

GII Survey Report

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

1) Belgium, 1853 - 1853 (Central Statistics Commission)

Survey ID: 46

197 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: Investigation on behalf of the government into the households of working families. The purpose was partly to differentiate between the living standards of urban and rural workers, and partly out of a concern about the general living standards of working classes, 'Designed to embrace all economic facts relating to the existence of the worker, his needs, his habits.' The data was taken by provincial statistical commissions in nine regions under the instruction of the Central Statistics Commission. They were told to take both urban and rural samples and to try to represent the main labour groups. There had been earlier surveys, but this was the first one to employ statistical methods.

With Frédéric Le Play and Ernst Engel, Ducpétiaux is seen as one of the three main contributors to the early development of statistical methodology for examining household budgets. This survey is notable for being the first to apply Quételet's classification of household expenditures into three groups. The groups being: 1. Families of poor workers, dependant in part on public assistance; 2. Families of workers of small means, who do not participate in public assistance; 3. Families of workers who are comfortably off and independent of public assistance.

Expenditures are further broken down into three types of expenditure:

1. Expenses of a 'physical and material' nature: food; rent; clothing; bed clothing; heat; light; furniture; health; sickness-related expenditures; household insurance; taxes; postage; laundry; tools for one's trade; and costs for garden and home production of food.
2. Expenses of a 'religious, moral and intellectual' type, including: church; school; training; books, etc.; contribution to moral, intellectual and charitable organizations; mutual societies and insurances; and saving.
3. Expenses of a 'luxurious and improvidential' type, including: alcoholic drinks, cafès; tobacco; gambling; toilet articles; theatre; fêtes and public recreations; and loans and expenses at the pawn shop.

In general, the vast majority of the spending is on physical needs, with very little on 'Religious, Moral and Intellectual Needs.' Generally, the luxuries are tobacco, cabarets and a small amount of alcohol. Most of the households are perpetually in debt. Each family, unless stated otherwise, is composed of a father, a mother and four children aged approximately 16, 12, 6 and 2 years old respectively. This was deemed by the survey takers to be an average family. The older children would often be working so their wages would contribute to the household. The data given is for the whole household and not equalised in any further way. For some of the provinces the number of children per family, or the number of people in the household where not the assumed 6 person average is given in a separate table which I have merged in with the main data. The family data includes occupation of the householder and the wages of mother, father and children.

The conclusions of the survey (pp. 135-137) are interesting. Ducpétiaux summarises thus:

The right or wrong of the working class status depends on three essential elements that combine reacting on each other. These elements are: The percentage of compensation tied to work or wages; The price of basic commodities; The nature and quantity of food compared to the number of members composing the families.

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

Ref ID: 47

Edouard Ducpetiaux, *Budgets economiques des classes ouvrières en Belgique (Bruxelles, 1855)*

Economic Budgets of Workers in Belgium

Table: [GII table 1]	Non Group Data	Non Group Data	Relevant	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.254457801580429		1.73789894580841	1.74948823451996	3.04043364524841
Naive:	0.25422990322113		1.81603562831879	1.6875	3.06456017494202
LN:	0.242436736822128		1.09582698345184	1.08744716644287	1.1916538476944

Table: GII Group Data	GDI_Belgium-1855.xlsx	Group Data	Entered	
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Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

2) Belgium, 1853 - 1891 (Private - Individual, Engel)

Survey ID: 47

199 households

Notes: Engel's study uses a selection of data from the 1853 and 1891 surveys. Engel's 1857 study, which comprises the first half of the publication cited here, was the first to draw empirical conclusions from grouped household budget data.

In the text of this survey report, Engel linked poor living conditions to the labour unrest which had been prevalent in Belgium, and proposed in his conclusion that industrial peace might be reached when workers could have 20% of their income to spend on leisure, after all physical needs had been met.

Ref ID: 48

Ernst Engel, *Die Lebenskosten belgischer arbeiterfamilien fruher und jetet (1895)*

The cost of living of Belgian working class families now and earlier

Table: [GII table 1]	GD_Belgium_1895.xls	Group Data	Entered	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.237274065613747		1.72607815265656	1.71345233917236	2.95755243301392
Naive:	0.222051799297333		1.55453145503998	1.93746471405029	3.01184988021851
LN:	0.233909070491791		1.08367443084717	1.07721364498138	1.16734886169434

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

3) **Belgium, 1889 - 1890**

Survey ID: 49

124 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Ref ID: 278

Sixth Annual Report Of The Commissioner Of Labor, 1890. Cost Of Production: Iron, Steel, Coal, Etc. (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1891)

Table: [GII table 1]	Non Group Data	Non Group Data	Relevant	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.296324014663696		1.83732545375824	2.01952147483826	3.71051788330078
Naive:	0.296134918928146		1.86437010765076	2.14287114143372	3.99510502815247
LN:	0.252551913261414		1.06650054454803	1.0623539686203	1.13300108909607

Table: GII Group Data	GDI_Belgium-1890.xlsx	Group Data	Entered	
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Ref ID: 228

Seventh Annual Report Of The Commissioner Of Labor, 1891. Cost Of Production: The Textiles And Glass (Washington D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1892)

Ref ID: 1269

Michael R. Haines, Codebook: Cost of Living of Industrial Workers in the United States and Europe, 1888-1890, ICPSR 7711

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

Ref ID: 1270

Frederick W. Moore, 'Review: Sixth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor 1890', *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, No. 2 (May 1892), pp. 135-146.

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

4) **Belgium, 1891 - 1891 (Government - Other Dept./Office)**

Survey ID: 50

188 households

Sample Duration: 1 Month(s)

Notes: Comprehensive survey detailing the household composition, income and expenditure of 188 households in 8 regions of Belgium. Households selected were working families in blue-collar jobs. Includes the job of the head of household, salaries of father, mother and children, and expenditures on all food groups; rent, heat and light; clothes; washing; health and medicine; leisure. The section on food also gives quantities consumed (in Kg/lit per household). The report includes an appendix (pp. 523-559) outlining the history of the role of the Conseils de l'industrie et du travail, which had been established in 1887 to liaise between employers and workers over industrial tension. The history of the Conseils effectively gives a history of the extensive strike and industrial action over pay and living standards in Belgium.

Ref ID: 51

Ministere de l'Agriculture etc., *Salaires et budgets ouvriers en Belgique au mois d'avril 1891 (Bruxelles, 1892)*

Table: [GII table 1]	Non Group Data	Non Group Data	Relevant	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.184177309274673		1.49348700046539	1.53950643539429	2.29923272132874
Naive:	0.184240609407425		1.43874061107635	1.62120521068573	2.33249378204346
LN:	0.22285732626915		1.09084725379944	1.08328127861023	1.18169438838959

Table: GII Group Data	GDI_Belgium-1891.xlsx	Group Data	Entered	
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Ref ID: 53

M. Gottschalk, 'Budgets ouvriers en 1891 et en 1929', *Revue de l'Inst. de Sociologie (1931)*

Workers' Budgets in 1891 and 1929

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

5) **Belgium, 1906 - 1908 (Private - Individual, B.S. Rowntree)**

Survey ID: 56

69 households

Sample Duration: 4 Week(s)

Notes: Rowntree was primarily concerned with nutrition and also with comparison to Britain. All the budgets were kept for 4 weeks with a few exceptions which are detailed in the tables. The tables also include the location of the household, details about the household composition and the occupation of the head of household. This was investigated by an investigator experienced in the work who gave housewives notebooks and supervised them recording their expenditures. There is detailed textual analysis which is particularly concerned with nutrition and malnutrition. There is more detailed nutrition information including protein intake. The data includes details of household composition and calculates daily calorie availability per equivalent man.

Rowntree concluded that Belgians seek less gratification in their food choices than families in York, and will fill up on bread and potatoes. Thus, although they are poorer, they are less deficient in calories. Rents are very cheap, but wages are also low and Belgian workers have a poor standard of living.

Ref ID: 57

B.S. Rowntree, *Land and Labour: Lessons from Belgium* (London: MacMillan and Co., 1910)

Table: [GII table 1]	Non Group Data	Non Group Data	Relevant	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.234071269631386		1.60517561435699	1.7321994304657	2.78048419952393
Naive:	0.233650296926498		1.67584097385406	1.58576643466949	2.6574923992157
LN:	0.234137639403343		1.10189127922058	1.09246945381165	1.20378267765045

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

6) Belgium, 1908 - 1908 (Board of Trade)

Survey ID: 55

1,859 households

Notes: This is a comprehensive study which covers 15 industrial towns in Belgium. The focus was the cost of living and remuneration of the working classes, compared with the UK, France and Germany.

The data was gathered by distributing forms through local trade unions. The survey is particularly concerned with housing and there is a lot of information about the quality, size and price of local housing stock. There are also prices towards the end of the survey.

Concludes cost of living for a working family approx. 9% cheaper in Belgium than in England, principally because rents are much cheaper.

Ref ID: 56

Great Britain Board of Trade, *Cost of Living in Belgian Towns. Report of An Enquiry by the Board of Trade into Working Class Rents, Housing and Retail Prices, together with the Rates of Wages in certain occupations in the Principal Industrial Towns of Belgium* (London: H.M.S.O., 1910)

Table: [GII table 1]	GD_Belgium_1908.xls	Group Data	Entered	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.211931020021439		1.48513412475586	1.63402450084686	2.42674541473389
Naive:	0.200859814882278		1.59853482246399	1.90879929065704	3.05128216743469
LN:	0.226557463407516		1.07718122005463	1.07165110111237	1.15436244010925

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

7) Belgium, 1928 - 1929 (Ministry of Industry (Labour & Social Welfare))

Survey ID: 60

1,033 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: This is a two part survey undertaken by the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour. Parts a and b cover 809 'working class' households, with part b covering 116 of the 809 families in more detail. The 224 'lower middle class' households covered in part c presumably earn more but this is not specified. Part d covers 57 of the lower middle class households in more detail. The survey takers attempted to get regional and occupational coverage, and to select 'normal families' (that is, those with two adults and at least one child).

Ref ID: 61

'The Belgian Family Budget Enquiry of 1928-1929', *International Labor Review*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (1934), pp. 81-87.

Table: [GII table 1]	GD_Belgium_1928-1929.xls	Group Data	Entered	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.278741031885147		1.89745664596558	1.51456308364868	2.87381792068481
Naive:	0.243929669260979		2.5	1.39999997615814	3.5
LN:	0.254140466451645		1.10040664672852	1.09124505519867	1.20081329345703

Ref ID: 60

International Labor Review, 'Food consumption of working class families in certain countries', *International Labor Review*, Vol. 28: 870 (1933), pp. 870-876.

Table: subset - 653 hh	GD_Belgium_1928-29b.xls	Group Data	Entered	
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Ref ID: 53

M. Gottschalk, 'Budgets ouvriers en 1891 et en 1929', *Revue de l'Inst. de Sociologie* (1931)

Workers' Budgets in 1891 and 1929

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

Ref ID: 1409

Max Gottschalk, 'Le pouvoir d'achat et la consommation des ouvriers Belges a differentes epoques', *Rev. Internatl. Trav.*, Vol. 25, No. 6 (1932), pp. 1-20.

Ref ID: 1220

***Resultats principaux d'une enquete sur les budgets ouvriers et d'employes en Belgique (1928-1929)* (The Hague, 1934)**

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

8) **Belgium, 1948 - 1949 (Academic - Individual)**

Survey ID: 64

277 households

Sample Duration: 1 Year(s)

Notes: Jaquemyns employed the same methodology as his survey of the previous year. This survey covered 277 households with 390 salaries across all regions of Belgium, and with rural and urban representation.

Ref ID: 65

G. Jacquemyns, *Mode de vie des ouvriers, 1948-49* (Bruxelles: Parc Leopold, 1951)

Table: [GII table 1]	GD_Belgium_1948-1949.xls	Group Data	Entered	
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Inequality Measures

	<i>gini (income)</i>	<i>gini (expenditure)</i>	<i>p50-10</i>	<i>p90-50</i>	<i>p90-10</i>
BL:	0.156750112771988		1.36527013778687	1.41723418235779	1.93490743637085
Naive:	0.148343324661255		1.20807588100433	1.73433899879456	2.09521317481995
LN:	0.216117635369301		1.03143775463104	1.03047955036163	1.06287550926208

Report Stats:

Selection: Belgium; only surveys with inequality measures.

Surveys: 8

Reference instances: 16

Total Households: 3,946