

Living Standards Of Countries Analyzed

People Are Eating Better Than Before In All Countries

An insight into the comparative living standards of the United States and certain other countries for which statistics are available, and changes that have occurred since the late Thirties, are given in a special study made by the United Nations statistical organization.

In addition to the United States, the countries covered are the United Kingdom, Canada, Sweden, Norway, West Germany, Ireland, and Japan. Belgian figures are given only for the post-World War II period. The study is based on the personal consumption expenditures for each country in their respective currencies, and gives a breakdown of outlays for food, shelter, clothing and a selected list of other goods and services. In most cases, the year 1938 is the pre-World War II base, while the latest figures are for 1952.

Food and Shelter

The study shows certain common tendencies in the personal expenditure pattern in all countries over the last decade and a half. For example, the proportion of total consumption outlays going for food in most countries has risen in the period. Part of this is due to higher prices, but the figures also suggest that people are eating better than before in other countries as well as in the United States.

Another common trend has been a decided decline in the proportion of personal expenditures on shelter, which includes the cost of fuel and

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light furniture and household operation as well as rent. Here the element of Government rent controls has been an important factor in all countries.

Not shown in the United Nations figures, but obtainable from other sources, is the fact that personal savings also have shown a worldwide growth, particularly in the last few years. This is evident in the trend of life insurance ownership. For example, total life insurance in force in the United States is now placed at around \$320 billions, or nearly three times the 1938 figure. Big gains in life insurance in force also have occurred in other countries.

Divergent Trends

There are also certain interesting divergencies in the way the average person spends his income as between one country and another. Expenditures on clothing, for example, came to 19 per cent of all personal consumption in Norway, and to more than 15 per cent in Sweden and Germany, as compared with little more than 10 per cent in the United States and less than 10 per cent in Britain.

No Stable

Ill-mannered Diner—Hey, waiter! Waiter—Don't serve it, sir.

Trend Continues For Farm Enlargement

Continuation of the trend toward farms of a more economic size, which between 1935 and 1950 helped to reduce the number of American farms by nearly 1½ million or more than 20 per cent, is disclosed in the latest survey of the farm real estate market by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This study reports that nearly a third of the farms which changed hands in the year ended last March were acquired to enlarge existing farms. This proportion exceeded that of any previous year. The farm-enlargement trend was most pronounced in the Wheat and Corn Belts, where the high degree of mechanization of production has made larger-scale farming particularly advantageous. In the wheat areas alone, more than two-fifths of the farms acquired in recent years have been for consolidation purposes.

The number of U. S. farms reached its peak in 1935 at above 6.8 million. By 1950 the number had declined to under 5.4 million, fewest since before the turn of the century.

Only Proper Soaking Makes Clothes Whiter

Pre-soaking the family wash won't always make your clothing whiter and brighter.

According to Mamie Whisnant, State College home management specialist, it's not the actual soaking—but how you do it—that determines the cleanliness of your clothes. Unless clothing is properly soaked, you may be doing more harm than good.

Proper soaking will help to loosen stubborn soil and thus prepare the fabric for successful laundering. Here are some recommended soaking methods.

1. Greasy overalls and cotton work

shirts. Cover these garments with hot sudsy water containing one-half cup of household ammonia. Soak for 15 to 20 minutes. For extra convenience, try soaking these garments in the tub of your washing machine. Then wring or spin and launder as usual.

2. Grimy cotton slip covers, curtains or play clothes. Soak these for 10 to 20 minutes in warm water or in warm water containing a detergent. Use about ½ to 1 tablespoon of detergent per gallon of water. After soaking, wring or spin until damp dry, and launder as usual.

3. Soiled collars, cuffs, neckbands. You'll probably have to loosen dirt on cuffs, collars and neckbands before laundering since soil has been ground

into these spots. Work in suds gently with soft brush or sponge using the same soap or other detergent you'll use for washing.

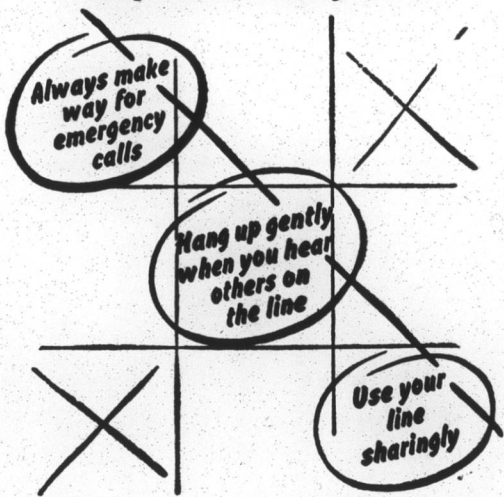
Paying a little extra attention to the soaking process before actual laundering will make your clothes cleaner, fresher. And contrary to many ideas, it's wiser to wash clothing before the fabric is badly soiled.

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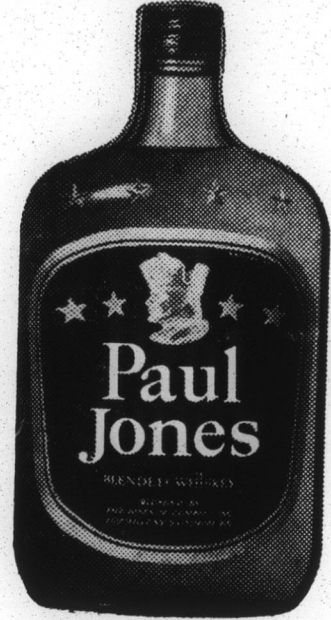


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