing and equipment by farm families in general, almost two-thirds of the families had no running water in their houses, more than half had no kitchen sink. Only one-fifth of the farm houses in the country had bathtubs or showers and flush toilets according to a Census Bureau sample survey. Only one in every five farm dwellings had all the following--electric lights, running water, a flush toilet, a bath or shower, and installed cooking facilities. With two-thirds of the farms equipped with electricity, many farm families have a start towards improved houses, but the number with modernization to do remains large.

Various parts of the country differ in the extent to which farm houses have been modernized. In the South only 10 percent of the farm houses had all the facilities listed above while in the Northeastern States as many as 42 percent of the farm dwellings were so equipped (chart 28). More than half the farm dwellings in the country are located in the South, and only a little over 10 percent in the Northeast. Other evidence indicates that within a region farms close to urban centers are more likely to have houses with modern facilities than those in predominantly rural areas.

Rural nonfarm dwellings are somewhat better equipped than houses on farms, but many need improvement. As of April 1947, 3½ million (43 percent) were reported lacking a private bath and flush toilet. As with farm houses,

the variation over the country is great. Moreover, rural nonfarm families live under a variety of circumstances, including such extremes as the wealthy city commuters in villages or open country and migratory laborers living in trailers and tents.

About two-thirds of the families living on farms and half of the city families own the houses in which they live. As chart 29 shows, most city families have running water, electricity, private bath or shower, and flush toilet in their houses. City tenants have them almost as often as city owners, but this is not true for farm families: farm tenants are much less likely to have modern facilities in their dwellings than are farm owners. Only half of the tenant-occupied dwellings (including those of sharecroppers) had electric lights in April 1947, compared with almost three-fourths of the owner-occupied farm dwellings. For other facilities the differences are greater. Nine percent of the tenant-occupied dwellings had a bath and flush toilet, but the proportion among owner-occupied farm houses was over three times as great (chart 29). There is variation among the regions. 1/ City landlords find the rental value of their property directly related to the facilities provided because urban renters are likely to demand certain conveniences. But the rental value of a farm depends on many things besides the condition of the house, and few farm landlords have provided houses with modern facilities.

Many farm dwellings lack other facilities besides electricity and plumbing. An appreciable number situated in areas where the climate requires central heating for comfort do not have it. Overcrowding still exists despite a decrease in farm population since 1940. Houses with more than one person per room are considered crowded by some standards. Some farm families are living in houses even more crowded than this. In 1947 10 percent of all farm houses and 17 percent of those occupied by tenants had more than 1.5 persons per room. In the North very few were this crowded. This region had little increase in the number of farm families since 1940. In the South where the number of farm families decreased by 17 percent from 1940 the percent of farm dwellings with more than 1.5 persons per room decreased from 24 to 17. In the West, with 17 percent more farm families than in 1940, 16 percent of the farm families were living in houses with more than 1.5 persons per room, almost the same as 1940.

Many rural families are replacing the old wood and kerosene stoves with modern cooking equipment. In May 1948 the Census Bureau found in a sample survey that 3 out of 5 rural nonfarm families and 1 out of 3 farm families were using gas or electricity as their principal cooking fuel. As bottled gas becomes more readily available many families without electricity are using gas stoves, and some continue to do so even after they have electricity. Only 12 percent of the farm families in May 1948 were using electricity as their principal cooking fuel although over two-thirds of the farms had electric service (chart 30). The same survey showed that 19 percent of all farm families were using gas for cooking.

Electricity on the farm has started many farm families towards more convenient and comfortable houses. Some families lack the income to pay

1/ See page 68 for regional figures.

for or finance improvements. Some farm families have seen fit to spend some of their higher incomes for better housing while others, though able to afford it, have not been convinced of the importance of better housing.

Trends in Electrification of Farms

Percent of farms with electricity from power line

By region, 1935, 1940, 1945-48 1/

Region	1935	1940	1945	1946	1947	1948
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States.....	10.9	30.4	45.7	54.3	61.0	68.6
Northeast.....	31.7	63.4	76.9	84.1	88.3	90.8
New England.....	36.7	65.8	76.8	82.1	86.6	87.7
Middle Atlantic.....	29.7	62.5	76.9	85.0	89.0	92.1
North Central.....	12.0	35.7	52.7	61.3	67.0	73.4
East North Central..	16.7	52.4	69.6	78.2	84.3	92.0
West North Central..	7.7	20.2	37.0	45.6	51.1	56.2
South.....	3.2	17.1	31.6	40.7	48.8	58.8
South Atlantic.....	4.6	23.7	37.3	45.7	55.1	68.2
East South Central..	2.8	13.4	26.3	33.6	41.0	49.2
West South Central..	2.0	14.2	30.8	42.6	49.7	58.1
West.....	32.7	55.6	68.5	75.4	80.8	84.4
Mountain.....	17.6	34.6	50.4	58.9	66.1	70.9
Pacific.....	46.4	73.3	82.2	87.8	91.9	94.5

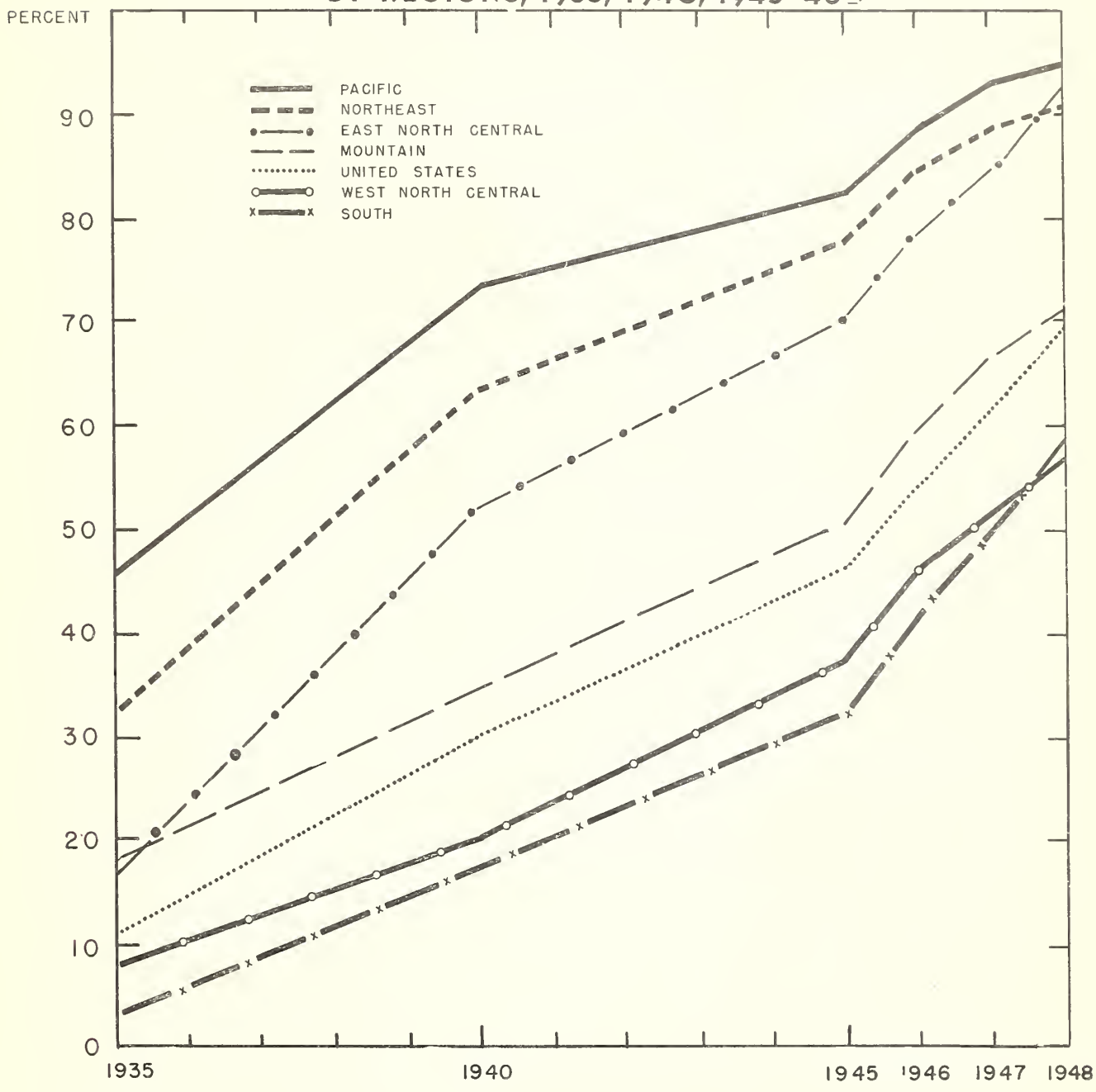
1/ Percent of farms with electricity for 1935, 1940, and 1945 based on total number of farms in those years. Percent of farms with electricity for 1946, 1947, and 1948 based on total number of farms in 1945.

Source: Rural Electrification Administration

Chart 26

TRENDS IN ELECTRIFICATION OF FARMS

PERCENT OF FARMS WITH ELECTRICITY FROM POWER LINE, BY REGIONS, 1935, 1940, 1945-48 1/



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9023-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

1/ Percent of farms with electricity for 1935, 1940, and 1945 based on total number of farms in that year. Percents for 1946, 1947, and 1948 based on total number of farms in 1945.

Rural Areas Lacking Electricity

Percent of farms without electricity, by States, 1948 1/

State	Percent of farms lacking electricity	State	Percent of farms lacking electricity	State	Percent of farms lacking electricity	State	Percent of farms lacking electricity	State	Percent of farms lacking electricity
50% and more lacking electricity		25-49.9% lacking electricity		10-24.9% lacking electricity		5-9.9% lacking electricity		Less than 5% lacking electricity	
North Dakota.	77.2	Kansas.....	49.6	Maine.....	22.8	New Hampshire	9.0	Oregon.....	4.8
South Dakota.	76.1	Tennessee.....	49.1	Colorado....	20.2	Washington...	6.5	Massachusetts	4.0
Mississippi..	62.4	Wyoming.....	47.5	Iowa.....	19.9	New York.....	6.2	Indiana.....	3.9
Nebraska.....	56.2	Missouri.....	46.6	Utah.....	19.6	California...	5.3	Connecticut..	3.7
Oklahoma.....	55.9	Arkansas.....	45.6	Arizona.....	19.5	Idaho.....	5.3	Michigan.....	3.3
New Mexico...	52.9	Louisiana.....	44.7	Vermont.....	17.9			New Jersey...	2.9
Kentucky.....	50.6	West Virginia.	43.8	Illinois....	15.8			Rhode Island.	2.7
Montana.....	50.1	Nevada.....	41.0	Delaware....	15.3			Ohio.....	2.4
		Alabama.....	39.2	Wisconsin...	14.9				
		Florida.....	34.6	Maryland....	14.3				
		South Carolina	34.5	Pennsylvania	10.3				
		Texas.....	33.1						
		Georgia.....	31.9						
		North Carolina	31.7						
		Minnesota.....	31.0						
		Virginia.....	26.8						

1/ Based on number of farms January 1, 1945, and number lacking electricity June 30, 1948.

Source: Rural Electrification Administration.

RURAL AREAS LACKING ELECTRICITY

PERCENT OF FARMS WITHOUT ELECTRICITY, BY STATE, 1948 1/

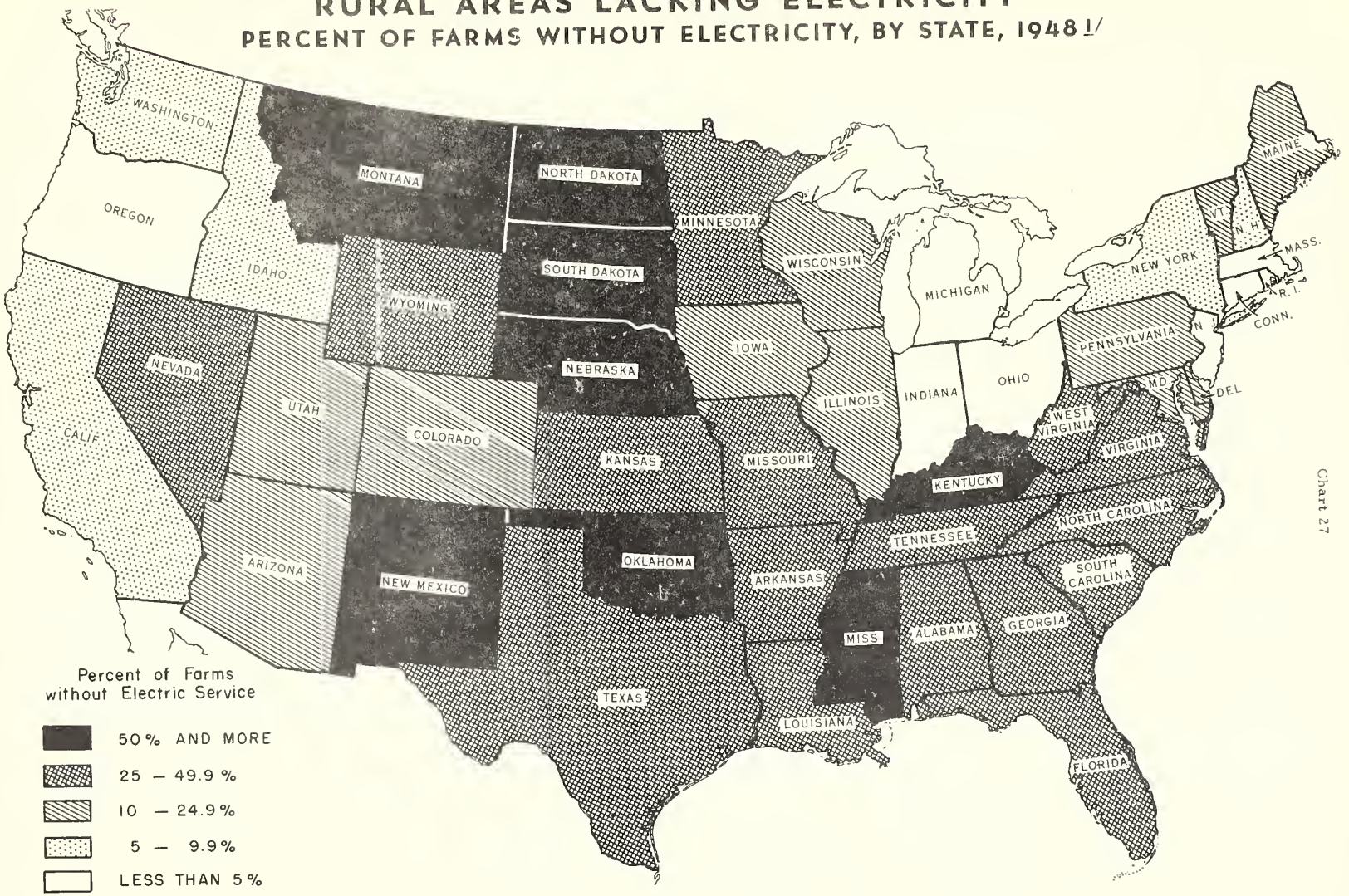


Chart 27

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI.

9024-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

1/ Based on number of farms January 1, 1945, and number lacking electricity June 30, 1948

Modern Facilities in Farm Dwellings, by Region

Percent of occupied rural-farm dwelling units having designated facilities, April 1947 1/

Facility	United States	Region			
		Northeast	North Central	South	West
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cook stove 2/.....	91.8	93.3	93.9	90.7	88.8
Electric lights.....	59.4	85.6	65.6	44.5	82.2
Running water.....	32.7	64.9	33.5	19.0	62.1
Private bath or shower and flush toilet.....	20.1	43.5	22.1	10.3	36.5
All designated facilities.....	19.3	42.4	21.1	9.8	35.0

1/ All facilities must be in dwelling unit and for exclusive use of occupants.
2/ Cook stove means installed cooking facilities such as stove standing on floor or built into a cabinet--something more substantial than a one- or two-burner hot plate.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Housing Reports, Series P-70, No. 1.

MODERN FACILITIES IN FARM DWELLINGS, BY REGIONS

PERCENT OF OCCUPIED RURAL FARM DWELLING UNITS HAVING DESIGNATED FACILITIES, APRIL 1947

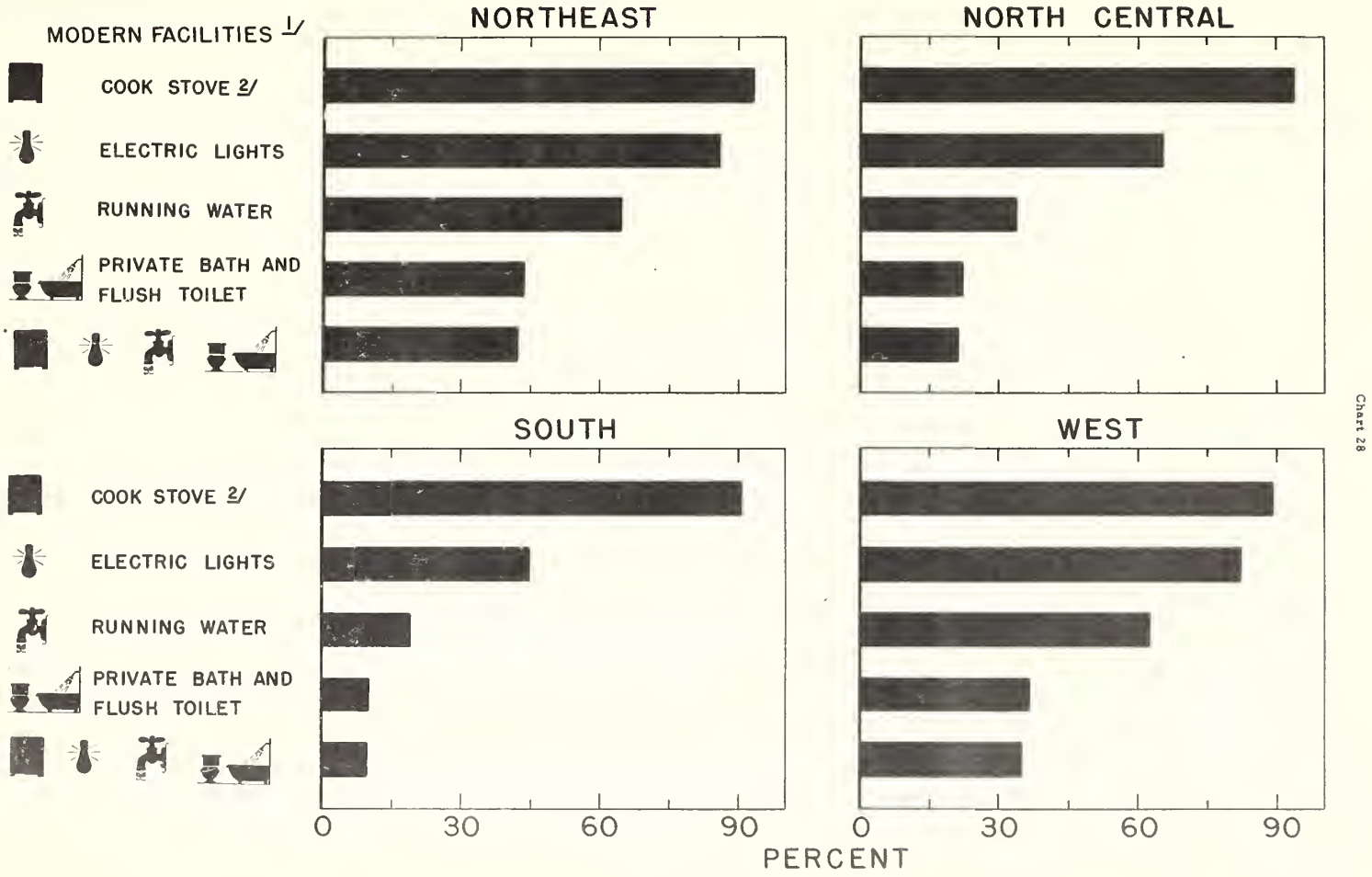


Chart 28

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9025-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1/ All facilities must be in dwelling unit and for exclusive use of occupants.
2/ Cook stove means installed cooking facilities such as stove standing on floor or built into a cabinet-something more substantial than a one-or two-burner hot plate.

Modern Facilities in Owner-Occupied and Tenant-Occupied Dwellings

Percent of occupied urban and rural-farm dwelling units having designated facilities, April 1947 1/

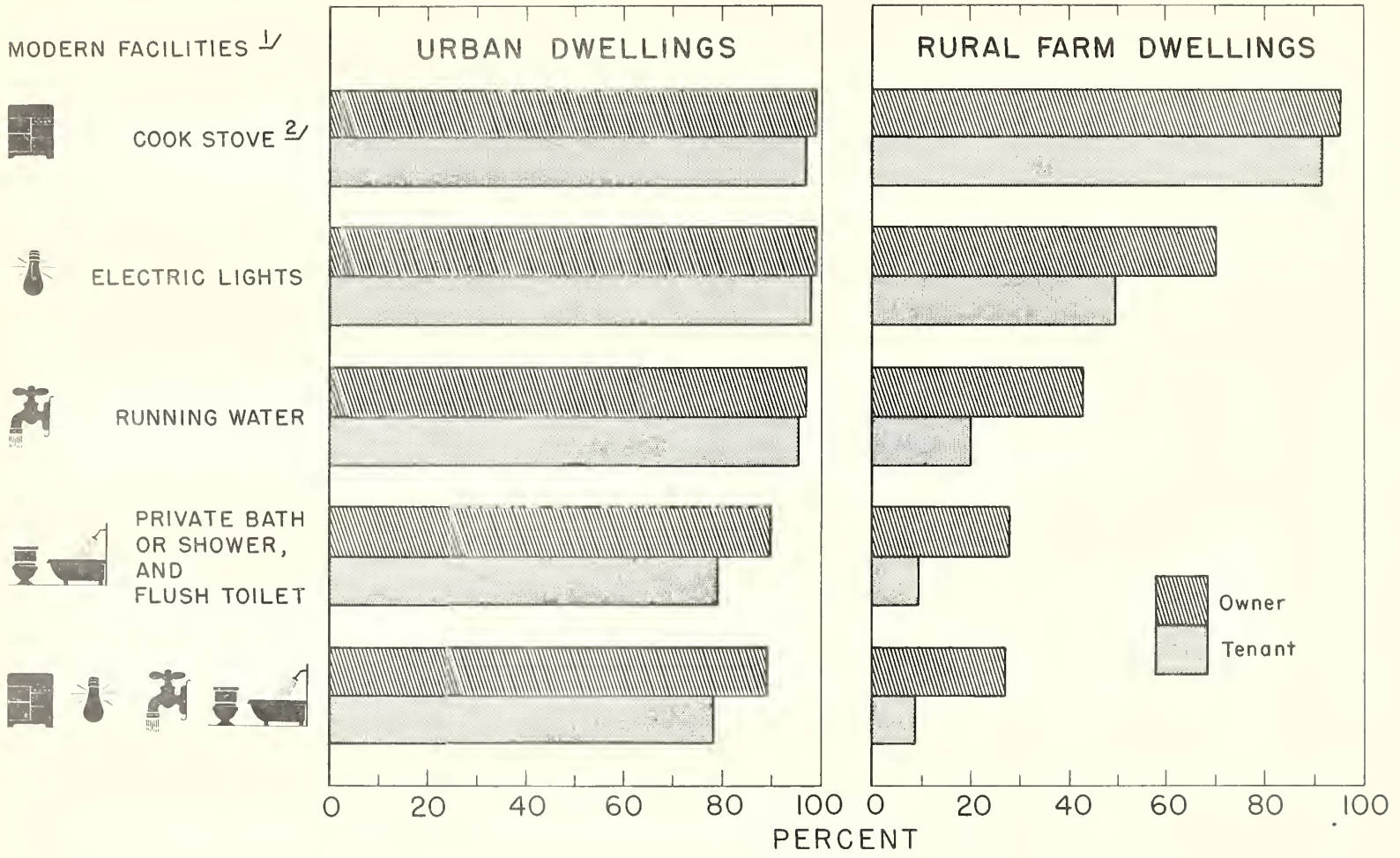
Facility	United States		Urban		Rural-Farm	
	Owner-occupied	Tenant-occupied	Owner-occupied	Tenant-occupied	Owner-occupied	Tenant-occupied
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cook stove 2/	97.8	96.1	99.2	97.0	95.7	92.9
Electric lights	91.7	89.6	99.0	97.5	70.6	49.8
Running water	80.6	80.3	97.0	94.6	43.4	20.6
Private bath or shower and flush toilet	70.4	64.6	89.8	79.2	28.6	9.4
All designated facilities	69.6	63.6	89.2	78.1	27.6	8.8
Northeastern States	3/	3/	3/	3/	49.4	30.7
North Central States	3/	3/	3/	3/	27.2	12.7
South	3/	3/	3/	3/	16.6	3.2
West	3/	3/	3/	3/	47.5	19.7

1/ All facilities must be in dwelling unit and for exclusive use of occupants.
2/ Cook stove means installed cooking facilities such as stove standing on floor or built into a cabinet--something more substantial than a one- or two-burner hot plate.
3/ Regional data for urban-occupied dwellings not available.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Housing Reports, Series P-70, No. 1, including hitherto unpublished data for farm dwellings by region.

MODERN FACILITIES IN OWNER-OCCUPIED AND TENANT-OCCUPIED DWELLINGS

PERCENT OF OCCUPIED URBAN AND RURAL FARM DWELLING UNITS HAVING DESIGNATED FACILITIES, APRIL 1947



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9026-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1/ All facilities must be in dwelling unit and for exlusive use of occupants.
2/ Cook stove means installed cooking facilities such as stove standing on floor or built into a cabinet-something more substantial than a one-or two-burner hot plate.

Chart 29

Principal Fuel Used in Cooking, by Place of Residence

Percent of occupied dwelling units using designated fuels for cooking, May 1948

Fuel	United States	Urban	Rural-nonfarm	Rural-farm
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Gas, piped, or tanked.....	60.3	79.3	38.6	19.2
Electricity.....	12.6	10.1	20.2	12.0
Wood.....	11.1	2.4	11.6	42.3
Coal or coke.....	7.3	3.8	14.2	10.9
Kerosene or gasoline 1/.....	8.7	4.5	15.4	15.5

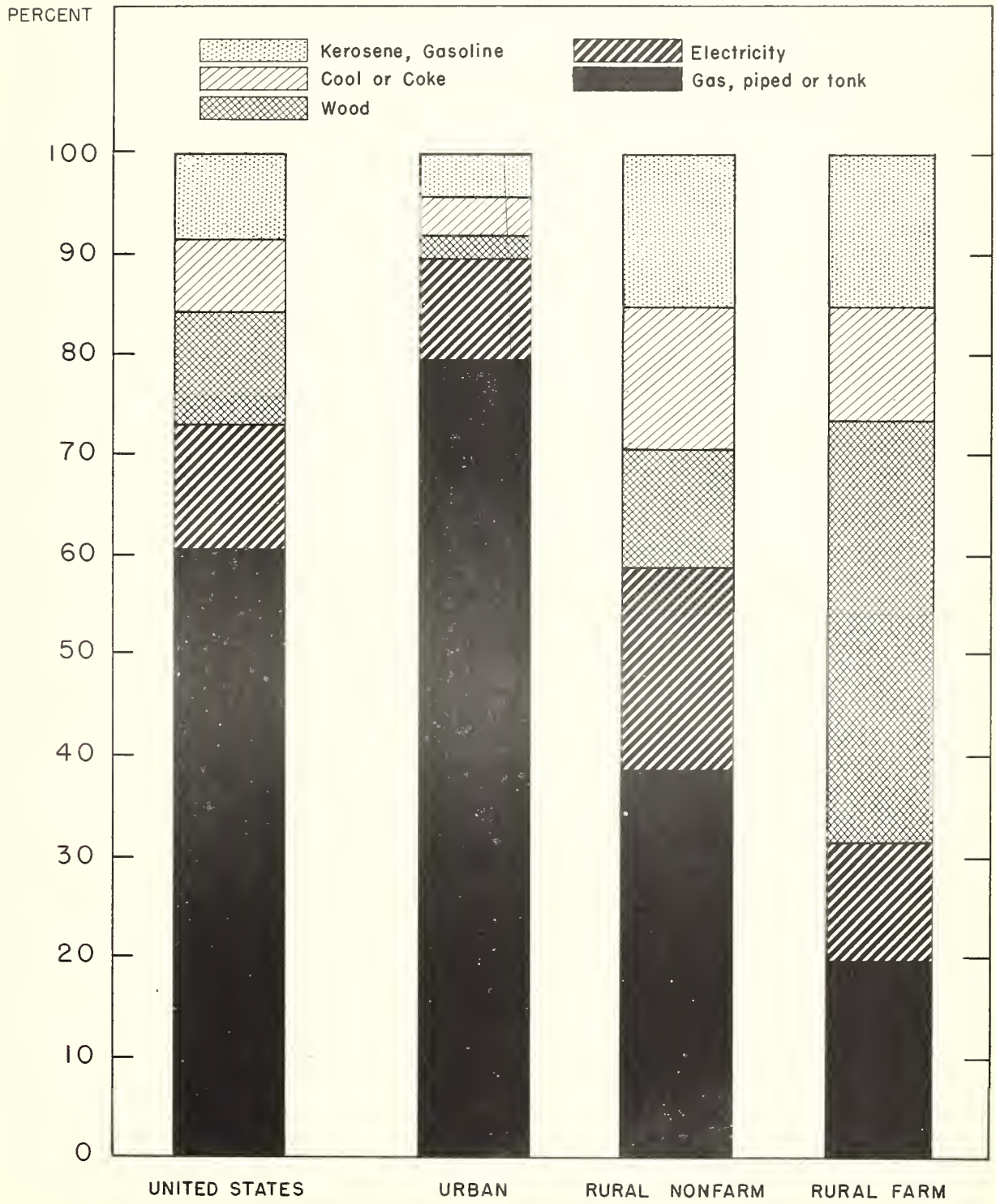
1/ Includes very small percentage of other fuel (less than 0.5 percent).

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Housing Reports, Series P-70, No. 3.

Chart 30

PRINCIPAL FUEL USED IN COOKING, BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

PERCENT OF OCCUPIED DWELLING UNITS USING DESIGNATED FUELS FOR COOKING, MAY 1948



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9027-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Education

The public school system has gone a long way towards giving every child a right to elementary and high school education which need not depend on the family's ability to pay. But the number of years a child stays in school and the quality of the training he gets there are likely to depend on where he happens to live.

Practically all States have compulsory attendance laws requiring children between 7 and 13 to be in school. In October 1948, 98 percent of the children in this age group were enrolled in school. However, although most children in cities and small towns continued to go to school through the age of 15, farm children began dropping out after 13. By 16 and 17 (the usual age for children attending the last 2 years in high school), 77 percent of the city children were still in school but only 59 percent of the farm children were enrolled (chart 31). There is undoubtedly variation in different parts of the country. The distance farm children must travel to school, particularly to high school, may often be a deterrent. On the farm, where extra help may be reflected immediately in increased family income, the pressure for the child to leave school early is greater than in the city where health and labor laws limit the opportunities for the child's paid employment. To some extent, the farm child who remains on the farm can get at home the vocational training for which the city child must go to school. However, many farm children ultimately migrate to towns and cities to pursue a vocation.

Data in chart 32 are even more revealing. They show by State the proportion of children between 5 and 17 enrolled in secondary schools in 1945-46. Secondary schools are defined as the ninth through twelfth grades. Both public and private or parochial schools are included. Since only about 30 percent of the children are between 14 and 17, this represents the maximum proportion of school-age children that could possibly be enrolled in high school. By States, the percent of children in high school ranges from nearly 29 percent in New York and New Jersey, which are predominantly urban, to 13 percent in Louisiana and 12 percent in Mississippi, which are predominantly rural.

But what of the educational facilities available to the child? The one-room schoolhouse with the teaching burden it imposes is gradually disappearing. In 1945-46, the latest year for which figures are available, 44 percent of all school buildings were one-room schools. However, in 1909-10 one-room schools accounted for 80 percent of all schools, and even in 1930 they were 60 percent of all buildings in use (chart 33). Consolidation is making it possible to provide children with better physical facilities and better qualified teachers than small school districts separately could afford. It does mean, on the other hand, that children must travel greater distances and be away from home a greater part of the day.

The shortage of teachers has reached a crisis in many parts of the country. It has been aggravated as the "war babies"--reflecting the heavy birth-rate since 1941--become old enough to go to school. This shortage, now particularly acute in the elementary schools, will spread through the rest of the system as the children pass from the lower grades on through high school. Low salary scales have been a major factor in the failure to attract and hold teachers. Teachers' salaries generally have lagged behind those of other workers in adjustments for increased cost of living. In 1945-46 the average salary in the U. S. for public elementary and high school teachers was only $2,000. Average wages for industrial workers were about $2,250. As chart 34 shows, teachers' salaries ranged from $856 in Mississippi and $1,068 in Arkansas to more than $2,900 in California. Annual current expenditure per child ranged from $46 in Mississippi and $64 in Georgia to over $200 in Montana, New Jersey, and New York. As would be expected the most rural States, being generally the States with the lowest per capita income, are at the bottom of the list. On the other hand, these States are spending a much larger proportion of their income for education than the wealthier States.

With the birth-rate among farm families continuing high and the farm population generally declining, it is clear that rural areas are burdened with costs of educating a large number of children who migrate eventually to the city to spend their most productive years. Thus the city stands to gain by improved rural schools as much, or even more, than does the local rural community.

School Enrollment by Age and Residence

Percent of urban, rural nonfarm and rural farm children of specified ages enrolled in school, October 1948

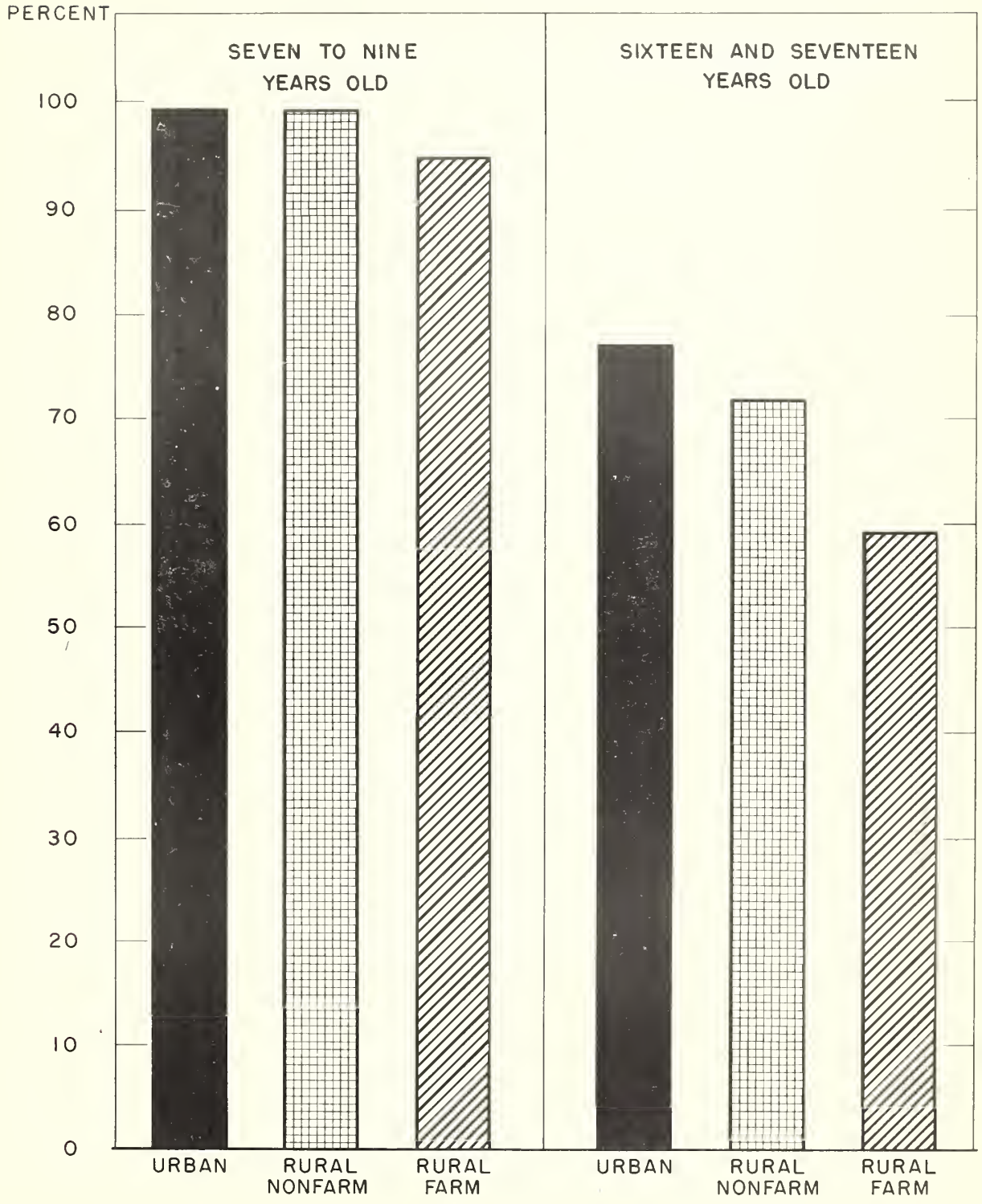
Age	Enrolled in school							
	United States		Urban		Rural nonfarm		Rural farm	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
6 years.....	2,584,000	93.4	1,311,000	95.4	680,000	93.4	593,000	89.2
7 to 9 years.....	7,074,000	98.3	3,556,000	99.6	1,848,000	99.4	1,669,000	94.8
10 to 13 years...	8,614,000	98.0	4,350,000	99.5	2,020,000	99.4	2,244,000	94.1
14 and 15 years..	3,806,000	92.7	2,026,000	97.3	899,000	94.7	881,000	82.1
16 and 17 years..	3,018,000	71.2	1,698,000	76.9	677,000	71.7	643,000	59.1

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 24.

Chart 31

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT BY AGE AND RESIDENCE

PERCENT OF URBAN, RURAL NONFARM, AND RURAL FARM CHILDREN OF SPECIFIED AGES ENROLLED IN SCHOOL, OCTOBER 1948



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9028-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Enrollment in High School, by State

Percent of school age children enrolled in secondary schools 1/
1945-46

State	Estimated population 5-17 inclusive, July 1,1946	Pupils enrolled in secondary schools	Percent of population 5-17 enrolled in secondary schools	State	Estimated population 5-17 inclusive, July 1,1946	Pupils enrolled in secondary schools	Percent of population 5-17 enrolled in secondary schools
United States.....	28,943,947	6,187,305	21.4	Nevada.....	24,003	5,921	24.7
				New Hampshire.....	98,516	22,954	23.3
Alabama.....	756,708	109,944	14.5	New Jersey.....	717,336	204,255	28.5
Arizona.....	148,189	23,196	15.7	New Mexico.....	154,925	24,109	15.6
Arkansas.....	493,844	68,752	13.9	New York.....	2,346,713	668,192	28.5
California.....	1,622,598	387,789	23.9				
Colorado.....	244,833	53,233	21.7	North Carolina.....	973,401	134,895	13.9
				North Dakota.....	146,954	28,996	19.7
Connecticut.....	333,226	80,744	24.2	Ohio.....	1,447,887	331,406	22.9
Delaware.....	54,972	11,922	21.7	Oklahoma.....	547,430	110,644	20.2
Florida.....	457,881	81,263	17.7	Oregon.....	265,232	62,380	23.5
Georgia.....	811,710	131,086	16.1				
Idaho.....	126,718	29,183	23.0	Pennsylvania.....	1,980,437	502,339	25.4
				Rhode Island.....	131,079	31,433	24.0
Illinois.....	1,462,046	367,446	25.1	South Carolina.....	536,784	88,250	16.4
Indiana.....	753,827	181,734	24.1	South Dakota.....	140,903	30,519	21.7
Iowa.....	526,154	125,297	23.8	Tennessee.....	736,051	107,938	14.7
Kansas.....	371,415	93,317	25.1				
Kentucky.....	700,372	95,294	13.6	Texas.....	1,591,004	288,654	18.1
				Utah.....	162,500	39,160	24.1
Louisiana.....	607,705	77,598	12.8	Vermont.....	76,452	14,956	19.6
Maine.....	188,501	39,024	20.7	Virginia.....	674,927	123,690	18.3
Maryland.....	399,868	71,296	17.8	Washington.....	433,866	98,247	22.6
Massachusetts.....	814,343	202,644	24.9				
Michigan.....	1,267,221	287,734	22.7	West Virginia.....	490,453	87,028	17.7
				Wisconsin.....	658,910	155,073	23.5
Minnesota.....	579,490	135,304	23.3	Wyoming.....	59,629	13,553	22.7
Mississippi.....	577,911	71,092	12.3				
Missouri.....	752,472	161,351	21.4	District of Columbia	112,831	29,932	26.5
Montana.....	116,572	27,196	23.3				
Nebraska.....	267,148	69,342	26.0				

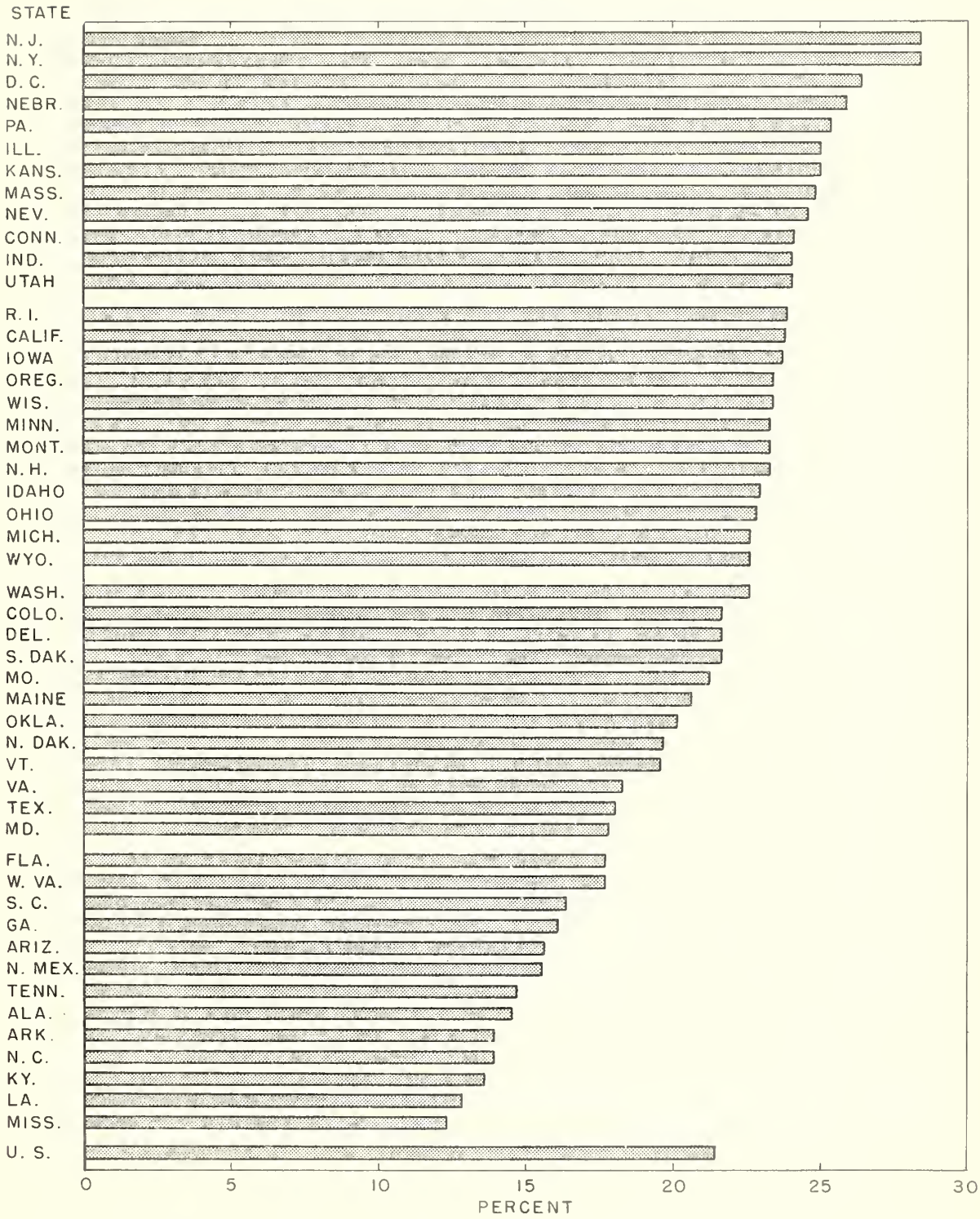
1/ School age is taken as 5-17 years. Secondary schools include 9th to 12th grades in public, private and parochial schools.

Source: U. S. Office of Education, Statistics of State School Systems, 1945-46, Chapter II.

Chart 32

ENROLLMENT IN HIGH SCHOOL BY STATE

PERCENT OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS1/ 1945-46



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SOURCE: U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION

1/ School age is taken as 5-17 years. Secondary schools include 9th to 12th grades in public, private and parochial schools.

Source: U. S. Office of Education, Statistics of State School Systems, 1945-46, Chapter III

Decline in Use of One-Room School Buildings, 1909-1946

One-room buildings as percent of all school buildings in use

Year	All buildings in use	One-room buildings	
		Number	Percent of total
1909-10.....	265,474	212,448	80.0
1919-20.....	271,319	187,948	69.3
1923-24.....	263,280	165,417	62.8
1927-28.....	255,551	153,306	60.0
1929-30.....	248,117	148,712	59.9
1931-32.....	245,951	143,445	58.3
1933-34.....	242,929	138,542	57.0
1935-36.....	237,816	130,708	55.0
1937-38.....	229,394	121,178	52.8
1939-40.....	226,762	113,600	50.1
1941-42.....	222,660	107,692	48.4
1943-44.....	209,309	96,302	46.0
1945-46.....	1/ 196,734	86,563	44.0

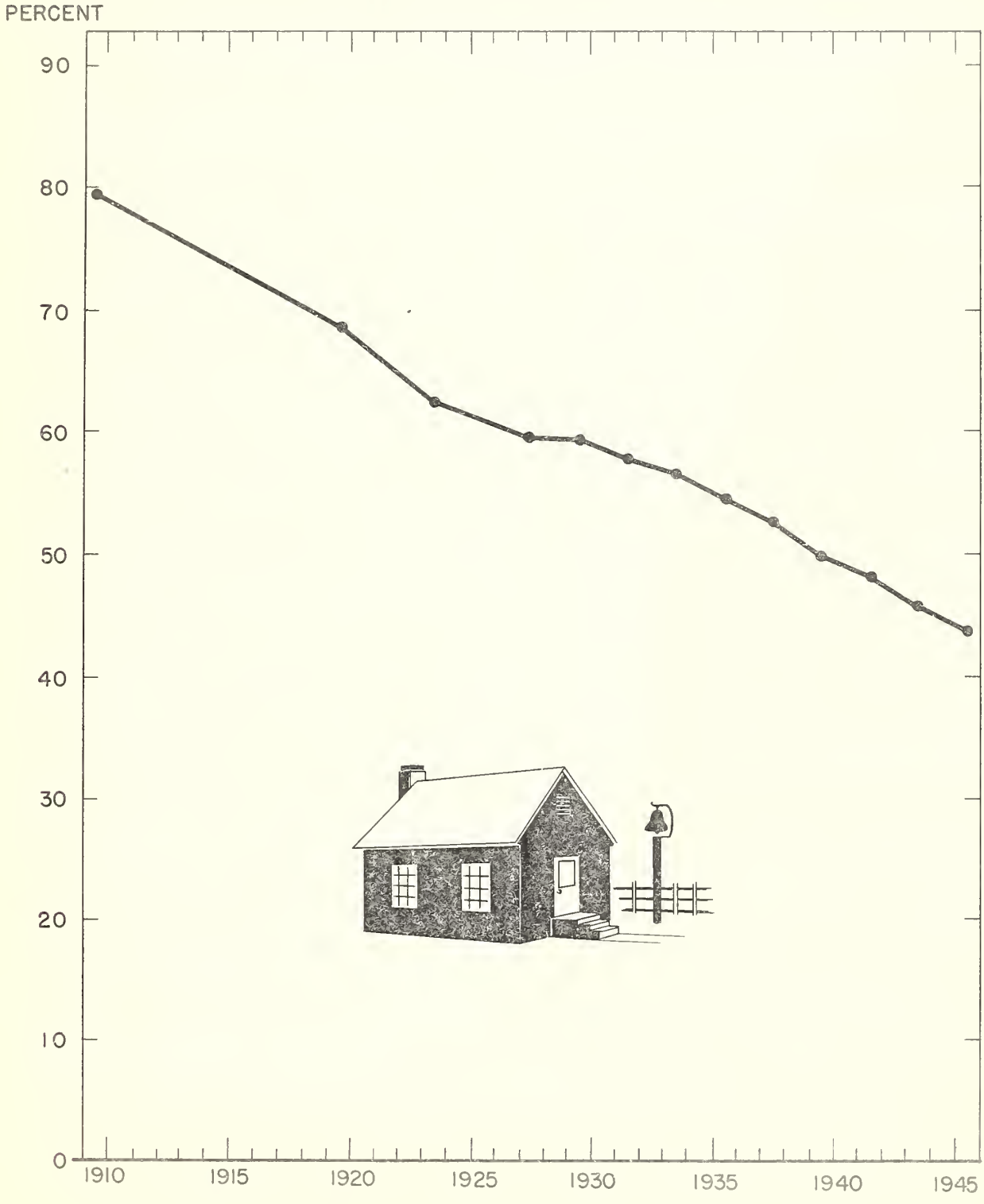
1/ Estimated.

Source: U. S. Office of Education, Statistics of State School Systems, 1945-46.

Chart 33

DECLINE IN USE OF ONE-ROOM SCHOOL BUILDINGS, 1909-46

ONE-ROOM BUILDINGS AS PERCENT OF ALL SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN USE



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9030-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Teachers' Salaries, by State

Average Annual Salary in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools 1/
1945-46

State	Average salary	State	Average salary
	Dollars		Dollars
United States.....	1,995	Nevada.....	1,992
Alabama.....	1,276	New Hampshire.....	1,530
Arizona.....	2,167	New Jersey.....	2,561
Arkansas.....	1,068	New Mexico.....	1,970
California.....	2,987	New York.....	2,946
Colorado.....	1,822		
		North Carolina.....	1,602
Connecticut.....	2,393	North Dakota.....	1,469
Delaware.....	2,202	Ohio.....	2,165
Florida.....	1,719	Oklahoma.....	1,796
Georgia.....	1,081	Oregon.....	2,164
Idaho.....	1,672		
		Pennsylvania.....	2,124
Illinois.....	2,280	Rhode Island.....	2,098
Indiana.....	2,143	South Carolina.....	1,152
Iowa.....	1,676	South Dakota.....	1,530
Kansas.....	1,666	Tennessee.....	1,287
Kentucky.....	1,295		
		Texas.....	1,640
Louisiana.....	1,537	Utah.....	2,016
Maine.....	1,409	Vermont.....	1,692
Maryland.....	2,262	Virginia.....	1,574
Massachusetts.....	2,512	Washington.....	2,547
Michigan.....	2,337		
		West Virginia.....	1,676
Minnesota.....	1,878	Wisconsin.....	2,002
Mississippi.....	856	Wyoming.....	1,654
Missouri.....	1,793		
Montana.....	1,838	District of Columbia..	2,637
Nebraska.....	1,514		

1/ Includes supervisors, principals and teachers.

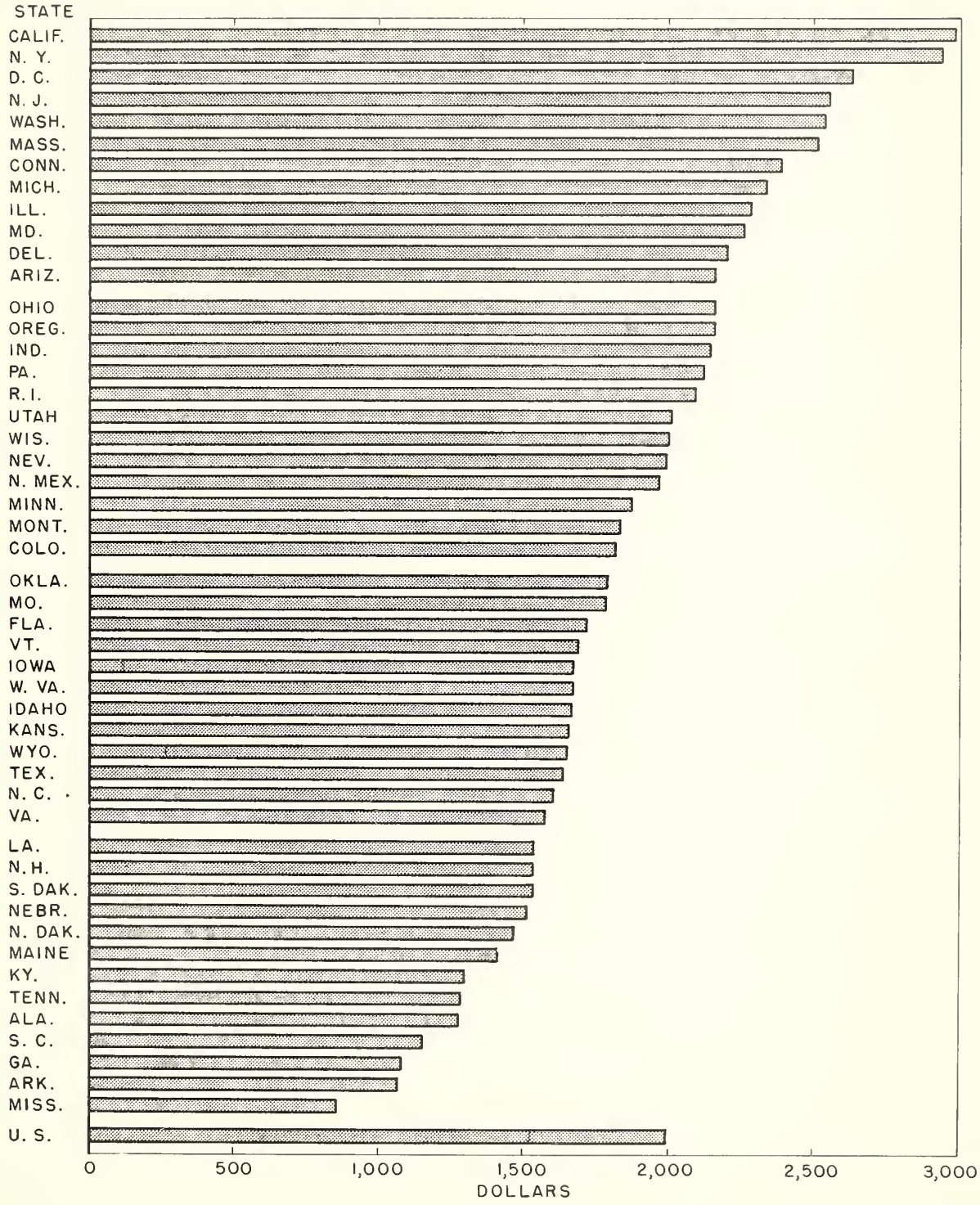
Source: U.S. Office of Education, Statistics of State School Systems, 1945-46.

Chart 34

TEACHERS' SALARIES BY STATE

AVERAGE ANNUAL SALARY IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS 1/

1945-46



U.S. DEPT. OF AGRI. Neg. 9031-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

SOURCE: U.S. OFFICE OF EDUCATION

1/ Includes Supervisors, Principals and Teachers.

Definition of regions

The standard U. S. Census classification of the States into regions and divisions given below has generally been followed in the charts in this book.

Region	Division	States included
The North	New England	Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut
Northeastern States (or North Atlantic)	Middle Atlantic	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania
North Central States	East North Central	Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin
	West North Central	Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas
The South	South Atlantic	Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida
	East South Central	Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi
	West South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
The West	Mountain	Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada
	Pacific	Washington, Oregon, California