













# **SPENDING AND SAVING PATTERNS**

**of Illinois Farm Families  
From 1933 to 1950**

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# SPENDING AND SAVING PATTERNS OF ILLINOIS FARM FAMILIES FROM 1933 TO 1950

By RUTH CRAWFORD FREEMAN, Assistant Professor of Family Economics

FARM FAMILIES are more sensitive to economic changes than most other types of families, and the eighteen years from 1933 to 1950 represent a period when great economic changes occurred. Yet, when in 1928 a study of the way Illinois farm families used their money was undertaken and families in various counties agreed to keep annual accounts of their financial activities,<sup>1</sup> no one could have foreseen the changes that were to come. These changes, caused by depression, war, and postwar boom, were reflected in the accounts of these families, and for this reason it was considered appropriate to summarize these accounts at this time.

This study has several purposes, primarily (1) to discover the long-time trends in the farm family's use of its monetary resources; (2) to determine how the farm family adjusted to changing economic situations; and (3) to provide patterns by which farm families can appraise the way they spend and save. A secondary but hardly less important purpose of this study is to present these data in tabular and graphic form so that other research workers — home economists, agriculturalists, economists, businessmen, and home managers — may find some of the answers they seek in regard to such questions as:

1. To what extent has the farm family's level of living risen since 1933, the worst year of the depression?
2. Has the farm family achieved security as measured by savings?
3. Have farm family expenditures been greater or less than available cash?
4. Have these farm families discovered a pattern of saving and spending that can be of value to other farm families?

<sup>1</sup> Two reports on the consumption patterns of Illinois farm families, based on the records kept from 1928 to 1932, have been published:

Freeman, Ruth Crawford, and Souder, M. Attie. Living expenditures of a selected group of Illinois farm and small-town families (1929-30). Ill. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 372. 1931.

Freeman, Ruth Crawford. Living expenditures of a group of Illinois farm families, 1930, 1931, 1932. Ill. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 406. 1934.

In addition, an individual summary for each of these years has been issued in mimeographed form.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE DATA

### Source of the Data

Farm families, largely from northern and central Illinois, enrolled in the project and agreed to keep family accounts. Before they started these accounts, they were given instructions at an initial meeting on how to keep them and what items to enter, as well as how to use the accounts as a tool to help channel their resources toward short- and long-time goals.

In addition to this family account, about half of the families enrolled in the project kept records that itemized farm income and production expenses. Families that kept both kinds of records transferred total farm income and farm expenses to the family account book at the end of each year, or these figures were obtained from the summarized farm account record kept by the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Illinois.

### Accuracy of the Data

Unlike the data gathered by the enumerative survey method, which relies heavily upon memory, the data for this study were recorded by the farm homemaker day by day and balanced, either monthly or yearly, with net money receipts. The family's cash outlay was expected to balance those receipts within 6 percent.

To check the accuracy of the records still farther, the net cash income, as given in the farm account book, was annually compared with cash outlay, as given in the family account book. The comparison showed that the accounts closely agreed.

### Extent and Continuity of the Data

Of the 5,171 yearly accounts kept by farm families from 1933 to 1950 and analyzed at the University, more than one-fourth had been kept for longer than a 10-year period and more than one-half for longer than a 5-year period. A breakdown of the records for the year 1948 (chosen because it was the year of highest cash outlay) shows that of the 200 accounts summarized:

185 came from families that had submitted records for 1947

182 came from families that had submitted records for 5 or more years

116 came from families that had submitted records for 10 or more years

36 came from families that had submitted records for 15 or more years

9 came from families that had submitted records for 20 or more years

Yearly participation in the project ranged from 166 to 492 families and averaged about 300 families. Starting in 1941, the number of accounts received for analysis steadily declined. This was due primarily to two causes: (1) the lack of time that county home advisers had to visit the account-keeping families and so maintain the project, and

(2) the growing incomes of farm families, which made them less concerned about keeping accounts. Those families, however, that had kept records for more than one year recognized that the records helped them to improve their money management and generally continued to participate in the project. (Table 1 gives the number of accounts received each year that were complete enough for the purpose of analysis and shows the distribution of these records according to cash outlay levels.)

Thirty-one families kept continuous records from 1933 to 1950, except for four that discontinued after 1948. Although the data from these accounts were tabulated with the data from the other accounts, they were of sufficient interest to be considered separately, since they were uninterrupted for 16 years of the project in contrast to the other accounts which were kept for shorter periods.

### Representativeness of the Data

To determine the representativeness of the families whose records are analyzed in this bulletin, the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics (now Home Economics Research Branch), jointly investigated the 1946 status of these families. From their published findings<sup>1</sup> these two paragraphs are quoted:

The economic level represented by the account-keeping families in 1946 is the span of total family outlays between \$2,000 and \$7,000. As to family type and economic level, the account-keeping families are representative of [the middle] one-third of the Illinois farm-operator families.

These limitations of the account-keeping group make it more homogeneous than is the total farm population since it lacks the economic extremes of the total population and is composed of relatively few family types.

From these statements it is clear that the families that submitted books were not representative of the average Illinois farm family. Nevertheless the adjustments these families made and the patterns they adopted in using their monetary resources are suggestive of what is done by Illinois farm families whose incomes are higher than average and who are careful in managing their money.

## ANALYSIS OF SPENDING AND SAVING PATTERNS FROM 1933 TO 1950

To determine the patterns in farm family saving and spending, the data on cash outlay were organized into four divisions — savings, income tax, interest payments, and family expenditures — and two of these divisions, savings and family expenditures, were subdivided into

<sup>1</sup> Pennock, Jean L., Brew, Margaret L., and Tillinghast, Rose C. Farm family spending and saving in Illinois, with a comparison of survey and home-accounts data. U. S. Dept. Agr. Inf. Bul. 101, p. 19. 1954.

Table 1.—Number of Family Account Records From Illinois Farm Families Used for Analysis, 1933-1950

Year	Under \$500	\$500- 999	\$1,000- 1,499	\$1,500- 1,999	\$2,000- 2,499	\$2,500- 2,999	\$3,000- 3,999	\$4,000- 4,999	\$5,000- 5,999	\$6,000- 6,999	\$7,000- 8,999	\$9,000 andover	Total
	<b>Prewar years</b>												
1933	37	75	34	10	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	167
1934	44	97	45	24	12	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	231
1935	22	81	63	19	18	7	3	1	0	1	1	0	216
1936	12	71	54	46	20	10	18	6	2	0	1	0	240
1937	7	67	71	56	30	19	18	5	3	3	1	0	280
1938	13	79	98	63	30	41	29	5	2	1	3	1	365
1939	12	93	136	94	54	21	38	12	6	3	2	1	472
1940	6	85	110	112	47	49	40	16	8	5	6	8	492
1941	2	39	89	71	76	38	56	41	12	11	8	5	448
Sub-total	155	687	700	495	290	199	205	86	33	24	22	15	2,911
	<b>War years</b>												
1942	0	10	51	51	36	46	83	39	26	11	27	13	393
1943	0	7	17	25	28	32	66	41	25	35	27	37	340
1944	0	0	10	31	28	29	66	41	22	16	22	35	300
1945	0	0	12	22	30	25	41	29	20	17	22	20	238
Sub-total	0	17	90	129	122	132	256	150	93	79	98	105	1,271
	<b>Postwar years</b>												
1946	0	0	6	9	21	22	41	45	28	17	23	26	238
1947	0	0	4	11	13	9	30	29	28	16	27	37	204
1948	0	0	4	7	14	11	29	34	23	26	17	35	200
1949	0	0	6	9	7	20	35	26	22	14	22	20	181
1950	0	0	9	10	10	14	41	23	16	10	12	21	166
Sub-total	0	0	29	46	65	76	176	157	117	83	101	139	989
Total	155	704	819	670	477	407	637	393	243	186	221	259	5,171

various categories. These data, arranged under three periods, the prewar years (1933-1941), the war years (1942-1945), and the postwar years (1946-1950), are given for various cash outlay levels. In addition, the data for all levels are averaged in three ways to show overall patterns: by percentage, by actual dollars, and by dollars adjusted for price change. Median percentage is also used to correct any distortion that may appear from averaging data taken from families having an extremely high or an extremely low cash outlay. More important, median percentage is used to establish bases of comparison between the prewar and postwar years.

### Cash Outlay

In this study the term *cash outlay* is used to designate all the money that is set aside or spent for any activity whatever, except for the farm business itself. On the one hand, money so allocated is equal to savings, family expenditures, interest payments, and income tax; on the other, to net cash receipts (except for a variance no greater than 6 percent), which may come from any source whatever — net cash income from the farm or from off-farm work, earnings from investments, inheritance and monetary gifts, money borrowed in excess of debt retirement, and from savings in excess of savings made.

During the three periods, average cash outlay per family was as follows:

Prewar years.....	\$1,817
War years.....	4,547
Postwar years.....	5,683

From 1933 to 1943 cash outlay in actual dollars gradually increased, except for 1939 when it declined slightly. In 1944 cash outlay began to fluctuate, but reached its peak in 1948 at \$6,286, six times the 1933 average of \$986. As measured by purchasing power,<sup>1</sup> however, the 1948 outlay was less than three times the 1933 outlay (\$3,097 compared with \$1,133).

The greatest year-to-year increase in actual dollars occurred during the war years 1942 and 1943 when average cash outlay climbed sharply from \$3,643 to \$5,153. Though 1948 represented the peak year for cash outlay, 1943 was the best year of the entire 18-year period for spending. At that time average cash outlay per family was \$5,153, which had a purchasing power of \$3,846 — decidedly more than in 1948 when the average cash outlay of \$6,286 had a purchasing power of only \$3,097 (Tables 2 and 3).

As cash outlay increased, there was a consistent shifting of families

<sup>1</sup> Purchasing power is computed by the price index given in the series of monthly reports issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, under the title, "Agricultural Prices." Revised 1950 (1935-1939 = 100). This index is plotted on some of the figures in this bulletin, together with the price index given by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in its monthly reports, "Consumers' price index" (1935-1939 = 100).

Table 2. — Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(Actual dollars)

	Prewar years										War years					Postwar years			
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
Number of families . . . . .	167	231	216	240	280	365	472	492	448	393	340	300	238	204	200	181	166		
Average number of members in household . . . . .	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6		
Average number of members in family . . . . .	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4		
Average cash outlay . . . . .	\$986	\$998	\$1,236	\$1,563	\$1,744	\$1,853	\$1,801	\$2,139	\$2,627	\$3,643	\$5,153	\$4,966	\$4,645	\$5,239	\$6,240	\$6,286	\$5,548	\$5,058	
<b>Savings</b>																			
Life insurance . . . . .	\$113	\$93	\$117	\$124	\$130	\$132	\$128	\$143	\$148	\$152	\$175	\$178	\$203	\$223	\$247	\$264	\$201	\$219	
Savings bonds . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	789	1,144	545	255	328	203	(b)	(b)	
Other savings . . . . .	82	38	23	118	62	205	161	263	430	488	743	695	891	1,145	1,124	1,019	888	778	
Principal payment . . . . .	47	58	116	200	234	218	148	305	477	787	1,040	748	428	611	647	247	320	478	
Total . . . . .	242	189	256	442	426	555	437	711	1,055	1,807	2,747	2,765	2,067	2,234	2,346	1,733	1,409	1,475	
<b>Interest payments</b> . . . . .	65	46	51	72	115	131	136	140	146	168	171	131	132	102	80	66	117	111	
<b>Income tax</b> . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	90	592	223 <sup>c</sup>	463	430	685	1,080	549	348	
<b>Family expenditures</b>																			
Food . . . . .	147	173	197	224	255	233	227	235	267	311	352	383	401	459	541	570	566	586	
Operating improve- . . . . .	100	103	108	131	142	149	156	177	184	211	223	223	235	255	290	331	345	360	
Housing improve- . . . . .	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	(d)	50	44	134	138	130	234	214	254	228	
Housing repairs . . . . .	18	22	36	57	74	104	93	20	32	37	50	57	50	53	69	113	60	60	
Furnishings and equipment . . . . .	45	51	75	94	126	99	104	122	145	164	124	121	118	237	367	383	333	272	
Clothing . . . . .	101	126	141	148	158	144	150	154	184	232	246	249	260	311	356	394	335	305	
Personal . . . . .	25	23	29	37	36	38	39	38	44	53	61	74	85	99	107	90	114	81	
Transportation . . . . .	81	88	122	143	169	136	170	176	195	116	97	100	130	190	300	387	440	351	
Medical care . . . . .	42	53	65	68	72	75	81	92	95	124	137	144	178	196	190	207	234	217	
Recreation . . . . .	24	22	28	37	41	49	44	45	45	52	43	50	55	53	48	45	45	43	
Education . . . . .	52	52	66	70	48	64	74	83	83	95	80	85	83	106	145	151	195	134	
Gifts . . . . .	44	50	62	70	82	84	88	98	107	133	176	227	250	317	382	450	443	380	
Total . . . . .	679	763	929	1,079	1,203	1,167	1,228	1,288	1,424	1,578	1,643	1,847	1,983	2,473	3,129	3,457	3,473	3,124	

<sup>a</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>b</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

<sup>c</sup> Income tax appears lower this year than the preceding or succeeding year because the date of filing estimated income tax was changed from December 15, 1944 to January 15, 1945.

<sup>d</sup> Cash spent for housing improvements was combined with cash spent for housing repairs until 1940, at which time housing improvements was recorded as a separate item. Housing improvements is listed as a consumption item under family expenditures and not as an investment under savings because such improvements do not seem to increase the sales value of land.

Table 3. — Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(In dollars, adjusted for price changes<sup>a</sup>)

	Prewar years										War years					Postwar years				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950		
Number of families....	167	231	216	240	280	365	472	492	448	393	340	300	238	238	204	200	181	166		
Average number of members in household	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.6		
Average number of members in family...	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4		
Average cash outlay...	\$1,133	\$1,008	\$1,236	\$1,593	\$1,677	\$1,872	\$1,857	\$2,183	\$2,502	\$3,011	\$3,846	\$3,497	\$3,160	\$3,214	\$3,250	\$3,097	\$2,816	\$2,542		
<b>Savings, interest payments, and income tax</b> .....	\$553	\$238	\$307	\$514	\$520	\$693	\$591	\$869	\$1,146	\$1,707	\$2,620	\$2,196	\$1,811	\$1,697	\$1,620	\$1,394	\$1,063	\$972		
<b>Family expenditures</b>																				
Food.....	179	184	191	217	243	245	239	247	259	255	251	268	277	273	269	270	283	284		
Operating.....	105	103	108	132	141	148	156	175	175	195	199	196	201	202	197	216	227	237		
Housing improve- ments and repairs..	20	22	36	58	72	104	94	71	71	74	76	143	136	121	144	142	148	126		
Furnishings and equipment.....	49	50	74	93	122	100	108	131	146	144	98	89	81	147	198	201	182	149		
Clothing.....	113	122	142	149	153	144	155	157	169	176	164	147	141	150	150	157	139	127		
Transportation....	88	91	126	144	167	132	168	174	182	99	78	76	99	138	207	240	257	203		
Personal.....																				
Medical care.....																				
Recreation.....	4226	198	252	286	259	306	346	359	354	361	360	382	414	486	465	477	527	444		
Education.....																				
Gifts.....																				
<b>Total</b> .....	780	770	929	1,079	1,157	1,179	1,266	1,314	1,356	1,304	1,226	1,301	1,349	1,517	1,630	1,703	1,763	1,570		

<sup>a</sup> Adjustment based on index prices (1935-1939=100) given in the monthly reports issued by the U.S. Dept. of Agr., Bureau of Agricultural Economics, under the title, "Agricultural prices," Revised, 1940.

<sup>b</sup> Not available for this year.

Since no price index was available for either *savings, interest payments, or income tax*, it was assumed that the difference between adjusted total cash outlay and adjusted total family expenditures would be the adjusted figures for these categories.

<sup>c</sup> No index was available for these categories, so the difference between adjusted total family expenditures and the total of those categories under family expenditures for which price indexes were available was assumed to be the composite figure for these categories.

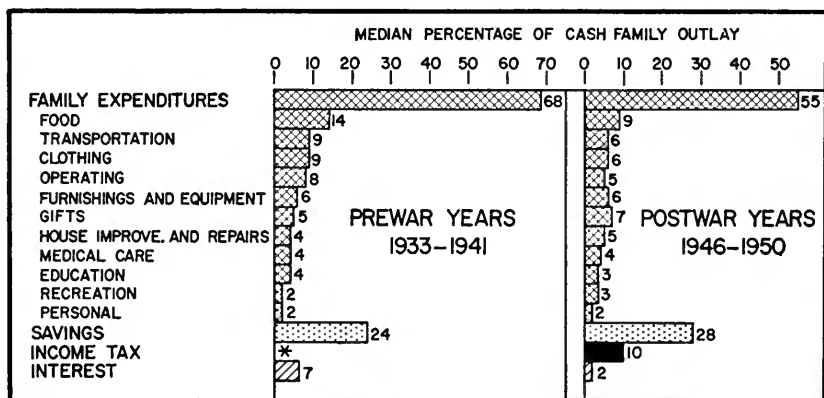
from lower cash outlay levels to successively higher ones, which resulted in a continual redistribution of farm families. In 1933, for example, no accounts came from families earning more than \$2,999; in 1950, there were 773 such accounts (Table 1).

The italicized statements that appear hereafter summarize certain trends. These statements are based on a comparison of the median percentage of cash outlay used for a given category during the prewar years with the median percentage of cash outlay used for the same category during the postwar years.

### Savings

*As cash outlay increased, the percentage saved increased.* In this study the term *savings* excludes all investments in the operation of the farm business.

As cash outlay increased, the farm family put a larger percentage of its money into savings (Fig. 1). This percentage rose from a prewar median of 24 percent to a postwar median of 28 percent. As the farm family moved out of the depression, it managed its money with conservatism. Instead of buying a great deal of consumer goods, the farm family paid off debts and attempted to secure itself against another possible depression by careful investment.



\* LESS THAN 1 PERCENT.

As cash outlay increased from the prewar to the postwar period, these farm families spent a smaller median percentage of their money in almost all categories under family expenditures, and were able to save a larger proportion of their money. (Fig. 1)



Savings were lowest in 1934, representing only 19 percent of cash outlay (Table 4), but by fits and starts savings gradually increased during the prewar years to 40 percent. In actual dollars, average savings per family rose from \$189 in 1934 to \$1,055 in 1941. The peak in savings was reached during the war years, and accounted for more than one-half (50 to 56 percent) of cash outlay, except for the year 1945 when savings dropped below that level (44 percent). During the postwar years, savings gradually declined from 43 percent (\$2,234) in 1946 to 25 percent (\$1,409) in 1949. Some reasons for this decline were the sharp rise in the cost of goods and services, the buying of commodities that had been withheld during the war, and the generally higher payments for income taxes.

1944 was the year of highest savings (56 percent) — a sharp contrast to 1934, the year of lowest savings (19 percent). In actual dollars, the savings made by farm families in 1944 were slightly more than fourteen times as great as in 1934, \$2,765 as compared with \$189.

**Life insurance.** The peak for payments on life insurance was reached in 1933 at 11 percent of cash outlay. After this year life insurance premiums steadily declined, and by 1948 such savings represented only 4 percent of cash outlay. In actual dollars, however, the premiums paid in 1948 more than doubled those paid in 1933 (\$264 as compared with \$113).

**Savings bonds.** The purchase of savings (war) bonds rose from 11 percent in 1942 to a peak of 23 percent in 1944, then declined to 4 percent by 1948.

**Other savings.** In this study *other savings* includes purchase of land, net change in bank balances,<sup>1</sup> postal savings, and investments in bonds (other than savings bonds) and stocks.

Other savings were lowest in 1935, representing only 2 percent of cash outlay (\$23), but rose to 16 percent (\$430) in 1941. During the war years the range was between 13 (\$488) and 19 percent (\$891). The peak was reached in 1946 at 22 percent (\$1,145), then gradually declined to 16 percent (\$1,019) in 1948.

**Principal payments.** As noted earlier, one of the first reactions of the farm family to increased cash outlay was to repay debts. These payments ranged from 5 percent of cash outlay in 1933 to 18 percent in 1941. From the peak of 22 percent in 1942, repayment of debts dropped to 4 percent in 1948, then rose to 6 percent in 1949 and to 9 percent in 1950.

**Savings by cash outlay levels.** During the prewar years, families in successively higher cash outlay levels saved consistently higher median percentages of their cash outlay. Those in the \$1,000-1,499 level saved a median of 17 percent, while those in the \$5,000-5,999 level saved a

<sup>1</sup> Net change in bank balance is computed by subtracting the bank balance at the beginning of the year from the bank balance at the end of the year.

Table 4. — Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(In percentage)

	Prewar years										War years										Postwar years				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950							
Number of families.....	167	231	216	240	280	365	472	492	448	393	340	300	238	238	204	200	181	166							
Average number of members in household.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.9	3.6							
Average number of members in family.....	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.4							
Average cash outlay.....	\$986	\$1,236	\$1,593	\$1,744	\$1,853	\$1,801	\$2,139	\$2,627	\$3,643	\$5,153	\$4,966	\$4,645	\$5,239	\$6,240	\$6,286	\$5,548	\$5,088	(100%)							
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)							
<b>Savings</b>																									
Life insurance.....	11	9	10	8	7	7	7	7	6	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	4							
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	15	23	12	5	5	4	(b)	(b)							
Other savings.....	8	4	2	7	4	11	9	12	16	13	15	14	19	22	18	16	16	15							
Principal payments.....	5	6	9	13	13	12	8	14	18	22	20	15	9	12	11	4	6	9							
Total.....	24	19	21	28	24	30	24	33	40	50	53	56	44	43	38	28	25	28							
Interest payments.....	7	5	4	4	7	7	8	7	6	5	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	2							
Income tax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(c)	2	12	4 <sup>d</sup>	10	8	11	16	10	7							
<b>Family expenditures</b>																									
Food.....	15	18	16	14	15	13	13	11	10	9	7	8	9	9	9	9	10	12							
Operating.....	10	10	9	8	8	8	9	8	7	6	4	4	5	5	4	5	6	7							
Housing improve-ments.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	4	3	5	5							
Housing repairs.....	2	2	3	4	4	6	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1							
Furnishings and equipment.....	5	5	6	6	7	5	8	6	5	5	2	2	2	2	5	6	6	5							
Clothing.....	10	13	12	9	9	8	8	7	7	6	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6							
Personal.....	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2							
Transportation.....	8	9	10	9	10	7	9	8	7	3	2	3	3	3	5	6	8	7							
Medical care.....	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	4	4							
Recreation.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3							
Education.....	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	3							
Gifts.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	3	5	5	6	6	7	8	8							
Total.....	69	76	75	68	69	63	68	60	54	43	32	37	43	47	50	55	63	63							

<sup>a</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>b</sup> Figures for saving bonds and other savings were combined this year.

<sup>c</sup> Less than 1 percent.

<sup>d</sup> Income tax appears lower this year than the preceding year because the date for filing estimated income tax was changed from December 15, 1944, to January 15, 1945. Cash spent for housing improvements was combined with cash spent for housing repairs until 1940, at which time housing improvements was recorded as a separate item. Housing improvements is listed as a consumption item under family expenditures and not as an investment under savings because such improvements do not seem to increase the sales value of land.

median of 50 percent (Fig. 2). This trend, except for slight variations, was the same during the postwar years, but the range was not nearly so great — a median of 8 percent for families in the \$1,500-1,999 level and a median of 21 percent for families in the \$3,000-3,999 and \$5,000-5,999 levels.

Regardless of the amount of cash available, the farm family remained cautious. Long before 1933 the farm family knew the dangers of debt, the perils of inadequate capital reserves, the instability of most forms of investments, and the demands of recurring expenses, and adjusted its spending and saving patterns in such a way as to cope with these problems. By 1950 the farm family had solved some of these problems. It had decreased its debts, enlarged its capital reserves, and invested carefully.

### **Interest Payments**

Interest payments took a larger percentage of cash outlay during the prewar years, 4 to 8 percent or a median of 7, than during either of the two other periods, which showed a range of 1 to 5 percent or a median of 2. The decline in interest payments after the prewar years is explained by the fact that debts had been repaid rapidly, the peak of such repayment being reached in 1942 at 22 percent.

The amount of interest payments for different cash outlay levels is shown in Tables 8 to 19 in the Appendix.

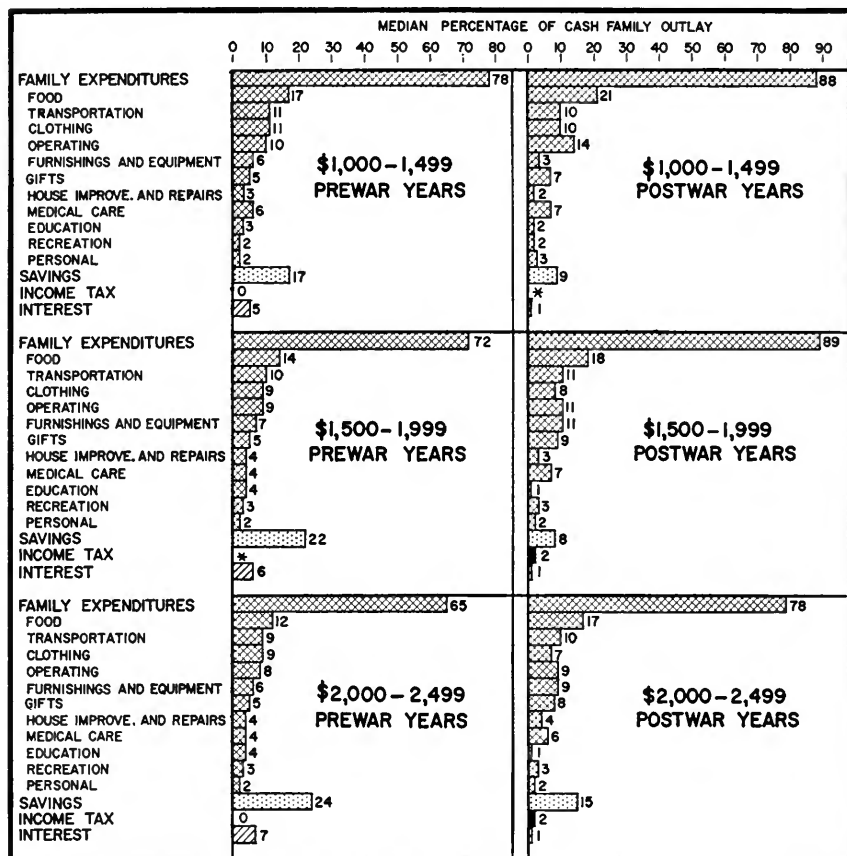
### **Income Tax Payments**

The average amount paid for income taxes rose from a fraction of 1 percent in 1941 — the first year that taxes were paid by these families — to a peak of 16 percent in 1948, the year of highest cash outlay. With cash outlay decreasing in 1949 and 1950, the percentage spent for income tax dropped considerably, to 10 percent in 1949 and to 7 percent in 1950. Income taxes, cutting into cash outlay, had the primary effect of reducing the amount that would ordinarily have gone into savings.

### **Family Expenditures**

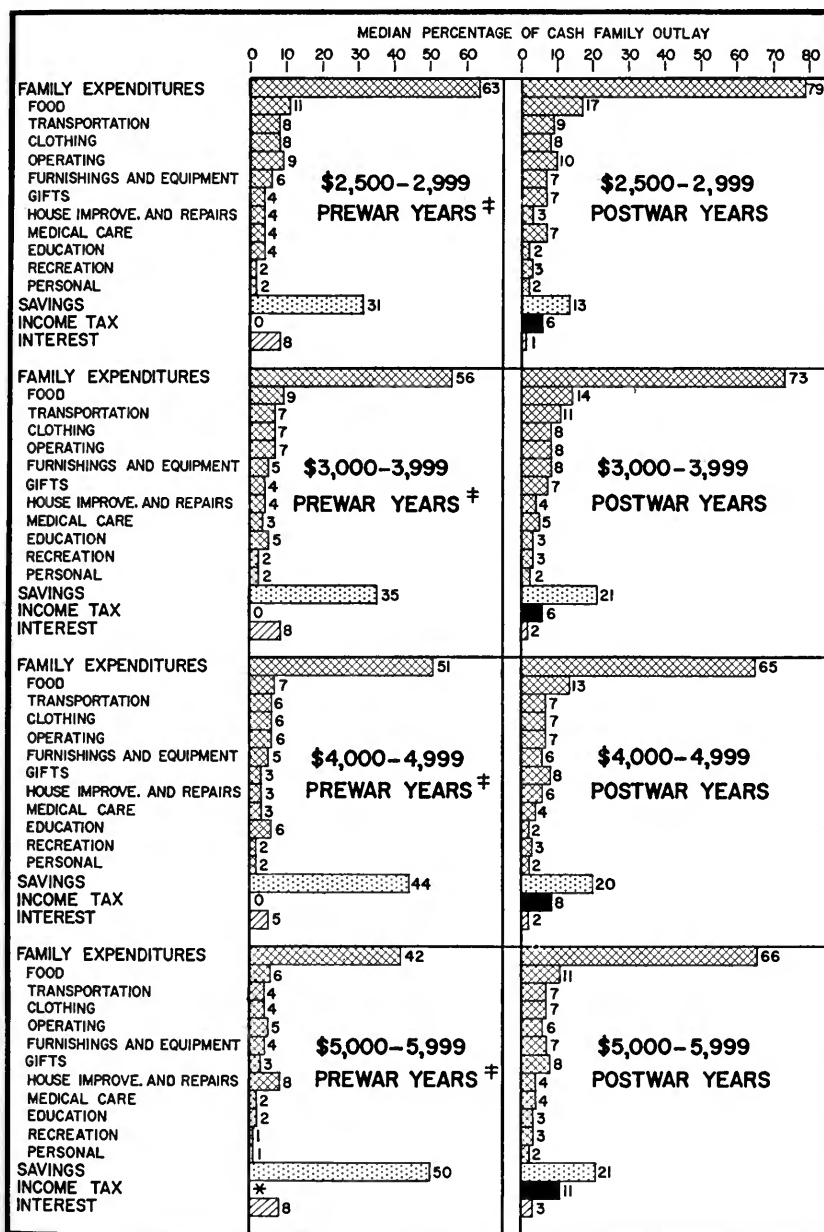
*As cash outlay increased, the percentage used for family expenditures decreased.* As used here, *family expenditures* includes these categories: purchased food, operating expenses for the home, housing improvements and repairs, furnishings and equipment for the home, clothing expenses, personal expenses, transportation (family share), medical, recreational, and educational expenses, as well as gifts (to persons outside the family, to church, and to welfare organizations).

During the prewar period, families in successively higher cash outlay levels used a smaller median percentage of their cash outlay for family expenditures, a trend that, except for minor variations, was true



\* LESS THAN 1 PERCENT

As shown on this and the facing page, the amount spent for food represented the largest median percentage of cash outlay under family expenditures, regardless of cash outlay level. Families that remained in the same cash outlay level in both the prewar and postwar periods found they were spending more and saving less. (See Appendix, page 35, for percentage distribution of cash outlay by levels ranging from below \$500 to \$9,000 and over.) (Fig. 2)



‡ DATA FOR 1938 NOT AVAILABLE.

\* LESS THAN 1 PERCENT.

for the postwar period as well (Fig. 2). Comparing the prewar with the postwar period, this median percentage dropped from 68 to 55 percent — the largest difference of any of the major divisions (Fig. 1).

During the prewar years family expenditures reached their highest percentage, the peak being reached in 1934 at 76 percent, after which they steadily decreased, dropping to 54 percent in 1941. During the war, family expenditures reached their lowest point — 32 percent in 1943 — and did not exceed 43 percent. By 1948, the year of highest cash outlay, family expenditures amounted to 55 percent of cash outlay, then climbed to 63 percent in 1949 as cash outlay diminished, and remained at that level in 1950.

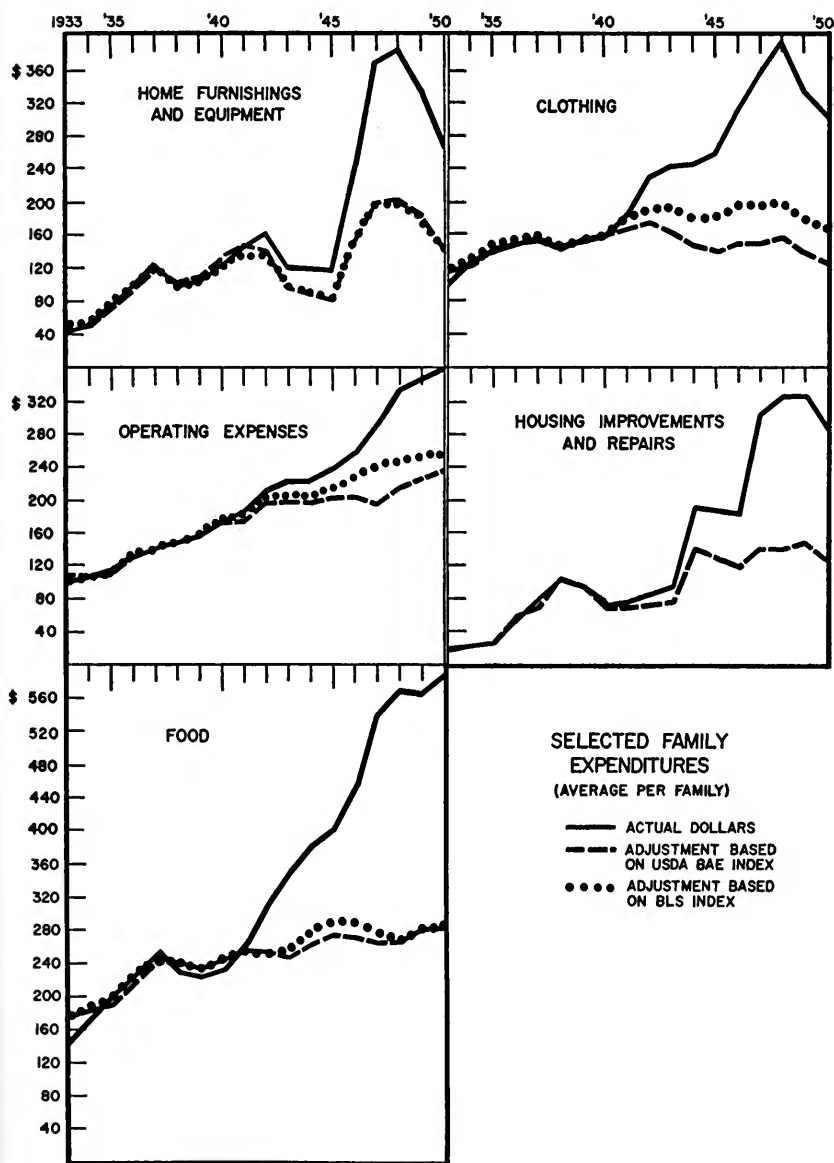
In actual dollars, family expenditures in 1950 were about four and one-half times as great as in 1933, \$3,124 as compared with \$679. Adjusted to a constant purchasing power, this rise had doubled (\$1,570 as compared with \$780), an indication that farm families on the average lived on a higher level during the postwar period than during the prewar period. On the other hand, any family that remained on the same cash outlay level for the entire 18 years was forced to lower its level of living drastically.

Judged only by the purchasing power of the dollar, it would seem that 1933 was the best year of the entire 18-year period for spending. Judged by cash outlay alone, 1948 appears most favorable. The ideal time for spending, however, is when purchasing power of the dollar is great and the cash available is high. That time came in 1943, when cash outlay reached an average of \$5,153 per family and purchasing power went from a 1933 index of 87 to a 1943 index of 134 (1935-1939 = 100).

To make wise decisions in money management, farm families have to consider changing prices and changing values of the dollar — an awareness they more often show as sellers of farm products than as buyers of goods and services.

The categories accounting for family expenditures are discussed below. Fig. 3 shows the distribution of certain family expenditures in actual and adjusted dollars, and Tables 8 to 19 (pages 35 to 46) show the amount paid by different cash outlay levels for family expenditures in percentage.

**Food.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent for food decreased.* Though the food raised by these farm families represented more than 50 percent of their total money value of food (Table 5), purchased food on a percentage basis represented the largest annual expense of all family expenditures. During the prewar period the percentage of cash outlay spent for food decreased from 18 percent in 1934 to 10 percent in 1941. During the war years, it varied from 7 to 9 percent. From 1946 to 1948 the proportion of cash outlay used for food remained constant at 9 percent, then increased to 10 percent in 1949, and to 12 percent in 1950 as cash outlay declined.



When actual dollars are adjusted to a constant purchasing power, it becomes apparent that the amount these families spent for food and clothing varied little throughout the 18-year period, but that they spent more for home furnishings and equipment, for housing improvements and repairs, and for operating expenses. (Fig. 3)

Table 5. — Average Money Value of Living<sup>a</sup> Furnished Illinois Farm Families by the Farm, 1933-1950  
(Actual dollars and percentage)

Year	Number of families	Average money value of living	Average family expenditures	Average value			Value of goods and services furnished by the farm			Percent of total housing	Wood for fuel and home-made soap	Percent of money value of living furnished by farm
				of goods and services furnished by farm	Food	Percent of total food	Housing	Food	Percent of total food			
1933.....	167	\$1,237	\$ 679	\$558	\$309	68	\$229	93	\$20	45		
1934.....	231	1,291	763	528	307	64	209	90	12	41		
1935.....	216	1,505	929	576	361	65	202	81	13	38		
1936.....	240	1,671	1,079	592	370	62	210	79	12	35		
1937.....	280	1,821	1,203	618	384	60	219	75	15	34		
1938.....	365	1,802	1,167	635	387	62	231	70	17	35		
1939.....	472	1,814	1,228	586	338	60	231	71	17	32		
1940.....	492	1,880	1,288	592	336	59	236	76	20	32		
1941.....	448	2,106	1,424	682	425	61	236	75	21	31		
1942.....	393	2,287	1,578	709	452	59	238	80	19	31		
1943.....	340	2,339	1,643	696	440	56	239	72	17	30		
1944.....	300	2,527	1,847	680	432	53	242	56	6	27		
1945.....	238	2,696	1,983	713	464	54	244	56	5	26		
1946.....	238	3,238	2,473	765	527	53	235	56	3	24		
1947.....	204	4,008	3,129	879	634	54	240	44	5	22		
1948.....	200	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )	( <sup>b</sup> )		
1949.....	181	4,415	3,473	942	671	54	266	45	5	21		
1950.....	166	3,978	3,124	854	599	51	255	47	0	21		

<sup>a</sup> Average money value of living equals the average amount of money spent per family for family expenditures plus the value of farm-produced food (figured at retail prices), use-value of the farm dwelling, wood from the farm used for fuel, and soap made at home.

<sup>b</sup> Data not complete for this year.



Adjusted to a constant purchasing power, the amount spent for food during the postwar period was only slightly more than one and one-half times that of the prewar level, climbing from \$179 per family in 1933 to \$284 per family in 1950. One reason for this was that farm families were not raising as much for their own consumption during the postwar years as they had during the depression.

**Operating expenses.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage used for operating expenses decreased.* Operating expenses, which include the cost of fuel, electricity, refrigeration, telephone, banking, and household supplies and services, decreased from a median of 8 percent during the prewar period to a median of 5 percent during the postwar period. In actual dollars, however, operating expenses consistently increased over the 18-year period, rising from \$100 in 1933 to \$360 in 1950. The trend, except for slight variations, was somewhat similar when expressed in adjusted dollars, rising from \$105 in 1933 to \$237 in 1950.

This rise was largely due to the fact that farm families were buying more and more conveniences for the home, which increased the cost of using those conveniences. However, the farm families seem to have secured more for their money in this category than in any other because operating costs were the slowest to rise (Fig. 3).

**Operating expenses by cash outlay levels.** Considered in median percentage, operating expenses for families in all cash outlay levels increased 1 percentage point from the prewar to the postwar period, except for the \$1,000-1,499 level, which showed an increase of 4 percentage points, and the \$1,500-1,999 level, which showed an increase of 2 percentage points (Fig. 2).

Farm families spent more money for fuel, though the farm provided some of that fuel (Table 5), took greater advantage of electrical and telephone service, used more household supplies, and either had home freezers or rented commercial lockers. Operating expenses, once equipment is installed, become as recurring as those for food and continue fairly predictable. This trend of rising operating expenses indicated not only the use of more equipment and services, but a higher level of living.

**Housing improvements and repairs.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent for housing improvements and repairs increased.* Farm family spending for housing improvements and repairs increased from a prewar median of 4 percent to a postwar median of 5 percent. In actual dollars these expenditures were eighteen times as great in 1949 (\$325) as in 1933 (\$18). This rise was partly due to construction costs, which increased greatly during the war and postwar years. Moreover, though farm families had cash to spend in 1943 and 1944, wartime restrictions prevented them from making any extensive improvements and repairs. Once restrictions were removed and materials

became available, farm families proceeded to repair, improve, and modernize their homesteads. By 1950, 77 percent of those who owned their own homes had modern homes<sup>1</sup> (Table 6) — a contrast to the 56 percent who owned homes in 1937, only 35 percent of which were modern. This trend toward the modern home held for tenants as well. Seventy-three percent of the tenants were furnished modern homes by 1950 as compared with 25 percent in 1937. (1937 was the first year that statistics on the modernity of the home were gathered for all families.)

**Table 6. — Number and Percentage of Illinois Farm Families With Modern Houses,<sup>a</sup> by Tenure, 1937-1939 and 1943-1950<sup>b</sup>**

Year	Owners			Tenants		
	Total	Number with modern houses	Percent	Total	Number with modern houses	Percent
1937.....	162	56	35	118	30	25
1938.....	201	78	39	164	46	28
1939.....	250	122	49	222	72	32
1943.....	190	115	61	150	75	50
1944.....	173	114	66	127	68	54
1945.....	144	97	67	94	48	51
1946.....	149	87	58	89	48	54
1947.....	124	83	67	80	45	56
1948.....	122	80	66	78	44	56
1949.....	121	91	75	60	35	58
1950.....	104	80	77	62	45	73

<sup>a</sup> A modern house is defined as one equipped with a central lighting and heating system and having running water under pressure.

<sup>b</sup> Data not complete before 1937 and for 1940, 1941, and 1942.

**Housing improvements and repairs by cash outlay levels.** As would be expected, housing improvements were generally higher in the high cash outlay levels. At the lowest level, \$1,000-1,499, the prewar median was 3 percent, the postwar median, 2 percent. In the \$5,000-5,999 level the prewar median was 8 percent, the postwar median, 4 percent.<sup>2</sup>

**Furnishings and equipment.** *The percentage spent for furnishings and equipment remained constant.* During the entire 18-year period the range for furnishings and equipment varied from only 2 to 7 percent. In actual dollars, the variance was from \$45 (= \$49 in purchasing power) in 1933 to \$383 (= \$201) in 1948. It is not surprising that more dollars were spent in 1948 — the year of highest cash outlay — than in any other year, for during times of low cash outlay, feeding and clothing the family are more important considerations than buying a refrigerator or a vacuum cleaner. During 1948, however, the purchasing power of the dollar was less than half what it was in 1933,

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of this study, a modern house was defined as one equipped with a central heating and lighting system and having running water under pressure.

<sup>2</sup> No attempt has been made to include the costs paid by landlords to improve and repair the housing of their tenants.

and though farm families spent almost nine times as much as they had in 1933 for furnishings and equipment, they received only slightly more than four times the goods they would have received in 1933.

**Furnishings and equipment by cash outlay levels.** Families in the four lower levels (\$1,000-2,999) spent a greater median percentage for furnishings and equipment during the prewar years, 6 to 7 percent as compared with 4 to 5 percent for families in the higher levels (Fig. 2). This pattern changed during the postwar period, families in the four lower levels spending a median of 3 to 11 percent, and families in the higher levels spending a median of 6 to 8 percent. Such expenditures indicated an attempt on the part of these farm families to escape from the washtub, the woodstove, and the icebox, and to introduce more modern equipment. Nevertheless, despite this attempt to make the farm home more livable, 14 percent of these families were still without running water in 1950, and 22 percent had no central heating system. However, the trend to add more and more conveniences to the farm home seems established.

**Clothing.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent for clothing decreased.* Farm family expenditures for clothing varied from 7 to 13 percent during the prewar years, from 5 to 6 percent during the war years, and remained constant at 6 percent during the postwar years. In dollars, the variance was from \$101 (= \$113 in purchasing power) to \$184 (= \$169) during the prewar years, \$232 (= \$176) to \$260 (= \$141) during the war years, and \$306 (= \$127) to \$394 (= \$157) during the postwar years. Of all the categories under family expenditures, this one remained the most stable.

**Clothing by cash outlay levels.** Families in levels under \$3,000 spent a greater median percentage for clothing during the prewar period (8 to 11 percent) than families in higher levels (4 to 7 percent), and during the postwar period the pattern was somewhat the same, a median of 7 to 10 percent for families in the lower levels and a median of 7 to 8 percent for families in the higher levels (Fig. 2). In this respect, the assumption that lower-income families spend a higher proportion of their cash on consumption goods than higher-income families is supported. It should be remembered, however, that expenditures for clothing tend to be stable, and in order to be well-clothed, families having small incomes are forced to spend a larger percentage of their cash for clothing than those having big incomes, but this in no way implies that they necessarily spend more money for clothing than families having large incomes. To indicate just how stable the expenditures for clothing are, it need only be pointed out that these families, though they paid three times as much for clothing in 1950, \$306 (= \$127 in purchasing power), than in 1933, \$101 (= \$113), bought but little more in terms of purchasing power.

**Personal expenses.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent for personal expenses remained constant.* Personal expenses, such as cigarettes, tobacco, cosmetics, barber and beauty-shop services, children's allowances, watches, and jewelry, varied from 1 to 3 percent throughout the 18-year period. In actual dollars, these expenses varied from \$23 in 1934 to \$114 in 1949, and were almost five times as great in the postwar as in the prewar period. Though no price index for this category is available, such a rise indicates a higher level of living, for when income is small, the tendency is to use little for personal items, the converse being true when income is high.

**Personal expenses by cash outlay levels.** As shown in Fig. 2, families on levels below \$3,000 spent a larger median percentage (2 to 3 percent) for personal items than families on higher levels (1 to 2 percent). Some expenditure for personal items is of course necessary, but these families often spent more in this area than they realized. Since single expenditures are usually small, they are seldom planned, although this area is one where economizing can be done if desired.

**Transportation.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage used for transportation decreased.* Only the family share of the purchase price and maintenance expenses of the car is included here, as well as its share of liability insurance and license fees.

The percentage of cash outlay used for transportation varied from 7 to 10 percent during the prewar years, from 2 to 3 percent during the war years when civilian transportation was curtailed, and from 3 to 8 percent during the postwar years. In terms of dollars, the prewar and postwar periods contrasted sharply, expenditures during the prewar period varying from \$81 (= \$88 in purchasing power) in 1933 to \$195 (= \$182) in 1941, and during the postwar years from \$179 (= \$138) in 1946 (still an abnormal year) to \$440 (= \$257) in 1949.

**Transportation by cash outlay levels.** As shown in Fig. 2, families in levels below \$3,000 spent a greater median percentage of their cash outlay on transportation during the prewar years (8 to 11 percent) than families in the higher levels (4 to 7 percent). During the postwar period, the difference was not so great, a median of 9 to 11 percent for families in levels below \$3,000, and 7 to 11 percent for families in the higher levels. Since these farm families bought medium-priced automobiles and used them over a number of years, it appears that maintenance costs rather than initial outlay account for these percentages. This statement does not apply to the first two postwar years 1946 and 1947, for only the larger cars were readily available then and the purchase price often made initial costs high as well.

In planning expenditures for their automobiles, farm families can make some adjustments, for while license fees and liability insurance are stable expenses, other expenditures such as those for gas and oil are flexible.

**Medical expenses.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent for medical care remained constant.* Though medical expenses remained constant over the 18-year period at a median of 4 percent, they were five times as great in 1949 as in 1933, \$234 per family in 1949 as compared with \$42 per family in 1933. Though a price index for medical expenses is not available, these expenses seem greater than can be accounted for by rising costs. Rather, they seem to show that farm families, with greater cash outlay at their command, were not economizing in this area as they once did by putting off essential medical work or by not getting regular health examinations. That these farm families had grown aware of their medical needs is shown by the fact that 61 percent of them were carrying hospitalization insurance in 1950. It is also not unlikely that such insurance made medical expenses appear smaller than what they really were, for by spreading the risk, insurance usually cuts a family's yearly outlay on farm accidents, costly illnesses, or a maternity case.

Families in levels below \$3,000 spent a greater median percentage of their cash outlay both during the prewar and postwar periods (4 to 7 percent) than families in higher levels (2 to 5 percent).

**Recreational expenses.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage used for recreational expenses increased.* These families, while they saw few movies, attended sports events, took frequent vacations, bought equipment for group recreation at home, entertained often, and went to many community affairs. Expenses for recreation did not therefore represent a large part of family expenditures at any time.

Though only a small variation existed on any of the income levels (a median of 1 to 3 percent over the entire cash outlay range), the actual dollars spent for recreation increased considerably.

**Educational expenses.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent for education decreased.* The percentage spent for education dropped from a prewar median of 4 percent to a postwar median of 3 percent. In actual dollars, the variance over the 18-year period was \$48 in 1937 to \$195 in 1949. With the exception of families in the \$5,000-5,999 level, which spent a median of 2 percent for education in the prewar years and a median of 3 percent in the postwar years (Fig. 2), families in levels above \$2,999 spent a higher median percentage for education (2 to 6 percent) than families in the lower levels (1 to 4 percent). Many of the children in these families helped to earn their way through college during the prewar years, and some even used produce from home for their meals.

**Gifts.** *As cash outlay increased, the percentage used for gifts increased.* As used in this study, gifts exclude gifts to members within the immediate family, and include contributions to church and welfare organizations.

The median percentage spent for gifts increased from a prewar median of 5 percent to a postwar median of 7 percent. In actual dollars, the variance during the prewar years was \$44 to \$107; during the postwar years, \$317 to \$450. In family expenditures for the postwar years, the amount for gifts was exceeded only by that for food.

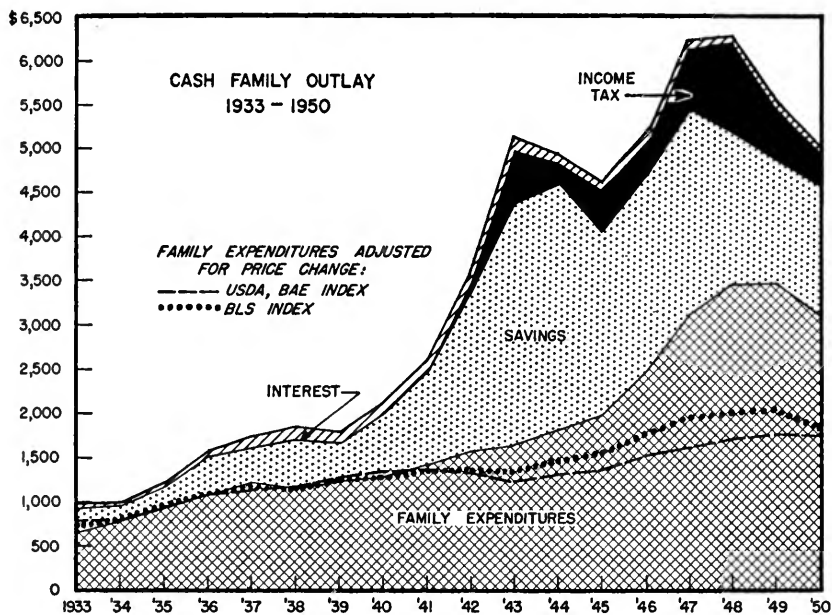
**Gifts by cash outlay levels.** Fig. 2 shows that during the prewar period, families in the levels below \$2,500 spent a greater median percentage of their cash outlay for gifts (5 percent) than families in higher levels (3 to 4 percent). During the postwar period, the disparity was not nearly so great, a median of 7 to 9 percent for families in the lower levels, a median of 7 to 8 percent for families in the higher levels.

## REVIEW

This discussion reveals that there were definite patterns of saving and spending during each of the three phases of the 18-year period. (See Fig. 4 for the spending and saving pattern of all the families in this project, and Fig. 5 for the spending and saving patterns by cash outlay levels ranging from the \$1,000-1,499 level to the \$5,000-5,999 level.) Only the prewar and postwar phases will be reviewed here, conditions being obviously abnormal during the war period.

Savings accumulated more rapidly as cash outlay increased, which allowed farm families greater security and a promise of more stability in their level of living. Family expenditures, while they took a smaller percentage of cash outlay, cost the farm family more money in terms of the purchasing power of the dollar, which meant that it took more money to maintain the old level of living and an even greater amount to achieve a higher one. The percentage of cash outlay that went for food likewise decreased, but the farm family was actually spending more for food. The percentage of operating expenses also decreased in relation to cash outlay, but increased in terms of the purchasing power of the dollar. The percentage of cash outlay spent for clothing decreased too, and in terms of purchasing power families were buying clothes of similar quality or fewer garments of better quality. The percentage of cash outlay used for transportation expenses decreased, as did the percentage for educational expenses.

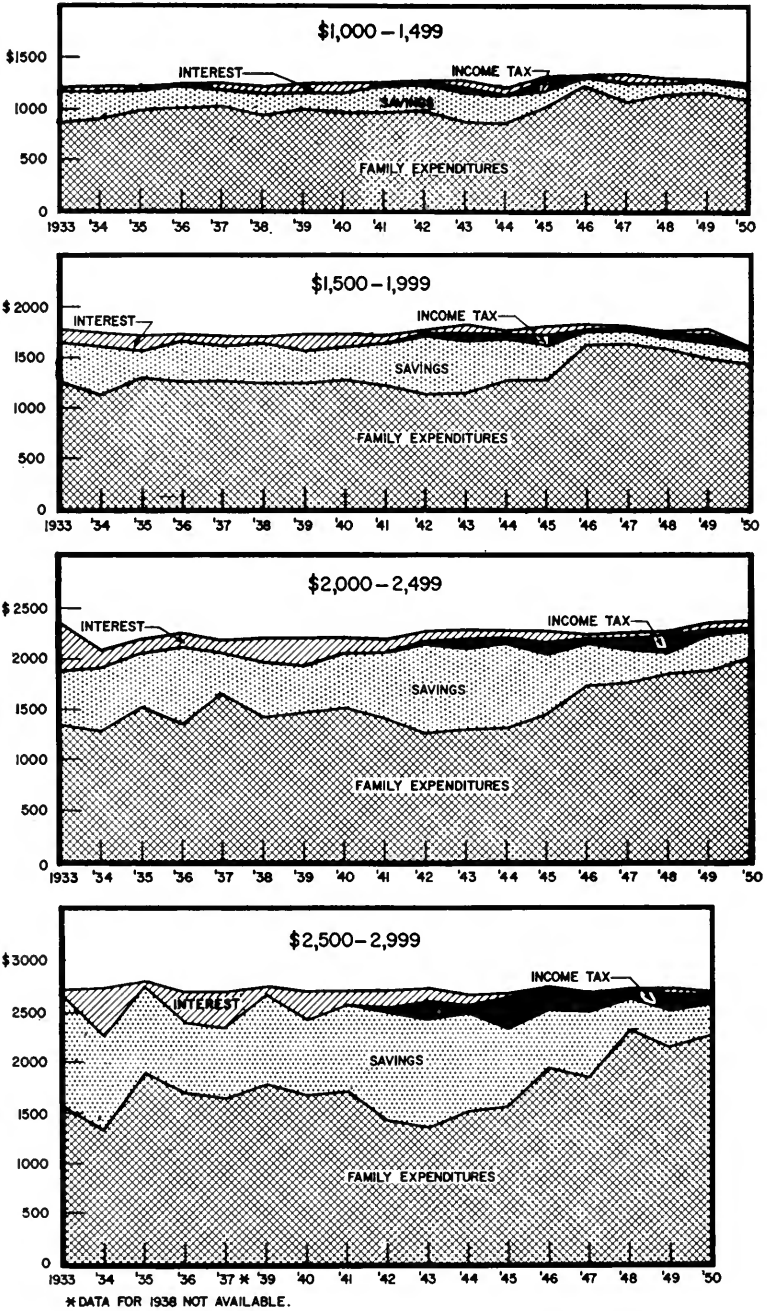
These five categories — purchased food, operating expenses, clothing, transportation, and education — accounted for the bulk of family expenditures, and tended to be *inelastic*. As cash outlay increased, the percentage spent in these categories decreased, since these expenses remained more or less fixed. In contrast to these categories are those that tended to be *constant*, medical expenses, personal expenses, and furnishings and equipment. As cash outlay increased, the amount spent for these categories correspondingly increased, the percentage remain-



Farm families saved a greater amount of money as their cash outlay increased, and their level of living rose, as indicated by the greater amount of adjusted dollars they spent for family expenditures. (Fig. 4)

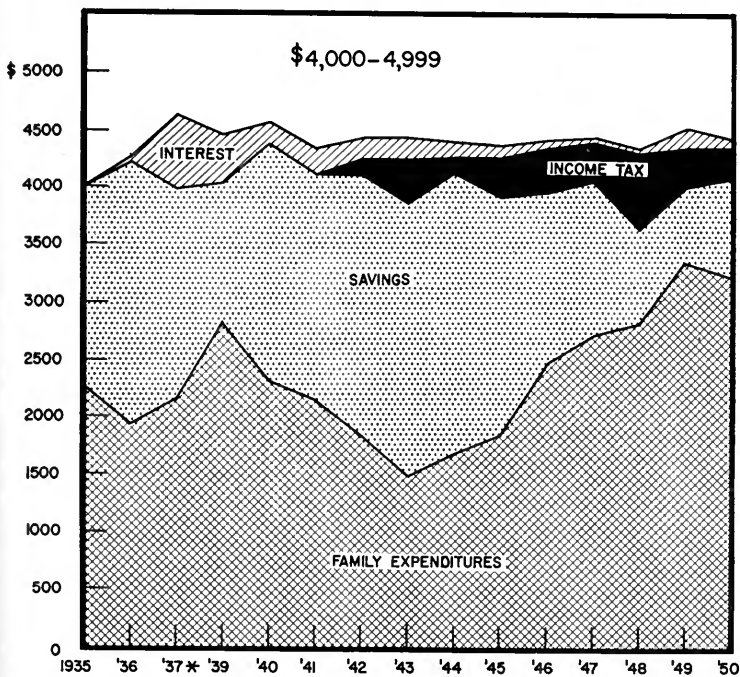
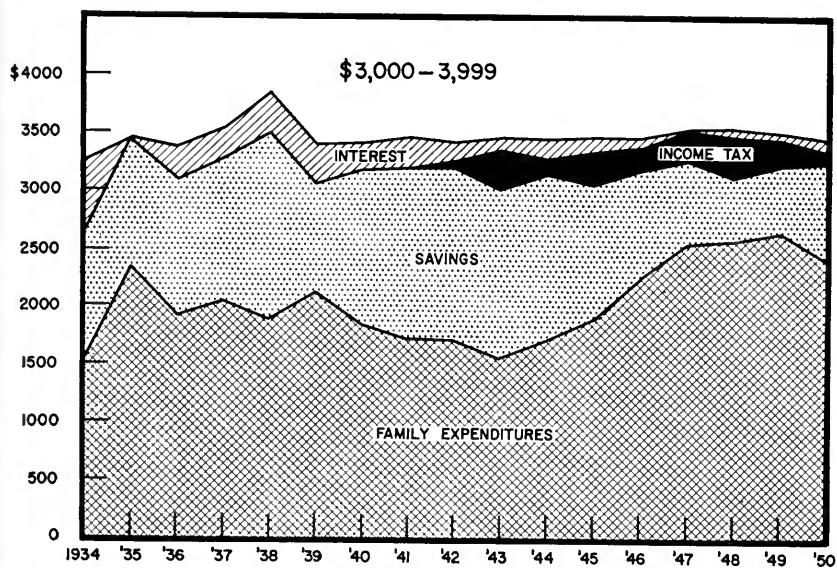
ing the same regardless of changes in cash outlay. This indicated that farm families chose to have more medical care, satisfy more of their personal desires, and make the farm home more comfortable and attractive by adding modern furnishings and equipment as cash outlay increased. The categories for recreation, gifts, and housing improvements and repairs tended to be *elastic*. As cash outlay increased, more money was spent and the percentage became greater. This indicated that in periods of increased cash outlay and when materials were available, farm families made much needed improvements and repairs in their homes, or built new homes; that they were quick to share with church and welfare organizations; and that they took frequent vacations and bought recreational equipment both for use in the home and on vacations.

Should a need for economizing come, spending and saving patterns will likely be adjusted in those categories that are constant (medical expenses, personal expenses, and furnishings and equipment) and those that are elastic (recreational expenses, household improvements and repairs, and gifts). In those categories that are inelastic (food, operating expenses, clothing, transportation, and education), adjustments will be difficult to make.



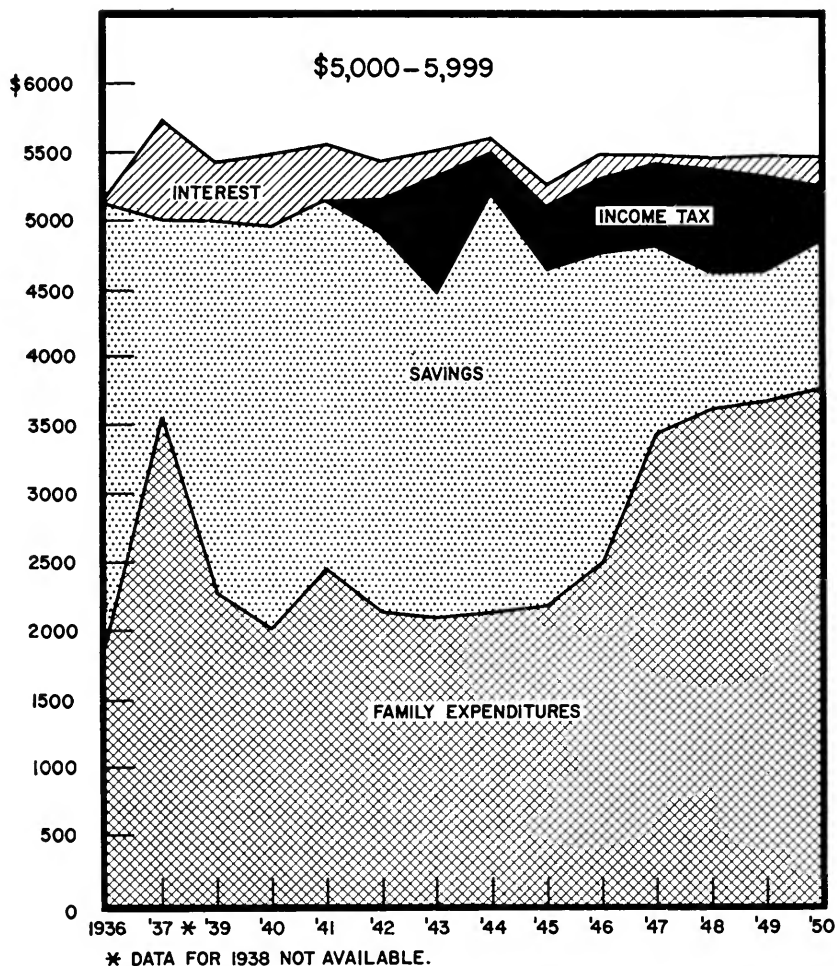
(Fig. 5 continued on next page)





\* DATA FOR 1938 NOT AVAILABLE.

(Fig. 5 concluded on next page)



At all cash outlay levels, particularly those under \$3,000, family expenditures took a great share of cash outlay. Although families in cash outlay levels above \$2,999 spent more for family expenditures than families in the lower levels, they were also able to save a great deal more. Moreover, families in the lower levels had less freedom of choice in the management of their money than families in the higher levels, who reached their peaks in buying when prices were low. Each outlay level above \$2,999 bought heavily during the period 1935-1939, a time of particularly low prices. (See Appendix, page 35, for percentage distribution of cash outlay by levels ranging from below \$500 to \$9,000 and over.) (Fig. 5)

## ANALYSIS OF THE SPENDING AND SAVING PATTERNS OF 31 FAMILIES THAT KEPT CONTINUOUS RECORDS FROM 1933 TO 1948

Valuable data for this study were provided by 27 families that kept continuous accounts during the entire project. Four other families kept records for all the years except 1949 and 1950. Although the data from these records were tabulated with the data from the other records submitted, they are here considered separately to see how their spending and savings patterns compare with those of families that kept records for shorter periods. For the sake of convenience, these families are referred to as the *continuing group*; the other families as the *whole group*. To include the four families that did not keep records for 1949 and 1950, the data for the continuing group have been tabulated and plotted for a 16-rather than an 18-year period (Table 7).

Several things need to be remembered about the families in the continuing group. First, having developed the habit of keeping accounts, they were more aware of the problems of money management and, as a result, better able to cope with them. Second, they had advanced to later phases in their marriage toward the end of the project, and no longer had need, for example, to furnish or equip their homes to the extent that newlyweds would have to or couples wedded for shorter periods. Third, all the farm operators in the continuing group were over 35 years in 1933 when the project was initiated, which means that most of them were established farmers who either owned their own property or bought it during the period, and who by and large commanded a higher income than those farmers in the whole group.

In general, the data for the continuing group showed similar spending and saving patterns as the data for the whole group, except that the 31 families saved a higher median percentage of their cash outlay during the prewar and postwar periods and spent less than the whole group during these two periods (compare Fig. 6 with Fig. 1).

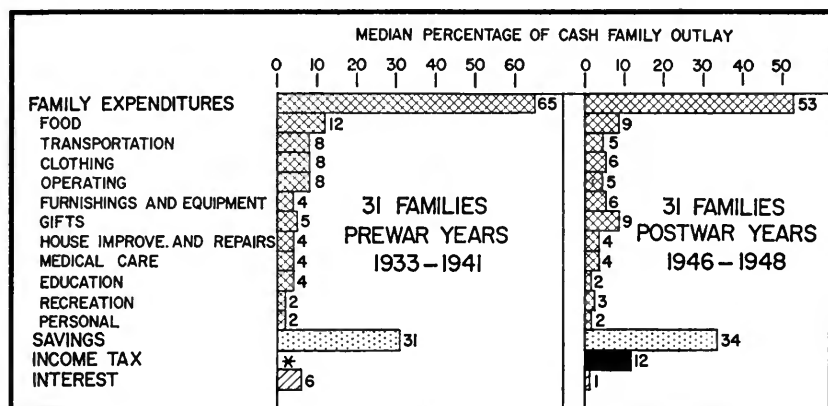
### The Continuing Group During the Prewar Period

During the prewar period, the continuing group spent the same median percentage as that spent by the whole group in these categories:

Operating expenses.....	8 percent
Gifts.....	5 percent
Housing improvements and repairs.....	4 percent
Medical expenses.....	4 percent
Educational expenses.....	4 percent
Recreational expenses.....	2 percent
Personal expenses.....	2 percent

Table 7. — Distribution of Cash Outlay for 31 Illinois Farm Families Keeping Continuous Records, 1933-1948  
(Actual dollars)

	Prewar years											War years					Postwar years		
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948			
Average number of members in household	4.7	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5	3.4			
Average number of members in family	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.1			
Average cash outlay	\$1,084	\$1,256	\$1,705	\$1,965	\$2,311	\$2,332	\$2,655	\$2,613	\$3,196	\$5,115	\$6,798	\$5,945	\$5,593	\$4,998	\$6,429	\$5,713			
<b>Savings</b>																			
Life insurance	\$136	\$133	\$145	\$146	\$168	\$167	\$189	\$210	\$188	\$204	\$209	\$218	\$232	\$234	\$234	\$235			
Savings bonds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	83	929	1,382	1,546	939	98	196	86			
Other savings	63	74	246	132	154	159	396	337	766	588	998	456	1,119	1,204	1,311	943			
Principal payments	107	67	153	304	383	313	373	420	368	1,255	1,524	859	343	472	452	12			
Total	306	274	544	582	705	639	958	967	1,405	2,976	4,073	3,075	2,653	2,008	2,193	1,276			
Interest payments	19	82	57	116	98	152	147	177	211	168	148	92	71	38	32	20			
Income tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	208	886	356	644	422	792	921			
<b>Family expenditures</b>																			
Food	165	195	224	248	270	251	242	241	271	315	356	363	357	429	503	505			
Operating	108	121	140	149	181	169	182	202	196	237	248	239	235	262	304	328			
Housing improvements and repairs	22	52	42	47	119	248	220	151	60	64	46	712	404	207	231	314			
Furnishings and equipment	52	48	78	90	149	97	122	92	140	104	110	96	134	169	369	335			
Clothing	113	147	154	166	173	170	168	175	191	248	211	223	216	273	325	344			
Personal	26	22	36	38	54	46	67	52	50	64	80	94	86	97	134	69			
Transportation	82	95	130	205	230	178	160	163	259	163	128	107	121	244	345	484			
Medical care	50	70	106	79	97	102	80	96	89	151	140	121	171	215	240	260			
Recreation	30	29	33	40	55	73	61	60	46	41	36	45	60	148	184	119			
Education	56	57	84	92	66	96	116	77	114	158	83	72	90	174	143	187			
Gifts	55	64	77	113	114	111	132	160	159	218	253	350	351	411	634	551			
Total	759	900	1,104	1,267	1,508	1,541	1,550	1,469	1,575	1,763	1,691	2,422	2,225	2,530	3,412	3,496			



In both the prewar and postwar periods, these 31 farm families spent a smaller median percentage of their cash outlay and saved a larger proportion of their money than families in the whole group (compare Fig. 1). (Fig. 6)

A variance in median percentage no greater than 2 percent existed in these categories:

	<i>Continuing group</i>	<i>Whole group</i>
Food . . . . .	12 percent	14 percent
Transportation . . . . .	8 percent	9 percent
Clothing . . . . .	8 percent	9 percent
Furnishings and equipment . . . . .	4 percent	6 percent
Interest payments . . . . .	6 percent	7 percent

The greatest difference in median percentage occurred in savings. The continuing group saved 31 percent compared with 24 percent for the whole group.

### The Continuing Group During the Postwar Period

During the postwar period, the continuing group spent the same median percentage as that spent by the whole group in these categories:

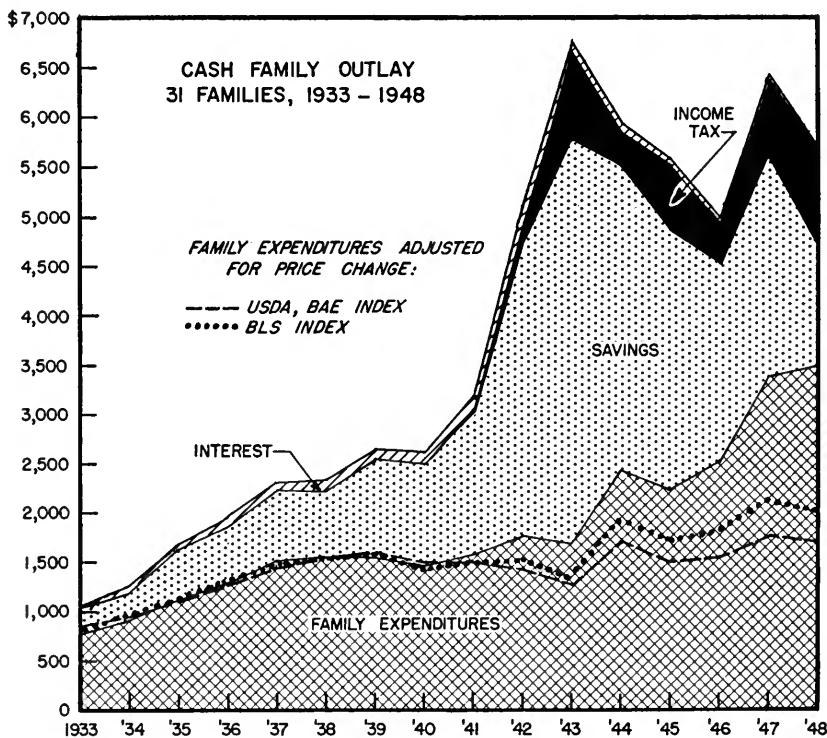
Food . . . . .	9 percent
Clothing . . . . .	6 percent
Furnishings and equipment . . . . .	6 percent
Operating expenses . . . . .	5 percent
Medical expenses . . . . .	4 percent
Recreational expenses . . . . .	3 percent
Personal expenses . . . . .	2 percent

A variance in median percentage no greater than 2 percent occurred in these categories:

	<i>Continuing group</i>	<i>Whole group</i>
Gifts.....	9 percent	7 percent
Housing improvements and repairs....	4 percent	5 percent
Transportation.....	5 percent	6 percent
Educational expenses.....	2 percent	3 percent

Again, the greatest difference in median percentage occurred in savings, 34 percent for the continuing group compared with 28 percent for the whole group.

**Cash outlay.** Cash outlay for the continuing group increased a little over five times from 1933 to 1948, rising from \$1,084 to \$5,713. The peak was reached in 1943 at \$6,798, whereas the whole group reached its peak in 1948 at \$6,286. In 1944-1946 cash outlay for the continuing group sharply decreased by \$1,800 and again in 1948, after mounting to \$6,429 in 1947, cash outlay decreased by \$716. A comparable drop

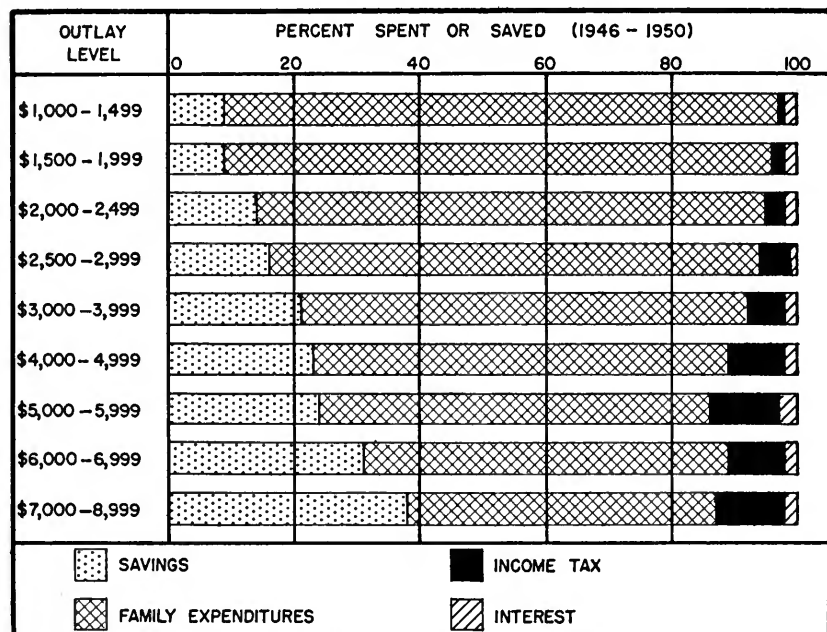


That these 31 farm families saved more and spent less than families in the whole group (compare Fig. 4) is explained in part by the fact that they had advanced to later phases in their marriage during the postwar period, and no longer had such pressing expenses, for example, as furnishing the home and raising children. (Fig. 7)

for the whole group occurred in 1949-1950 when cash outlay decreased by \$1,228.

Average cash outlay per family for both groups is given below:

	<i>Continuing group</i>	<i>Whole group</i>
Prewar period.....	\$2,124	\$1,817
War period.....	5,863	4,547
Postwar period <sup>1</sup> .....	5,713	5,683



This graph enables farm families to compare the distribution of their cash outlay with that of the average farm family in this study in the same cash outlay level. (That income tax was greater for the \$5,000-5,999 level than for the next higher level is explained by the fact that families in the next higher level had more dependents.) (Fig. 8)

**Family expenditures.** Family expenditures for the continuing group rose from \$759 in 1933 (compared with \$679 for the whole group in that year) to \$3,496 in 1948 (\$3,457 for the whole group). 1943 was the best year for spending for the continuing group as well as for the whole group (Fig. 7). The years 1933, 1939, and 1940 would have been favorable for spending if these groups had sufficient income at those

<sup>1</sup> Based on the years 1946-1948 for the continuing group, on the years 1946-1950 for the whole group.

times. By 1948 expenditures for families in the continuing group were about four and one-half times as great as in 1933, while their average cash outlay was over five times as great, which gave them the opportunity to raise their level of living and to enlarge their savings program. (See Fig. 8, which enables a farm family to compare the distribution of its cash outlay with that of the average farm family in the same level.)

## SUMMARY

A total of 5,171 accounts, submitted to the University from 1933 to 1950, provided the basis for this study. These accounts were kept by families who represented the middle one-third of the Illinois farm-operator families, so far as family type and economic level are concerned. These accounts were kept for periods varying from 1 to 18 years. The 31 families that submitted accounts for a 16-year period (1933-1948) provided a continuous record that was useful for comparison with the records that were submitted discontinuously.

Some of the more important conclusions revealed by an analysis of these accounts are:

1. Average cash outlay per family was more than six times as great in 1948 as in 1933 and outpaced rising and more varied living costs.

2. The average farm family saved more during the postwar period (1946-1950) than during the prewar period (1933-1941).

3. The average farm family spent five times as much money for goods and services in 1948 as in 1933 (\$3,457 as compared with \$679) and actually received in terms of dollars adjusted for price change more than twice as much in goods and services in 1948 as in 1933 (\$1,703 as compared with \$780).

4. Conveniences were installed in the farm home very gradually so that three-fourths of the families in this study owned modern homes (homes equipped with a central lighting and heating system and having running water under pressure) in 1950 as compared with the one-third who owned modern homes in 1937.

5. Certain categories were found to be either inelastic, elastic, or constant,<sup>1</sup> and the farm family can expect to find adjustment most difficult in the inelastic categories, namely, purchased food, operating expenses, clothing, transportation, and education. Greater freedom for adjustment was found in the constant categories (medical expenses, personal expenses, and furnishings and equipment) and in the elastic categories (recreational expenses, gifts, and housing improvements and repairs).

<sup>1</sup> See pages 24 and 25 for explanation of these terms.



Table 8. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1941\*  
(For level below \$500)

	Prewar years									
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	
Number of families.....	37	44	22	12	7	13	12	6	2	
Average number of members in household.....	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	3.3	3.0	
Average number of members in family.....	3.7	3.4	3.7	2.8	2.6	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.0	
Average cash outlay.....	\$381	\$412	\$416	\$406	\$385	\$396	\$416	\$395	\$418	
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	
<b>Savings</b>										
Life insurance.....	10	6	4	6	2	4	8	8	4	
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other savings.....	1	1	1	4	2	2	2	0	0	
Principal payments.....	1	2	1	(c)	2	4	4	1	0	
<i>Total</i> .....	12	9	6	10	6	10	14	9	4	
<b>Interest payments</b> .....	1	1	1	6	(c)	2	1	1	0	
<b>Income tax</b> .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Family expenditures</b>										
Food.....	25	27	30	26	36	27	26	25	23	
Operating.....	14	12	13	11	13	13	13	14	17	
Housing improvement and repairs.....	2	2	1	2	2	1	(c)	1	1	
Furnishings and equipment.....	3	5	8	8	7	6	4	4	4	
Clothing.....	15	15	16	13	11	12	11	15	11	
Personal.....	3	2	3	1	1	6	3	3	2	
Transportation.....	10	10	9	9	8	9	12	12	15	
Medical care.....	4	5	3	2	5	5	7	8	10	
Recreation.....	2	3	2	2	3	4	2	1	1	
Education.....	4	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	
Gifts.....	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	6	11	
<i>Total</i> .....	87	90	93	84	94	88	85	90	96	

\* No records for this level after this year.

<sup>b</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>c</sup> Less than 1 percent.

Table 9. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1943\*  
(For \$500-999 level)

	Prewar years										War years		
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943		
Number of families.....	75	97	81	71	67	79	93	85	39	10	7		
Average number of members in household.....	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	3.4	(b)	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.7	3.1		
Average number of members in family.....	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.1		
Average cash outlay.....	\$724	\$762	\$753	\$763	\$776	\$788	\$786	\$775	\$853	\$781	\$892		
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)		
<b>Savings</b>													
Life insurance.....	15	9	10	9	7	9	8	8	7	7	8		
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4		
Other savings.....	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	5	1	0		
Principal payments.....	2	3	3	3	7	5	4	3	3	6	0		
Total.....	18	13	13	13	14	14	13	12	15	15	12		
Interest payments.....	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	6		
Income tax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
<b>Family expenditures</b>													
Food.....	18	21	21	22	22	22	20	22	20	21	24		
Operating.....	12	11	10	11	12	12	11	13	11	13	12		
Housing improvement and repairs.....	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	0	1		
Furnishings and equipment.....	4	6	6	8	8	7	8	9	8	8	5		
Clothing.....	12	14	13	11	11	11	11	10	10	12	13		
Personal.....	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	2		
Transportation.....	10	10	12	10	12	10	14	11	12	9	7		
Medical care.....	5	5	6	5	4	5	4	5	5	7	4		
Recreation.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	2		
Education.....	0	3	4	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3		
Gifts.....	0	5	4	6	6	7	6	5	5	6	9		
Total.....	80	85	85	86	84	84	84	85	82	82	82		

\* No records for this level after this year.

b Not available for this year.

Table 10.—Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(For \$1,000-1,499 level)

	Prewar years										War years										Postwar years				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950							
Number of families.....	34	45	66	54	71	98	136	110	89	51	17	10	12	6	4	4	6	9							
Average number of members in household.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	3.9	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.6	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.6	3.3	2.7							
Average number of members in family.....	4.3	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.6	2.6	2.8	3.3	3.2	3.3	3.3	2.6							
Average cash outlay.....	\$1,226	\$1,232	\$1,218	\$1,238	\$1,249	\$1,214	\$1,234	\$1,240	\$1,262	\$1,280	\$1,278	\$1,211	\$1,322	\$1,346	\$1,350	\$1,304	\$1,301	\$1,276							
(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)							
<b>Savings</b>																									
Life insurance.....	14	11	11	8	7	8	8	7	7	7	5	6	8	6	8	5	5	6							
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	8	0	0	0	0	0	(b)							
Other savings.....	3	3	1	4	(c)	7	2	3	8	3	4	4	5	0	8	3	3	1							
Principal payments.....	7	8	5	5	7	3	4	6	5	5	6	(c)	(c)	0	0	0	0	2							
Total.....	24	22	17	17	14	18	14	16	20	19	22	20	13	6	13	11	8	9							
Interest payments.....	5	5	3	2	4	5	6	6	3	3	6	7	2	3	6	1	(c)	1							
Income tax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	(c)	8	(c)	0	0	0	3							
<b>Family expenditures</b>																									
Food.....	15	16	17	18	19	16	17	16	17	19	20	20	21	21	23	29	21	20							
Operating.....	11	9	10	10	9	10	11	11	11	12	10	11	12	13	13	16	14	17							
Housing improve-ments and repairs.....	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	3	1	5	2	(c)	1	2							
Furnishings and equipment.....	5	4	7	6	10	6	6	9	9	9	4	9	3	5	6	3	3	2							
Clothing.....	11	13	13	12	11	10	10	9	10	11	9	8	8	10	12	7	12	10							
Personal.....	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	6	6	3	3							
Transportation.....	7	9	10	12	11	10	12	11	11	7	6	6	6	12	6	10	9	11							
Medical care.....	6	6	6	6	5	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	5	4	4	7	11	7							
Recreation.....	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	5	1							
Education.....	5	5	5	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	3	2							
Gifts.....	4	5	4	5	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	8	13	15	7	7	10	12							
Total.....	71	73	80	81	82	77	80	78	77	77	69	73	77	91	81	88	92	87							

<sup>a</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>b</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

<sup>c</sup> Less than 1 percent.

Table 11.—Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(For \$1,500-1,999 level)

	Prewar years										War years										Postwar years				
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950							
Number of families . . .	10	24	19	46	56	63	94	112	71	51	25	21	22	9	11	7	9	10							
Average number of members in household . . .	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.5	2.1	2.6	3.9							
Average number of members in family . . .	4.8	4.8	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.5	2.1	2.6	3.9							
Average cash outlay . . .	\$1,772	\$1,720	\$1,708	\$1,734	\$1,701	\$1,708	\$1,727	\$1,720	\$1,712	\$1,779	\$1,805	\$1,765	\$1,805	\$1,822	\$1,799	\$1,752	\$1,781	\$1,799							
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)							
<b>Savings</b>																									
Life insurance . . . . .	6	0	8	7	11	9	9	8	8	6	6	5	6	5	5	3	6	9							
Savings bonds . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	8	7	5	(b)	0	0	(b)	(c)							
Other savings . . . . .	7	6	2	8	9	4	4	3	10	10	3	7	5	2	2	2	1	7							
Principal payments . . . . .	9	12	8	8	11	7	7	6	9	11	4	4	1	0	1	1	2	2							
Total . . . . .	22	27	16	23	21	24	20	18	24	32	28	23	18	7	8	6	9	18							
Interest payments . . . . .	7	7	8	4	5	4	8	6	5	3	4	2	5	2	(c)	1	3	1							
Income tax . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(c)	4	2	5	2	2	2	4	1							
<b>Family expenditures</b>																									
Food . . . . .	13	13	15	15	16	14	14	14	15	16	18	17	18	18	20	16	17	22							
Operating . . . . .	10	11	8	8	9	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	10	9	11	11	14	13							
Housing improve-ments and repairs . . . . .	2	2	6	3	5	5	3	4	4	2	2	5	1	4	3	3	3	3							
Furnishings and equipment . . . . .	6	5	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	7	5	6	5	11	11	11	10	10							
Clothing . . . . .	8	9	10	10	11	9	9	9	9	10	9	10	8	10	10	8	6	8							
Personal . . . . .	4	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	2	1	3	1							
Transportation . . . . .	9	7	11	11	9	9	12	12	10	5	5	6	8	14	11	20	7	6							
Medical care . . . . .	2	6	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	6	6	7	6	9	11	6							
Recreation . . . . .	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	4	1	2	3							
Education . . . . .	10	5	5	5	2	4	4	3	2	2	5	2	1	2	1	1	1	2							
Gifts . . . . .	4	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	8	9	7	11	10	9	6							
Total . . . . .	71	66	76	73	74	72	72	76	71	65	64	73	72	89	90	91	84	80							

<sup>a</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>b</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

<sup>c</sup> Less than 1 percent.

Table 12. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(For \$2,000-2,499 level)

	Prewar years										War years						Postwar years			
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950		
Number of families . . . . .	3	12	18	20	30	30	54	47	76	36	28	28	30	21	13	14	7	10		
Average number of members in household . . . . .	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	4.5	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2		
Average number of members in family . . . . .	5.7	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.7	4.0	4.3	4.2	3.8	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.1	2.7	3.1	3.1	3.2		
Average cash outlay . . . . .	\$2,356 (100%)	\$2,108 (100%)	\$2,206 (100%)	\$2,254 (100%)	\$2,196 (100%)	\$2,205 (100%)	\$2,204 (100%)	\$2,204 (100%)	\$2,192 (100%)	\$2,267 (100%)	\$2,266 (100%)	\$2,278 (100%)	\$2,278 (100%)	\$2,224 (100%)	\$2,244 (100%)	\$2,258 (100%)	\$2,353 (100%)	\$2,343 (100%)		
<b>Savings</b>																				
Life insurance . . . . .	4	6	7	12	8	9	8	8	7	5	5	7	6	6	3	5	6	5		
Savings bonds . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	13	13	5	(b)	0	0	(c)	5		
Other savings . . . . .	16	7	3	14	4	7	8	3	12	10	8	10	6	8	11	2	9	1		
Principal payments . . . . .	4	16	14	7	7	9	5	13	11	14	9	7	9	5	1	3	(b)	4		
Total . . . . .	24	29	24	33	19	25	21	24	30	38	35	37	26	19	15	10	15	10		
Interest payments . . . . .	19	9	7	6	6	10	12	7	6	4	3	3	4	1	1	1	3	3		
Income tax . . . . .	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	6	2	6	7	2	0		
<b>Family expenditures</b>																				
Food . . . . .	13	12	12	10	15	12	12	11	12	12	13	15	15	17	14	17	15	19		
Operating . . . . .	6	8	7	7	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	9	8	9	8	10	9	14		
Housing improve- ments and repairs . . . . .	2	3	3	3	5	6	4	6	4	2	1	3	4	3	7	4	5	4		
Furnishings and equipment . . . . .	4	4	6	6	7	6	5	6	6	5	5	4	4	11	9	10	9	7		
Clothing . . . . .	11	9	9	8	9	7	8	9	8	9	8	8	8	9	7	10	7	6		
Personal . . . . .	3	1	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	3	1	1		
Transportation . . . . .	8	8	9	7	12	6	9	10	10	6	7	5	5	7	10	10	18	10		
Medical care . . . . .	2	4	7	6	4	5	5	4	4	4	7	5	7	6	7	6	5	15		
Medical care . . . . .	2	4	7	6	4	5	5	4	4	4	7	5	7	6	7	6	5	15		
Recreation . . . . .	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	3	4	2	2	3		
Education . . . . .	2	7	7	3	3	4	5	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1		
Gifts . . . . .	4	4	6	4	5	4	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	6	9	8	7		
Total . . . . .	57	62	69	61	75	65	67	69	64	57	58	58	64	78	78	82	80	87		

<sup>a</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>b</sup> Less than 1 percent.

<sup>c</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

Table 13. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1933-1950  
(For \$2,500-2,999 level)

	Prewar years					War years					Postwar years							
	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938*	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Number of families.....	8	6	7	10	19	..	21	49	38	46	32	29	25	22	9	11	20	14
Average number of members in household.....	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	..	4.5	4.1	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.2	2.7	3.6	3.6	3.3
Average number of members in family.....	4.6	3.5	5.1	4.4	4.4	..	4.2	3.9	4.1	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.1	2.7	3.6	3.5	3.1
Average cash outlay.....	\$2,737	\$2,757	\$2,803	\$2,701	\$2,706	..	\$2,763	\$2,704	\$2,708	\$2,711	\$2,735	\$2,657	\$2,696	\$2,744	\$2,691	\$2,756	\$2,795	\$2,697
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	..	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)
<b>Savings</b>																		
Life insurance.....	8	13	9	8	5	..	6	9	6	5	4	4	6	4	6	4	5	5
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	0	0	..	0	0	0	8	12	12	7	3	0	4	(c)	(c)
Other savings.....	7	4	6	6	1	..	17	5	14	10	8	11	11	13	15	3	3	4
Principal payments.....	25	16	15	12	20	..	9	14	12	17	15	10	5	(d)	2	0	5	3
Total.....	40	33	30	26	26	..	32	28	32	40	39	37	29	20	23	11	13	12
Interest payments.....	3	18	2	11	13	..	3	10	5	6	5	3	2	1	1	(d)	1	1
Income tax.....	0	0	0	0	0	..	0	0	0	2	6	3	11	8	6	4	7	3
<b>Family expenditures</b>																		
Food.....	8	9	13	11	13	..	10	11	11	10	11	14	13	16	15	17	18	19
Operating.....	7	6	9	9	6	..	9	9	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	10	10	10
Housing improve-ments and repairs..	2	2	3	3	7	..	8	4	4	2	2	3	3	3	2	7	4	3
Furnishings and equipment.....	8	2	5	6	5	..	6	5	7	6	3	4	3	7	11	12	6	7
Clothing.....	7	9	9	9	8	..	7	8	9	7	7	8	8	8	8	9	9	8
Personal.....	3	1	3	1	2	..	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Transportation.....	9	8	11	8	6	..	9	8	8	5	5	4	3	7	6	10	9	15
Medical care.....	2	4	4	3	4	..	4	4	3	4	5	5	7	7	6	7	8	5
Recreation.....	2	2	3	2	2	..	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	3	3	2
Education.....	5	4	4	4	4	..	4	3	4	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	3	2
Gifts.....	4	3	4	7	4	..	4	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	7	8	7	11
Total.....	57	49	68	63	61	..	65	62	63	52	50	57	58	71	70	85	79	84

a Data for cash outlay levels of \$2,500 and over were combined this year and no individual breakdown made.

b Not available for this year.

c Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

d Less than 1 percent.

Table 14. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1934-1950<sup>a</sup>  
(For \$3,000-3,999 level)

	Prewar years										War years										Postwar years			
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938 <sup>b</sup>	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950							
Number of families.....	3	3	18	18	82	38	40	56	83	66	66	41	41	30	29	35	41							
Average number of members in household.....	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	(c)	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.8							
Average number of members in family.....	5.3	5.7	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.6							
Average cash outlay.....	\$3,275	\$3,450	\$3,396	\$3,536	\$3,849	\$3,402	\$3,410	\$3,413	\$3,431	\$3,484	\$3,445	\$3,484	\$3,474	\$3,545	\$3,510	\$3,272	(100%)							
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)							
<b>Savings</b>																								
Life insurance.....	9	18	5	7	6	8	7	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	3	4							
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	17	6	(d)	2	(d)	(e)	(e)							
Other savings.....	0	0	8	3	11	9	13	18	9	10	11	14	14	12	9	9	13							
Principal payments.....	24	15	21	25	24	10	19	20	18	15	9	8	8	2	2	4	6							
Total.....	33	33	34	35	41	27	39	43	43	42	42	33	27	21	15	16	23							
Interest payments.....	19	0	9	7	9	10	6	6	4	3	4	3	2	(d)	2	2	1							
Income tax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	4	9	6	7	10	6	2							
<b>Family expenditures</b>																								
Food.....	7	8	11	11	9	10	9	9	10	11	12	12	13	15	14	14	16							
Operating.....	7	8	6	7	6	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	8	9	9							
Housing improvements and repairs.....	1	2	8	4	7	9	2	3	3	2	2	3	4	3	5	6	3							
Furnishings and equipment.....	2	6	5	6	4	5	4	5	3	3	3	4	7	11	9	8	6							
Clothing.....	7	8	7	8	6	8	7	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	7	8							
Personal.....	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3							
Transportation.....	4	2	6	9	5	8	7	7	4	4	2	3	4	8	9	11	11							
Medical care.....	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	3	4	4	5	5	7	5	4	5	6							
Recreation.....	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	3	3							
Education.....	11	15	3	3	3	6	8	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	2							
Gifts.....	4	11	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	4	6	7	8	6	7	9	5							
Total.....	48	67	57	58	50	63	55	51	51	45	50	55	65	72	73	76	74							

<sup>a</sup> No records for this cash outlay level were submitted in 1933.

<sup>b</sup> Data for cash outlay levels of \$2,500 and over were combined this year and were included here because the average fell at this level.

<sup>c</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>d</sup> Less than 1 percent.

<sup>e</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

Table 15.—Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1935-1950\*  
(For \$4,000-4,999 level)

	Prewar years						War years						Postwar years					
	1935	1936	1937	1938 <sup>b</sup>	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950		
Number of families.....	1	6	5	..	12	16	41	39	41	41	20	45	29	34	26	23		
Average number of members in household.....	(c)	(c)	(c)	..	5.8	4.9	4.4	4.2	4.2	3.8	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.3	4.4	3.8		
Average number of members in family.....	4.0	4.5	4.0	..	5.3	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.4	4.1	3.0	4.0	3.7		
Average cash outlay.....	\$4,001	\$4,245	\$4,629	..	\$4,433	\$4,584	\$4,355	\$4,444	\$4,451	\$4,415	\$4,396	\$4,435	\$4,447	\$4,367	\$4,545	\$4,108		
	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	..	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)		
<b>Savings</b>																		
Life insurance.....	18	4	6	..	7	5	6	4	4	4	5	4	5	3	5	5		
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	..	0	0	0	11	17	17	15	5	2	2	2	(e)		
Other savings.....	25	17	0	..	9	18	18	14	14	11	16	16	15	11	5	10		
Principal payments.....	0	32	33	..	11	22	21	22	18	16	10	8	7	5	5	5		
Total.....	43	53	39	..	27	45	45	51	53	55	46	33	29	19	15	20		
<b>Interest payments.</b>	0	1	14	..	10	4	5	4	5	3	3	2	1	1	4	2		
<b>Income tax.</b>	0	0	0	..	0	0	0	3	8	4	8	9	8	15	7	6		
<b>Family expenditures</b>																		
Food.....	11	7	7	..	8	7	7	7	8	8	9	10	13	13	14	15		
Operating.....	7	5	5	..	6	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	6	7	9	10		
Housing improvements and repairs.....	(d)	3	1	..	14	5	3	3	2	2	3	4	4	7	6	5		
Furnishings and equipment.....	4	3	6	..	4	5	5	6	3	2	2	6	6	9	7	6		
Clothing.....	11	6	6	..	7	6	6	6	5	6	7	7	8	6	8	7		
Personal.....	2	2	1	..	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2		
Transportation.....	5	6	12	..	5	6	7	3	2	2	3	4	5	8	9	7		
Medical care.....	3	2	3	..	4	7	3	4	2	3	3	4	4	3	5	6		
Recreation.....	4	2	2	..	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2		
Education.....	7	7	1	..	8	3	5	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2		
Gifts.....	3	3	3	..	3	3	5	4	4	5	6	8	7	7	9	8		
Total.....	57	46	47	..	63	51	50	42	34	38	43	56	62	65	74	72		

<sup>a</sup> No records for this cash outlay level were submitted in 1933 and 1934.

<sup>b</sup> Data for cash outlay levels of \$2,500 and over were combined this year and no individual breakdown made.

<sup>c</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>d</sup> Less than 1 percent.

<sup>e</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.



Table 16. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1936-1950\*  
(For \$5,000-5,999 level)

	Prewar years					War years					Postwar years				
	1936	1937	1938 <sup>b</sup>	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Number of families.....	2	3	..	6	8	12	26	25	22	20	28	28	23	22	16
Average number of members in household.....	(c)	(c)	..	4.2	4.5	3.8	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.5	3.8	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.8
Average number of members in family.....	3.5	4.3	..	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.1	4.1	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.0	3.8	3.9	3.7
Average cash outlay.....	\$5,170	\$5,714	..	\$5,424	\$5,491	\$5,573	\$5,426	\$5,518	\$5,602	\$5,283	\$5,489	\$5,494	\$5,454	\$5,467	\$5,467
	(100%)	(100%)	..	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)
<b>Savings</b>															
Life insurance.....	5	8	..	4	8	5	3	3	5	4	4	3	7	4	5
Savings bonds.....	0	0	..	0	0	0	17	20	31	8	3	2	(d)	(e)	(e)
Other savings.....	17	0	..	30	25	15	9	7	6	22	24	10	7	11	13
Principal payments.....	40	17	..	16	20	28	22	13	13	12	10	10	5	12	3
<i>Total</i> .....	62	25	..	50	53	48	51	43	55	46	41	25	19	17	21
<b>Interest payments</b>	1	12	..	8	10	8	5	4	2	3	3	1	1	3	4
<b>Income tax</b> .....	0	0	..	0	0	0	4	15	5	9	10	11	14	13	7
<b>Family expenditures</b>															
Food.....	7	6	..	7	5	6	7	8	7	9	9	10	11	12	11
Operating.....	4	4	..	7	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	6	6	7	8
Housing improvements and repairs.....	(d)	14	..	8	8	7	3	2	6	3	3	7	4	2	6
Furnishings and equipment.....	2	16	..	5	2	4	4	3	3	3	3	7	7	8	5
Clothing.....	8	4	..	5	3	4	7	5	5	6	7	7	10	8	7
Personal.....	1	1	..	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	2
Transportation.....	1	1	..	3	4	6	2	2	2	2	3	6	7	10	10
Medical care.....	4	8	..	2	2	5	2	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4
Recreation.....	3	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	3	3
Education.....	2	1	..	1	3	2	4	3	2	3	1	3	3	4	4
Gifts.....	3	7	..	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	6	8	8	7	8
<i>Total</i> .....	37	63	..	42	37	44	40	38	38	42	46	63	66	67	68

a No records for this cash outlay level were submitted in 1933, 1934, and 1935.

b Data for cash outlay levels of \$2,500 and over were combined this year and no individual breakdown made.

c Not available for this year.

d Less than 1 percent.

e Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

Table 17. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1937-1950<sup>a</sup>  
(For \$6,000-6,999 level)

	Prewar years					War years					Postwar years				
	1937	1938 <sup>b</sup>	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	
Number of families.....	3	..	3	5	11	11	35	16	17	17	16	26	14	10	
Average number of members in household.....	(c)	..	3.7	4.4	4.6	3.9	3.4	3.9	4.3	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.3	
Average number of members in family.....	4.0	..	3.7	4.4	4.4	3.7	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.7	3.6	3.2	
Average cash outlay.....	\$6,696	..	\$6,193	\$6,205	\$6,633	\$6,440	\$6,468	\$6,484	\$6,339	\$6,602	\$6,453	\$6,461	\$6,449	\$6,411	
	(100%)	..	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	
<b>Savings</b>															
Life insurance.....	3	..	5	5	3	3	3	3	6	6	3	5	4	4	
Savings bonds.....	0	..	0	0	0	13	16	24	16	1	3	3	(d)		
Other savings.....	25	..	8	25	26	15	16	15	22	22	13	12	14	11	
Principal payments.....	40	..	49	28	37	25	21	16	10	16	15	4	9	9	
Total.....	68	..	62	58	66	56	56	58	54	45	34	24	27	24	
Interest payments.....	9	..	6	12	7	7	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	3	
Income tax.....	0	..	0	0	0	5	12	8	6	9	11	13	7	5	
<b>Family expenditures</b>															
Food.....	5	..	4	5	5	5	6	7	7	7	8	9	11	11	
Operating.....	2	..	2	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	6	5	7	8	
Housing improvements and repairs.....	(e)	..	2	1	1	2	1	2	3	9	6	5	5	6	
Furnishings and equipment.....	2	..	5	2	2	4	2	4	3	8	6	6	4	6	
Clothing.....	5	..	3	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	7	6	7	7	
Personal.....	(e)	..	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	
Transportation.....	3	..	7	5	4	2	2	2	2	2	5	7	14	5	
Medical care.....	1	..	1	1	2	2	2	3	4	2	4	5	3	5	
Recreation.....	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	3	4	
Education.....	2	..	2	3	1	4	2	4	2	1	3	1	3	5	
Gifts.....	2	..	2	2	2	2	4	2	4	6	6	11	6	9	
Total.....	23	..	32	30	27	32	29	32	37	44	53	62	65	68	

<sup>a</sup> No records for this cash outlay level were submitted in 1933, 1934, and 1936, and only one in 1935.

<sup>b</sup> Data for cash outlay levels of \$2,500 and over were combined this year and no individual breakdown made.

<sup>c</sup> Not available for this year.

<sup>d</sup> Figures for *savings bonds* and *other savings* were combined this year.

<sup>e</sup> Less than 1 percent.

Table 18. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1939-1950\*  
(For \$7,000-8,999 level)

	Prewar years					War years					Postwar years				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950			
Number of families.....	2	6	8	27	27	22	22	23	27	17	22	12			
Average number of members in household.....	3.5	4.7	4.9	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.1	3.8	4.1			
Average number of members in family.....	3.5	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.9	4.3	3.9	3.7	3.5	4.0	3.4	3.3			
Average cash outlay.....	\$7,708	\$7,554	\$7,757	\$7,897	\$7,774	\$7,927	\$7,751	\$7,668	\$7,834	\$7,910	\$8,147	\$7,887			
(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)			
<b>Savings</b>															
Life insurance.....	3	4	2	3	3	2	4	6	5	4	5	7			
Savings bonds.....	0	0	0	10	17	19	13	8	7	7	(b)	(b)			
Other savings.....	41	14	18	19	17	23	22	21	17	20	15	23			
Principal payments.....	21	50	41	29	23	18	11	14	10	2	9	10			
Total.....	65	68	61	61	60	62	50	49	39	33	29	40			
Interest payments.....	4	5	8	5	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2			
Income tax.....	0	0	0	3	14	7	15	10	11	16	14	5			
<b>Family expenditures</b>															
Food.....	3	4	5	5	4	6	6	7	9	9	8	11			
Operating.....	2	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	6			
Housing improvements and repairs.....	1	3	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	5	5	6			
Furnishings and equipment.....	1	3	2	4	2	2	2	4	6	6	5	5			
Furnishings and equipment.....	2	3	4	5	3	4	4	5	5	6	5	5			
Clothing.....	2	3	4	5	3	4	4	5	5	6	5	5			
Personal.....	1	(c)	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2			
Transportation.....	2	3	4	1	1	2	3	3	4	6	7	6			
Medical care.....	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	4	4			
Recreation.....	1	1	1	1	(c)	1	1	2	2	2	2	1			
Education.....	6	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	5	2			
Gifts.....	9	4	3	3	3	4	5	5	7	5	7	5			
Total.....	31	27	31	31	23	28	33	39	48	50	55	53			

\* No records for this cash outlay level were submitted in 1933 and 1934, and only single records for 1935, 1936, and 1937. In 1938 data for cash outlay levels of \$2,500 and over were combined and no individual breakdown made.

<sup>b</sup> Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

<sup>c</sup> Less than 1 percent.

Table 19. — Percentage Distribution of Cash Outlay for Illinois Farm Families, 1940-1950\*  
(For level \$9,000 and over)

	Prewar years			War years			Postwar years				
	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Number of families.....	8	5	13	37	35	20	26	37	35	20	21
Average number of members in household.....	4.1	5.0	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.6	4.1
Average number of members in family.....	4.0	4.5	4.2	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.0	3.3
Average cash outlay.....	\$11,906 (100%)	\$13,582 (100%)	\$13,722 (100%)	\$14,626 (100%)	\$13,499 (100%)	\$12,998 (100%)	\$12,723 (100%)	\$13,256 (100%)	\$14,236 (100%)	\$13,931 (100%)	\$12,257 (100%)
<b>Savings</b>											
Life insurance.....	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	4	4	2	2
Savings bonds.....	0	0	10	14	30	16	9	9	4	(b)	(b)
Other savings.....	57	42	25	19	17	28	33	25	24	31	24
Principal payments.....	16	35	38	30	21	10	18	13	5	6	17
<i>Total</i> .....	75	79	75	66	70	57	62	51	37	39	43
<b>Interest payments</b> .....	4	6	5	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
<b>Income tax</b> .....	0	0	3	14	4	12	8	14	22	11	12
<b>Family expenditures</b>											
Food.....	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	5	5
Operating.....	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4
Housing improvements and repairs.....	1	(c)	1	2	6	7	2	4	5	8	7
Furnishings and equipment.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	4
Clothing.....	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	4	3
Personal.....	1	(c)	(c)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Transportation.....	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	3	4
Medical care.....	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Recreation.....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Education.....	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	5	3
Gifts.....	2	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	6	9	8
<i>Total</i> .....	21	15	17	17	24	29	28	34	40	48	43

\* No records for this level until 1939, and then only one.

b Figures for savings bonds and other savings were combined this year.

c Less than 1 percent.

















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