

Industrialization - Changing Living Standards

| Annual Food Consumption: German and American Workers' Families, 1900 (in kilograms) | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Bread | Potatoes | Meat | Butter | Eggs | Sugar |
| Germany | 582 | 647 | 112 | 20 | 612 | 31 |
| U.S. | 113 | 376 | 382 | 53 | 1,022 | 121 |

| Living Standards | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Percentage with | Families in 1900 | Poor families in 1970 |
| Flush toilets | 15 | 99 |
| Running water | 24 | 92 |
| Central heating | 1 | 58 |
| One (or fewer) occupants per room | 48 | 96 |
| Electricity | 3 | 99 |
| Refrigeration | 18 | 99 |
| Automobiles | 1 | 41 |

| Family Expenditures | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1888-91 | 1901 | 1950 |
| Income | \$573 (1) | \$651 (2) | \$4,229 |
| Food | \$219 | \$266 | \$1,335 |
| Housing | \$80 | \$112 | \$448 |
| Fuel | \$32 | \$35 | \$153 |
| Clothing | \$82 | \$80 | \$473 |
| Sundries | \$44 | \$124 | \$1,667 |

(1) \$1,793 in 1950 dollars

(2) \$1,914 in 1950 dollars

| Per Capita Food Consumption (in pounds per year) | | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|--------|-------------|----------|
| | Beef | Pork | Lard | Butter | Fresh Fruit | Potatoes |
| 1900 | 72 | 72 | 13 | 20 | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1920 | 67 | 64 | 12 | 15 | 145 | 140 |
| 1940 | 62 | 74 | 14 | 17 | 142 | 123 |
| 1960 | 93 | 61 | 9 | 8 | 98 | 105 |

| | Canned Vegetables | Frozen Vegetables | Ice Cream |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1900 | n.a. | n.a. | n.a. |
| 1920 | 18.5 | n.a. | 7.6 |
| 1940 | 34.4 | 0.4 | 11.4 |
| 1960 | 44 | 7.5 | 17.9 |

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How did the standard of living of American and German workers compare in 1900?
2. Who in your view is better off and by how much?
3. Is a typical poor family today materially better off than a typical American family in 1900? If not, why not?
4. How have expenditures and diet changed over time?