

ICPSR 8908

**Study of Consumer Purchases in
the United States, 1935-1936**

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

*United States Department of Agriculture.
Bureau of Home Economics*

Description

Inter-university Consortium for
Political and Social Research
P.O. Box 1248
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
www.icpsr.umich.edu

Terms of Use

Bibliographic Citation: Publications based on ICPSR data collections should acknowledge those sources by means of bibliographic citations. To ensure that such source attributions are captured for social science bibliographic utilities, citations must appear in footnotes or in the reference section of publications. The bibliographic citation for this data collection is:

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics, et al. STUDY OF CONSUMER PURCHASES IN THE UNITED STATES, 1935-1936 [Computer file]. 2nd ICPSR ed. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1999.

Request for Information on Use of ICPSR Resources: To provide funding agencies with essential information about use of archival resources and to facilitate the exchange of information about ICPSR participants' research activities, users of ICPSR data are requested to send to ICPSR bibliographic citations for each completed manuscript or thesis abstract. Visit the ICPSR Web site for more information on submitting citations.

Data Disclaimer: The original collector of the data, ICPSR, and the relevant funding agency bear no responsibility for uses of this collection or for interpretations or inferences based upon such uses.

Responsible Use Statement: In preparing data for public release, ICPSR performs a number of procedures to ensure that the identity of research subjects cannot be disclosed. Any intentional identification or disclosure of a person or establishment violates the assurances of confidentiality given to the providers of the information. Therefore, users of data obtained from the ICPSR archive and/or any of its special topic archives agree:

- To use these datasets solely for statistical analysis and reporting of aggregated information, and not for investigation of specific individuals or organizations, except when identification is authorized in writing by ICPSR
- To make no use of the identity of any person or establishment discovered inadvertently, and to advise ICPSR of any such discovery
- To produce no links among ICPSR datasets or among ICPSR data and other datasets that could identify individuals or organizations

Redistribution: ICPSR data may not be redistributed or sold to other individuals, institutions, or organizations without the written agreement of ICPSR.

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.

Bibliographic Description

ICPSR Study No.: 8908

Title: Study of Consumer Purchases in the United States, 1935-1936

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

Series: Cost of Living Survey Series

Funding Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities, and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.

Grant Number: RT-20853-87 and B1989-22

Bibliographic Citation: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics, et al. STUDY OF CONSUMER PURCHASES IN THE UNITED STATES, 1935-1936 [Computer file]. 2nd ICPSR ed. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [producer and distributor], 1999.

Scope of Study

Summary: In 1935, the principal investigators interviewed a national sample of all families in the United States to ascertain for the first time in a single national survey the earning and spending habits of inhabitants of large and small cities, villages, and farms. Families completed questionnaires that reported in detail all household income sources and expenditures. Respondents were asked to list the amount of all income received by the family from each person employed as well as from other sources such as gifts, interest and dividends, pensions, and work in the home. Complete information was also provided on family composition, type of living quarters, housing accommodations, fuel and other utility expenses, medical care, recreational activities, tobacco use, purchase of reading materials, educational expenses, miscellaneous occupational expenses, gifts furnished, taxes paid, automobile expenses, personal care costs, and a detailed appraisal of all changes in family assets and liabilities over the course of the previous year. Families also reported the quantity of food items consumed, unit purchase price, and total expense of all food items consumed by the family in the seven days prior to the interview. In addition, families were queried on furnishings and equipment

purchased for the home as well as on all items of clothing purchased for each family member in the previous year. Demographic characteristics recorded for each household member include relationship to the household head, age, sex, occupation, weeks spent at home or away from home, wage rate, length of time employed during the year, and total earnings.

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

Geographic Coverage: United States

Time Period: 1935 - 1937

Date(s) of Collection: 1935 - 1937

Universe: All native-born families living in the United States in 1935-1936.

Data Type: survey data

Data Collection Notes: (1) A portion of the families surveyed in this collection provided only basic income and housing information while other families also provided detailed expenditure information. Part 1, released previously, includes income and housing data for ALL sampled families in urban areas, regardless of whether they provided expenditure information. Part 2 includes income and housing data for urban and rural families who DID NOT provide any expenditure data. Parts 3 and 4 include both income and expenditure data for urban and rural families, respectively. (2) Facsimilies of the original income and expenditure interview forms (called "schedules") are provided as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided through the ICPSR Website on the Internet.

Methodology

Sample: The data were collected from 51 cities, 140 villages, and 66 farm counties. The principal investigators selected these areas as primary sampling units to represent the demographic, regional, and economic characteristics of the United States. From these areas a randomly selected group of approximately 700,000 families were screened as a first wave. From this first group, approximately 300,000 families were selected to supply basic income and housing information. Some 61,000 families were selected from this second group to furnish more

comprehensive expenditure information. For the present collection, random subsamples of approximately 5,000 families who completed income schedules only and 6,000 families who completed both income and expenditure schedules were chosen.

Data Source: interview schedules of the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Home Economics

Extent of Processing: CDBK.ICPSR/ CONCHK.ICPSR/ DDEF.ICPSR/ UNDOCCHK.ICPSR

Access and Availability

Extent of Collection: 4 data files + machine-readable documentation (text) + SAS data definition statements + SPSS data definition statements + data collection instruments (PDF)

Data Format: Card Image (Part 1) and LRECL (Parts 2-4) with SPSS data definition statements for all parts and SAS data definition statements for Parts 2-4

Original ICPSR Release: 1991-03-05

Version History: The last update of this study occurred on 1999-04-26.

1999-04-26 - Parts 2 through 4 have been added to this collection, and the data collection instruments are now available in a PDF file.

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

Dataset(s):

- DS1: Income Data for All Sampled Urban Families
- DS2: Income Data for Urban and Rural Families
- DS3: Income and Expenditure Data for Urban Families
- DS4: Income and Expenditure Data for Rural Families