

detail the material on which the summaries and conclusions are based.

RENTS.

The material regarding rents gathered by the British Board of Trade in its investigations into cost of living may be summarized in the following tabular statement. The statistics relate to the housing accommodations of the kind and grade usually occupied by workmen's families in the different countries.

*RENTAL PER YEAR.

Country—	Two rooms	Three rooms	Four rooms	Five rooms
United States	\$85-121	\$110-152	\$146-189	
England & Wales	\$38-44	47- 57	57- 70	70- 82
London	57-95	76-114	95-133	114-164
Scotland	48-54	66- 81		
Ireland	32-44	50- 63	70- 85	
France	30-36	37- 53	44- 55	
Paris	39-78	58- 94	78- 97	
Germany	34-44	44- 60	54- 76	
Berlin	63-76	88-117		
Belgium	22-29	28- 36	34- 44	

The Board of Trade found that the predominant type of dwelling in the United States and in England and Wales was the four or five-room house. The English house usually possesses, in addition, a scullery, or back kitchen. In the other European countries the houses, or in some instances flats, contained a smaller number of rooms, usually from two to three or from three to four. That is, the standard of housing was higher, on the average, in the United States and England than elsewhere. With this fact in mind, it becomes clear that a comparison of rental expenditures, for example, of the United States and France, would involve setting the rental value of a four-room house in the United States over against that of a three-room house or flat in France.

Reference to the table shows that the rental value of a three-room house or flat in the United States is higher than in any other country. In fact, with the exception of London, Paris and Berlin, the minimum value of such accommodation in the United States is higher than the maximum value of the same accommodation elsewhere. The same is true of four-room houses or flats, again excepting London.

This table, while only approximate, shows clearly that rental values in the United States range considerably higher than in the several European countries under consideration.

RETAIL PRICES.

Statistics of retail prices are available in abundance, yet only a few of them can be utilized in an international comparison, because of difference of measurements, grading and naming of articles.

With these qualifications borne constantly in mind, current retail prices of the most easily standardized articles of general consumption in the United States and other countries may be compared as in the accompanying tables.

The comparison made by the Board of Trade of the cost of living in England and Wales with that in France shows that an English workingman transported to France would pay for the same standard of comfort about 18 per cent. more than he does in England. If coal be excluded he would pay 11 per cent. more. Conversely, a French workingman would

pay in England about 5.7 per cent. less for the same standard of comfort than he is paying in France.

The comparison of the cost of living in England and Wales with that in Germany indicates that the English workingman, transported to Germany and living at his own standard of comfort, would pay 18 per cent. more than he is paying in England. This excludes a comparison of tea and coffee. Conversely, a German workingman transported to England and living at his old standard of comfort would find that his English price level was about 7.4 per cent. lower than it was in Germany.

The comparison of the cost of living in England and Wales and in Belgium shows that, excluding commodities for which comparative prices could not be secured, the English workingman who moved to Belgium would find his budget increased by 2 per cent. or, if coal were excluded, slightly decreased. Conversely, a Belgian workingman moving to England would find his cost of living increased by about 2 per cent. or, if coal were excluded, increased by slightly over 5 per cent.

The comparison of the cost of living in England and Wales and in the United States shows that an English family moving to the United States and maintaining its regular standard of living would find its budgetary expenses increased by 38 per cent. Conversely, an American family would pay 20 per cent. less for its accustomed dietary if it moved to England than it is now paying in the United States. These comparisons between the cost of living in England and the United States relate to the year 1909, a special investigation being made into English prices in February, 1909, to provide a budgetary basis comparable with that of the United States. Combining these various comparisons and bringing them to a common basis, the following are the results. An English family which was transferred in turn to the respective countries named below and maintained its normal standard of living would find its expenditures for food and fuel to stand in the following relations to its expenditures in England, the latter being taken as par, or 100 per cent.:

In England and Wales	100 per cent.
In Belgium	102 per cent.
In France	118 per cent.
In Germany	118 per cent.
In the United States	138 per cent.

From this it will be seen that the cost of living in the United States compared with that of France is in the ratio of 138 to 118, or 117.8 per cent.—that is, it is 17.8 per cent. higher than in France. Similarly, the cost of living in the United States is 17.8 per cent. higher than in Germany, 35.3 per cent. higher than in Belgium and 38.0 per cent. higher than in the United Kingdom.

This is not a complete statement of the situation, inasmuch as it takes into account only those articles and in only those proportions used by the British workingman in his dietary. His standard would doubtless rise in moving to the United States; but for the same standard of living the foregoing comparisons hold.

BUDGETS.

The Board of Trade in its investigations made a study of budgets of workmen's families in the five countries studied. The results are given in some detail in the appendix. Below will be found a brief resume, presented on a per capita basis: