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RURAL FAMILY *Living*

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CHARTS

Prepared for 1952 Outlook Conference - Oct.'51
Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE

Rural Family Living

A color film strip that includes all the charts in this book can be purchased for $4.00 from the address given below. The film strip is so designed that the charts can be cut apart and mounted as separate 2- by 2-inch slides.

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CONTENTS

Chart		Page
	POPULATION	1
1	Families and Children, 1950	4
2	Change in Population, Rural and Urban, 1940-50	6
3	Change in Population, by Age Groups, 1940-50	8
	INCOME	10
4	Income of Farm Operators	12
5	Farm Family Net Money Income	14
6	Earners per Family, 1949	16
7	Family Income, by Number of Earners, 1949	18
8	Employment of Wives, 1950	20
9	Employment of Women of Selected Ages	22
10	Occupation: Earning Farm Women, Illinois, 1946	24

Chart		Page
	PRICES	26
11	Index of Prices Paid by Farmers	28
12	Consumers' Price Index	30
	RURAL FAMILY CONSUMPTION	32
	Food	32
13	Nutrients in National Food Supply, 1935-51	34
14	Flour and Bread Enrichment: Contribution to Diet, Two Family Income Groups	36
15	Food Consumption: Farm, City	38
16	Gardens and Consumption: Vegetables and Fruits, July-August 1949	40
	Housing	42
17	Housing Facilities, 1950	44
18	Storage in Southern Homes, Resident Farm Owners, 1948-49	46
19	Farm Houses Built, 1948-50: Stage of Life Cycle, North Carolina	48

Chart		Page
	Housefurnishings and Household Equipment	50
20	Household Equipment, 1950	52
21	Farm Household Equipment, Kansas, 1948-49	54
22	Spending Trends	56
23	Spending, 1949: Furnishings and Equipment, Montana Farm Families	58
	Clothing	60
24	Husbands' Clothing Inventory, by Age of Husband, 1950	62
25	Wives' Clothing Made at Home	64
	Health	66
26	Physician - Population Ratio	68
27	Persons Ill - Days Lost, Michigan, 1948	70
28	Health Insurance	72
29	Rural Infant Mortality, 1948	74
	CHANGES IN CENSUS DEFINITIONS, 1940 AND 1950	76

POPULATION

In 1950, there were 39 million families in the United States. Only 6 million of these lived on farms (chart 1).

A larger share of the Nation's children than of its families continued to be supported by farms. Only 15 percent of the families in the United States lived on farms in 1950, but they were rearing 20 percent of the children.

Farm children were more likely to be members of large families than were urban children. Nearly half of the farm children under 18 years old were in families with four or more children while only one-fourth of the nonfarm children were in families that large. On the other hand, only 12 percent of the farm children, but 21 percent of the nonfarm children, were in one-child families in 1950.

Urban population increased 19 percent in the decade from 1940 to 1950, while rural population (farm and nonfarm) increased only 7 percent. Interesting regional developments occurred in this period. All four of the major regions in the United States increased in both their rural and urban populations except the South, which lost slightly in rural population (chart 2). The data on urban and rural residence are shown in accordance with the urban definition used in the 1940 Census of Population. (See note on change in Census residence definitions, p. 76.)

The West showed the greatest growth in urban population of any region, with an increase of 41 percent during the decade. Many factors combined to bring about such a spectacular urban increase. The long-time trend of shift in population from East to West continued. The rates

of increase in the population of the Pacific Coast States had been particularly high during recent decades and were given additional impetus by the development of industry during World War II. The gains made during the war were not lost with demobilization. Instead the westward movement continued.

The West also showed the greatest regional gain in rural population during this period, with an increase of 38 percent. One factor accounting for such an increase was the movement of people from congested urban areas into outlying rural nonfarm areas, a trend also observable in other parts of the country. This growth meant increasing demand for goods and services in rural areas and further population growth. Likewise, local demands for agricultural products arising from the increased urban population contributed somewhat to the rural expansion.

After the West, the South reflected the greatest urban development for the decade, with an increase of 35 percent. Although an industrial development was apparent throughout the South, the greatest urban expansion occurred in the TVA area and in the West South Central States, particularly in Texas.

The South was still the most rural region in the United States. The rural South, however, in sharp contrast to the urban South, failed to gain population. Rather, it reported a 0.2-percent loss of population (about 50,000 persons) which, although small, was nevertheless a reversal of the general trend elsewhere to gain population over the decade. The beginning of the decade had seen an underemployment of labor in this highly rural area. The decrease by the end of the decade in rural population in the South, though small, may well reflect a partial adjustment to the 1940 overpopulation of the area in relation to its agricultural resources.

The Northeast in 1950, as in previous decades, had a larger urban population than any other region, accounting for approximately one-third of the urban population in the United States. Its urban rate of growth, however, was only 7 percent during the decade, markedly lower than that of the South or West.

The rural Northeast increased in population about 17 percent in the decade. For the most part, this was a residence phenomenon, reflecting the increase in commuters and "gentlemen" farmers in this highly industrialized region rather than a change in the commercial agriculture of the area.

The North Central region increased 15 percent in urban population, but only 4 percent in rural during the decade. Those States in and near the Missouri Valley Basin lost rural population.

During World War II the birth rate rose sharply, following the increase in incomes and the trend toward younger marriages of these years. The birth rate continued at its peak for the second half of the decade along with continued high incomes. As a result, the period between 1940 and 1950 saw a 55-percent increase in the number of children under 5 years of age and a 24-percent increase in the number of children from 5 to 9 years (chart 3).

Such an increase in the size of these two age groups demands serious consideration in the light of the rapid expansion in the services and facilities that must be made by communities throughout the Nation. School facilities are already being sorely taxed and will be more so. Other community facilities must likewise be prepared to bear the brunt of these "bumper crops" of youth for the next decade and beyond.

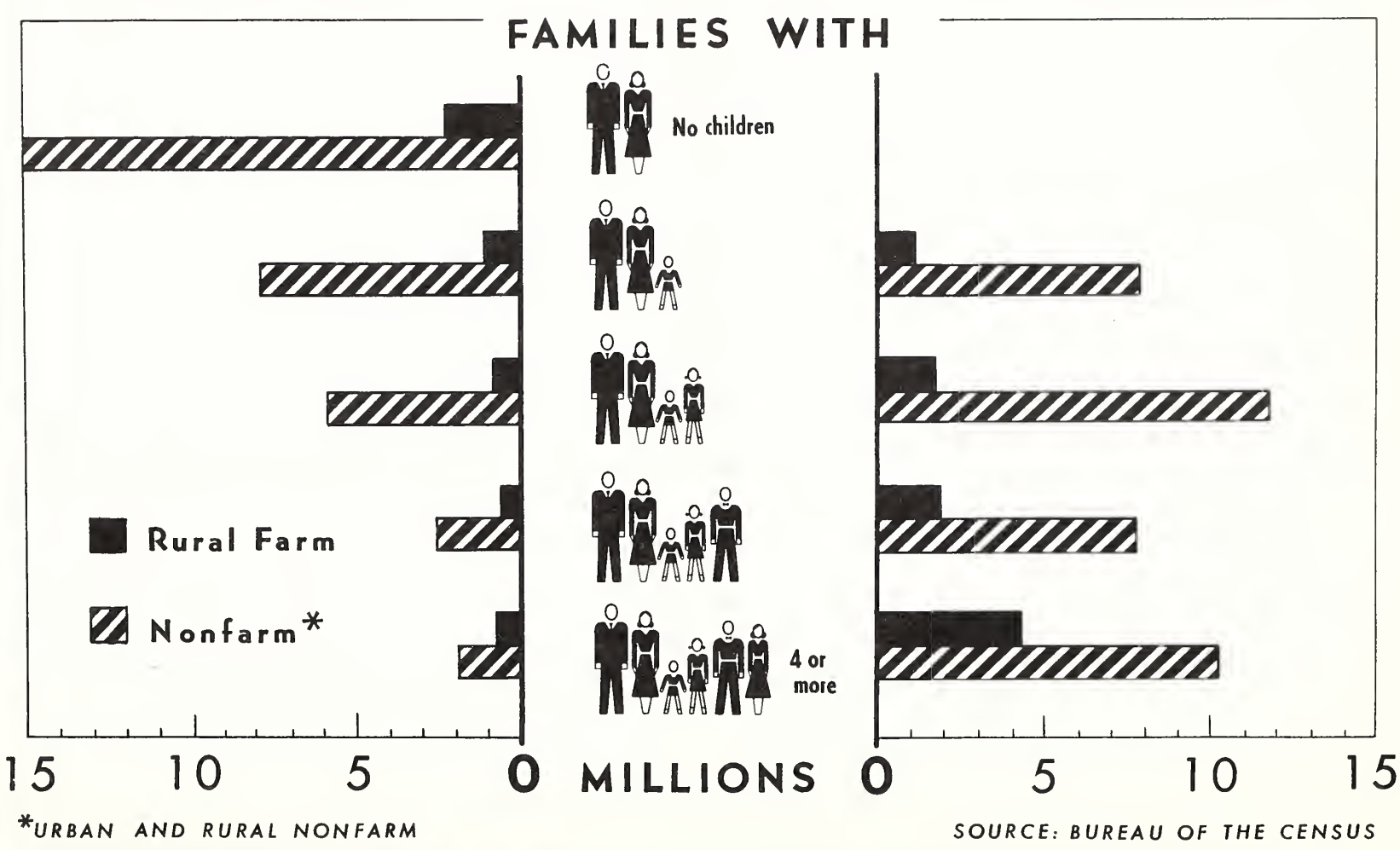
This dramatic increase in the birth rate was a reversal of a long-time trend. Our schools and other community facilities had been geared to the unusually small groups of children born in the 1930's. The severe depression of the early 1930's and the relatively low income level throughout the remainder of the decade contributed to the extremely low birth rate in this period. Between 1940 and 1950, the number of children 10 to 14 years old decreased by 3 percent and the children 15 to 19, who were born in the depression years, decreased by 13 percent.

The decade that produced such startling increases in the number of young children also showed large increases in the number of older people. Between 1940 and 1950, people 75 years and over increased by 45 percent and those 65 to 74 years old increased by 33 percent.

That we have more and more older people in our population is a reflection of a long-time trend which has developed particularly during the past few decades. Advances in science, especially those contributing to health and medicine, have resulted in a steady decline in mortality rates over the years. In addition, the number of older people substantially increased between 1940 and 1950 because of the high birth rates during the period from 1865 to 1885.

As in the case of our very young, community facilities and services must be expanded to meet the needs of older people. Perhaps an even greater problem exists here in that it is a new problem, one that has not been part of the picture before. In a country that has always been "youth minded" an awareness of the problem is needed before progress can be made by communities in providing facilities to fit the needs of our older people.

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN, 1950



*URBAN AND RURAL NONFARM

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

69481 O—51——2

Families and Children, Farm and Nonfarm, 1950

Related children under 18 years, number in family 1/	Number of families			Number of children under 18		
	Total	Rural farm 2/	Urban and rural nonfarm 2/	Total	Rural farm 2/	Urban and rural nonfarm 2/
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Total 3/	39,193	5,770	33,423	47,154	9,268	37,886
No children	17,317	2,273	15,044	--	--	--
1 child	9,076	1,157	7,919	9,076	1,157	7,919
2 children	6,810	899	5,911	13,620	1,798	11,822
3 children	3,270	646	2,624	9,810	1,938	7,872
4 or more children	2,721	796	1,925	14,648	4,375	10,273

1/ Related children are own children and all other children in household who are related to family head by blood, marriage, or adoption. Definition of family is that used in the 1950 Census.

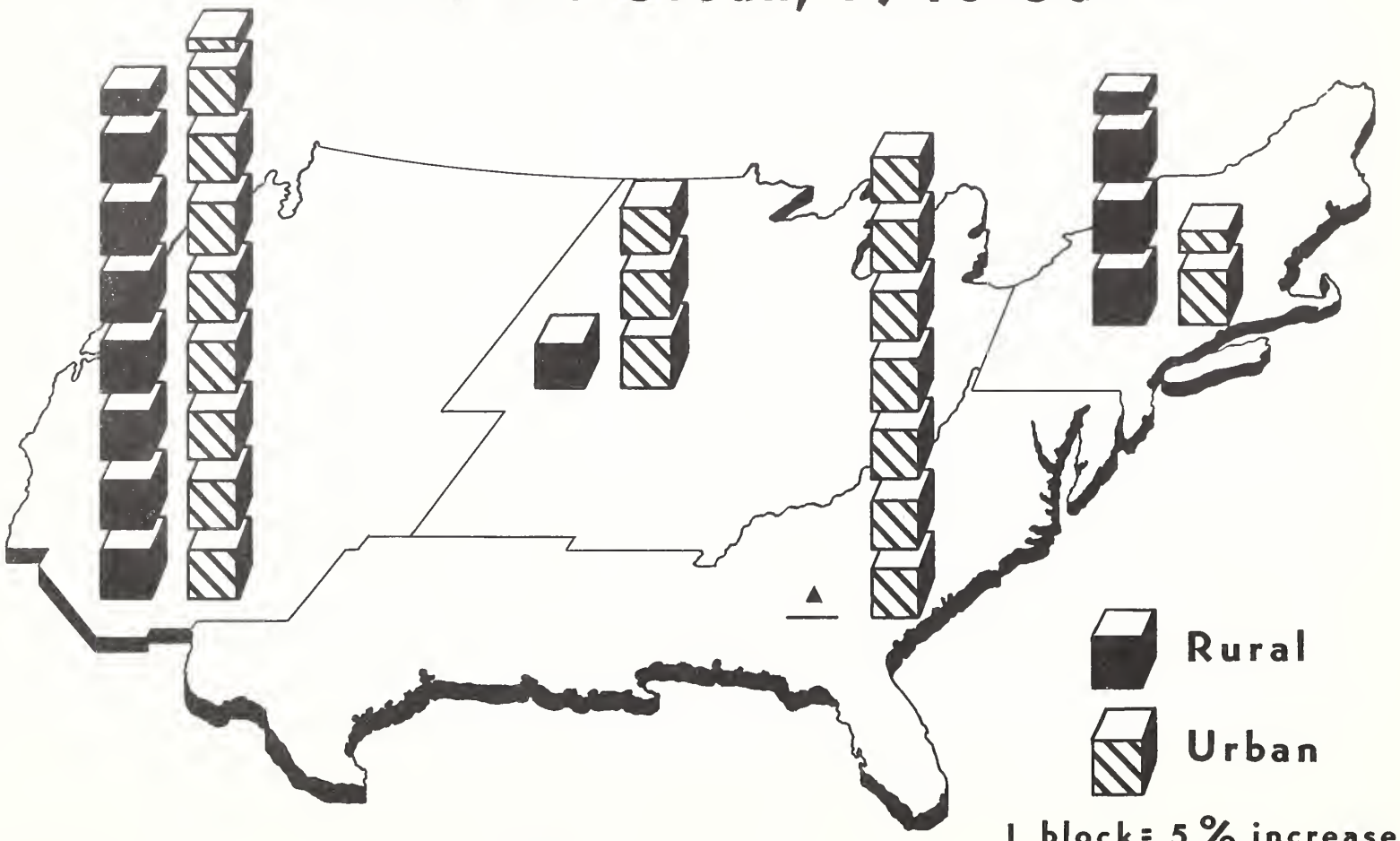
2/ 1950 Census definitions of farm and nonfarm residence.

3/ Civilian, noninstitutional population, and members of armed forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States. Each of the figures is separately rounded to the nearest thousand; therefore, detailed figures do not always add to totals.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports, Series P-20, No. 33.

CHANGE IN POPULATION

Rural and Urban, 1940-50*



*1950 DATA CLASSIFIED BY 1940 URBAN DEFINITION

▲DECREASE OF 0.2 PERCENT

SOURCE: U. S. BUREAU OF CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 9402-D

BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Change in Rural and Urban Population, 1940 to 1950

[1950 data classified in accordance with urban definition of the 1940 Census]

Region	Rural population			Urban population		
	1940	1950	Change, 1940-1950	1940	1950	Change, 1940-1950
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
United States 1/	57,246	61,486	7	74,424	88,370	19
Northeast 1/	8,409	9,844	17	27,568	29,438	7
New England	2,017	2,368	17	6,421	6,888	7
Middle Atlantic	6,392	7,477	17	21,148	22,550	7
North Central 1/	16,706	17,382	4	23,437	26,848	15
East North Central	9,182	10,367	13	17,444	19,868	14
West North Central	7,524	7,015	-7	5,993	6,980	16
South 1/	26,375	26,326	2/	15,290	20,606	35
South Atlantic	10,901	12,127	11	6,922	8,904	29
East South Central	7,613	7,398	-3	3,165	4,033	27
West South Central	7,861	6,801	-13	5,203	7,669	47
West 1/	5,756	7,934	38	8,128	11,478	41
Mountain	2,378	2,586	9	1,772	2,461	39
Pacific	3,377	5,349	58	6,356	9,017	42

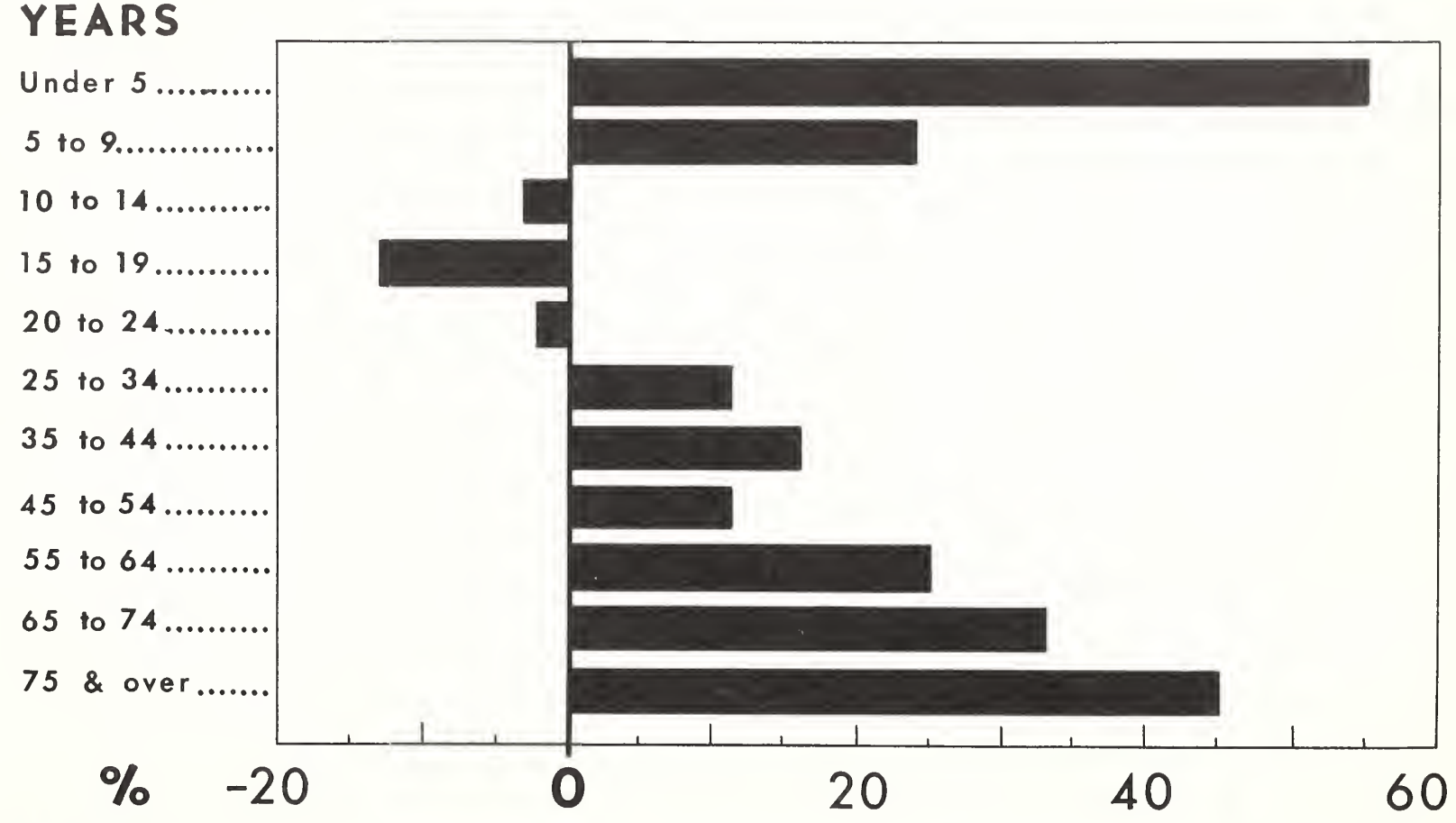
1/ Each of the figures is separately rounded to the nearest thousand; therefore, detailed figures do not always add to totals.

2/ A decrease of 0.2 percent.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. 1950 Census of Population, Preliminary Counts, Series PC-3, No. 10.

CHANGE IN POPULATION

By Age Groups, 1940-50*



* PRELIMINARY

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Change in Population by Age, 1940 to 1950, and Population by Residence and Age, 1950

Age group (years)	1940	1950	Change, 1940-1950	Residence, 1950		
				Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
United States, total 1/	131,169	150,697	15	23,577	31,092	96,028
Under 5	10,542	16,324	55	2,691	3,690	9,943
5 to 9	10,685	13,241	24	2,617	3,221	7,403
10 to 14	11,746	11,361	-3	2,545	2,711	6,105
15 to 19	12,334	10,732	-13	2,184	2,308	6,241
20 to 24	11,588	11,327	-2	1,481	2,236	7,610
25 to 29	11,097	12,093	11	1,328	2,449	8,316
30 to 34	10,242	11,601		1,417	2,370	7,813
35 to 39	9,545	11,193	16	1,572	2,248	7,373
40 to 44	8,788	10,058		1,395	1,923	6,740
45 to 49	8,255	8,990	11	1,303	1,645	6,042
50 to 54	7,257	8,274		1,252	1,392	5,631
55 to 59	5,844	7,230	25	1,087	1,255	4,887
60 to 64	4,728	5,950		952	1,049	3,950
65 to 69	3,807	5,060	33	753	952	3,355
70 to 74	2,570	3,425		466	727	2,232
75 and over	2,643	3,837	45	534	916	2,386
21 and over	83,997	96,918	15	13,227	18,733	64,958
Median age	29	30	-	26	28	32

1/ Each of the figures is separately rounded to the nearest thousand; therefore, detailed figures do not always add to totals.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. 1950 Census of Population, Preliminary Reports, Series PC-7, No. 1.

INCOME

In 1951, farm operators' realized net income from agriculture is expected to be considerably above the 1950 level, although it is not likely to be as high as the record net farm income of 1947 (chart 4).

While not all farm families share equally in increased net income from agriculture, it is likely that far fewer farm families will have a family income under $1,000 in 1951 than in the previous 3 years. Chart 5 shows the distribution of farm families by their net money income for 1947 and 1949. In 1947, when net income from agriculture was high, 25 percent of the families had an income under $1,000, whereas in 1949 when net income from agriculture was about one-fifth lower than in 1947, about 34 percent of the farm families had an income under $1,000. At the other end of the income distribution, 9 percent of the farm families had an income over $6,000 in the peak year of 1947, while in 1949 only 5 percent did (table, p. 15).

The median farm family income in 1949 was considerably lower than the urban. Even if an allowance for home-produced food, fuel, and rental value of dwellings were added to the money income of rural families, it is likely that farm family incomes still would be lower. The median net money income of farm families in 1949 was under $1,600; the median for rural nonfarm was a little under $3,000; and for urban, about $3,500.

The median farm family income figures include income from off-farm employment and other nonfarm sources. Such nonfarm income increased markedly during World War II for farm families, with additional increases in the postwar years. One factor accounting for the rise in nonfarm income of farm families is the increased employment in recent years of wives and family members other than the farm operator. In 1949, for example, 36 percent of the farm families had more than one earner, and 43 percent of the urban families had more than one (chart 6).

The median money income of farm families is considerably lower than that of urban families with the same number of earners (chart 7). This difference is much more important in explaining the over-all farm-urban income differences than is the difference in the proportions of farm and urban families with several earners.

Although family income increases as more earners contribute, it does not increase proportionately. The median net money income of farm families with two earners was approximately $1,800 in 1949, while that for farm families with only one earner was $1,400. The second earner in many cases is a part-time or part-year worker. The second earner often is the wife.

Employment of married women was given considerable impetus by the acute labor shortage that developed during the war. With demobiliza-

tion, many of these women continued to work, particularly as they were faced with the lessening value of the dollar and continued job opportunities. In March 1950, more than 15 percent of the farm wives were employed or seeking employment (chart 8). Many of them were working without pay on the family farm. Even more nonfarm women were in the labor force. Twenty-two percent of the rural nonfarm wives living with their husbands and 26 percent of the urban wives were either employed or looking for work in March 1950.

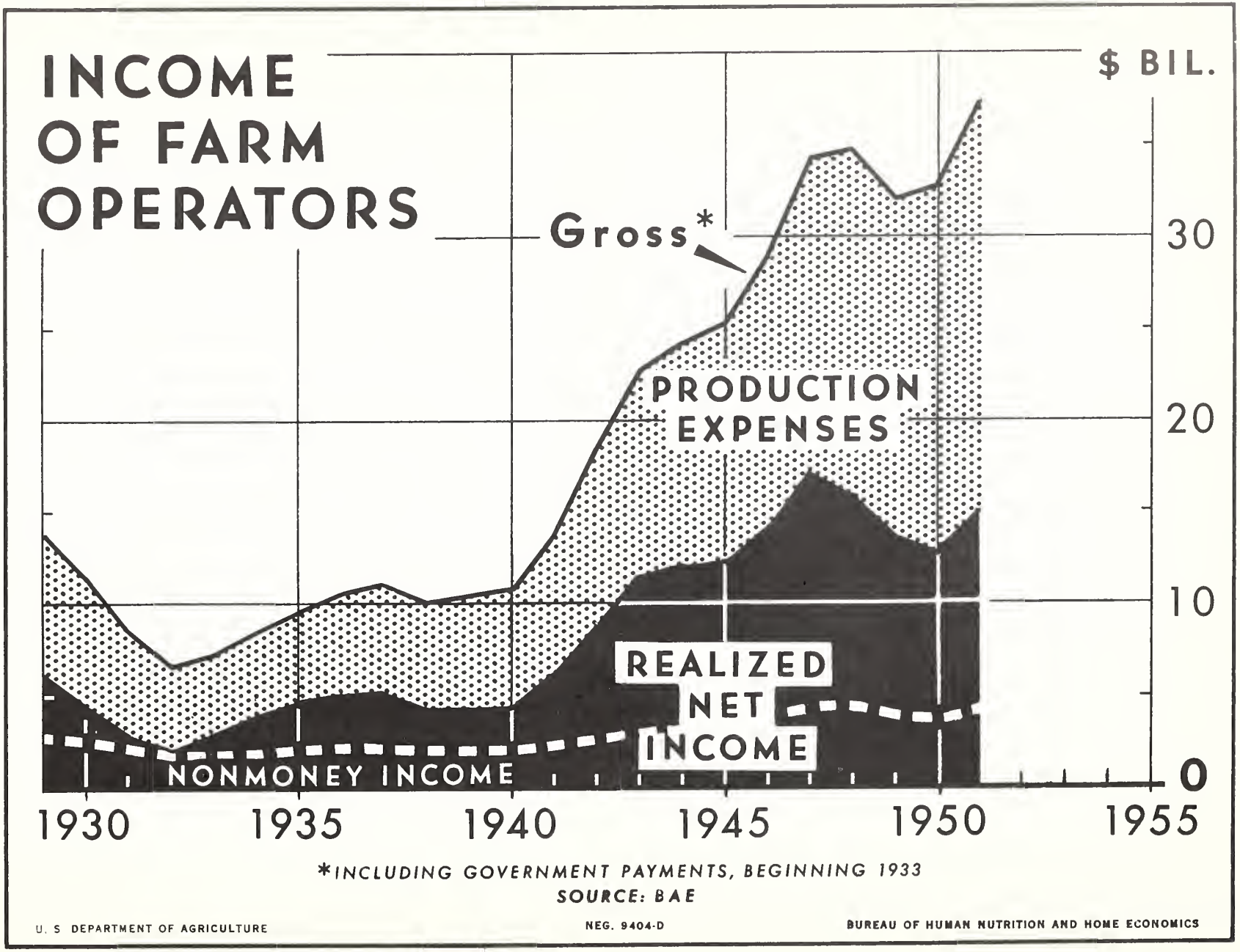
One of the most important factors determining whether married women work is the age of their children. Thirty percent of the married women who had no children under 18 were working in March 1950, while only 12 percent of those with pre-school age children were in the labor force at that time (chart 8). Of all the women who had no children under 6, but who had children of school age, 28 percent were working.

Another trend which received considerable impetus during World War II has been the increasing employment of older women. Twenty-seven percent of the women who were between 35 and 54 years of age were employed or seeking employment in March 1940 (chart 9). By 1944, this proportion had increased to 38. In 1950 it was even higher. Of the women 55 years and over, 13 percent were in the labor force in March 1940, while 19 percent were so occupied in March 1950.

Many young women, on the other hand, left the labor force after the war was over. Forty percent of the women in the 20-to-34 age group were working in 1940. Four years later, at the peak of the war period, 44 percent were working. But with demobilization and the return of husbands to many family circles, the number of young women working decreased until by 1950 only 38 percent of those 20 to 34 years old were employed or seeking employment.

A study made in Illinois shows the kinds of occupations of employed farm women in 1946 in that State. Of the women members of the Illinois farm-operator families who were either working off the home farm or were self-employed, 20 percent worked as farm operators, 18 percent as clerks or saleswomen, and 14 percent as teachers; 14 percent earned money with household crafts, and 12 percent were employed in factories (chart 10). The occupation distribution in other areas may vary from this, depending upon work opportunities. These data were limited to farm-operator families and excluded financially independent daughters, thus increasing the relative importance of farm operators among the employed farm women.

Ten percent of the Illinois farm-operator families had women earners in 1946 (table, p.25). The greater proportion of these women were in families with relatively low income. In only 5 percent of those families with an income from $5,000 to $7,500 women were contributing money to the family income, while in 15 percent of the families with an income from $1,000 to $2,000 women were contributing.


INCOME OF FARM OPERATORS
$ BIL.
Gross*
PRODUCTION EXPENSES
REALIZED NET INCOME
NONMONEY INCOME
30
20
10
0
1930
1935
1940
1945
1950
1955
*INCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS, BEGINNING 1933
SOURCE: BAE
U. S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEG. 9404-D
BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

69152 O—51—3

Income of Farm Operators, 1930 to 1951

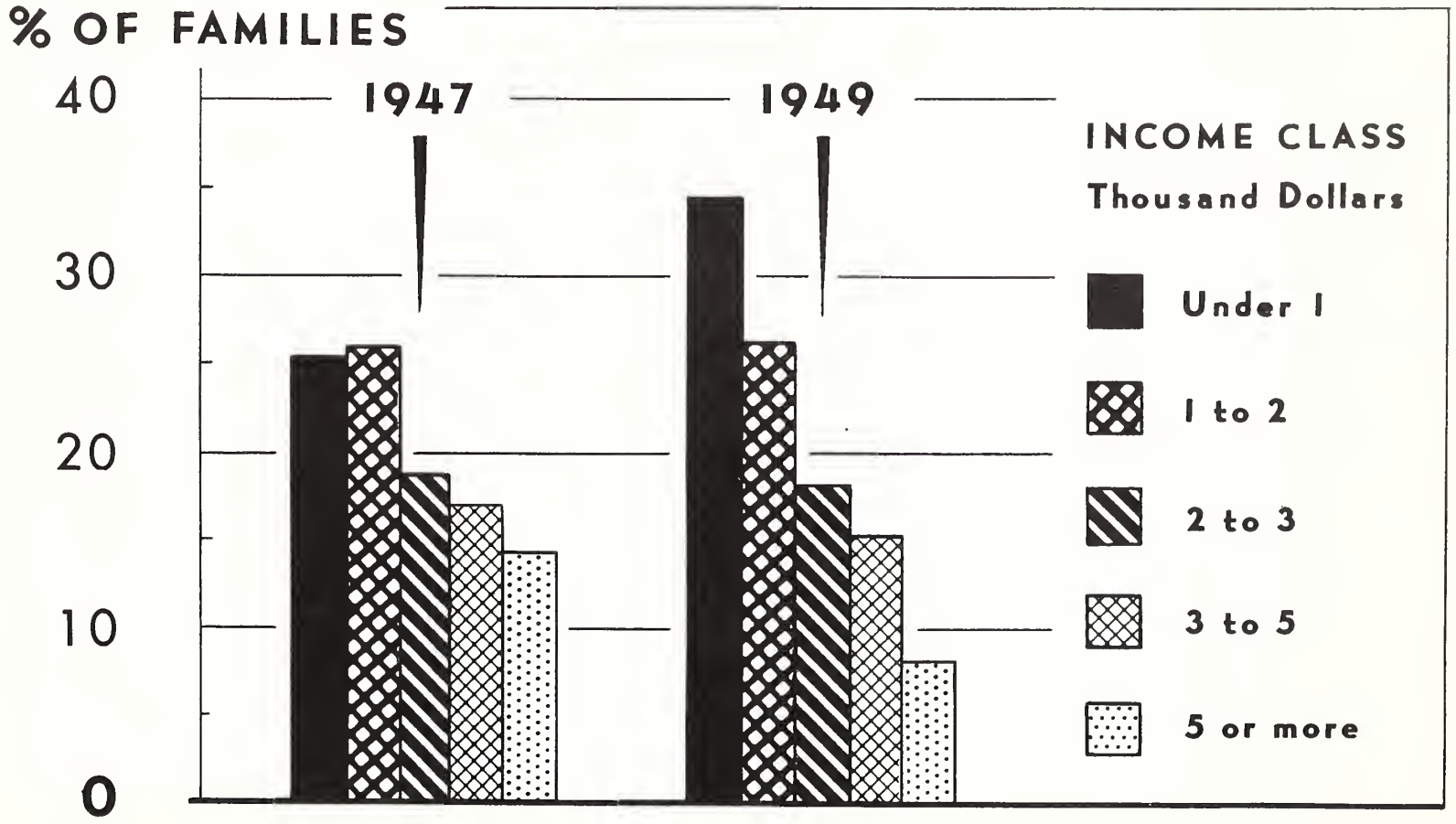
Year	Gross farm income 1/	Production expenses	Realized net income from agriculture 1/
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Million dollars
1930	11,420	6,990	4,430
1931	8,378	5,549	2,829
1932	6,400	4,502	1,898
1933	7,050	4,358	2,692
1934	8,465	4,699	3,766
1935	9,585	5,085	4,500
1936	10,627	5,563	5,064
1937	11,185	6,090	5,095
1938	10,037	5,805	4,232
1939	10,426	6,165	4,261
1940	10,920	6,622	4,298
1941	13,707	7,655	6,052
1942	18,592	9,743	8,849
1943	22,870	11,330	11,540
1944	24,113	12,143	11,970
1945	25,283	13,038	12,245
1946	28,921	14,789	14,132
1947	34,343	17,270	17,073
1948	34,688	18,950	15,738
1949	32,001	18,499	13,502
1950	32,732	20,024	12,708
1951 2/	37,500	22,250	15,250

1/ Not adjusted for inventory changes; includes value of home-consumed food and fuel, and gross rental value of farm homes, and beginning with 1933, Government payments.

2/ Preliminary estimates as of September 1951. Estimates made after the end of the year may vary from these by several hundred million dollars either way. Attention is also called to the fact that the estimates are of income realized during the year; that is, they do not include changes in inventories.

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

FARM FAMILY NET MONEY INCOME*



*WAGES OR SALARY BEFORE DEDUCTIONS, NET INCOME FARM OR BUSINESS, DIVIDENDS, INTEREST, PENSIONS

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9405-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Net Money Income of Rural Farm and Urban Families, 1947 to 1949

Income class of family (dollars) 1/	Rural farm 2/						Urban 2/					
	1947		1948		1949		1947		1948		1949	
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent
All incomes 3/.....	6,520	100	6,720	100	5,770	100	22,479	100	23,287	100	25,487	100
Under 1,000.....	1,637	25	1,693	25	1,973	34	1,439	6	1,444	6	1,708	7
1,000 to 2,000.....	1,682	26	1,613	24	1,500	26	2,990	13	2,538	11	2,931	11
2,000 to 3,000.....	1,206	18	1,337	20	1,010	18	4,968	22	4,518	19	5,148	20
3,000 to 4,000.....	704	11	941	14	617	11	4,811	21	5,309	23	5,709	22
4,000 to 5,000.....	359	6	410	6	254	4	3,147	14	3,563	15	3,670	14
5,000 to 6,000.....	333	5	249	4	150	3	2,023	9	2,305	10	2,421	9
6,000 or more.....	593	9	477	7	260	5	3,125	14	3,609	15	3,925	15

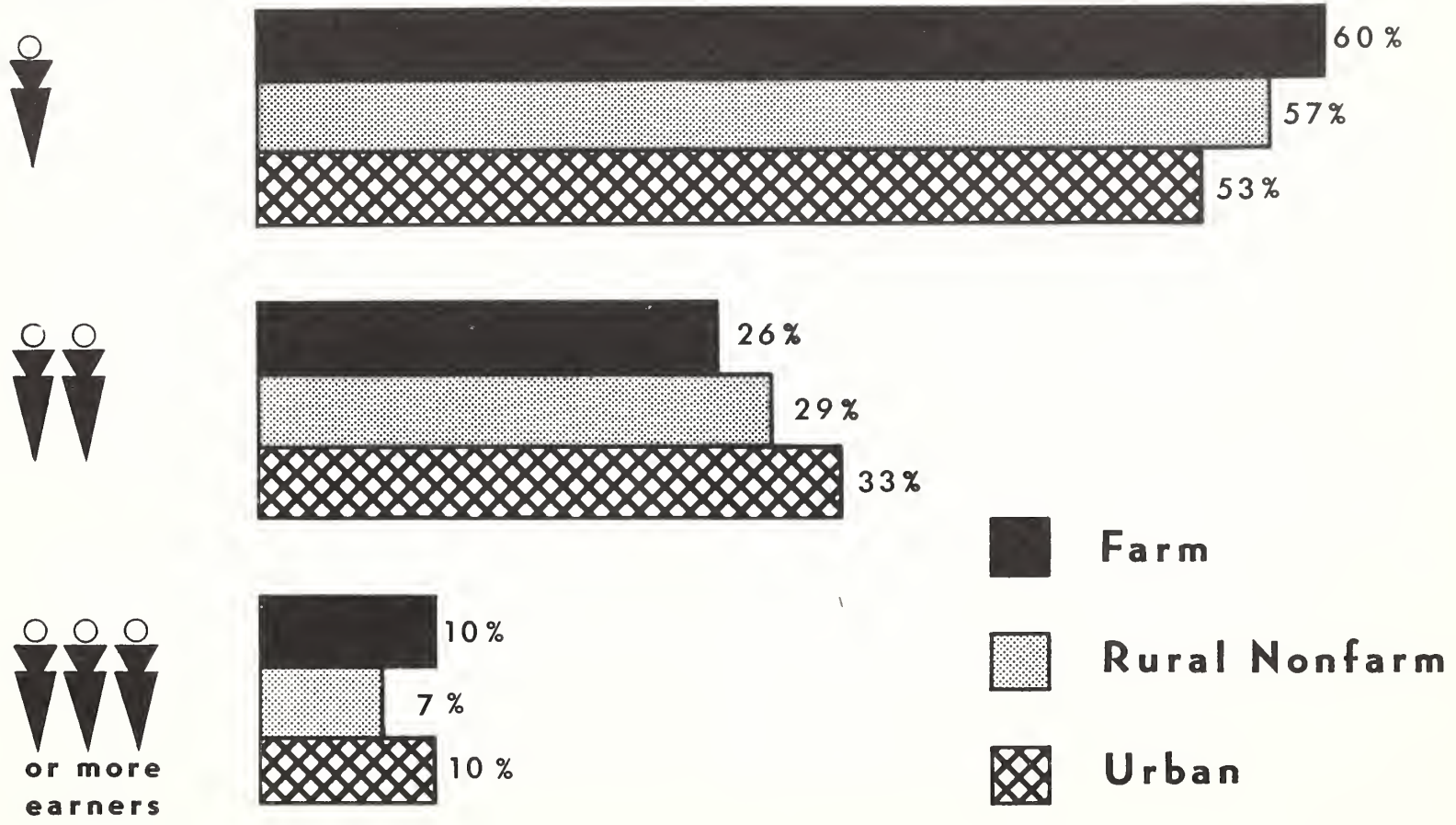
1/ Net money income of family includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, dividends, interest, pensions, etc. Definition of family is that used in the 1950 Census. Income is for specified year, but families were surveyed the following year. Data based on families in civilian, noninstitutional population, and members of armed forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States.

2/ The 1940 Census definitions of residence are used for 1947 and 1948 data. The 1949 data are based on slightly modified definitions of the 1950 Census.

3/ Each of the figures is separately rounded to the nearest thousand, and each percent is rounded to the nearest whole number; therefore, detailed figures do not always add to totals.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Nos. 5, 6, and 7.

EARNERS PER FAMILY,* 1949



*EACH RESIDENCE GROUP, INCLUDING NO-EARNER FAMILIES, = 100%.

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 9406,D

BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Rural and Urban Families, by Number of Earners, 1948 and 1949

Residence 1/ and number of earners in family 2/	1948		1949	
	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Percent
Rural farm families 3/.....	6,720	100	5,770	100
No earners.....	256	4	237	4
1 earner.....	3,982	59	3,458	60
2 earners.....	1,850	28	1,476	26
3 or more earners.....	632	9	599	10
Rural nonfarm families 3/.....	8,531	100	7,936	100
No earners.....	602	7	524	7
1 earner.....	4,854	57	4,508	57
2 earners.....	2,445	29	2,309	29
3 or more earners.....	630	7	595	7
Urban families 3/.....	23,287	100	25,487	100
No earners.....	1,252	5	1,337	5
1 earner.....	12,015	52	13,419	53
2 earners.....	7,624	33	8,304	33
3 or more earners.....	2,396	10	2,428	10

1/ The 1940 Census definitions of residence are used for 1948 data. The 1949 data are based on slightly modified definitions of the 1950 Census.

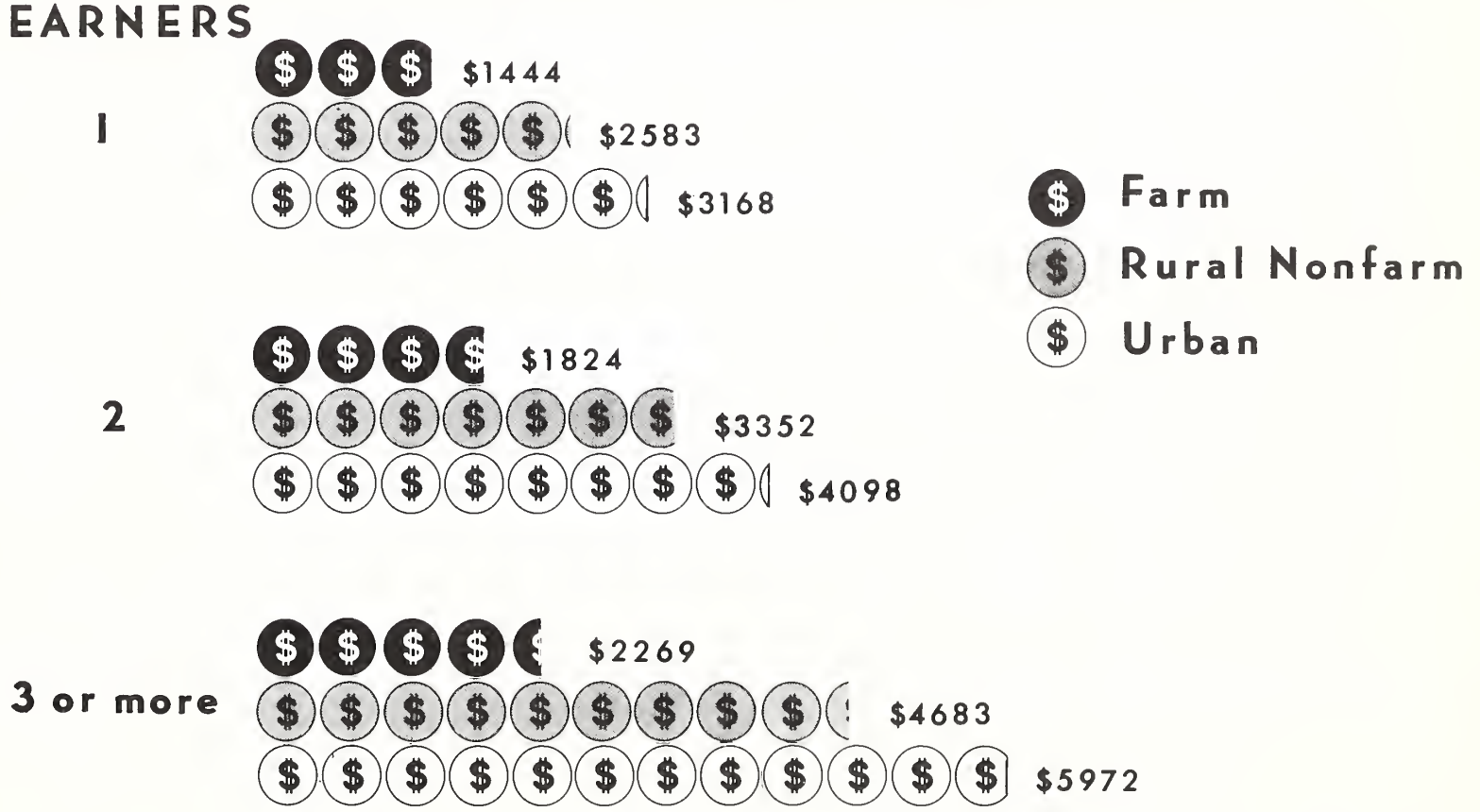
2/ Earners are all persons in family with $1 or more in wages or salary, or $1 or more or a loss in net income from self-employment during the year. Families were surveyed in the spring of the following year. Definition of family is that used in the 1950 Census. Data based on families in civilian, noninstitutional population, and members of armed forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States.

3/ Each of the figures is separately rounded to the nearest thousand, and each percent is rounded to the nearest whole number; therefore, detailed figures do not always add to totals.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports, Series P-60, No. 7 and unpublished data.

FAMILY INCOME*

By Number of Earners, 1949



*MEDIAN NET MONEY FAMILY INCOME: INCLUDES WAGES OR SALARY BEFORE DEDUCTIONS, NET INCOME FARM OR BUSINESS, DIVIDENDS, INTEREST, PENSIONS

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Family Income of Rural and Urban Families, by Number of Earners, 1948 and 1949

Residence 1/ and number of earners in family 2/	Median net money income 3/	
	1948	1949
	Dollars	Dollars
Rural farm families:		
No earners	526	4/
1 earner	1,866	1,444
2 earners	2,385	1,824
3 or more earners	2,961	2,269
Rural nonfarm families:		
No earners	941	799
1 earner	2,795	2,583
2 earners	3,552	3,352
3 or more earners	4,694	4,683
Urban families:		
No earners	1,070	981
1 earner	3,184	3,168
2 earners	4,112	4,098
3 or more earners	6,128	5,972

1/ The 1940 Census definitions of residence are used for 1948 data. The 1949 data are based on slightly modified definitions of the 1950 Census.

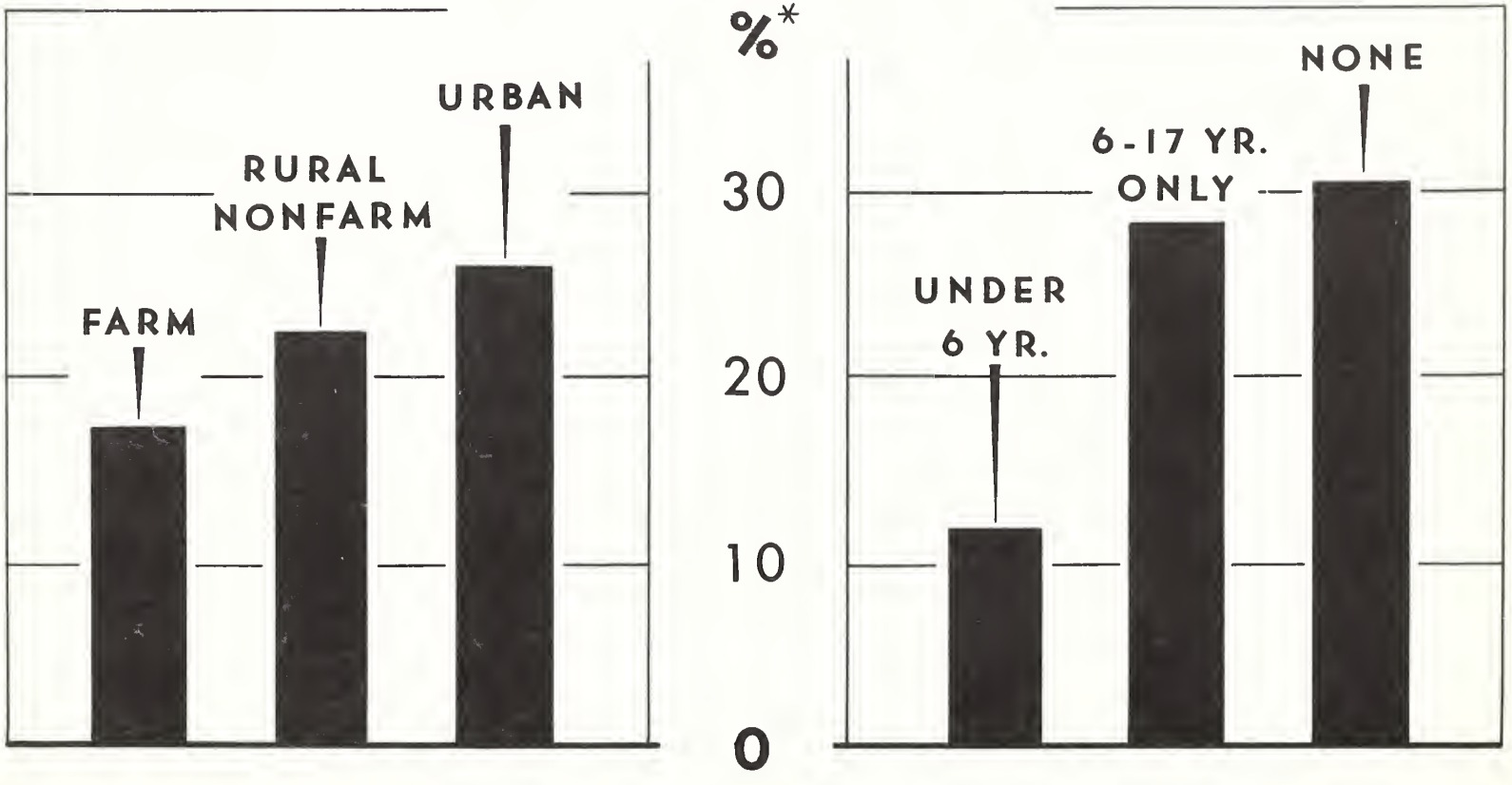
2/ Earners are all persons in family with $1 or more in wages or salary, or $1 or more or a loss in net income from self-employment during the year. Definition of family is that used in the 1950 Census. Data based on families in civilian, noninstitutional population, and members of armed forces living off post or with their families on post in the United States.

3/ Net money income of family includes wages or salary before deductions, net income from farm or business, dividends, interest, pensions, etc.

4/ Data not available.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports, Series P-60, Nos. 6 and 7 and unpublished data.

EMPLOYMENT OF WIVES△, 1950



△ *HUSBAND PRESENT*

* *PERCENT OF EACH GROUP EMPLOYED OR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT*

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

69487 O—51—4

Employment of Rural and Urban Wives and Employment of Wives with Children

[Married women with husband present]

Year, 1/ residence, 2/ and age of own children 3/	All married women 4/	Married women in labor force 5/	
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Residence, 1950			
Married women, total 6/	35,925	8,550	24
Rural farm	5,440	937	17
Rural nonfarm	7,376	1,655	22
Urban	23,110	5,956	26
Age of children, 1950			
Married women, total 6/	35,925	8,550	24
With children under 6	11,799	1,399	12
With children 6–17 and none under 6	7,798	2,205	28
With no children under 18	16,329	4,946	30
Year			
1940	28,517	4,200	15
1949	35,323	7,959	23
1950	35,925	8,550	24

1/ Reports are based on 1 week in year. For 1940 and 1950, the week included the 8th of March; for 1949, the week included April 8th.

2/ Based on slight modifications of 1950 Census definitions of residence.

3/ Own children are blood children, stepchildren, and adopted children.

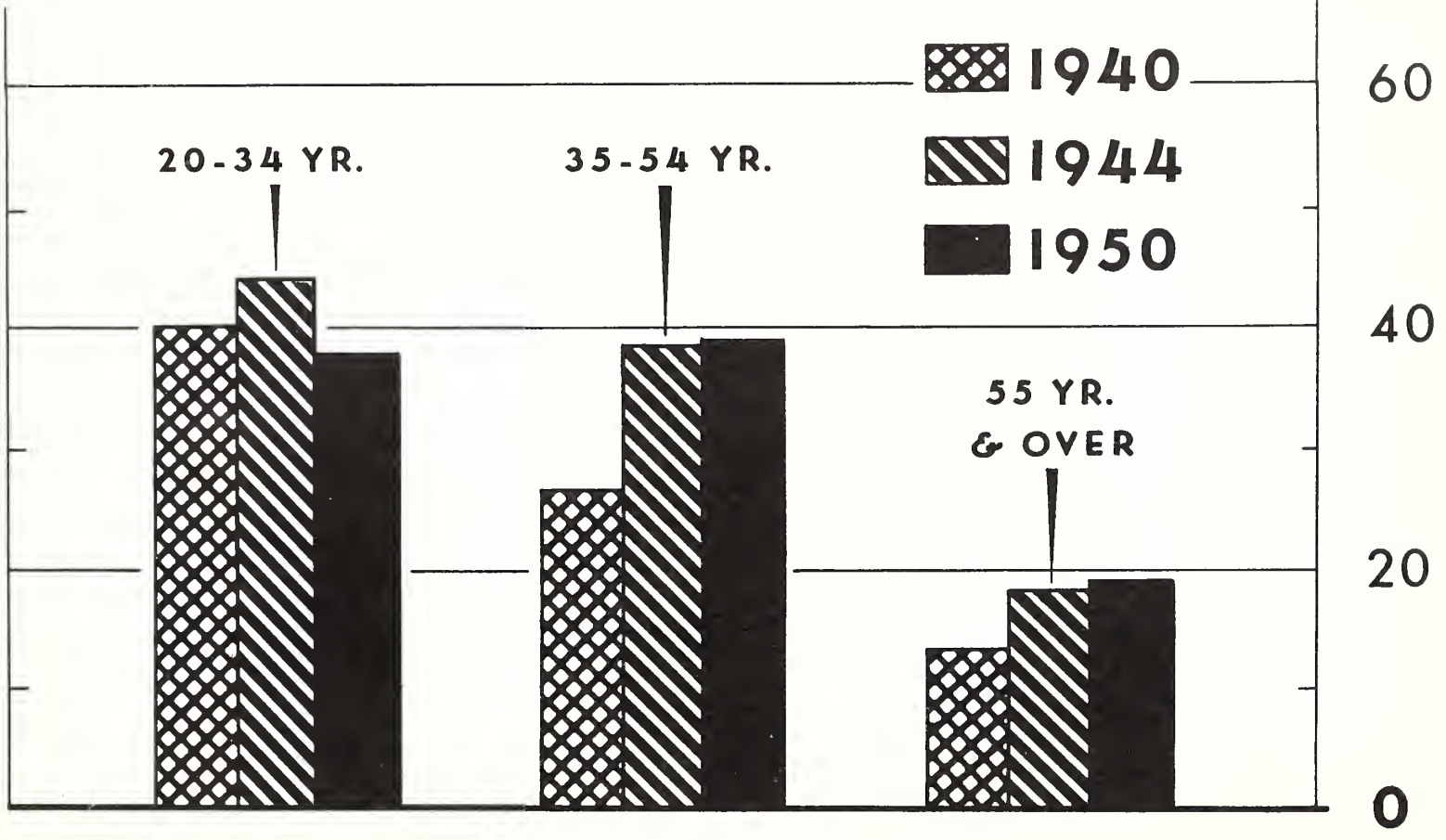
4/ Civilian population.

5/ Labor force comprises total of all persons, 14 years and over, gainfully employed or seeking employment. Included in the "employed" are persons working without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business.

6/ Each of the figures is separately rounded to the nearest thousand; therefore, detailed figures do not always add to totals.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports, Series P-50, No. 29.

EMPLOYMENT* OF WOMEN OF SELECTED AGES



* EMPLOYED OR SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Employment of Women of Selected Age Groups, 1940, 1944, and 1950

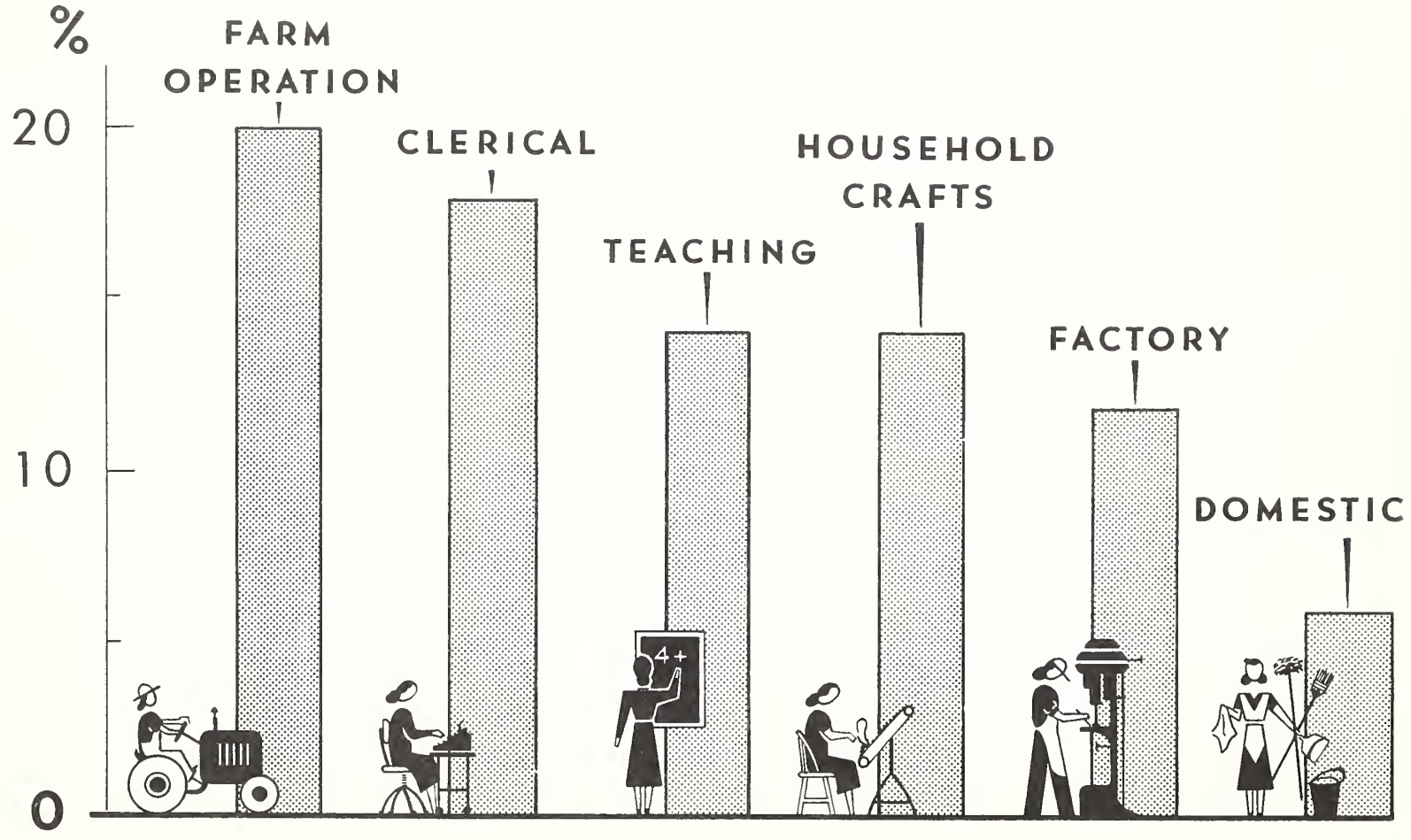
Age group and year 1/	All women in population 2/	Women in labor force 3/	
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
20-34 years:			
1940	16,671	6,709	40
1944	16,825	7,419	44
1950	17,861	6,767	38
35-54 years:			
1940	16,678	4,465	27
1944	17,994	6,903	38
1950	19,416	7,488	39
55 years and over:			
1940	9,660	1,290	13
1944	10,721	1,944	18
1950	12,812	2,423	19

1/ Annual average based on estimates for week containing 8th day of the month.
2/ Civilian, noninstitutional population.
3/ Civilians gainfully employed or seeking employment. Included in the "employed" are persons working without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or business.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Current Population Reports, Series P-50, Nos. 2 and 31, and unpublished data.

OCCUPATION

Earning Farm Women, Illinois, 1946



U. S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 9410-D

BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Farm Women Earners, by Occupation and Family Income Class

[Illinois, 1946. Women who are members of farm-operator families of 2 or more persons or are single farm operators and who are working for pay or profit off the home farm or are self-employed. Women doing farm work on the home farm but not reported as the operator are excluded. Related women living in the household who have a separate income and pay board are also excluded]

Occupation 1/	Percent of earning farm women 2/
All occupations	100
Farm operation	20
Clerical and sales	18
Household crafts	14
Teaching	14
Factory	12
Domestic service	6
Other service	4
Hired farm labor	4
Other 3/	6
Not reported	4
Number of earning women in sample	51
Total number of women 4/ in sample	521

Disposable income 5/ (dollars)	Percent of farm families having earning women
All incomes 6/	10
0-999	11
1,000-1,999	15
2,000-2,999	12
3,000-3,999	8
4,000-4,999	8
5,000-7,499	5
7,500 and over	10
Number of families with earning women in sample	47
Total number of families in sample	454

1/ Women reporting earnings from multiple sources were classified by major source of earnings except that all women reporting any income from farm operations were classified as farm operators.

2/ Detail does not add to total because of rounding.

3/ Postmistress, operator of antique shop, cadet nurse.

4/ 16 years and over.

5/ The sum of net farm income, net earnings from employment, net income from nonfarm business, crafts, and roomers and boarders, and other cash income such as rents, interest and dividends, veterans' payments, less State and Federal income tax.

6/ Includes families with negative income and those with unknown income, not shown separately.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished data from Study of Farm Family Living in Illinois, 1946.

PRICES

Prices of goods and services used for family living began to advance sharply after the outbreak of hostilities in Korea in late June 1950. The pressure of an expanded defense program, aggravated by a wave of "scare buying" by both consumers and business, caused prices to rise much more rapidly than they had declined during 1949 and early 1950.

Prices of consumer goods had risen steadily throughout World War II and the early postwar years, reaching a peak in the summer of 1948. From then, they gradually declined until early 1950. Even at this "low" point, they were, on the average, more than a third higher than at the end of World War II. In the first 3 months of Korean hostilities, the price level regained the 1948 peak, and thereafter continued to rise. By June 1951, prices were approximately 5 to 10 percent above their previous all-time high.

Since February of this year the rate of price increase has diminished appreciably. Several factors may have contributed to this leveling off of consumer prices On January 26, 1951, the General Ceiling Price Regulation became effective. This has been followed by additional orders and regulations designed to halt the upward spiral of prices and wages. Moreover, stocks of goods held by both retailers and consumers have increased during the past year. The index of department store stocks (adjusted for seasonal variation) in June 1951 was more than one-fourth higher than a year earlier. Many families are well-stocked with durable and semidurable goods as a result of heavy consumer buying in the summer of 1950 and the winter months of 1950-51. Retail sales of both durable goods, such as furniture and household appliances, and nondurable goods, such as clothing, were unusually high during the past year.

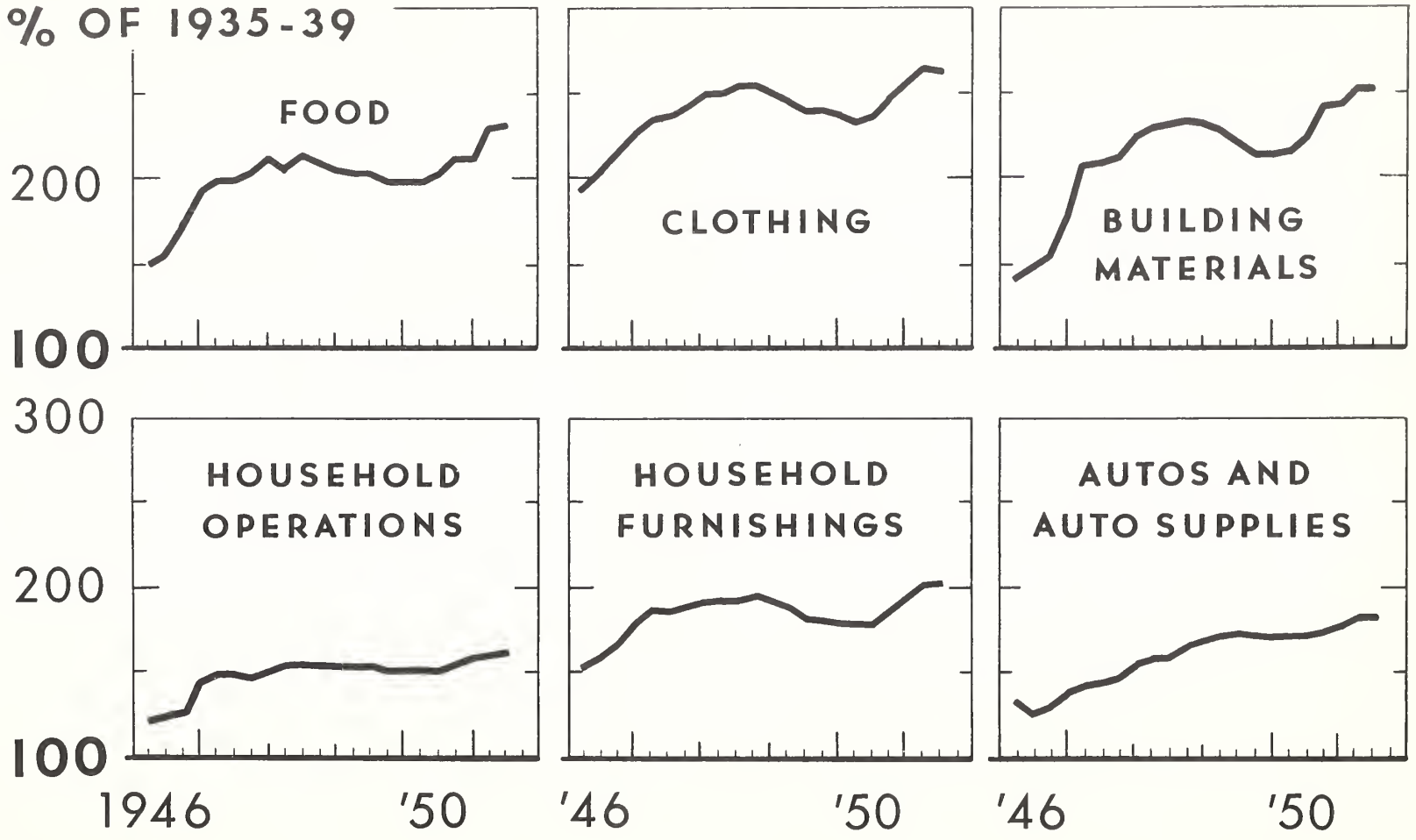
Not all prices advanced equally or at the same rate. The course of prices of the major categories of consumer goods and services can be traced by using the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities Used for Family Living (chart 11) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumers' Price Index (chart 12). Both of these indexes have been revised since January 1950 in order to make them more accurate measures of price movements affecting families.

Increases in prices paid by farmers during the year from June 1950 to June 1951, were greatest for food (and tobacco), household furnishings, and building materials, each of which rose 13 percent. The BAE index showed that clothing increased 12 percent during the same period, while autos and auto supplies and household operations advanced 6 and 7 percent. In June 1951, prices of food and building materials were each 8 percent above their previous highs.

The Consumers' Price Index for moderate-income families living in large cities followed a pattern similar to the Index of Prices Paid by Farmers. By June 1951, the "all items" index was 9 percent higher than the June 1950 level, and 6 percent above the 1948 peak. The rent index increased 4 percent in the same period.

Beginning in March 1951, only fractional month-to-month price changes have occurred. It is important to realize, however, that this plateau is on a higher level than any previous price peak, which means that families are paying more for the goods and services they use than at any other time in our history. While there has been some weakening in recent months in wholesale prices of a few items--for instance, textile products--which may be reflected in retail prices, there is no indication that a general price decline is in prospect.

INDEX of PRICES PAID by FARMERS*



*COMMODITIES USED FOR FAMILY LIVING, MARCH 1946 - JUNE 1951

SOURCE: BAE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9411-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

969487 O—51——5

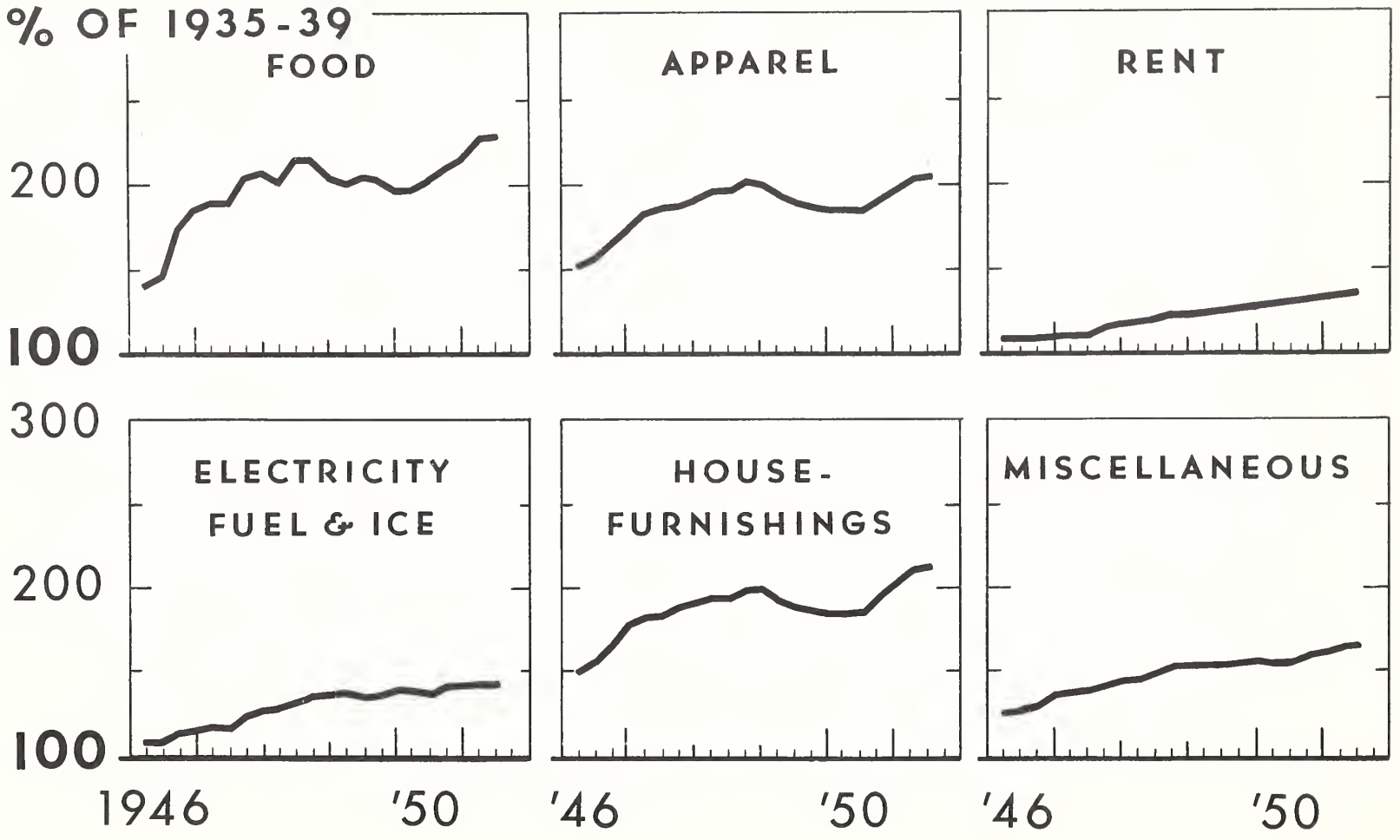
Index of Prices Paid by Farmers, 1946 to 1951

[1935-39 = 100. Commodities used for family living]

Date		Family living commodities	Food and tobacco	Clothing	Building materials, house	Household operations	Household furnishings	Autos and auto supplies
1946:	March 15	152	150	194	141	121	153	132
	June 15	156	155	205	148	124	158	125
	September 15	166	172	215	154	126	166	129
	December 15	184	192	227	177	143	177	136
1947:	March 15	189	198	234	207	147	185	142
	June 15	190	198	236	208	147	185	143
	September 15	192	203	240	212	146	186	146
	December 15	199	211	248	223	150	190	153
1948:	March 15	199	207	250	228	153	191	156
	June 15	202	213	253	231	154	191	157
	September 15	203	209	254	233	154	193	165
	December 15	202	205	252	232	153	191	168
1949:	March 15	199	203	245	227	153	187	171
	June 15	198	203	240	221	153	182	172
	September 15	194	197	239	214	151	180	171
	December 15	193	197	237	214	151	178	171
1950:	March 15	193	197	234	215	151	178	171
	June 15	196	203	235	223	151	178	171
	September 15	203	211	246	241	154	186	173
	December 15	207	211	256	243	158	194	178
1951:	March 15	217	228	264	251	160	201	182
	June 15	218	230	263	251	161	202	182

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Agricultural Prices, Jan. 1950 to July 1951. (Processed.)

CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX*



*MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES IN LARGE CITIES, MARCH 1946 -JUNE 1951

SOURCE: BLS

Consumers' Price Index, 1946 to 1951

[1935-39 = 100. Moderate-income families in large cities]

Date	All family living items	Food	Apparel	Rent	Fuel, electricity, ice	House furnishings	Miscellaneous 1/
1946: March 15	130	140	153	110	110	150	126
June 15	134	146	157	110	110	156	128
September 15	146	174	166	110	114	166	130
December 15	154	186	176	2/	116	177	136
1947: March 15	157	190	184	111	118	182	138
June 15	158	190	186	112	118	183	139
September 15	164	204	188	116	125	188	141
December 15	168	207	191	118	128	191	144
1948: March 15	168	202	196	120	130	195	146
June 15	172	214	197	121	133	195	148
September 15	175	215	201	123	137	198	153
December 15	172	205	200	124	138	199	154
1949: March 15	170	202	194	125	139	194	154
June 15	171	204	190	126	136	187	154
September 15	171	204	187	127	137	186	155
December 15	169	197	186	129	140	185	156
1950: March 15	168	197	185	130	140	185	155
June 15	170	203	185	131	139	185	155
September 15	175	210	190	132	141	194	158
December 15	179	216	196	133	143	203	161
1951: March 15	184	226	203	135	144	211	164
June 15	185	227	204	136	144	212	165

NOTE: This table incorporates interim revisions beginning in January 1950, and rent corrections throughout.

1/ Includes medical care, drugs, household operation, recreation, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, personal care, and transportation.

2/ Data not available.

Source: U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Monthly Labor Review, Vols. 62-73, and Consumers' Price Index and Retail Food Prices, March 1951. (Processed.) Data for "All family living items" and "Rent" are revised indexes from latter publication.

RURAL FAMILY CONSUMPTION

Spending in 1950 for all items of family living except housing and automobiles by account-keeping farm families in three North Central States remained approximately at the 1949 level, which was about 15 index points below the postwar peak of 1948 (table, p. 57). The aggregate spending of all U. S. consumers for these items, on the other hand, increased in 1950, passing by one point the 1948 peak.

Information on current expenditures of rural families, the extent to which they have built up inventories of durable and semidurable goods over the years, their home-production activities, health, and community facilities, all contribute to a picture of current rural family living. Available material on these aspects of rural family consumption are shown in the following sections on food, housing, housefurnishings and equipment, clothing, and health.

Food

Food supplies continue to be abundant and varied enough if shared equitably, to provide for the nutritional needs of everyone in the United States. The downward movement of the supplies of major nutrients available for consumption from the peak year of 1946 through 1949 was reversed in 1950, and continues upward in 1951 (chart 13). The slight rise in calcium and riboflavin indicated for 1951 will result from a higher consumption of fluid milk, cream, and ice cream. Increases in thiamine and niacin are associated with larger supplies of pork and poultry. The greater consumption of citrus fruit in 1951 than last year is reflected in an increase in the ascorbic acid content of the average diet.

An important factor in the nutritive value of our food supply is the enrichment of flour and bread with iron, niacin, thiamine, and riboflavin. Enrichment has improved the quality of the diet of both rich and poor, but the lower income groups have benefited more than the higher income groups because of the more important part grain products play in their diets (chart 14). Among city families in the spring of 1948, enrichment increased the iron in the diets of families with $1,000 to $2,000 income by 14 percent and the niacin by 15 percent (table, p. 37). In the diets of families with $5,000 to $7,000 income, it increased the iron by 10 percent and niacin by 9 percent. The greatest contribution was in thiamine, with increases of 20 percent in the lower and 13 percent in the higher income group. The increase in riboflavin was proportionately smaller because so large a part of the total comes from milk.

Farm family expenditures for food have been increasing rapidly in recent years (chart 22). In the late 1930's and just before World War II, the change in per capita spending of the account-keeping farm families in three North Central States followed closely that of all U. S. consumers. During the war, the increase was less rapid, which is partly explained by the increased use of home-produced meat by farm families during that period. Following the war, both the account-keeping farm families and all U. S. consumers had sharply increasing expenditures for food, but the increases by these farm families were greater than those for all U. S. consumers. This is related in part to increased farm income, to changes in the types of food bought by farm families, to transfer of processing out of the farm home, and possibly to a decrease in home production of food.

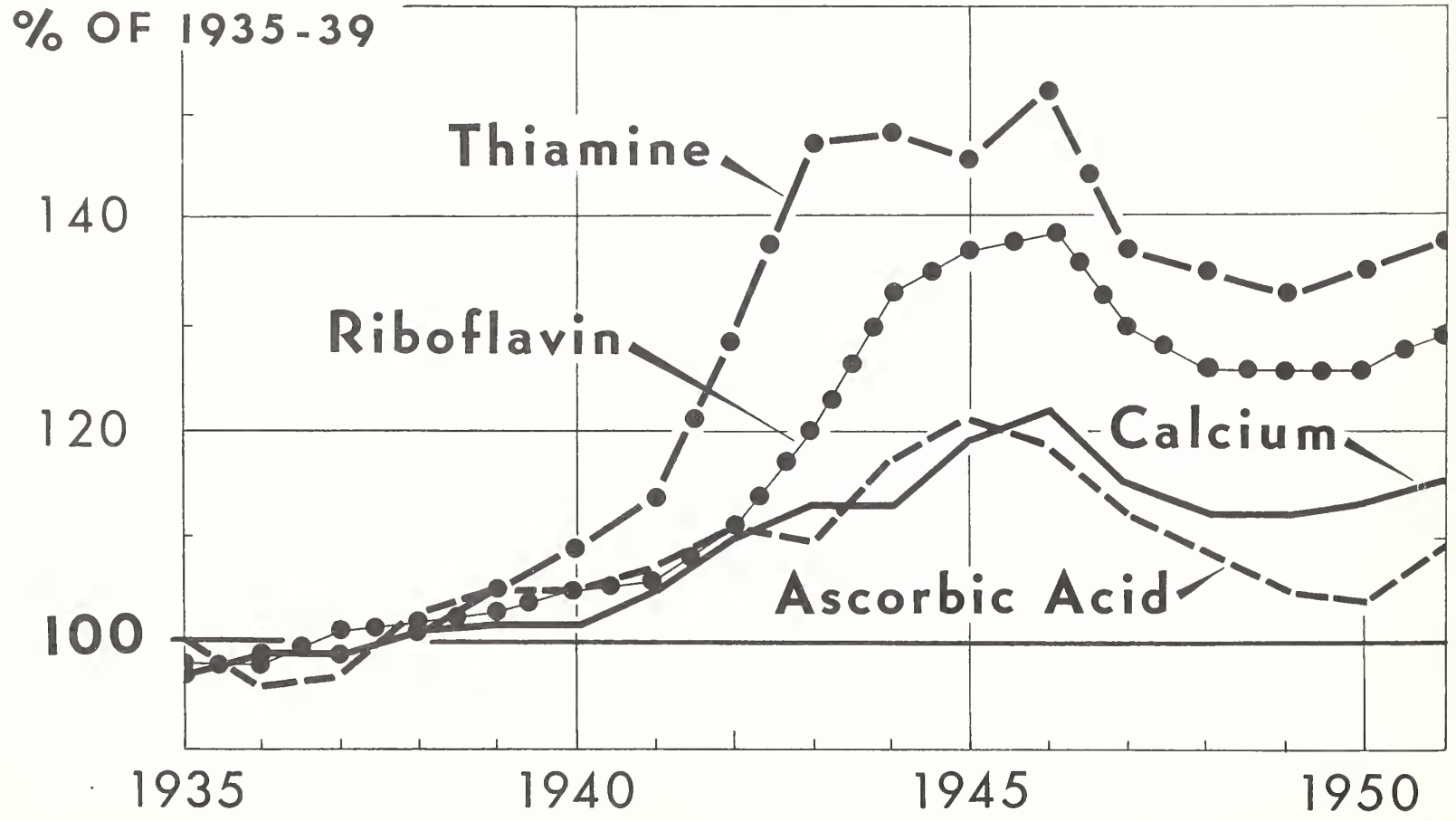
Although in some respects farm diets are becoming more like city diets in the same area, there are still important differences. Farm families in two counties of Minnesota consumed larger quantities of fats, sugar and sweets, and grain products than their city neighbors in nearby Minneapolis-St. Paul (table, p. 39). The greater energy expenditure for farm activities may account for this difference. The farm families also used more milk and eggs and slightly more meat, poultry, and fish (chart 15). The fact that a large part of these foods was home-produced was probably a factor; families are likely to eat larger quantities of the foods they produce and have on hand than those they have to buy. The city families, on the other hand, were eating more fruits and vegetables than the farm families. This may have been due to the fact that the study was made in a spring week when farm gardens were producing little and the previous year's canned or stored supplies were running low.

In Birmingham, Alabama, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, city families with gardens used more pounds of fruit and vegetables during a summer week than did those without a garden (chart 16). In the southern city, about the same quantities were purchased by both groups, but families with gardens consumed about a fifth more than those without gardens. In Minneapolis-St. Paul, families with gardens purchased less than those without, but total consumption was greater.

Many studies have shown that families who raise much of their own food supply have better diets than those who buy most of their food. Also, to the extent that home-produced food is substituted for purchased food of the same kind, it releases money for other kinds of food or for other uses. These are some of the reasons for the renewed emphasis on gardening and home food preservation in 1951.

NUTRIENTS

In National Food Supply, 1935-51*



* AVAILABLE PER PERSON FOR CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION AT THE RETAIL LEVEL

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9413-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Selected Nutrients in National Food Supply, 1935 to 1951

[Index: 1935-39 = 100. Available per person for civilian consumption at retail level]

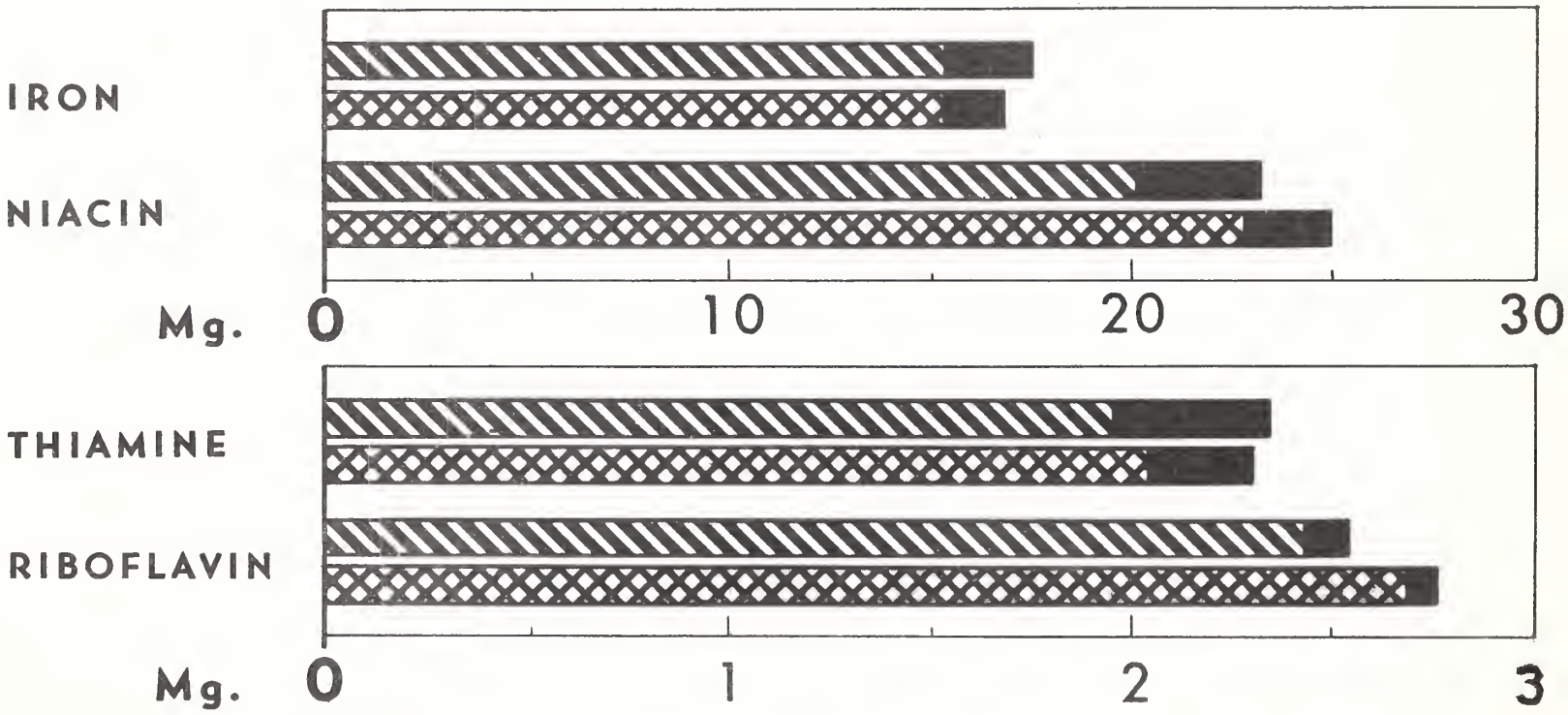
Year	Ascorbic acid (vitamin C)	Riboflavin	Thiamine (vitamin B_1)	Calcium
1935	100	98	97	97
1936	96	98	99	99
1937	97	101	99	99
1938	103	102	101	101
1939	105	103	105	102
1940	105	105	109	102
1941	107	106	114	105
1942	111	111	129	110
1943	110	120	147	113
1944	117	133	148	113
1945	121	137	146	119
1946	119	139	152	122
1947	112	130	137	115
1948	109	126	135	112
1949	105	126	133	112
1950 1/	104	126	135	113
1951 1/	109	129	138	115

1/ Preliminary.

Source: Computed by Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics from consumption data supplied by Bureau of Agricultural Economics. 1935-48 data appear in Supplement for 1949 to Consumption of Food in the United States, 1909-48, Miscellaneous Publication 691; 1949-50 data unpublished; 1951 data appear in National Food Situation, July-September 1951. (Processed.)

FLOUR AND BREAD ENRICHMENT

Contribution to Diet,* Two Family Income Groups△



*NUTRITIVE CONTENT OF DIET PER ADULT MALE EQUIVALENT PER DAY

△CITY FAMILIES, SPRING 1948

Contribution of Flour and Bread Enrichment to Diet in Two Family Income Groups

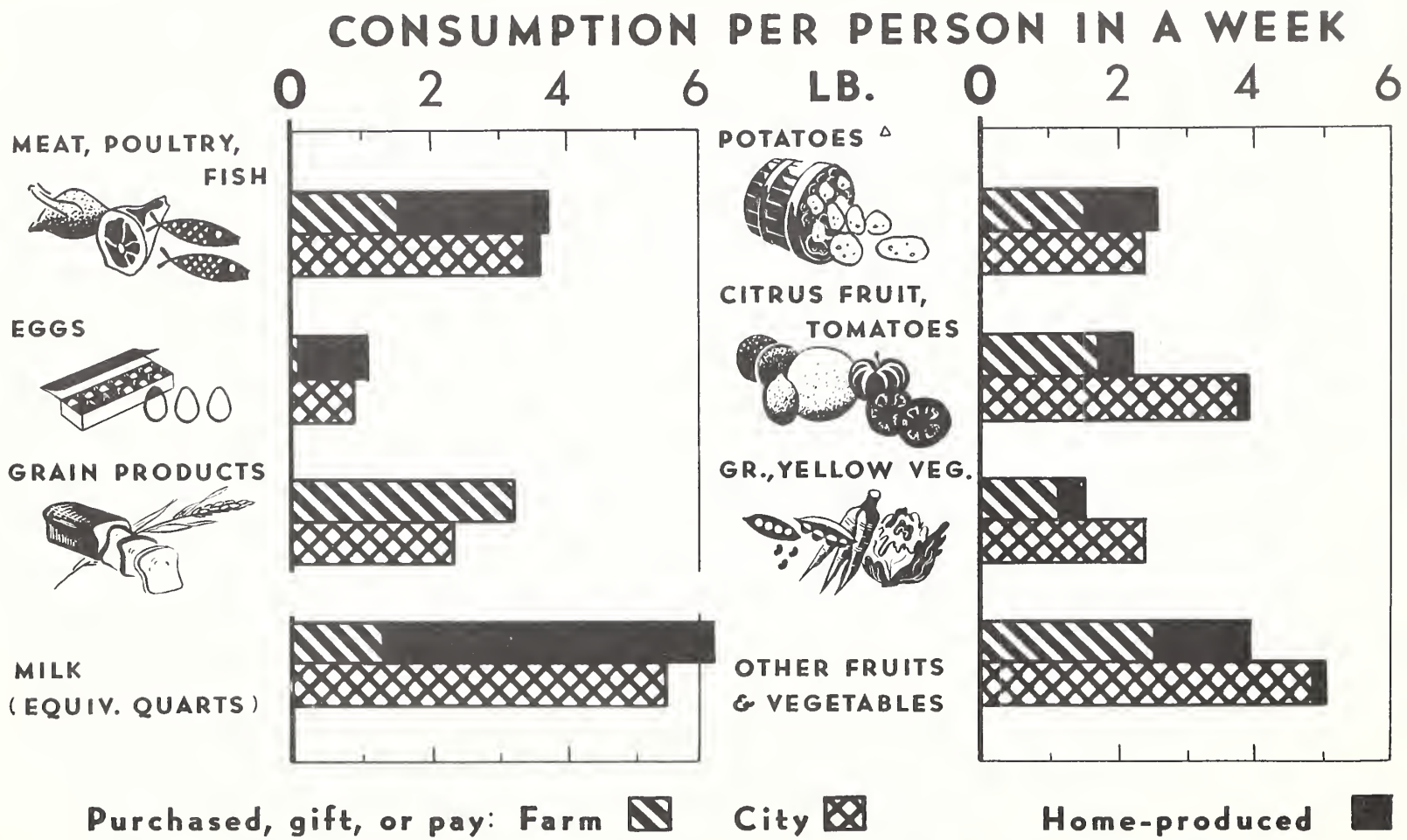
[Average quantity per adult male equivalent per day in food used at home. Urban housekeeping families of 2 or more persons, a week, April-June 1948]

Income class 1/ (dollars)	Iron			Niacin			Thiamine			Riboflavin		
	Without enrichment	With enrichment	Percent increase	Without enrichment	With enrichment	Percent increase	Without enrichment	With enrichment	Percent increase	Without enrichment	With enrichment	Percent increase
	Mg.	Mg.	Pct.	Mg.	Mg.	Pct.	Mg.	Mg.	Pct.	Mg.	Mg.	Pct.
All classes.....	15.6	17.5	12	21.5	24.2	13	2.02	2.35	16	2.58	2.66	3
1,000-2,000.....	15.5	17.7	14	20.1	23.2	15	1.96	2.35	20	2.43	2.54	5
5,000-7,500.....	15.5	17.0	10	22.7	24.8	9	2.04	2.30	13	2.69	2.75	2

1/ 1947 family net money income after deduction of Federal income tax.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished data from 1948 Food Consumption Surveys.

FOOD CONSUMPTION: FARM, CITY*



* FARM: MEEKER, WRIGHT COUNTIES, MINN., SPRING 1950 CITY: MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL, SPRING 1949

△ INCLUDES SWEETPOTATOES

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9415-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Farm and City Food Consumption

[Food used at home per person in a week. Housekeeping families of 2 persons 16 years or over with 0–2 children aged 2-15. Meeker and Wright Counties, Minn., April-June 1950 and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., April-June 1948 and 1949]

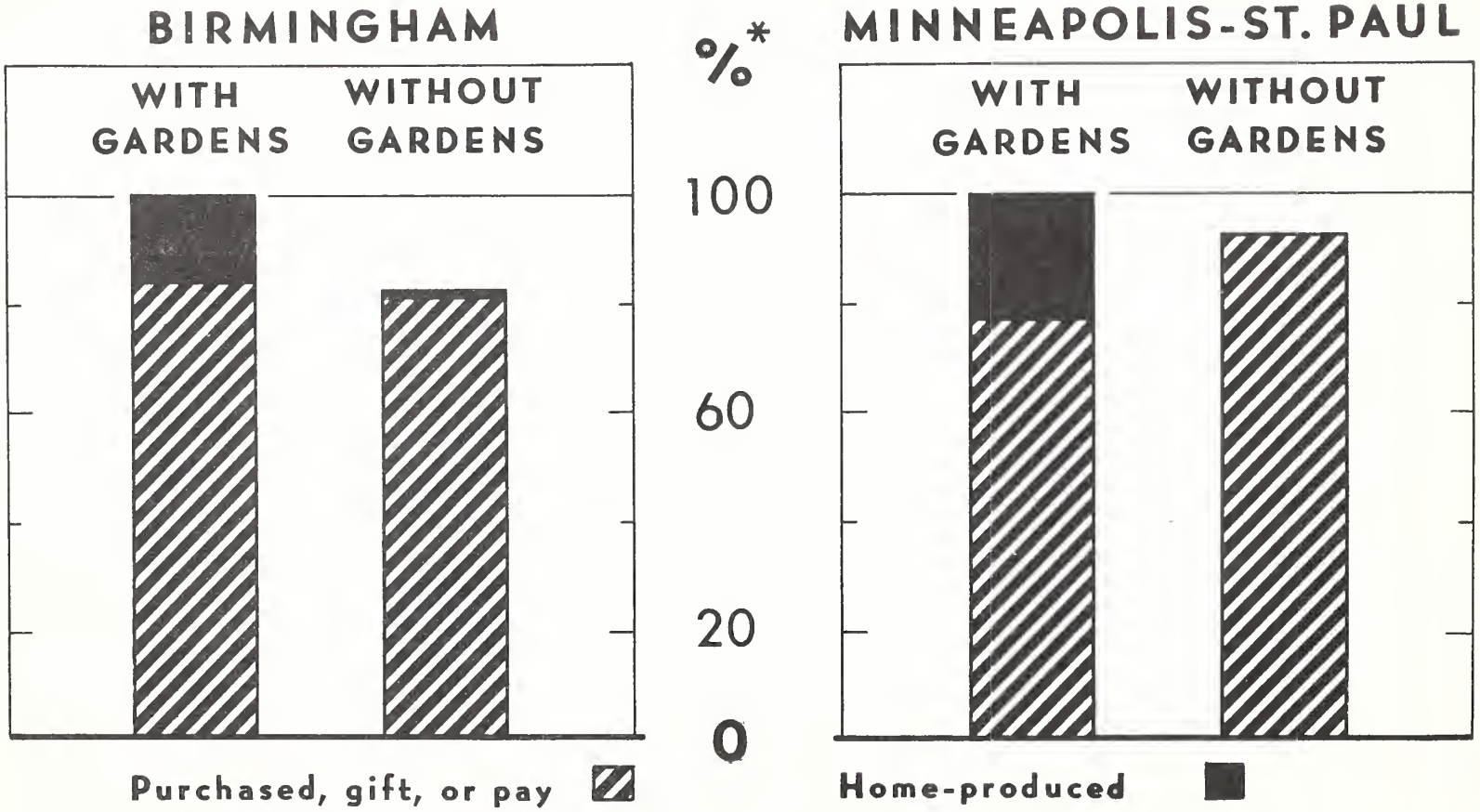
Residence, date, and food source	Meat, poultry, fish 1/	Eggs	Grain products 2/	Milk equivalent 3/	Potatoes, sweetpotatoes	Citrus fruit, tomatoes	Leafy, green, yellow vegetables	Other vegetables, fruits	Fats, oils 4/	Sugars, sweets 5/	Dry beans, peas, nuts
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Quarts	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Farm families, Spring 1950:											
All sources	3.8	1.1	3.3	6.2	2.5	2.2	1.5	4.0	1.6	2.0	0.3
Purchased, gift, and pay 6/	1.6	.1	3.3	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.1	2.6	1.2	1.8	.3
Home-produced	2.2	1.0	7/	4.9	1.0	.5	.4	1.4	.4	.2	7/
City families, Spring 1949:											
All sources	3.7	.9	2.4	5.5	2.4	3.9	2.4	5.1	1.2	1.4	.2
Purchased, gift, and pay 6/	3.5	.9	2.4	5.5	2.4	3.8	2.4	4.9	1.2	1.4	.2
Home-produced	.2	0	0	0	0	.1	7/	.2	0	7/	0
City families, Spring 1948:											
All sources	3.4	1.0	2.2	5.4	2.4	3.8	2.2	4.6	1.1	1.4	.2
Purchased, gift, and pay 6/	3.3	1.0	2.2	5.4	2.3	3.7	2.1	4.4	1.1	1.4	.2
Home-produced	.1	0	0	0	.1	.1	.1	.2	0	7/	7/

1/ Excludes bacon and salt pork.
2/ Flour, cereals, and meal plus approximately 60 percent of the weight of bread and other baked goods.
3/ Fluid milk plus the quantity of fluid milk to which the other dairy products (excluding butter) are equivalent in minerals and protein.
4/ Includes bacon and salt pork.
5/ Sugars, molasses, honey, jellies, jams, preserves, and candy plus the sugar equivalent of soft drinks and prepared puddings.
6/ Amounts received as gift or pay were small part of total.
7/ 0.05 pound or less.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Family Food Consumption for Three Seasons in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, Preliminary Report No. 9, 1948 Food Consumption Surveys; and unpublished data from 1949 and 1950 Food Consumption Surveys.

GARDENS AND CONSUMPTION

Vegetables and Fruits,▲ July-August 1949



▲ *EXCLUDES POTATOES, SWEETPOTATOES, DRY BEANS AND PEAS, AND CITRUS FRUIT*

* *100 PERCENT IN EACH CITY= TOTAL CONSUMPTION PER PERSON IN A WEEK BY FAMILIES WITH GARDENS*

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9416-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Gardens and the Consumption of Vegetables and Fruits

[Food used at home per person in a week, July-August 1949. Housekeeping families of 2 persons 16 years or over with 0-2 children aged 2-15. Birmingham, Ala. and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.]

Garden 1/ and food source	Birmingham 2/					Minneapolis-St. Paul 5/				
	Total 3/		Tomatoes	Leafy, green, yellow vegetables	Other vegetables, fruits	Total 3/		Tomatoes	Leafy, green, yellow vegetables	Other vegetables, fruits
	Amount consumed	Relative consumption 4/				Amount consumed	Relative consumption 4/			
	Pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Families with a garden:										
All sources.....	19.2	100.0	2.1	3.3	13.8	11.4	100.0	1.1	2.2	8.1
Purchased, gift, and pay.	16.1	83.9	1.5	1.8	12.8	8.8	77.2	.3	1.5	7.0
Home-produced.....	3.1	16.1	.6	1.5	1.0	2.6	22.8	.8	.7	1.1
Families without a garden:										
All sources.....	15.8	82.3	1.9	3.1	10.8	10.6	93.0	1.1	1.8	7.7
Purchased, gift, and pay.	15.6	81.2	1.9	3.1	10.6	10.6	93.0	1.1	1.8	7.7
Home-produced.....	.2	1.1	0	0	.2	6/	7/	0	0	6/

1/ Families with any home-produced vegetables during the survey week were counted as having a garden. If a family had a garden but no home-grown vegetables during the week, it was counted in the "no garden" group.

2/ 30 families with gardens, average household size 2.60 persons; 129 families without a garden, average household size 2.55 persons.

3/ All vegetables and fruits, except potatoes, sweetpotatoes, dry beans and peas, and citrus fruit.

4/ Base in each city is amount from all sources consumed by families with a garden.

5/ 39 families with gardens, average household size 2.38 persons; 108 families without a garden, average household size 2.28 persons.

6/ 0.05 pound or less.

7/ 0.05 percent or less.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished data from 1949 Food Consumption Surveys.

Housing

Data from the 1950 Census provide a bench mark as to the present status of farm housing in comparison with rural nonfarm and urban housing. Electrification has spread rapidly in the past decade. About 80 percent of the dwelling units in the United States had electric lights in 1940, but by 1950 nearly 95 percent had them. Nearly all of the families without electric lights were rural. More than 20 percent of the farmhouses and 10 percent of the rural nonfarm houses were still without electric lights in 1950 (chart 17).

Considerable progress has been made also in the installation of running water and flush toilets in dwellings in this decade, although the increase has been a little less rapid than in electrification. The proportion of houses for the country as a whole with running water increased from 70 to 82, and the proportion with flush toilets increased from 65 to 75 from 1940 to 1950.

Farmhouses continue to have plumbing less frequently than rural nonfarm houses, and those in turn, less than the urban. Running water in farm dwellings is about half as common as is electric lighting. Flush toilets were found less frequently than running water; only about 30 percent of the farm families had flush toilets in 1950, whereas a little more than 40 percent had running water. Since electricity is usually a forerunner of the installation of running water and a sewage disposal system, more progress will probably be made along these lines in the coming decade.

In spite of the fact that a larger proportion of the farm dwellings are owner-occupied than are urban dwellings, the condition of farm dwellings in 1950 was poorer (table, p. 45). Rural houses were more crowded than urban, and rural farm more than rural nonfarm. Furthermore, 21 percent of the farmhouses were classed as dilapidated by Census enumerators, who were given special instructions to try to make this a meaningful valuation. Only 6 percent of the urban dwellings were classed as dilapidated.

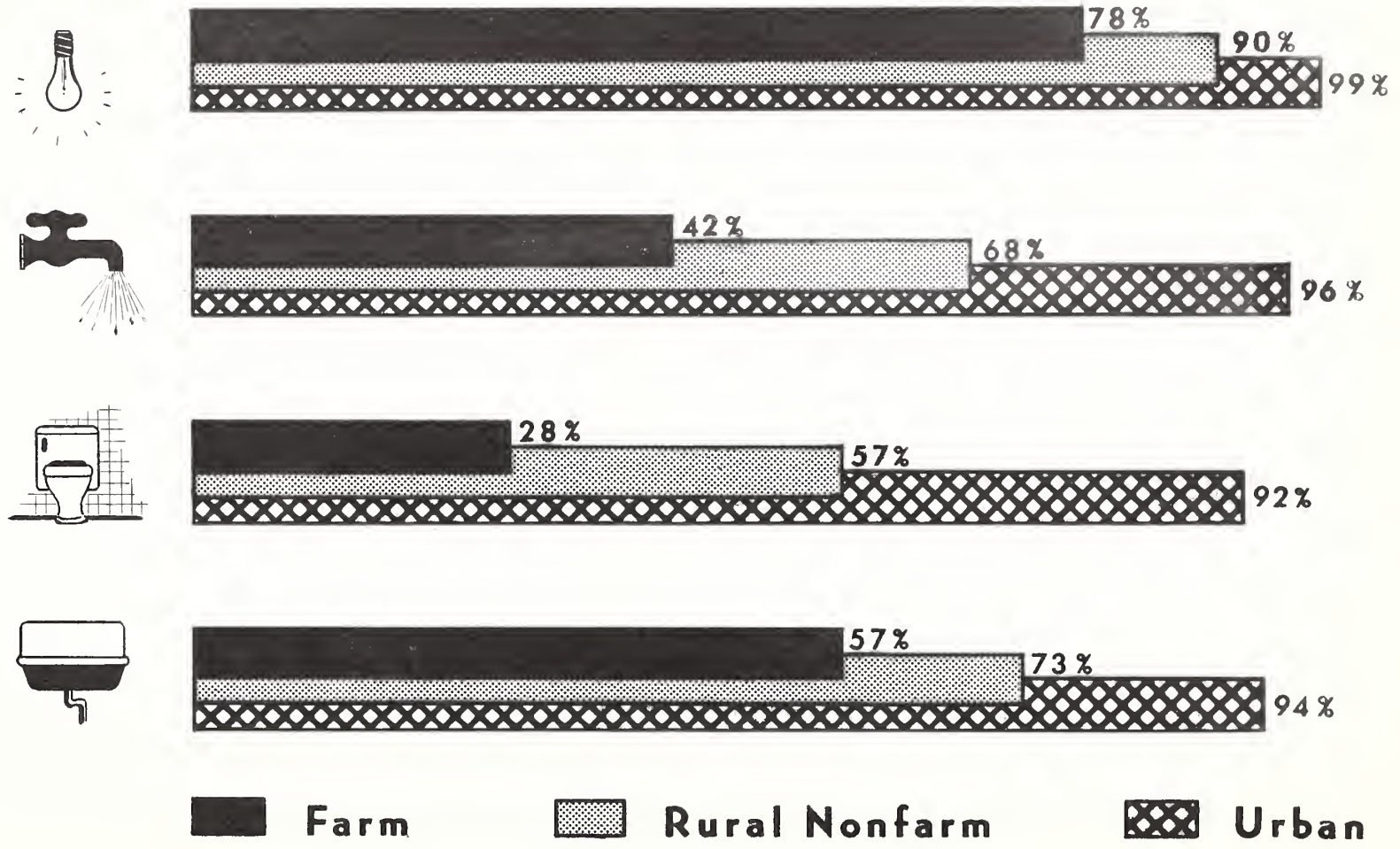
Storage facilities such as closets, attic, or basement, are important construction features making for a more livable house and more efficient home management. A study of farm housing in seven southern States in 1948 and 1949 showed that 20 percent of the houses on owner-operated farms had none of the following storage facilities: Closets, basement, attic, pantry, or storeroom (chart 18). A desirable standard for space for clothing storage is one clothes closet for each bedroom, yet more than a third of the houses of the southern farm owner-operators had no clothes closet, and a fourth had only one.

The number of closets in southern farmhouses was not related to the age of the house. As many older houses had closets as did the newer ones. Rather, closets tend to be related to the socio-economic status of the farm family as shown by a scale summarizing education, social participation, housing facilities such as running water and electricity, and durable goods owned by the family (table, p. 47).

Many farm families in the past few years have built new houses or have made major improvements in their houses. The stage of the family life cycle in which farm families build new homes influences the kind of house plans that are chosen and often the financial plans made. Of the farm families that built houses from 1948 to 1950 in North Carolina, the largest proportion had children still at home (chart 19). About a fourth of the families that built had one or more young children, all under 10. Forty-two percent of the group building had one or more children 10 or over still at home. The older, childless families and those whose children were no longer at home made up only 11 percent of the group.

Relatively young families were building most of the farmhouses in North Carolina. About 45 percent of the farmers building a house were under 35 years old, whereas families of this age group were a far smaller proportion of all farm owner-operators in the State (table, p. 49). Veterans' loan benefits, bonuses, and training programs probably have meant that the proportion of the younger farm families building a house has been higher in recent years than before.

HOUSING FACILITIES, 1950*



* PRELIMINARY

SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Housing Facilities and Characteristics, Rural and Urban Dwellings, 1950

Facility or characteristic of dwelling unit	United States	Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban	Facility or characteristic of dwelling unit	United States	Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Dwelling units with 1/--					Dwelling units with 1/--				
Electric lights	94	78	90	99	Heating fuel:				
Running water: 2/					Coal	36	33	36	36
Inside structure	83	42	68	96	Wood	10	41	15	2
Hot and cold	70	27	51	85	Gas 5/	29	8	20	36
Cold only	13	15	17	11	Liquid and other fuel	25	18	29	25
Outside structure	2	3	4	2	Condition of dwelling unit: 6/				
Toilet facilities:					Dilapidated	9	21	12	6
Flush toilet inside structure	75	28	57	92	Not dilapidated	91	79	88	94
Other 3/	23	65	40	7	Persons per room of occupied dwelling units:				
Kitchen sink 4/	85	57	73	94	0.75 or less persons	60	58	58	61
Installed bathtub or shower	73	29	55	89	0.76 to 1.00 persons	24	20	23	25
Heating facilities:					1.01 to 1.50 persons	10	12	11	9
Central heating	50	17	33	62	1.51 or more persons	6	10	8	5
Noncentral heating	48	82	66	36					

1/ All dwelling units, both occupied and unoccupied. Unoccupied dwelling units were 4 percent of urban units, 16 percent of rural nonfarm, and 9 percent of farm.

2/ Running water piped from a pressure or gravity system. Does not include hand pump.

3/ Includes privies.

4/ Kitchen sink with drain pipe leading to outside, but not necessarily with running water piped to it.

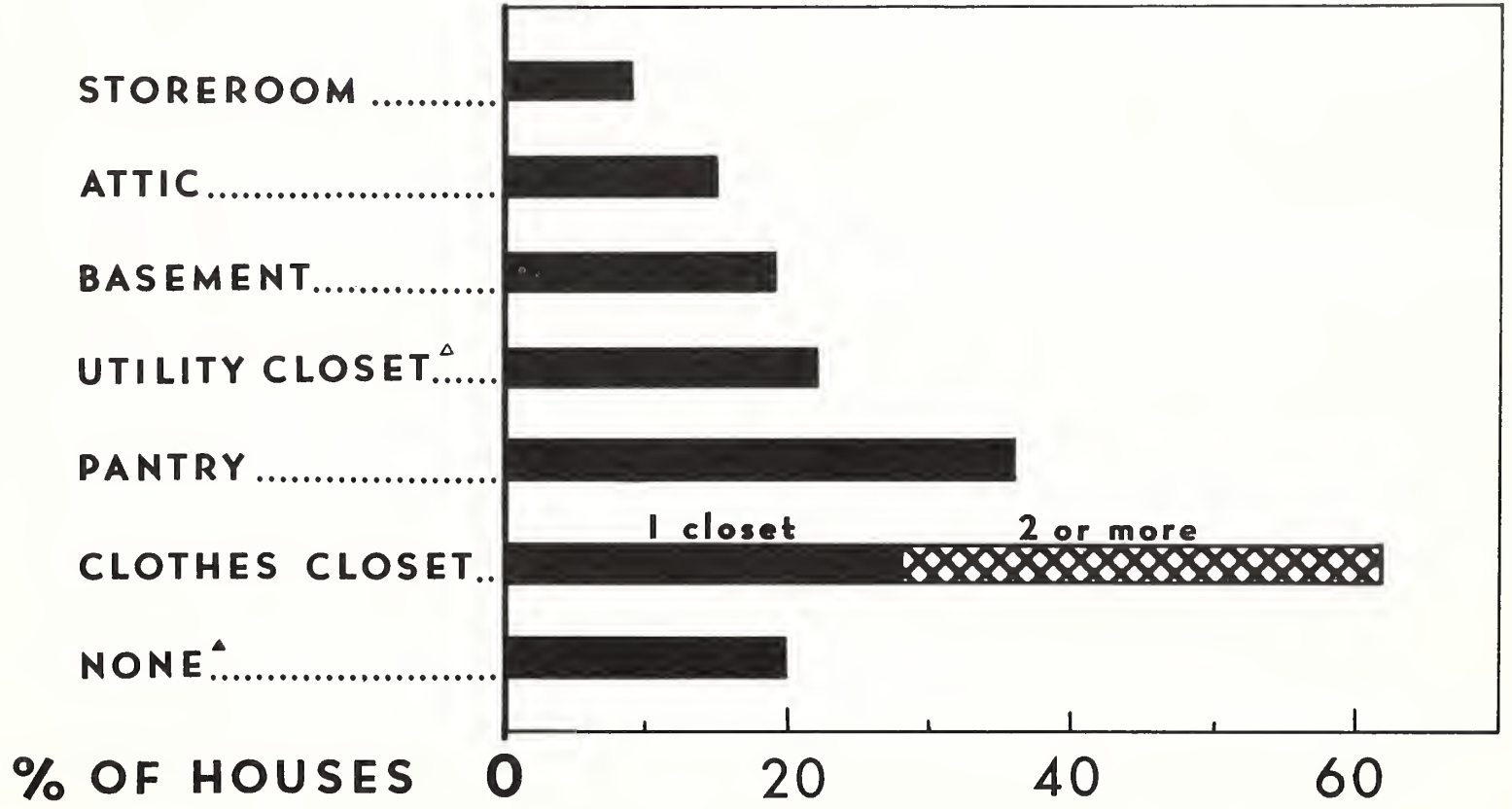
5/ Includes utility (piped) and bottled gas.

6/ Both occupied and unoccupied units. A dwelling unit is dilapidated when it has serious deficiencies, is run down or neglected, or is of inadequate original construction, so that the dwelling unit does not provide adequate protection against the elements or endangers the safety of the occupants.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. 1950 Census of Housing, Preliminary Reports, Series HC-5, 1 and 2.

STORAGE IN SOUTHERN HOMES*

Resident Farm Owners, 1948-49



*ALA., ARK., GA., MISS., S. C., TENN., VA.

△OTHER THAN CLOTHES CLOSETS, PANTRIES

▲NONE OF SPECIFIED TYPES

SOURCE: SOUTHERN EXPERIMENT STATIONS AND BHNHE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 9418-D

BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Storage Facilities in Southern Farm Homes, by Subregion and Socioeconomic Group, 1948–49

[Resident families owning and operating farms in open country, 7 Southern States. Families of 2 or more persons with a female homemaker 16 years or older. Farms of 3 acres or more or producing at least $450 worth of farm products]

Subregion and socio-economic group	Families in sample	Percent of houses having--								
		Specified number of clothes closets 1/			Utility closets 2/	Base-ment	Attic	Pantry	Store-room	None of listed facili-ties
		None	1	2 or more						
	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All families.....	1,507	38	28	34	22	19	15	36	9	20
Subregion:										
Coastal.....	465	42	28	30	15	2	3/	3/	3/	3/
Piedmont.....	337	25	29	46	30	22	3/	3/	3/	3/
Mountain.....	304	39	30	31	29	48	3/	3/	3/	3/
Plateau.....	206	47	28	25	17	10	3/	3/	3/	3/
Interior.....	115	36	24	40	19	29	3/	3/	3/	3/
Alluvial.....	80	47	15	38	21	3	3/	3/	3/	3/
Socioeconomic group: 4/										
Low.....	392	65	23	12	8	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Medium low.....	440	42	32	26	18	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Medium high.....	404	26	31	43	26	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
High.....	271	11	22	67	43	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/

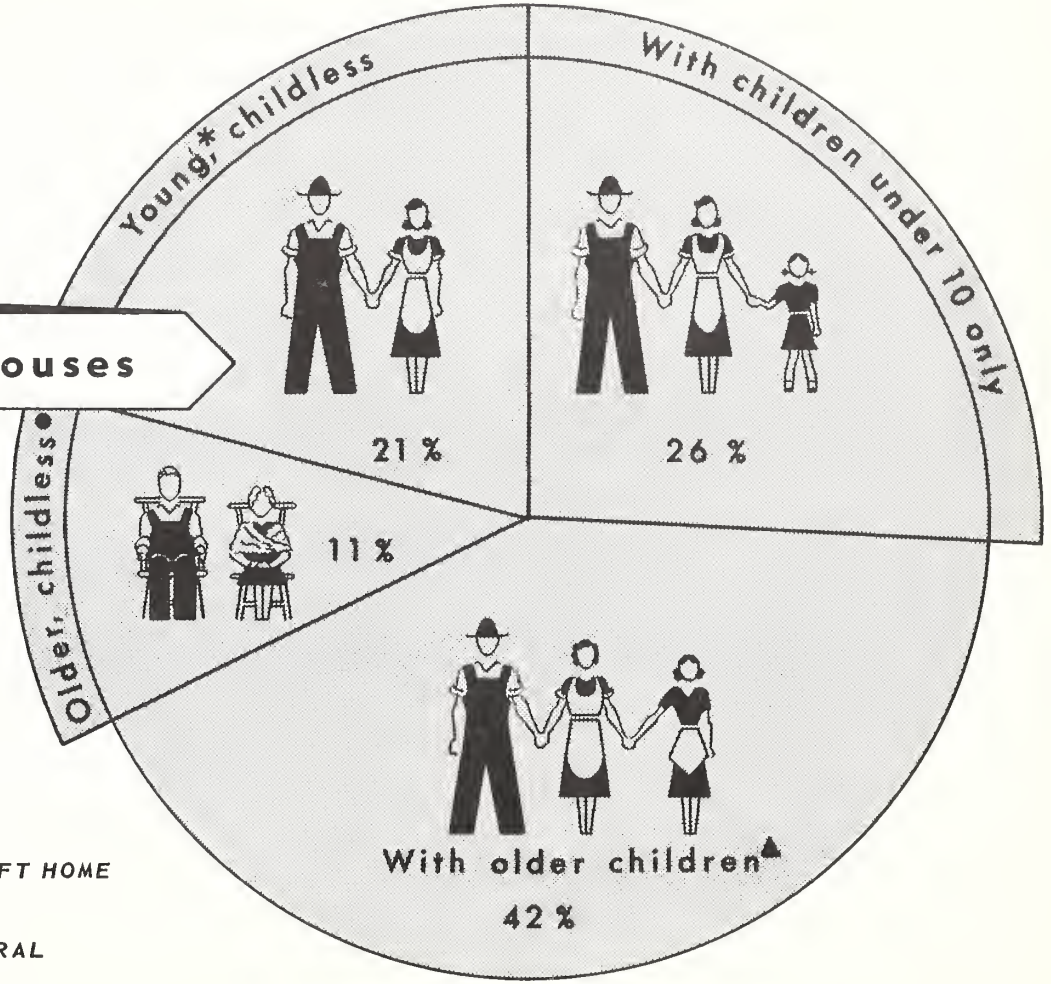
1/ Closets used for clothing wherever located, including coat closets.
2/ All closets other than clothes closets and pantries, such as linen or broom.
3/ Not available.
4/ Economic and social level of the family as determined on modified Sewell scale.

Source: Agricultural Experiment Stations of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia and Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Farm Housing in the South, report in press.

FARMHOUSES BUILT, 1948 - 50

Stage of Life Cycle
North Carolina

Families building houses



*CHILDBEARING AGE

▲MAY ALSO HAVE YOUNGER CHILDREN

●AND THOSE WHOSE CHILDREN HAVE LEFT HOME

SOURCE: NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Stage of Family Life Cycle in Which Farm Families Built a House and Age of Farmer, North Carolina, 1948–50

Family-life-cycle stage	Farm-operator families building house, January 1948 to May 1950	
	Distribution	Median age 1/
	Percent	Years
Total	100	37
Young, 2/ childless families	21	26
Families with 1 or more children, all under 10	26	30
Families with both younger and older children 3/	21	39
Families with 1 or more children, all 10 or over	21	53
Older families with no children 4/	11	55

Age of operator (years)	Farm operators		
	Building house, January 1948 to May 1950	All operators in State 5/	
		1945	1940
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100
20–34	44	13	14
35–54	40	48	47
55 and over	16	39	39
Number in sample	266	--	--

1/ Family head.
2/ Childbearing age.
3/ At least one child 10 or under and at least one child over 10.
4/ Childless families over childbearing age and those whose children are no longer at home.
5/ Since survey families were all owners or part owners, Census figures shown are for operators who are owners and part owners in North Carolina.

Source: James W. Green. Social Factors in Farmhouse Planning, Progress Report RS-11, Agricultural Experiment Station, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, 1951, and unpublished data from the study on which that report is based; 1940 Census of Population and 1945 Census of Agriculture.

Housefurnishings and Household Equipment

Rural families made great improvement in their housing equipment during the years from 1940 to 1950, although farm women still do not have the household equipment to work with that urban women have. Relatively high farm income and the spread of electrification in rural areas have been important factors in the improvement. Most of the increase in farm household equipment took place in the last half of the decade as supplies of consumer goods increased following the war.

Mechanical refrigerators have been purchased in great numbers all over the country in recent years, with many purchases in rural areas. The proportion of families in the United States with a mechanical refrigerator has nearly doubled from 1940 to 1950 (from 44 to 80 percent). Today, 60 percent of the farm and 70 percent of the rural nonfarm families have one, as compared with nearly 90 percent of the urban (chart 20).

The proportion of families cooking with electricity or gas also increased markedly (from 54 percent in 1940 to 73 percent in 1950 for the country as a whole), although the increase was not as rapid as that for mechanical refrigerators in this period. The rural-urban differences in the proportion of families cooking with electricity or gas are even greater than for refrigerators. Only about a third of the farm families in 1950, but 85 percent of the urban families, had a gas or electric cook stove.

Radio ownership has ceased to be a distinguishing characteristic between farm, rural nonfarm, and urban families. In 1950, less than 5 percent of the families in the entire country lacked a radio. Television, however, has considerable rural-urban differences because it has necessarily developed most in areas of heavy population concentration. In 1950, there was a television set in 16 percent of the urban dwelling units, but in only 7 percent of the rural nonfarm and 3 percent of the farm dwellings.

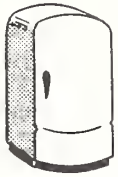
Electricity in the farmhouse can be a marked impetus to modernizing household equipment when income is relatively high. This is shown by the equipment inventories of selected types of families in four Kansas counties in 1948-49 (chart 21). Nearly all of the families with electricity had a mechanical refrigerator and a self-heating iron, but only about half of those without electricity had them. Nearly three-fourths of the families with electricity had a vacuum cleaner, while the number of non-electric vacuum cleaners among the families without electricity was negligible.

Even without electricity, improvement in household equipment can be made when money is available. Among the farm-operator families surveyed in the four relatively high income Kansas counties, 89 percent of the families without electricity had a power-driven washing machine and 66 percent had a gas cook stove.

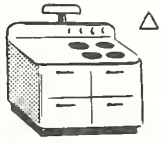
Expenditures for furniture and household equipment by farm families keeping accounts in three North Central States, were higher in 1950 than in 1949 (chart 22). Such expenditures, along with food, were the only major categories of spending increased by these farm families in 1950. This followed a sharp cut in such spending in 1949 from the record spending in 1947 and 1948. The increase from 1949 to 1950 in the amount spent per person by these farm families for furniture and equipment was not as great as the increase in the amount spent per person by all U. S. consumers for such items.

A study made in Montana for the year 1949 indicates that about 40 percent of the $300 average expenditure for housefurnishings and household equipment by all farm families was spent for major equipment such as stoves, refrigerators, and washing machines (chart 23). Regardless of the size of the farm business, families were spending a third or more for major equipment (table, p. 59). Only about 7 percent of the total furnishings and equipment money spent by farm families was for household textiles and another 7 percent for rugs and other floor coverings. Furniture took only 14 percent. The remainder was spent for small kitchen equipment and for miscellaneous items such as lamps, radios, baby equipment, tools, and repairs.

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT, 1950*

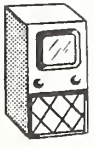


61 %
72 %
87 %

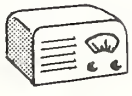


△

37 %
59 %
85 %



3 %
7 %
16 %



93 %
97 %

Farm Rural Nonfarm Urban

*PRELIMINARY △ GAS OR ELECTRIC SOURCE: BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9420-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Household Equipment, Rural and Urban Dwellings, 1950

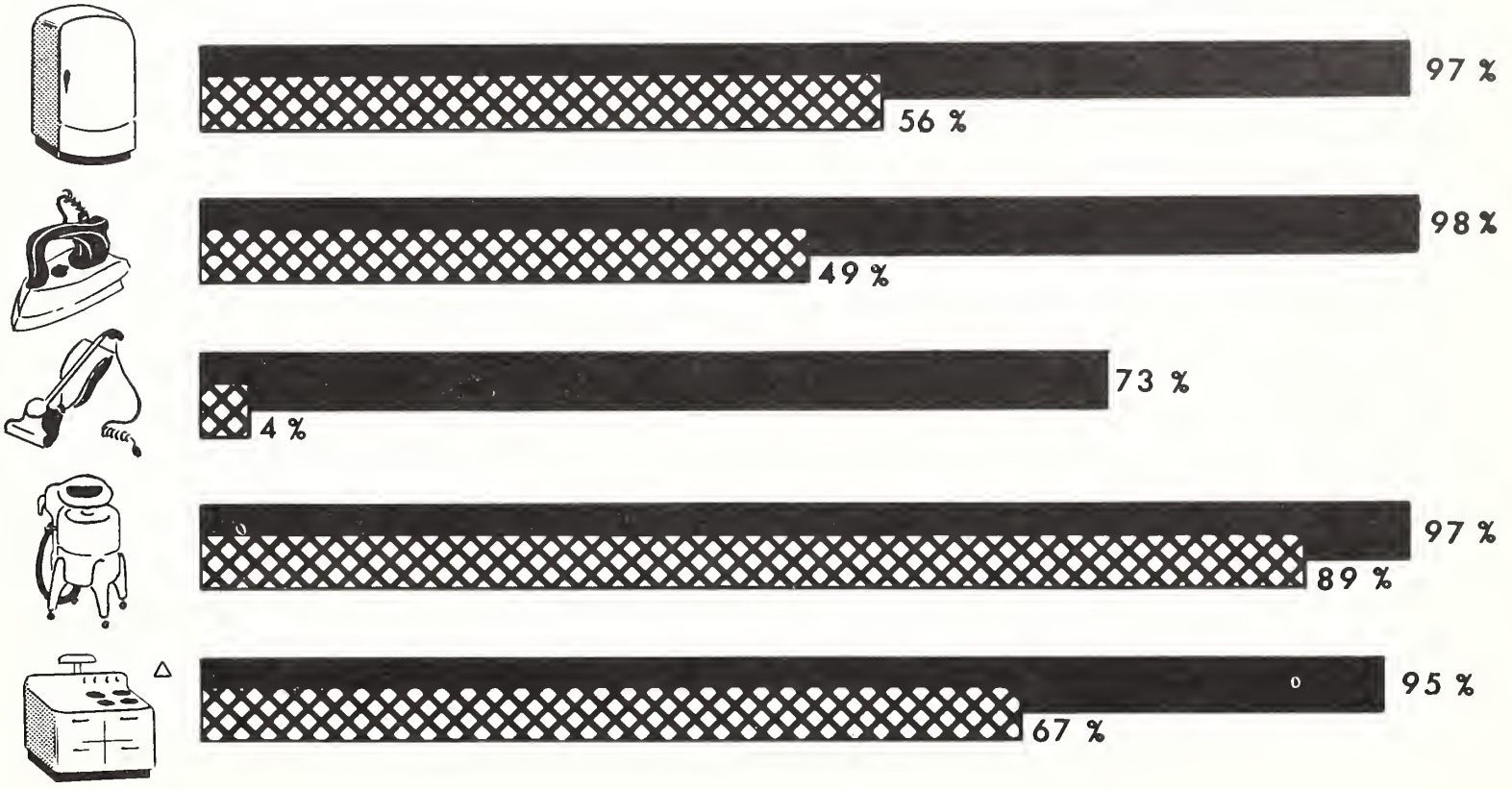
Equipment in dwelling unit 1/	United States	Rural farm	Rural nonfarm	Urban
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Refrigerator:				
Mechanical	80	61	72	87
Ice	11	15	13	9
Other 2/	1	2	3/	3/
Cooking stove: 4/				
Gas 5/ or electricity	73	37	59	85
Coal	9	14	12	7
Wood	10	39	15	3
Liquid and other fuel	7	10	13	5
Television	12	3	7	16
Radio	96	93	93	97

1/ Occupied dwelling units.
2/ Includes devices such as springhouse, ice house, cooler, well cooler. Does not include window box, basement, open spring.
3/ 0.5 percent or less.
4/ Based on principal fuel used for cooking.
5/ Includes utility (piped) and bottled gas.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. 1950 Census of Housing, Preliminary Reports, Series HC-5, No. 2.

FARM HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

Kansas,* 1948-49



* FOUR COUNTIES: EDWARDS, FORD, GRAY, AND MEADE

△ GAS OR ELECTRIC

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9421-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Household Equipment Inventories of Farm Families With and Without Electricity

[4 Kansas counties: Edwards, Ford, Gray, and Meade, 1948-49. Selected family types: Husband and wife with 0-3 children under 22 years of age]

Equipment	Families with electricity	Families without electricity 1/
	Percent	Percent
Mechanical refrigerator	97	56
Self-heating iron	98	49
Vacuum cleaner	73	4
Electric washing machine	87	3/ 4
Other power washing machine	10	85
Gas cook stove 2/	78	67
Electric cook stove 2/	17	0
Kerosene cook stove 2/	7	33
Coal or wood cook stove 2/	3	9
Ironer	7	0
Freezer cabinet	12	0
Pressure canner	40	46
Pressure saucepan	67	54
Electric sewing machine	28	3/ 3
Other sewing machine	61	90
Radio in use	94	83
Number of families in sample	391	70

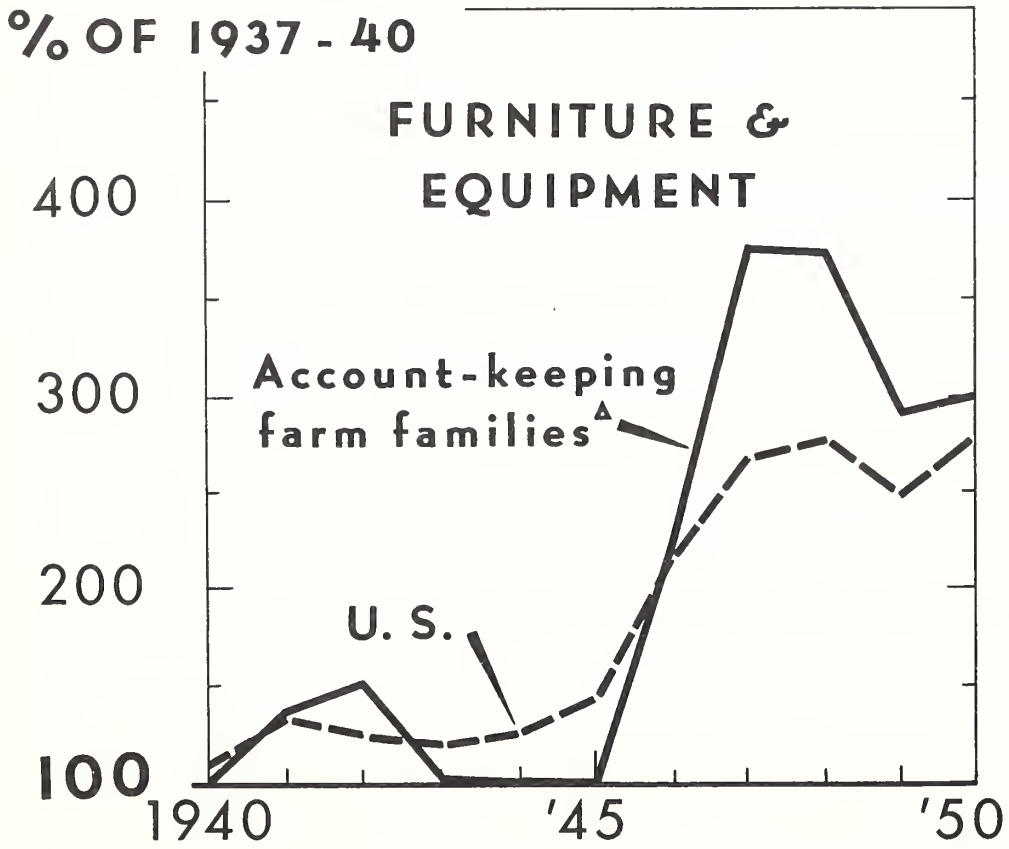
1/ The families without electricity have a lower average income than do those with electricity. However, a similar table restricted to families with less than $3,000 income reveals the same inventory relationship as shown here between all families with electricity and those without.

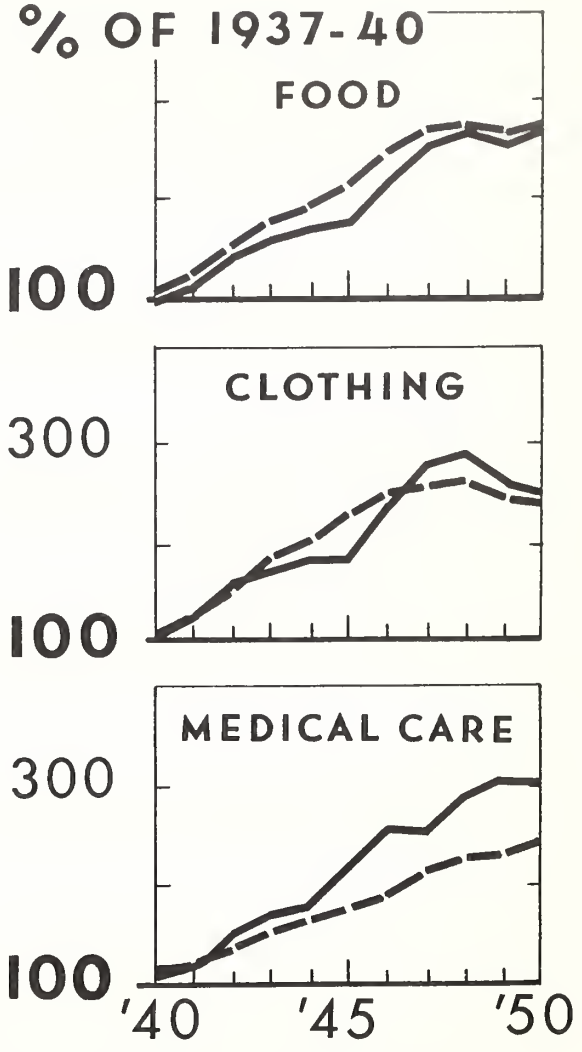
2/ Some families reported more than one cook stove. A few had both electric and gas; but because of rounding the unduplicated proportion having gas or electric cook stove is also 95 percent.

3/ A few families without electricity reported ownership of some electric appliances; reasons include buying in anticipation of electricity and previous occupancy of a house with electricity.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished data from Survey of Farm Family Living in Four Kansas Counties, 1948-49.

SPENDING TRENDS*





* PER PERSON

△ SELECTED FARM FAMILIES IN ILL., KANS., AND S.E. MINN.

SOURCE: DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND FARM-FAMILY ACCOUNT SUMMARIES SUBMITTED TO STATE COLLEGES

Spending Trends of Selected Farm Families and All United Statee Consumers, 1940 to 1950

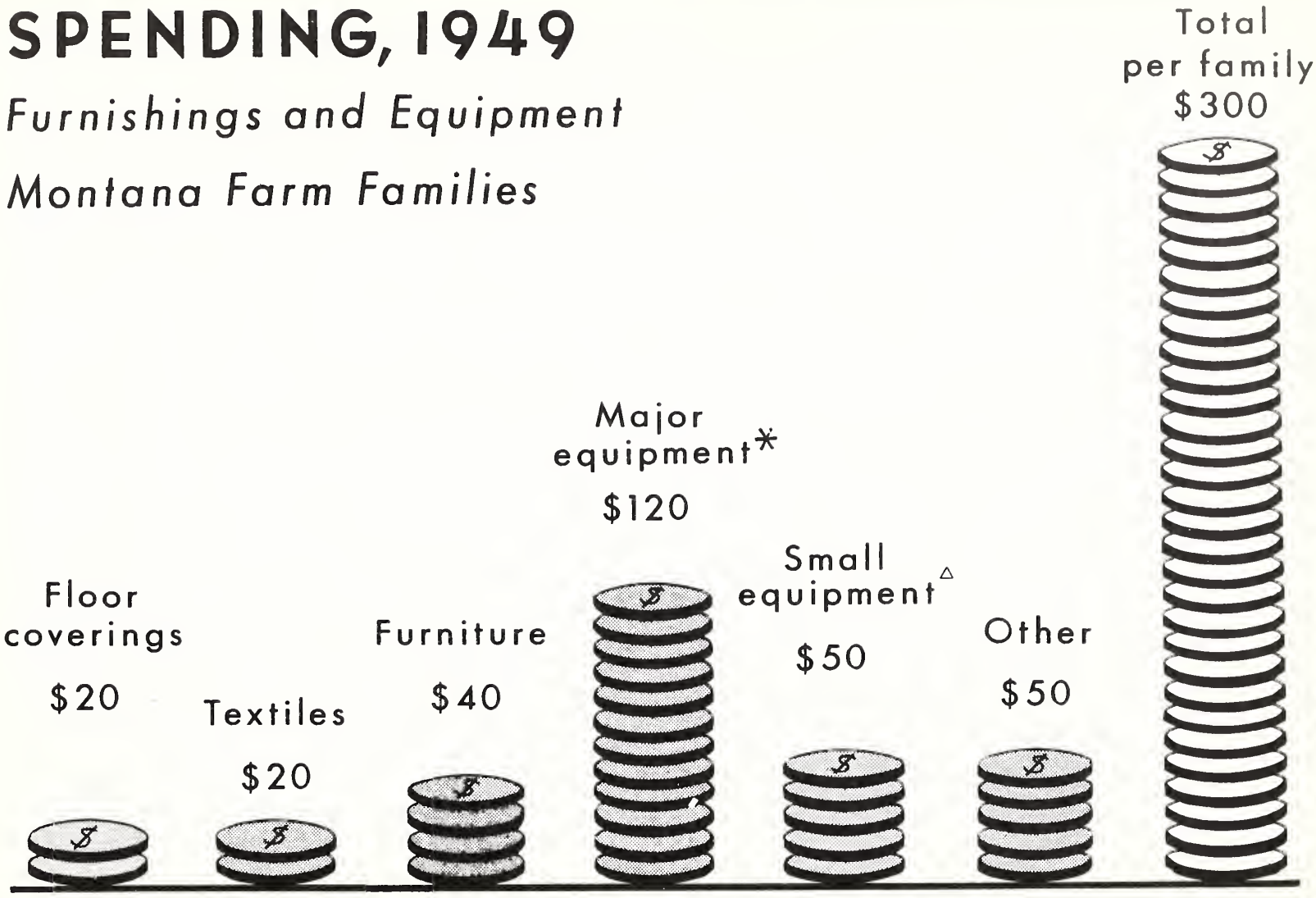
Year	Amount spent per person		Relative spending (1937-40=100)		Year	Amount spent per person		Relative spending (1937-40=100)	
	Account-keeping farm families	All U. S. consumers	Account-keeping farm families	All U. S. consumers		Account-keeping farm families	All U. S. coneumers	Account-keeping farm familiee	All U. S. coneumers
	Furniture and equipment								
	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent		Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent
1940	26	32	101	109	1946	57	64	223	216
1941	35	40	135	134	1947	96	79	376	267
1942	39	38	152	126	1948	96	82	374	276
1943	26	36	103	120	1949	75	74	293	248
1944	26	37	101	126	1950	77	83	301	280
1945	26	43	100	143					
	Food								
1940	55	145	99	104	1946	120	351	218	248
1941	62	171	112	123	1947	140	373	253	271
1942	76	212	138	152	1948	147	380	266	276
1943	87	247	157	177	1949	143	369	258	268
1944	95	268	172	193	1950	149	378	270	274
1945	97	301	176	216					
	Clothing								
1940	34	66	104	105	1946	77	155	234	248
1941	41	78	124	124	1947	91	159	279	254
1942	51	94	154	151	1948	95	165	288	263
1943	56	116	170	186	1949	85	153	259	244
1944	59	127	181	203	1950	82	150	250	240
1945	60	142	182	227					
	Medical care								
1940	22	24	112	107	1946	50	42	259	189
1941	22	26	115	118	1947	49	47	256	213
1942	28	30	148	135	1948	56	49	293	224
1943	33	33	170	151	1949	59	51	306	231
1944	34	36	179	165	1950	58	54	304	244
1945	42	38	219	175					
	Family living (except housing and auto)								
1940	224	397	104	105	1946	502	823	234	218
1941	253	454	118	120	1947	620	894	290	237
1942	304	528	142	140	1948	646	930	302	247
1943	329	602	153	160	1949	617	900	288	239
1944	354	655	165	174	1950	612	934	286	248
1945	388	726	181	193					

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

SPENDING, 1949

Furnishings and Equipment

Montana Farm Families



DATA ROUNDED TO NEAREST $10

** SUCH AS STOVE, REFRIGERATOR, WASHING MACHINE, VACUUM CLEANER*

△ DISHES, PANS, AND OTHER KITCHEN, CLEANING, AND LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9423-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Expenditures for Furnishings and Household Equipment of Farm-operator Families, by Size of Farm Business, Montana, 1949

Gross farm income (dollars) 1/	Families in sample 2/	Expenditures for furnishings and household equipment per family							
		Total	Floor coverings	Linens, other household textiles	Furniture	Major equipment 3/	Small equipment		Other 4/
							Other kitchen, cleaning, and laundry equipment	Glass, china, silverware	
	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
All families 5/....	506	303	21	22	42	119	41	7	51
200-2,499.....	114	177	10	18	17	88	22	3	19
2,500-4,999.....	127	238	17	15	23	103	38	3	39
5,000-9,999.....	125	336	26	31	58	126	43	6	46
10,000-24,999....	87	537	32	28	81	193	74	19	110

1/ Cash farm receipts in 1949.
2/ Farm-operator families of two or more persons and single farm operators.
3/ Cook stove, refrigerator, freezer cabinet and home locker, power washing machine, self-heating hand iron, ironer, sewing machine, and vacuum cleaner.
4/ Heating stove, radio and radio-phonograph, piano, lamps, clocks, mirrors, pictures, baby equipment, baggage, tools, hardware, screens and blinds, repair and cleaning of furnishings and equipment.
5/ Includes families with less than $200, more than $25,000, and unknown gross farm income.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished data from Montana Enumerative Survey of Commodities Purchased by Farmers and Ranchers, 1949.

Clothing

Spending for clothing by the account-keeping families in three North Central States declined in 1950 for the second consecutive year. The same trend was evident in the spending of all U. S. consumers (chart 22).

Clothing inventories of farm families studied in two counties in Minnesota in 1950 indicate reasonably well stocked wardrobes (table, p. 63). The husbands in these families owned, on the average, about 2 outdoor jackets, 4 dress shirts, 2 sport shirts, 2 suits, 4 overalls or coveralls, 6 work shirts, 2 pairs of work trousers, 9 pairs of heavy socks, 7 pairs of socks for dress or general wear, and 3 pairs of shoes of all types. The wives in these families owned 3 coats, 6 house dresses, 5 dresses of other types, 2 blouses, 1 skirt, 8 aprons, 7 pairs of long hosiery, 4 pairs of anklets, and 4 pairs of shoes for dress, work, or sport.

On the whole, the younger farm husbands owned more clothing than the older ones. For a few items, such as sport shirts and pull-over sweaters, the younger men had far more in their clothing inventories than the older men (chart 24). Only an occasional item, such as coat-style sweaters and overcoats or topcoats, was owned in larger numbers by the older husbands than by the younger, and there the difference was slight.

The same study indicates that home sewing is more prevalent among farm than city families (chart 25). However, even in farm families it is an important source of new garments for only a few types of clothing worn by women and girls; for the greater part of women's wardrobes, and for the wardrobes of the men and boys in these families, it is unimportant.

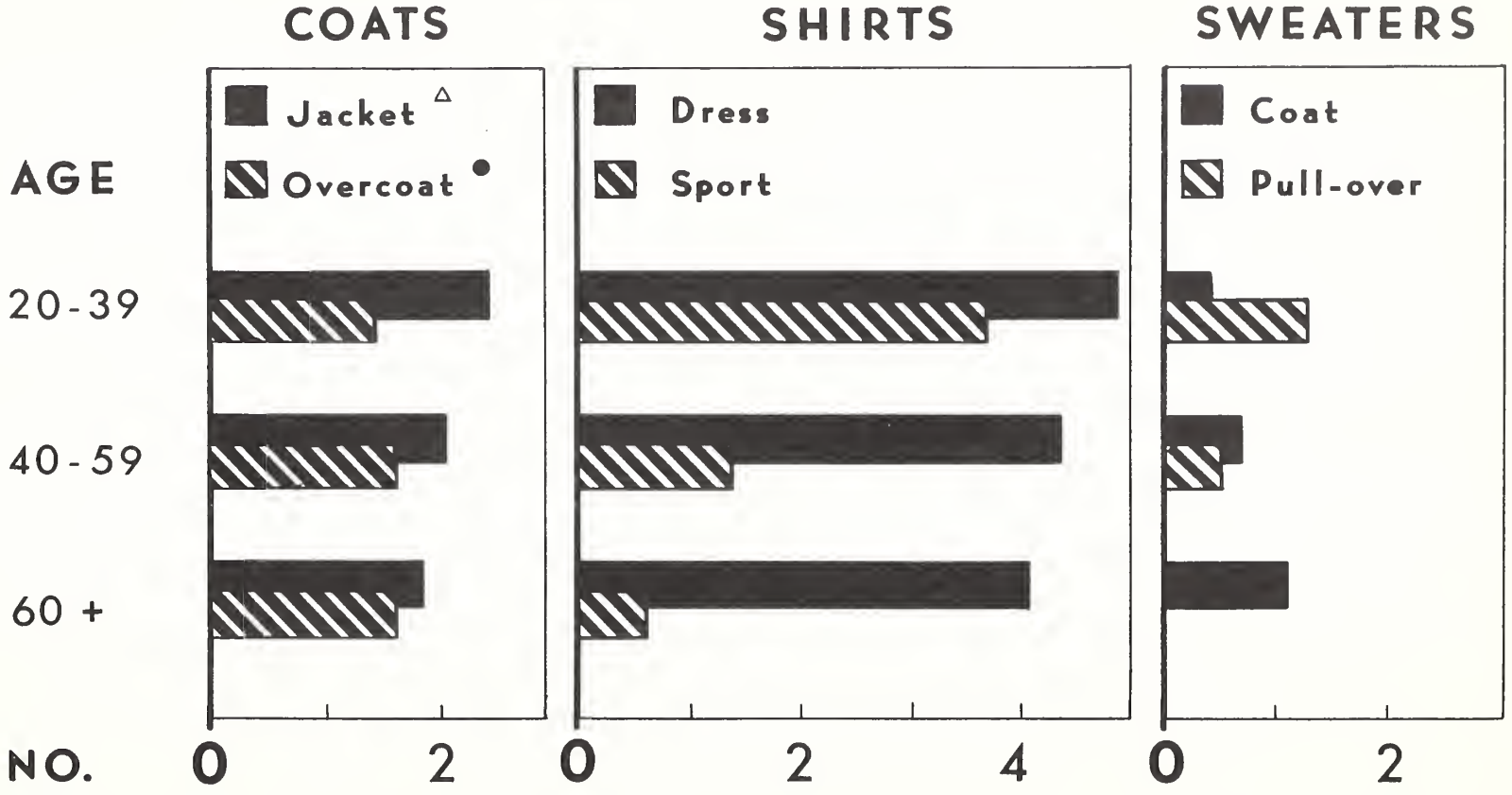
Slightly more than half of the farm wives added home-made aprons or smocks to their wardrobes during the year. For the entire group surveyed, such garments averaged 2 per person. The home-made articles, many of which were made of feed sacks, constituted about three-fourths of all aprons and smocks acquired during the year. Somewhat less than half of the farm wives reported home-made house dresses; the number of these garments averaged, for the group as a whole, a little over one per person.

In Minneapolis-St. Paul, both the proportion of wives reporting home-made aprons, smocks and house dresses and the proportion of total garments acquired that were home-made were markedly lower than for farm wives. Only about one-eighth of the city women reported such acquisitions, and only about a fourth of the garments were home-made.

Other home-made garments reported by a considerable number of farm wives were nightgowns and dresses for street and dress wear. About an eighth of the women had new home-made garments of these types during the year. Home-made nightgowns were reported by fewer city wives, and dresses by somewhat more city than farm wives. Other garments were reported as made at home by insignificant proportions of both farm and city wives.

HUSBANDS' CLOTHING INVENTORY*

By Age of Husband, 1950



* FARM FAMILIES: MEEKER, WRIGHT COUNTIES, MINN.

△ OUTDOOR

● INCLUDES TOPCOATS

U. S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9424-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Clothing Inventories of Farm Husbands and Wives, and of Farm Husbands, by Age

[Meeker and Wright Counties, Minn., 1950. Farm families with 0-2 children aged 2-15]

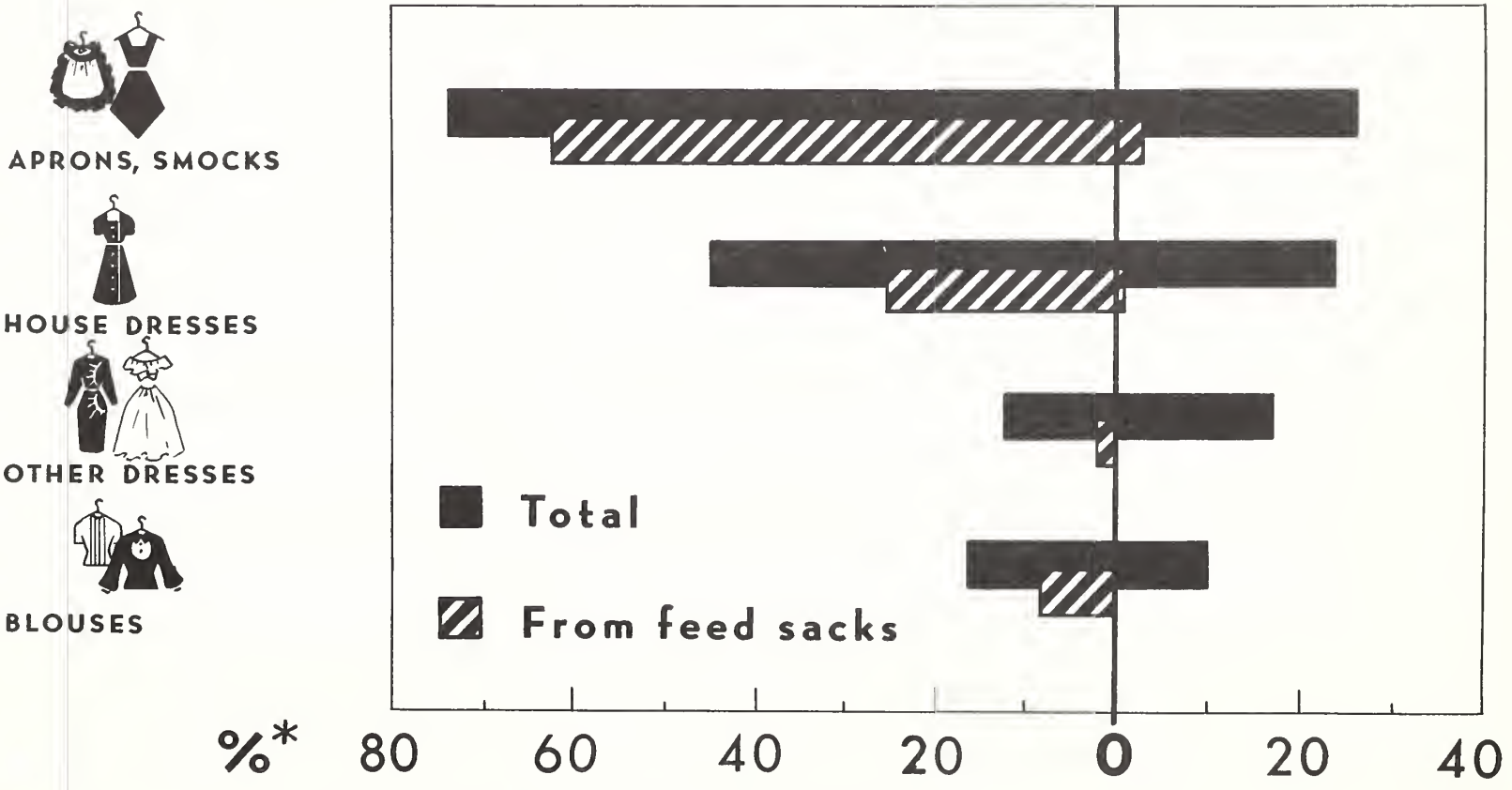
Clothing item	Average number owned by--			
	All husbands	Age of husband		
		20-39	40-59	60 and over
Overcoats and topcoats	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.7
Outdoor jackets 1/	2.2	2.5	2.1	1.9
Dress shirts	4.5	4.9	4.4	4.1
Sport shirts 2/	2.1	3.7	1.4	.6
Pull-over sweaters	.7	1.3	.5	3/
Coat-style sweaters	.7	.4	.7	1.1
Suits 4/	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.7
Suit equivalent 5/	.8	1.0	.7	.7
Dress hats	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.6
Caps, knitted hats	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.5
Work trousers	1.6	1.8	1.5	1.4
Overalls, coveralls	4.1	4.6	3.9	3.6
Work shirts	5.9	6.2	5.6	5.9
Heavy athletic or work socks	9.1	9.8	9.2	7.5
Other socks for dress, general wear.	6.9	8.0	6.5	5.6
Work shoes	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3
Shoes for street, dress, or sport	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.5
Work gloves and mittens	4.2	4.2	4.5	3.5
Dress gloves and mittens	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Ties	9.8	10.4	9.5	9.6
Number of husbands in sample	321	116	141	64

Clothing item	Average number owned by wives
Heavy coats 6/	1.5
Lightweight coats, capes, toppers.	1.2
Hats, caps, separate hoods, berets	2.7
House dresses	6.2
Other dresses for street, dress, afternoon, and evening	5.2
Suits	.6
Separate skirts	.8
Blouses, shirts, jerseys	2.5
Sweaters 7/	1.8
Aprons, smocks	7.8
Slacks	.8
Overalls, coveralls, jeans	.7
Slips, petticoats	4.6
Long hose	6.9
Anklets	3.7
Shoes for dress, work, or sport	4.4
Rubbers, galoshes, rubber boots	2.0
Gloves, mittens	3.6
Handbags, purses	1.8
Number of wives in sample	321

1/ Mackinaws, peacoats, parkas, lumber jackets, and lightweight jackets for outdoors. Does not include overall jackets.
2/ Knit shirts in T-style, polo, and woven sport shirts.
3/ 0.05 sweaters or less.
4/ Year-round, winter, summer, and dress suits.
5/ Separate trousers and jackets each counted as one-half.
6/ Fur coats, coats without fur, or trimmed with fur.
7/ Sweat shirts, pull-over, and coat-style sweaters.

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished and preliminary data from Study of Family Clothing Supplies, 1950.

WIVES' CLOTHING MADE at HOME*



* PERCENT OF EACH ITEM ACQUIRED IN A YEAR

△FARM: MEEKER, WRIGHT COUNTIES, MINN.; MAR.'49–MAR.'50

▲CITY: MINNEAPOLIS–ST. PAUL; MAR.'48–MAR.'49

Wives' Clothing Made at Home in a Year, Farm and City

[Families with 0-2 children aged 2-15. Meeker and Wright Counties, Minn., March 1949 to March 1950, and Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., March 1948 to March 1949]

Clothing item	Farm wives' clothing items acquired in year				City wives' clothing items acquired in year			
	Average number acquired, all sources	Percent of each item made at home		Percent of wives acquiring home-made items	Average number acquired, all sources	Percent of each item made at home		Percent of wives acquiring home-made items
		Total	Made from feed sacks			Total	Made from feed sacks	
Aprons, smocks.....	2.9	73	62	52	1.6	26	3	12
House dresses.....	2.7	44	25	44	1.9	24	1	14
Other dresses.....	1.8	12	2	12	2.4	17	0	16
Blouses.....	.8	16	8	7	1.3	10	0	7
Nightgowns.....	.8	29	11	13	.8	8	0	4
Slips, petticoats.....	1.5	11	8	8	2.0	3	0	2

Source: Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Unpublished data from Studies of Family Clothing Supplies.

Health

Health and medical care are in the spotlight as national problems. Some aspects of the problems are peculiarly acute for the farm population.

The dearth of physicians in rural areas has long been recognized. A comparison of the 1940 and 1949 ratios of physicians to population in counties of different degrees of rurality shows that the situation now is worse than before World War II (chart 26). For the nation as a whole and for the metropolitan service areas, there was a small decrease in the physician-population ratio, but the loss has been greatest in isolated counties (table, p. 69). In these isolated counties the ratio was 81 physicians per 100,000 population in 1940, but only 74 in 1949, a decrease of nearly 10 percent.

This decrease in the ratio of physicians to population in isolated counties was greatest in the South and Midwest, the regions of the greatest rural population. The loss was about 10 percent in these regions, and about 5 percent in the Northeast and West. The loss of physicians from isolated counties in the South is particularly significant since the 1940 ratio of physicians to population was lower there than in counties of the same class in other regions.

In contrast to the picture of availability of medical care in rural and urban areas, a recent study in Michigan makes the point that there is more time lost because of illness in rural than in urban areas. Relatively more rural than urban people in Michigan lost a day or more from their work or other regular activities because of illness (chart 27). Furthermore, more rural people lost time because of extended illnesses than did urban groups.

Continued high spending for medical care, reported by account-keeping farm families in the Middle West, shows that farm people recognize its importance. Their expenditures for medical care have shown no appreciable decrease in the postwar period and have been maintained on a level approximately three times their prewar average (chart 22).

In the past two decades health insurance has come into increasing prominence as a method of solving some of the family's financial problems in regard to medical care. However, the benefits paid by various types of health insurance plans are still only a small portion of the total medical costs. Even though 50 percent of the population was covered by some type of health insurance in 1950, only 12 percent of the total medical bill that would otherwise have been met directly by consumers was paid through insurance benefits (chart 28). Most popular types of health insurance were hospital and surgical (21 percent) and hospital only (15 percent). Only 3 percent of the population had relatively comprehensive coverage.

Although exact information is lacking, it is known that the proportion of the population insured is much lower in rural than urban areas. The organization of health insurance plans is slower in rural areas because group insurance, which provides a sound actuarial basis for such plans, is easier to apply in urban centers or industrial groups.

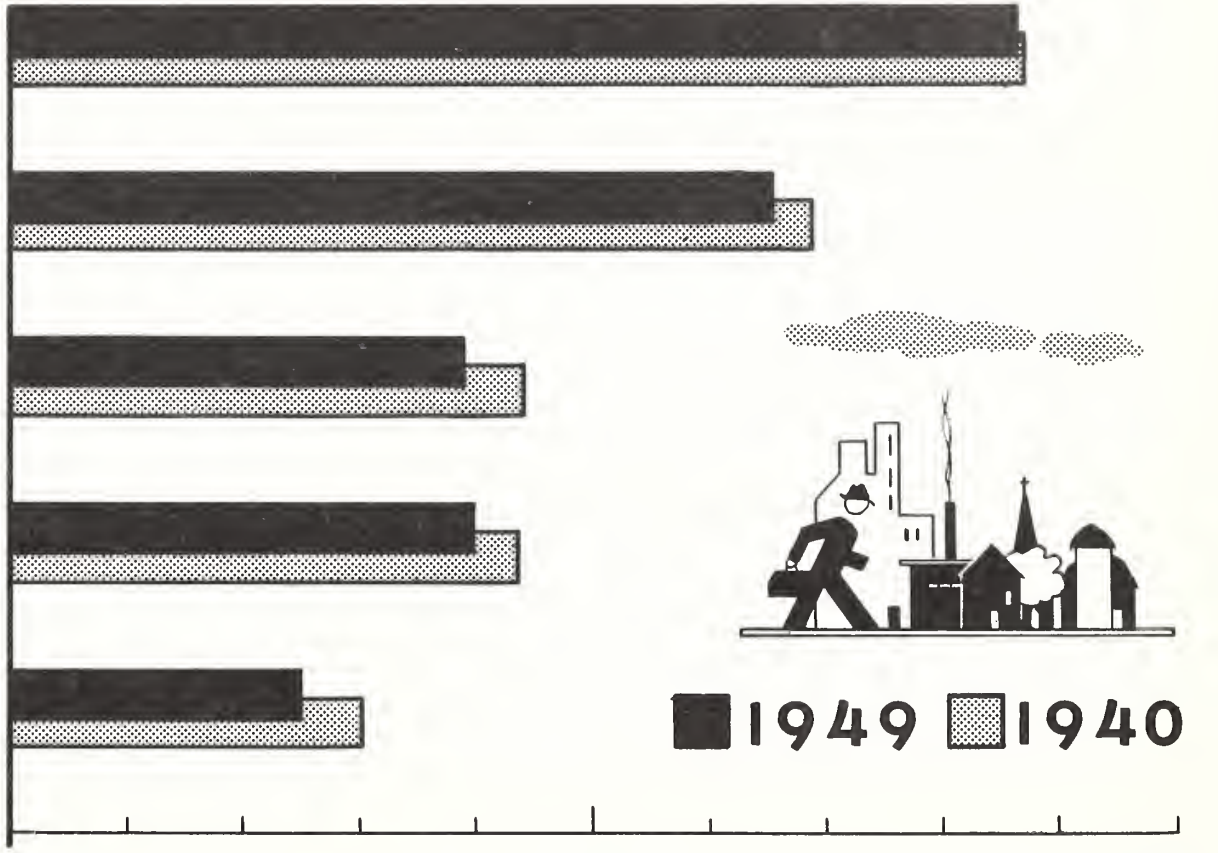
Infant mortality statistics are often used as an over-all index of health level of the entire population as well as of the infant population. For that reason, data on rural infant mortality rates (deaths per 1,000 live births) are presented here (chart 29).

The best and the worst infant mortality records are made in rural areas. In 1948, the most recent year for which rural-urban tabulations have been made, four States had rural infant mortality rates below 24.8, the lowest rate reported for urban areas by any State, and two States had rural rates above 62.0, the highest rate reported for urban areas by any State (table, p. 75).

The infant mortality rates in rural areas in about half of the States were under 30 deaths per 1,000 live births; in about a third, the rates were between 30 and 40. For urban areas, the rates under 30 were reported by about a third of the States, and rates between 30 and 40 by about half. This distribution of States suggests that the U.S. average infant mortality rate is lower for rural areas than for urban areas. This, however, is not true. The bulk of the urban population lives where the urban infant mortality rates are favorable, but the bulk of the rural population is in areas with the less favorable rural rates. This distribution of population results in an average rural rate that is a little higher than the average urban—33.1 as compared with 31.2.

PHYSICIAN- POPULATION RATIO

COUNTIES



*NUMBER PER 100,000 POPULATION

SOURCE: U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Ratio of Physicians to Population, by Region and County Group, 1949 and 1940

[Ratios based on active nonfederal physicians as listed in American Medical Directory, 1950 and 1940, and on the 1950 and 1940 total population]

Region and county group 1/	Physicians per 100,000 population		Change in ratio, 1940-1949
	1949	1940	
	Number	Number	Percent
United States	119	122	-2
Metropolitan and adjacent	137	142	-4
Greater metropolitan	173	174	-1
Lesser metropolitan	131	138	-5
Adjacent to metropolitan	78	89	-12
Isolated	74	81	-9
Semirural	80	88	-9
Rural	50	61	-18
North East	158	157	+1
Metropolitan and adjacent	162	160	+1
Greater metropolitan	187	182	+3
Lesser metropolitan	134	135	-1
Adjacent to metropolitan	94	104	-10
Isolated	115	121	-5
Semirural	116	124	-6
Rural	64	91	-30
North Central	115	122	-6
Metropolitan and adjacent	128	137	-7
Greater metropolitan	152	160	-5
Lesser metropolitan	129	139	-7
Adjacent to metropolitan	86	103	-17
North Central—Cont'd.			
Isolated	82	91	-10
Semirural	90	99	-9
Rural	54	68	-21
South	89	91	-2
Metropolitan and adjacent	112	116	-3
Greater metropolitan	178	186	-4
Lesser metropolitan	130	137	-5
Adjacent to metropolitan	59	64	-8
Isolated	62	70	-11
Semirural	67	76	-12
Rural	46	55	-16
West	123	125	-2
Metropolitan and adjacent	139	144	-3
Greater metropolitan	164	164	0
Lesser metropolitan	134	142	-6
Adjacent to metropolitan	83	92	-9
Isolated	81	85	-5
Semirural	85	90	-6
Rural	59	70	-16

1/ Metropolitan counties are counties within standard metropolitan areas as defined by Census. A greater metropolitan county is one containing any part of a standard metropolitan area of 1,000,000 population or more. Lesser metropolitan counties are all other metropolitan counties. Adjacent counties are counties that are not themselves metropolitan but are contiguous with metropolitan counties. All other counties are classified as isolated. Of these, semirural counties contain an incorporated place of 2,500 or more population; rural counties do not.

Source: U. S. Public Health Service. Unpublished data.

PERSONS ILL - DAYS LOST

Michigan, 1948*



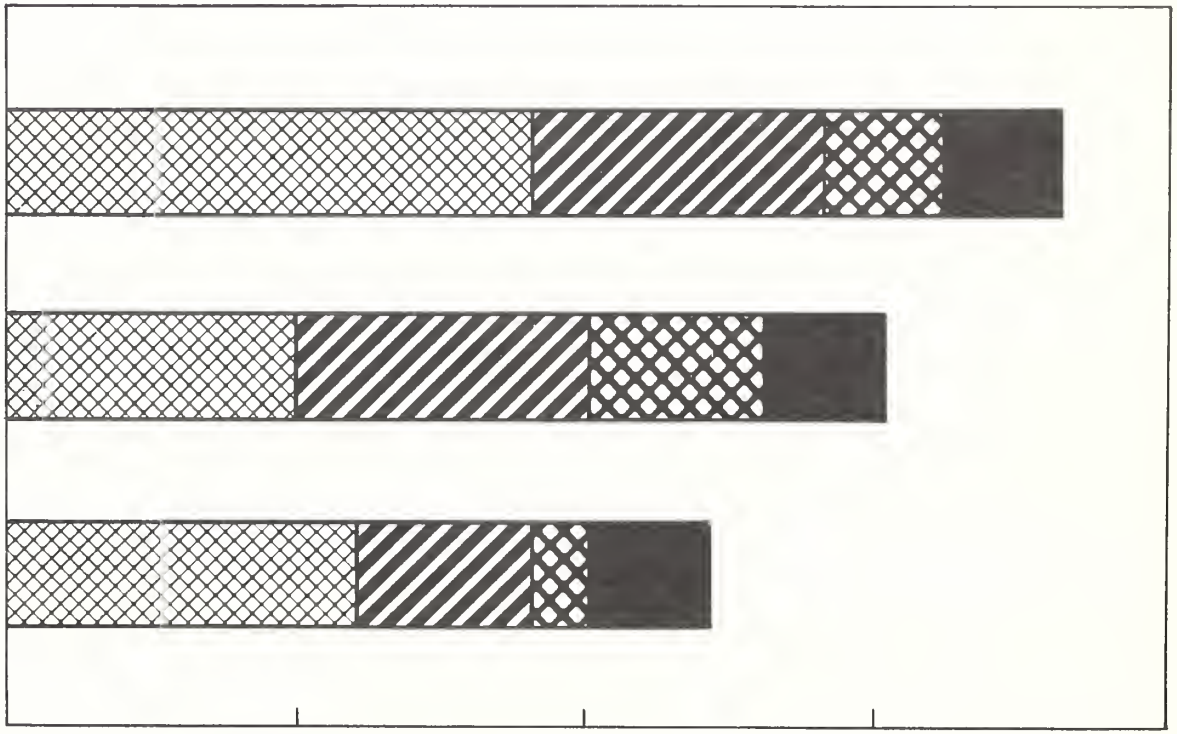
OPEN COUNTRY



VILLAGE



URBAN



* 6 MONTHS OF YEAR

SOURCE: MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Persons Losing Days from Work or Other Regular Activity Because of Illness, Michigan, 1948

[State sample, excluding Wayne County. Includes all persons in household]

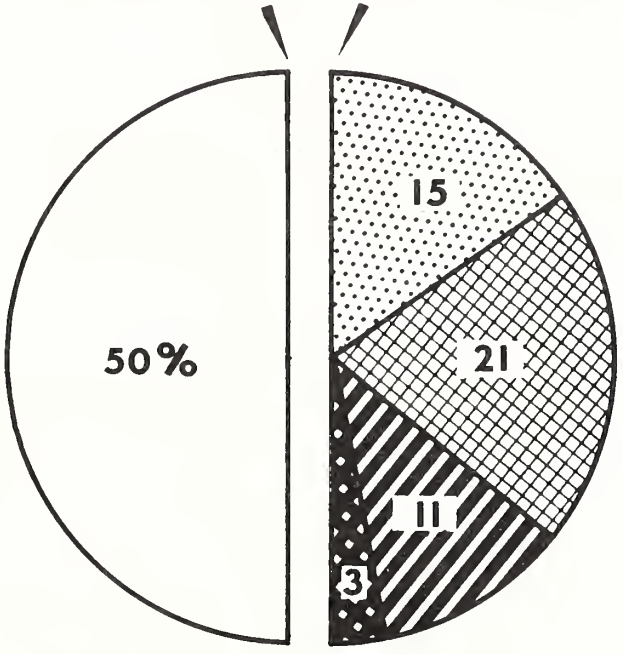
Days lost 1/	Persons losing days because of illness						
	Total	Rural			Urban		
		Total	Open country	Village	Total	Small cities	Metro-politan
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
None	86	83	82	85	88	88	90
1-9	7	8	9	5	6	6	4
10-19	3	4	4	4	2	2	2
20-29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
30-59	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
60-89	2/	1	1	1	2/	2/	2/
90 and over	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Number of persons in sample	3,786	1,738	1,317	421	2,048	1,500	548

1/ During a period of 6 months preceding the interview.
2/ 0.5 percent or less.

Source: Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. Health Needs and Health Care in Michigan, Special Bulletin 365, June 1950.

HEALTH INSURANCE

POPULATION 1950



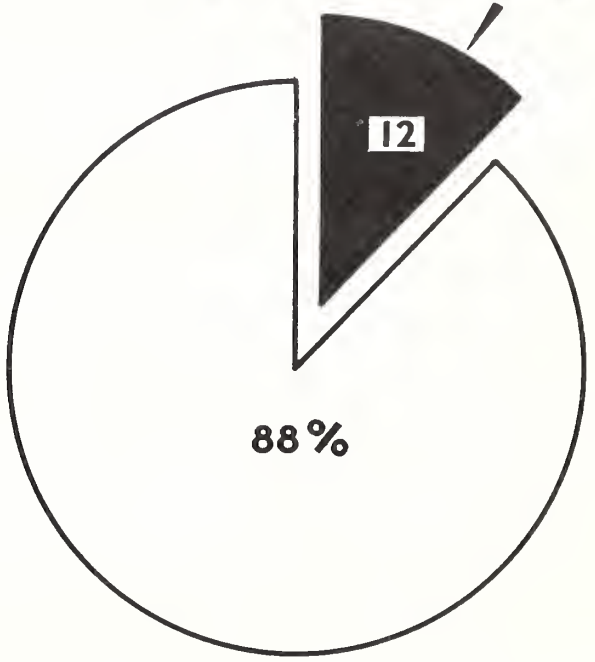
Hospital only

Hospital, Surgical

Hospital, Surgical, Limited Medical

Comprehensive

MEDICAL COST* '49



*EXCLUDES COSTS MET BY GOVERNMENT AND ENDOWMENTS

SOURCE: SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NEG. 9428-D BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Health Insurance Coverage and Benefits

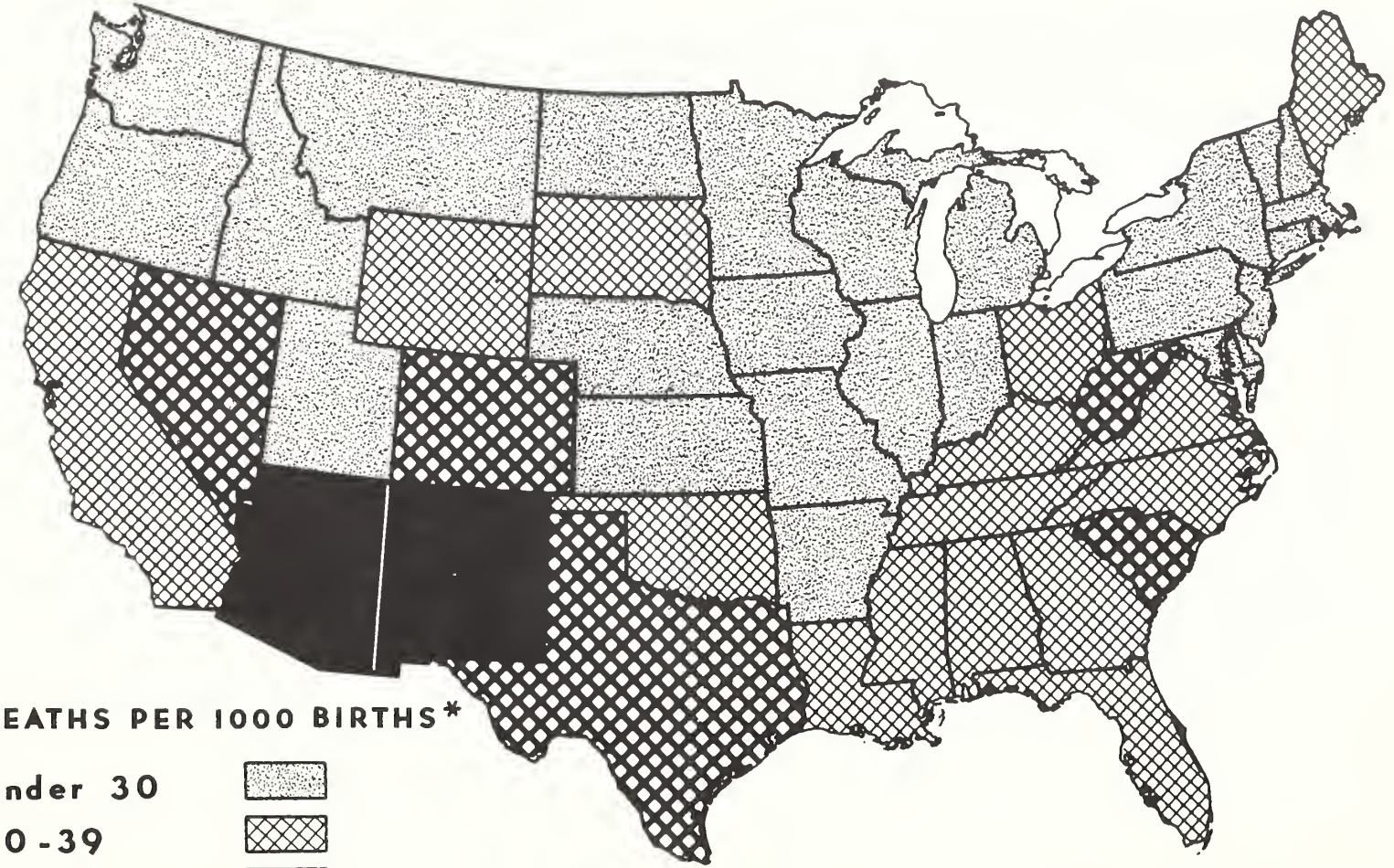
Type of insurance	Population covered by medical care insurance, 1950	
	Millions	Percent
Total	150	100
Hospitalization only	23	15
Hospitalization and surgical	31	21
Hospitalization, surgical, and limited medical	17	11
Comprehensive	4	3
None	75	50

Type of care	Total cost of medical care, 1949 1/	Cost of medical care met by insurance benefits, 1949	
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Percent
All types	6,350	755	12
Hospital	2,027	530	26
Physicians	2,267	225	10
Other services and supplies	2,056	2/	3/

1/ Excludes costs met by Government, hospital endowments, and other institutional funds.
2/ 0.5 million or less.
3/ 0.5 percent or less.

Source: U. S. Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. Health Insurance Plans in the United States, Report No. 359, Part 1.

RURAL INFANT MORTALITY, 1948



* NO STATES WITH RATES 50 TO 69

SOURCE: NATIONAL OFFICE OF VITAL STATISTICS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. 9429 D

BUREAU OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND HOME ECONOMICS

Rural and Urban Infant Mortality Rates and Numbers of Births, by Region and State, 1948

[Classified by place of residence. Infant mortality rate is number of deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births; stillbirths excluded]

Region and state	Infant mortality rate		Number of births	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
United States.....	33.1	31.2	1,441,050	2,094,018
New England.....	27.6	26.9	51,705	148,637
Maine.....	34.3	28.4	13,575	8,496
New Hampshire.....	26.1	31.2	5,283	7,140
Vermont.....	25.6	34.5	5,891	3,478
Massachusetts.....	26.2	26.9	11,378	86,011
Rhode Island.....	28.7	26.0	1,880	14,981
Connecticut.....	23.3	24.8	13,698	28,531
Middle Atlantic.....	27.9	27.5	154,696	472,077
New York.....	27.4	27.3	60,036	241,930
New Jersey.....	28.3	26.0	20,594	76,986
Pennsylvania.....	28.2	28.4	74,066	153,161
East North Central...	28.3	29.5	225,959	474,154
Ohio.....	30.3	30.7	56,978	129,375
Indiana.....	28.7	30.6	36,639	55,890
Illinois.....	26.2	28.2	44,729	140,142
Michigan.....	29.1	30.4	50,907	103,823
Wisconsin.....	26.2	26.4	36,706	44,924
West North Central...	26.0	30.1	157,185	168,307
Minnesota.....	24.8	28.6	32,126	40,654
Iowa.....	24.1	29.2	31,254	29,321
Missouri.....	29.3	31.0	35,863	49,395
North Dakota.....	26.3	36.9	11,808	4,776
South Dakota.....	30.0	35.5	10,552	5,853
Nebraska.....	23.8	30.0	16,157	15,019
Kansas.....	23.8	29.5	19,425	23,289
South Atlantic.....	36.1	34.7	312,031	223,397
Delaware.....	28.9	30.1	3,464	3,790
Maryland.....	27.8	29.6	24,019	29,404
District of Columbia	—	25.5	—	20,815
South Atlantic—Cont'd				
Virginia.....	39.0	37.8	51,079	30,978
West Virginia.....	41.3	37.7	36,808	15,588
North Carolina.....	34.6	36.8	77,270	32,160
South Carolina.....	41.6	37.9	38,413	19,346
Georgia.....	32.2	37.3	55,893	36,801
Florida.....	36.7	34.3	25,085	34,515
East South Central....	36.9	40.9	202,934	107,044
Kentucky.....	39.2	41.2	51,743	25,433
Tennessee.....	37.1	38.6	48,897	33,230
Alabama.....	36.8	39.6	54,040	31,332
Mississippi.....	34.6	47.2	48,254	17,049
West South Central....	38.8	42.1	168,830	200,654
Arkansas.....	26.0	33.4	32,864	15,172
Louisana.....	38.6	37.2	38,171	35,141
Oklahoma.....	31.3	37.3	24,697	25,689
Texas.....	47.2	45.6	73,098	124,652
Mountain.....	46.6	38.5	62,879	72,838
Montana.....	29.4	31.9	7,581	7,454
Idaho.....	29.5	30.1	8,767	7,365
Wyoming.....	39.2	39.8	3,754	3,664
Colorado.....	43.4	35.3	12,655	20,355
New Mexico.....	76.1	62.0	11,743	8,776
Arizona.....	72.7	44.9	7,937	11,258
Utah.....	24.3	29.7	8,574	12,140
Nevada.....	40.1	39.4	1,868	1,826
Pacific.....	31.4	26.6	104,831	226,910
Washington.....	28.2	27.1	22,064	33,769
Oregon.....	24.8	26.1	16,285	18,921
California.....	34.1	26.5	66,482	174,220

Source: Federal Security Agency, National Office of Vital Statistics, Special Reports, Vol. 35, Nos. 7 and 17.

CHANGES IN CENSUS DEFINITIONS

1940 AND 1950

Data in the 1950 Census incorporate major changes in the classification of the population by urban, rural nonfarm, and rural farm residence. As a result, 1950 population data by residence are not comparable with corresponding data based on the 1940 and earlier censuses. In 1950, the urban definition was modified to include inhabitants of closely built-up suburban areas and other densely settled areas, most of which had been classified in earlier censuses as rural. The net effect of this change in definition was to transfer 7.5 million persons, or 5 percent of the total population, from the rural to the urban classification, most of this at the expense of the rural nonfarm population.

The 1950 Census also incorporated changes in the method of determining farm and nonfarm residence. In 1950, persons living on "farms" who were paying cash rent for their house and yard only were classified as nonfarm; likewise, all persons in institutions, summer camps, motels, etc., were classified as nonfarm. Previously, these could have been classified as farm. This change in definition resulted in a transfer of approximately 2.1 million persons from the farm to the nonfarm classification.

Data for 1940 cannot be adjusted to 1950 definitions because the arbitrary boundaries established by the 1950 Census do not follow the boundaries of enumeration areas of the 1940 Census. The 1950 data, however, can be classified by 1940 definitions to show rural and urban changes. Population data so classified are presented in chart 2.

The 1950 Census definition for family is a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are regarded as members of the same family. This represents a change from the definition used in the 1940 Census.

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