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INFORMATION MEMO

Household spending in the Community :

4 : Italy.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities has just published a 600-page study of household budgets in Italy. This is the fourth of a series based on a survey made throughout the Community in 1963-64. A study on the Fed. Rep. of Germany and France will follow shortly.

About 10.000 Italian families - workers, office-workers and farmers - took part in the survey; these groups account for 60-70 % of the population. The results cover such standard-of-living indices as house-ownership and possession of cars, refrigerators, washing-machines and television sets. A detailed break-down is given for spending on a list of 286 articles and services. Quantities of foodstuffs consumed are reported in addition to spending in food.

The Statistical Office adds an analysis of the effects of such factors as occupational group, size of family and level of income on the extent and pattern of household spending.

The survey as a whole breaks new ground both by its coverage (42 000 households from the whole Community took part) and by its methods (random sampling; use of housekeeping books and interviews). The Statistical Office describes in detail the method used and assesses the importance of the household budget survey as an instrument of social and economic analysis.

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