

ICPSR 8299

**Cost of Living in the United
States, 1917-1919**

*United States Department of Labor.
Bureau of Labor Statistics*

Description

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Readme

Users are informed that OSIRIS dictionary files are stored in EBCDIC. Osiris is a statistical software package, developed by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, which is no longer supported.

Users are reminded that in order to use the OSIRIS dictionary and data files in an interface such as the one in the SAS program package, the data file must also be in EBCDIC. To allow users to use the data independently of the OSIRIS dictionaries, the data files have been stored in ASCII. Therefore, before running the dictionary and data files through this interface, the data file would need to be converted from ASCII to EBCDIC. Users are urged to consult with their local support staff to determine what procedures are to be used to do the necessary conversions locally. However, this should be a fairly straightforward process in most cases. As an example for a user in a UNIX environment, the following steps get the user an EBCDIC file that can then be used with the OSIRIS interface (the example is for study 8764.)

```
tr -d \\n &lt; da8764 &gt; da8764b
dd if=da8764b of=da8764dd conv=ebcdic
```

Please note that this series of commands generates a stream file (in this case da8764dd) which is in EBCDIC. Therefore, whenever you again need an ASCII version of the OSIRIS data file, return to the original file that you downloaded from ICPSR. Do not attempt to convert this EBCDIC file back to ASCII. Such a conversion would not generate a file that would be identical to the OSIRIS data file originally downloaded from ICPSR. The OSIRIS dictionary file must never be converted to ASCII since dictionaries contain binary fields that would be corrupted by such a conversion. The ICPSR Technical Services staff has been generating SAS and SPSS data definition statements, as needed, for the OSIRIS/LRECL format of selected data collections that have been available primarily in OSIRIS format. Previously users of these collections had to use the SAS and/or SPSS OSIRIS interfaces or had to code their own data definition statements. For a complete set of files for any given Dataset, the user should download the data file, the codebook file, the data map file (if present), and the SAS and/or SPSS data definition statements. The dictionary file should be ignored unless the user prefers to run the OSIRIS interface in either SAS or SPSS and create their own data definition statements. In this latter instance the user would need to follow the instructions for working with the OSIRIS format found elsewhere in the README file. Please note that no other data processing is done on these collections at this time.

Users should note that some codebooks may include deck and column information as well as location (normally labeled LOC) information in the individual variable descriptions. If you are using the codebook for location information about individual variables, please ignore the deck and column information and use only the location (LOC) information. The variable number, which is found on the line beginning with VAR, will further assist in identifying variables in each Dataset.

Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 8299

Title: Cost of Living in the United States, 1917-1919

Principal Investigator(s): United States Department of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Series: Cost of Living Survey Series

Funding Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities.

Grant Number: RT-20344-83, and RT-20576-85

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Scope of Study

Summary: This collection contains data obtained from families of wage earners or salaried workers in industrial locales scattered throughout the United States. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the cost of living of a "typical" American family. The completed questionnaires contain information about income sources and family expenditures including specific quantities and costs of food, housing, clothing, fuel, furniture, and miscellaneous household items for the calendar year. Demographic characteristics recorded for each household member include relationship to head, age, sex, occupation, weeks spent in the household and employed, wage rate, and total earnings.

Subject Term(s): consumers, cost of living, economic indicators, expenses, families, households, income, urban population, working class

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: 1917 - 1919

Date(s) of Collection: July 1918 - February 1919

Universe: Industrial workers and their families in 99 cities in the United States.

Data Type: survey data

Methodology

Data Source: interview schedules of the Bureau of Labor Statistics

Extent of Processing: DDEF.ICPSR

Access and Availability

Extent of Collection: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (text) + OSIRIS dictionary + SAS data definition statements + SPSS data definition statements

Data Format: Logical Record Length with SAS and SPSS data definition statements

Original ICPSR Release: 1985-01-11

Note: Detailed file-level information (such as LRECL, case count, and variable count) may be found in the file manifest.