

1990 □ 1

### HOUSEHOLD EXPENDITURE ON ACCOMMODATION

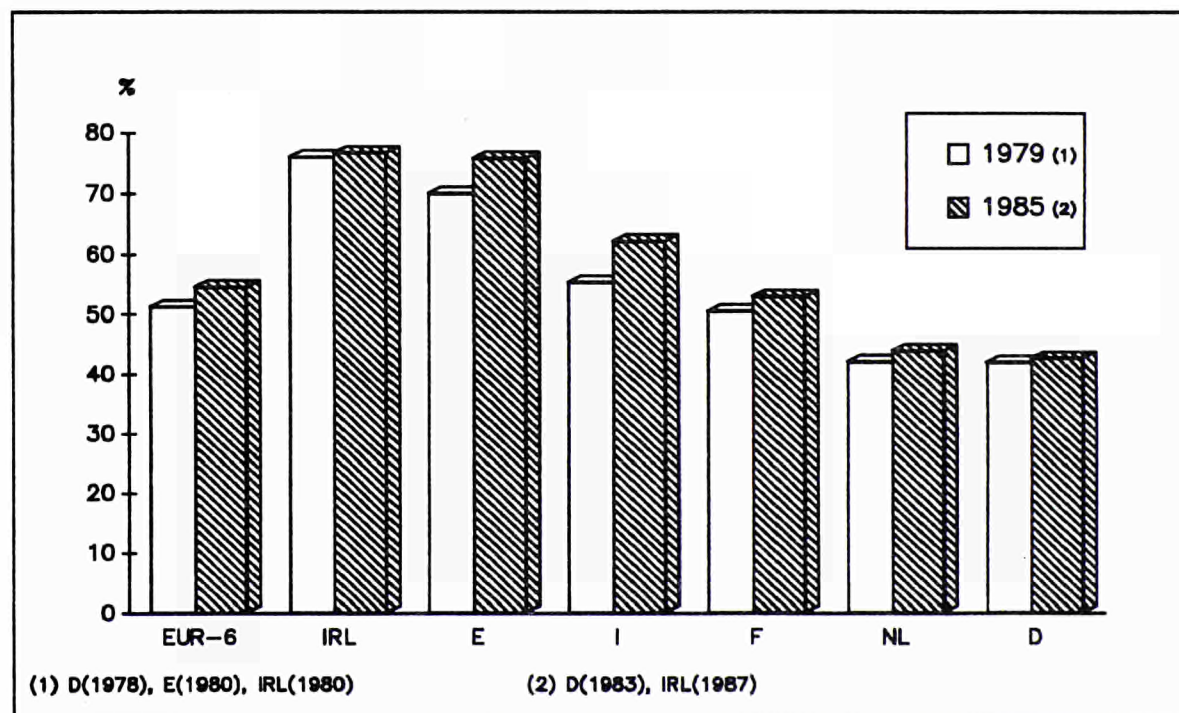
In six Community countries, 1985

In 1985, the majority of private households in the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands lived in accommodation which they owned. Expenditure on accommodation accounted for an increasing proportion of their budget, whereas expenditure on household amenities was lower than in 1979.

#### MORE THAN HALF OF PRIVATE HOUSEHOLDS ARE OWNER-OCCUPIERS

55% of private households owned their own home (Graph 1). Self-employed people were more likely to own accommodation than others. In particular, 86% of farmers owned their own home. The percentage of homeowners in most countries (F.R.Germany, France, Ireland and the Netherlands) rose slightly in relation to 1979 figures, and in Spain and Italy there were even sharper rises: 8% and 12% respectively.

Graph 1: Percentage of owner-occupier households



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These six countries may be divided into two groups:

The first (Spain, Ireland and Italy) had a well above-average percentage of owner-occupier households (over 75% in Ireland and Spain). In this group, the smallest percentage was for single-parent family owners and the largest for couples without children (Table 1).

On the other hand, in group 2 countries (F.R.Germany, France and the Netherlands) the percentage of owner-occupier households was lower (only 43% in F.R.Germany). Single people aged under 65 were least likely to be home-owners, whereas the highest rate of home-ownership was for large families (Table 2).

Although the proportion of owner-occupier households was higher amongst the higher income groups in the six countries as a whole, income and type of area had much less impact in the group 1 countries.

**Table 1: Breakdown by type of household for group 1 countries (%)**

Country	All Households	1 adult withchild(ren)	Couple, no children
E	77	34	85
IRL	76	46	80
I	62	46	65

**Table 2: Breakdown by type of household for group 2 countries (%)**

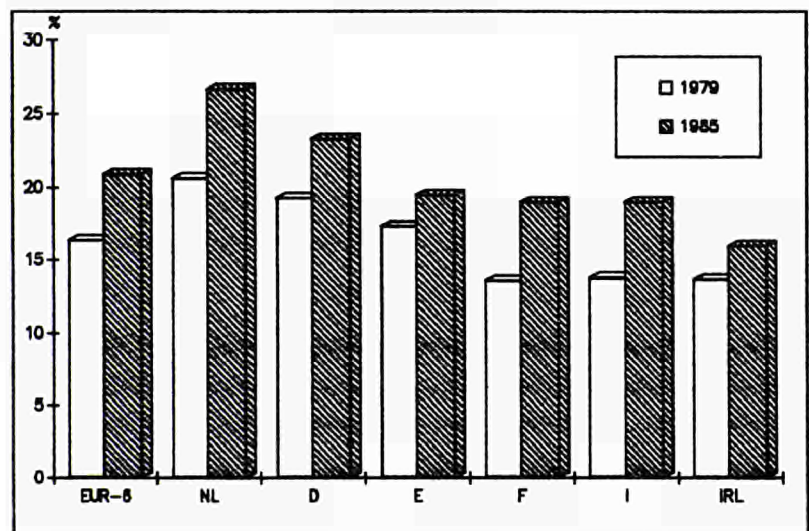
Country	All Households	One person, aged under 65	Couple, with 3 or more children
D	43	17	66
F	53	30	61
NL	44	22	68

## CONTRASTING MOVEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE ON ACCOMMODATION:

In 1985, expenditure on accommodation in the six European countries ranged from 21% of total household expenditure in Ireland, to 33% in the Netherlands. In half of these countries (F.R.Germany, France, the Netherlands), this was the major expenditure item, whereas, in the other three countries, food was the major item. Expenditure on accommodation can be broken down into expenses connected with the accommodation itself (rent, routine maintenance, local taxes and energy costs), and expenditure on household equipment (furnishings, heating and kitchen appliances). The first of these types accounted for an average of 75% of total expenditure on accommodation in the six countries in 1985.

The two types of expenditure moved in opposite directions between 1979 and 1985.

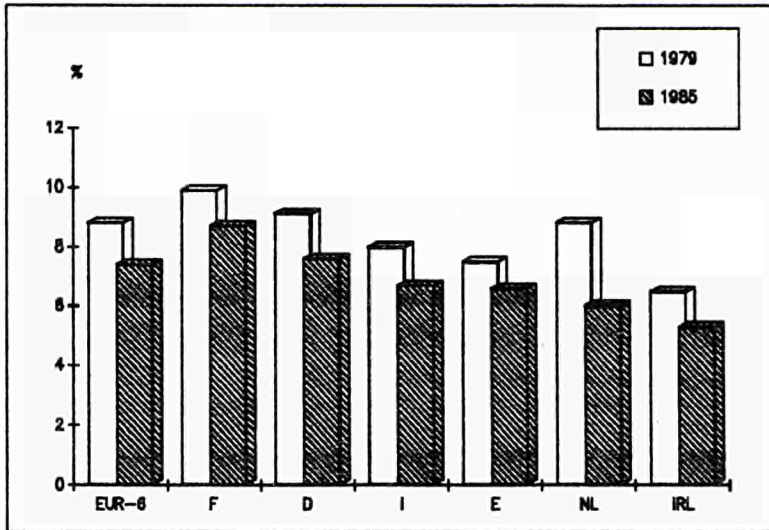
**Graph 2: Expenditure on accommodation by country**



Expenditure on accommodation proper (Graph 2) increased by an average of 4% per annum over the six countries, with the lowest rise in Spain (2% per annum), and the highest in France (5.7% per annum). Except for Ireland, where a sharp rise in rents and water rates was responsible, this increase was in every case linked to much higher heating and lighting costs.



Graph 3: Expenditure on household equipment by country

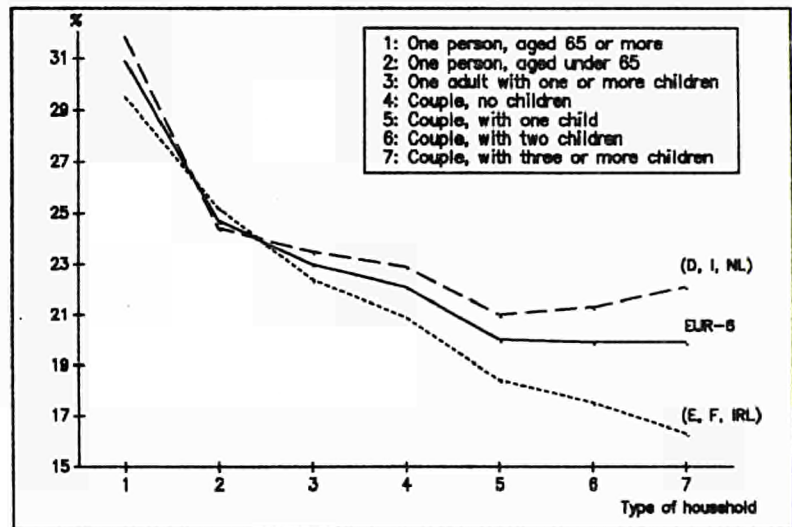


On the other hand, expenditure on household equipment (Graph 3) declined between 1979 and 1985, with an annual fall ranging from 2.1% in Spain and France to 6.2% in the Netherlands. Expenditure on all types of amenities fell, the largest decreases being on furnishings in four of the countries (F.R.Germany, Spain, Ireland and Italy).

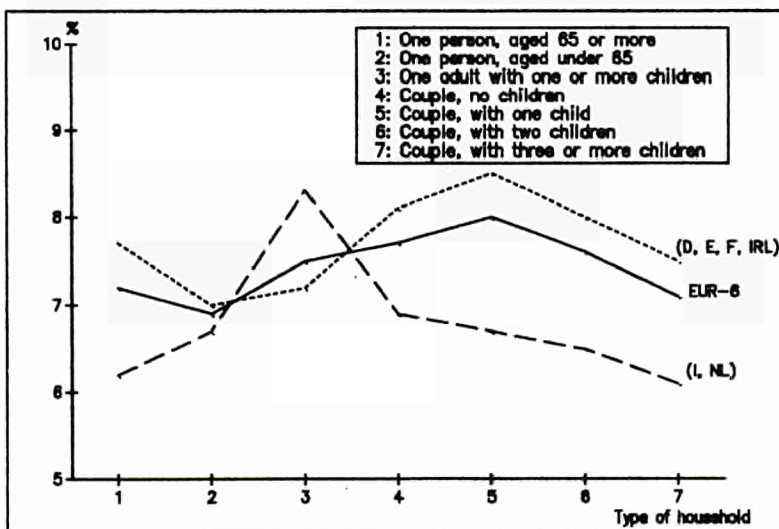
Expenditure by type of household

In relative terms, accommodation expressed as a percentage of total expenditure in these six Community countries decreased on average as the size of household increased (Graph 4). The figures for Spain, France and Ireland followed this general rule, whereas for F.R.Germany, Italy and the Netherlands the lowest figure was for couples with one child.

Graph 4: Expenditure on accommodation by type of household



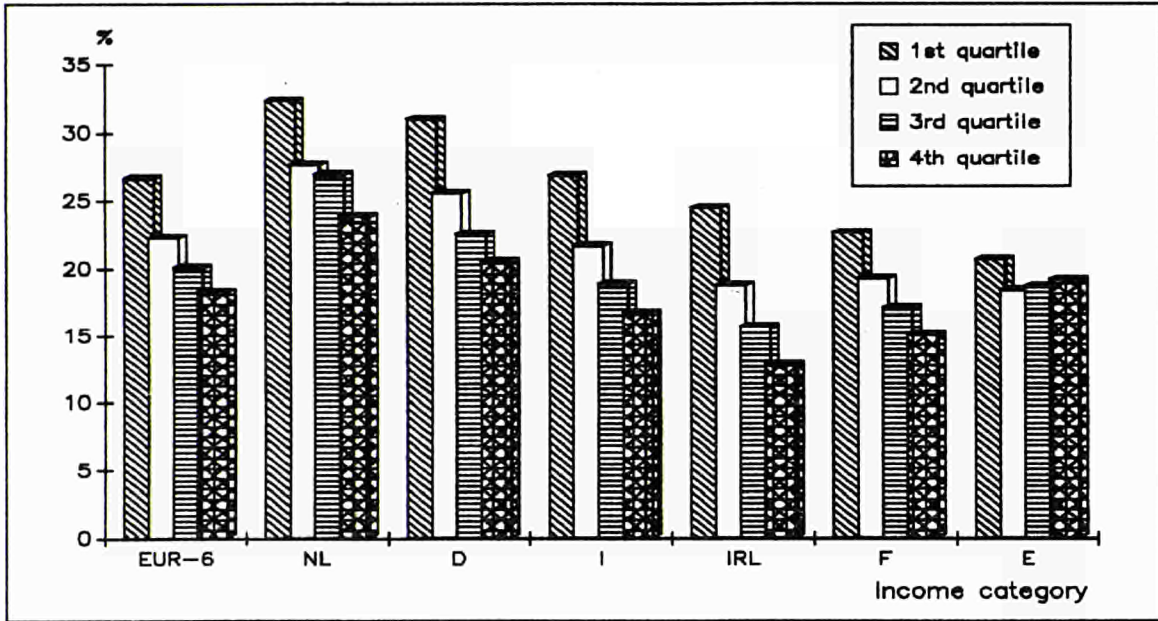
Graph 5: Expenditure on household equipment by type of household



Household equipment was the major expenditure item both in the budget of single-parent Italian and Dutch families and in the budget of couples with one child in the other four countries (Graph 5).

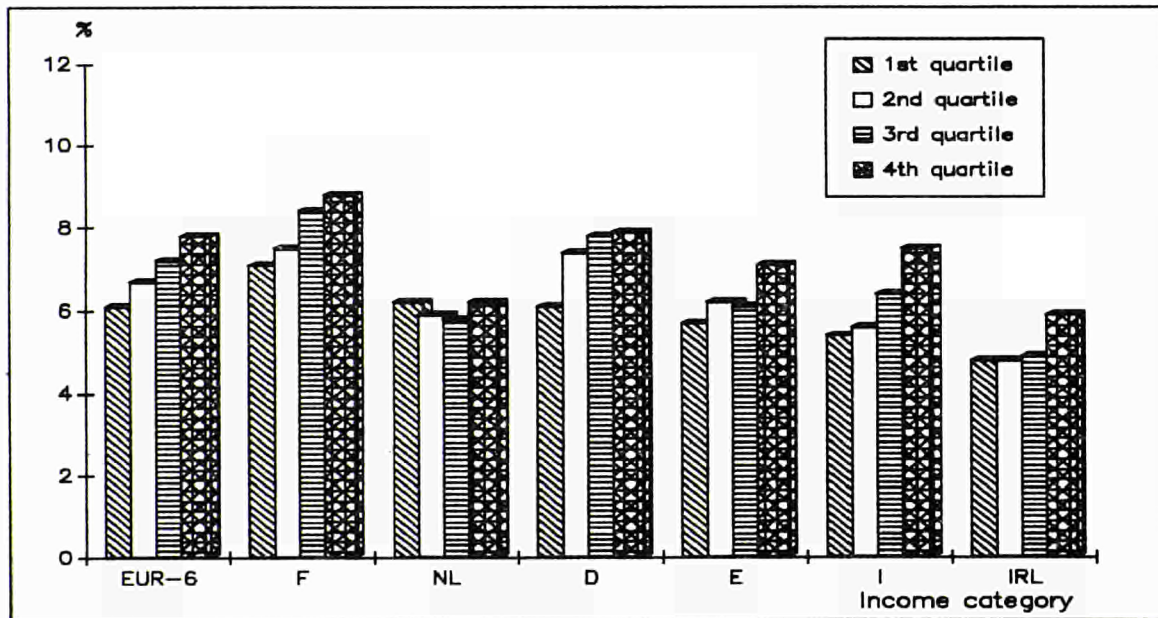
## Expenditure by income class

Graph 6: Expenditure on accommodation by income class



For all countries, there was an inverse relationship between the percentage of expenditure on accommodation and income (Graph 6), whereas expenditure on household equipment and income moved in the same direction (Graph 7). Thus, the higher the household income, the lower the share accounted for by housing, while expenditure on amenities increased. Different trends were shown by both expenditure on accommodation in Spain (no doubt due to the fact that data were estimated on the basis of the quarterly survey), and expenditure on household equipment in the Netherlands.

Graph 7: Expenditure on household equipment by income class



*For more information.*

*Family Budgets 1979: Comparative tables - EUROSTAT*

*Family Budgets 1985: Comparative tables (to be published) - EUROSTAT*