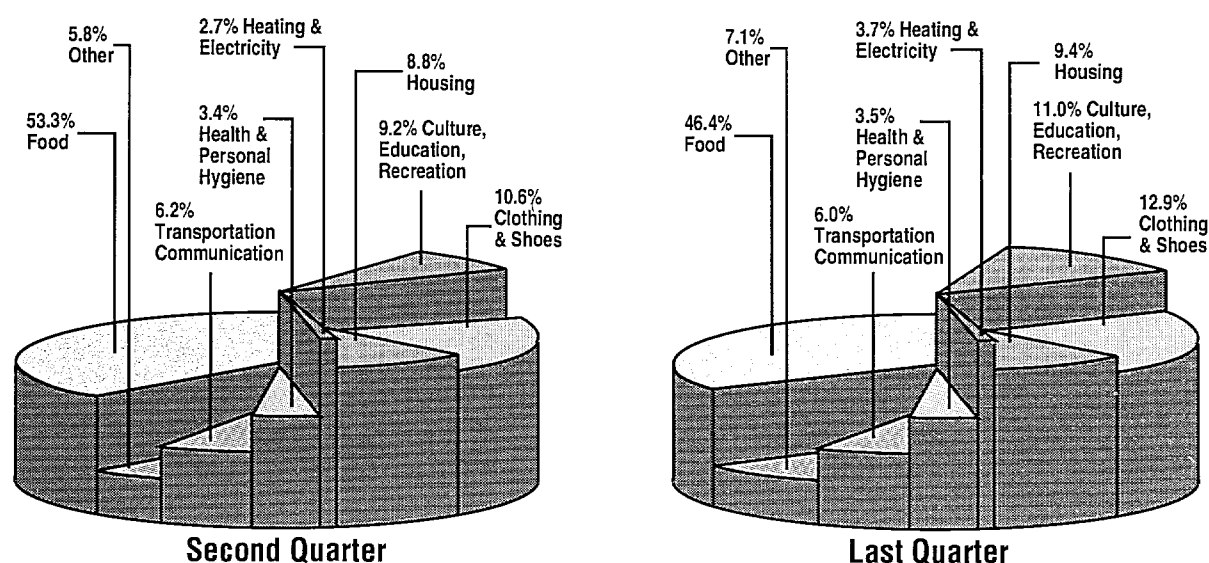


Figure 2.5
Rebalancing Household Expenditures in the Average Worker's Family, 1990



Source: Rocznik Statystyczny, 1991.

expressed itself in the rapid acquisition of consumer durables. In 1990 and 1991, the supply of these durables improved and many families took the opportunity to replace their outdated appliances (see Figure 2.7). Market penetration grew dramatically for video cassette recorders (four-fold increase), tape recorders and stereophonic radios (+50%), colour televisions (+33%), refrigerators (+20%), washing machines (+8%), and automobiles (+10%).

Increased spending on consumer durables (many of them produced domestically), has also caused a boom in imports. In 1991, imports of all goods rose by an astonishing 34% over the previous year while imports of consumer goods actually doubled. This wave of imports is evident in the shops and the streets of Warsaw where foreign foods, clothes, household goods and entertainment items abound. And there seems to be no limit to what Polish consumers will buy. French perfumes and champagnes vie with luxury German cars for the attention of a small but significant and growing class of newly-rich Poles.

Figure 2.6
Average Monthly Consumption of Selected Foodstuffs per Member of Working Class Household, First and Last Quarters, 1990
(in kilograms)

	First Quarter	Last Quarter
Flour	1.10	1.19
Bread	6.97	7.24
Potatoes	4.46	12.69
Vegetables and Vegetable Products	3.25	5.51
Fruits and Fruit Products	2.60	3.12
Meat and Meat Products	4.79	5.40
Fish and Fish Products	0.40	0.59
Edible Oils	1.47	1.62
Milk (litres)	7.10	6.72
Eggs (units)	15.04	13.18
Sugar	1.47	1.98

Source: Rocznik Statystyczny, 1991.

Figure 2.7
Market Penetration of Consumer Durables
(in percent)

	Workers		Farmers		Pensioners	
	1989	1990	1989	1990	1989	1990
Colour TVs	50.7	67.5	14.8	28.4	21.0	28.3
VCRs	4.7	20.1	0.9	4.7	0.7	2.4
Tape Recorders	24.3	37.0	18.0	14.9	4.3	7.0
Refrigerators	20.3	28.0	33.7	42.9	9.1	11.4
Automobiles	30.7	33.2	30.4	36.4	9.2	9.5

Source: GUS.