

# 1909 FAMILY PROFILE

Rosi Knaust, a 23-year-old single, German woman, is employed as a chocolate dipper, where she works a 92½-hour week during the busy Christmas season. She lives by herself in Chicago, Illinois, a city coping with the crush of immigration during the past two decades. She is considered lucky to be such a skilled worker.

**Annual Income:** \$738.00

## Annual Budget

The Chicago study provides no personal information about this worker. As a reference, the average per capita consumer expenditure in 1909 of all workers nationwide is:

Auto Parts .....	\$0.59
Auto Purchases .....	\$1.85
Clothing.....	\$30.00
Dentists .....	\$0.91
Food.....	\$81.43
Furniture .....	\$3.25
Gas and Oil .....	\$1.36
Health Insurance.....	NR
Housing.....	\$61.48
Intercity Transport .....	\$2.97
Local Transportation.....	\$5.12
Personal Business .....	\$9.61
Personal Care.....	\$2.88
Physicians .....	\$3.24
Private Education and Research .....	\$4.59
Recreation .....	\$9.49
Religion/Welfare Activities .....	\$9.05



Telephone and Telegraph .....	\$1.00
Tobacco.....	\$6.33
Utilities .....	\$4.00
Average Per Capita Consumption .....	\$318.42

## Life at Home

- Rosi lives by herself in a tenement and shares a bathroom with four others.
- Groceries she is likely to purchase include the following:

Bread, Homemade, per Loaf .....	\$0.04
Columbia Family Soap, 10 Bars.....	\$0.40
Crystal Domino Sugar, Two-Pound Box ...	\$0.18
Fancy Dry Picked Turkeys, per Pound.....	\$0.19
Fancy Soft Shell Almonds, One Pound.....	\$0.21
Florida Head Lettuce, Three for.....	\$0.25
Granulated Yellow Cornmeal, 10 Pounds ..	\$0.19
Hawaii Sliced Pineapple, 2½-Pound Can ..	\$0.23
Honey Washed Figs, One-Pound Box .....	\$0.25
Jersey Sweet Potatoes, 10 Pounds.....	\$0.23
Large Black Cherries, in Syrup, per Can ...	\$0.23
Oranges, per Dozen .....	\$0.18
Old-Fashioned Japan Tea, per Pound .....	\$0.37
Wilbur's Breakfast Cocoa, One Pound .....	\$0.25

### A sampling of "Room for Rent" advertisements appearing in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1909 included:

- "New Washington Hotel, Washington Blvd., neatly furn. rooms, \$8 up."
- "Kenwood, nicely furnished, heated 3 to 5 room flats, light housekeeping; \$18 up."
- "2333 Michigan Ave. In Private Home. High class 2 and 3 room suites, location and transportation the very best; people of refinement only."

### Income, Standard Jobs

Average of All Industries,

Including Farm Labor . . . . .	\$544.00
Clerical Workers in Manufacturing . .	\$1,136.00
Domestics . . . . .	\$420.00
Farm Labor . . . . .	\$328.00
Gas and Electricity Workers . . . . .	\$618.00
Medical/Health Services Workers . . . .	\$326.00
Ministers . . . . .	\$831.00
Public School Teachers . . . . .	\$476.00
State and Local Government Workers . . . . .	\$696.00
Steam Railroads, Wage Earners . . . . .	\$644.00
Street Railway Workers . . . . .	\$671.00
Telegraph Industry Workers . . . . .	\$622.00
Wholesale and Retail Trade Workers . . . . .	\$561.00

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### Selected Prices

Arnica Jelly Sunburn Remedy, Tube . . . .	\$0.25
Baking Powder, Good Luck Brand, per Pound . . . . .	\$0.10
Bed, Iron with Corner Posts Made of Steel Tubing . . . . .	\$1.89
Caster Oil Tablets, per Box . . . . .	\$0.10
Cleaner, Old Dutch, per Can. . . . .	\$0.10
Coca-Cola Drink by Glass . . . . .	\$0.05
Cold Cream, per Tube . . . . .	\$0.10
Corset, Has High Bust Effect . . . . .	\$1.00
Face Powder, Lablache, per Box . . . . .	\$0.50
Home Lessons in Spanish, French, Italian, German, per Language . . . . .	\$5.00
Mantel Clock, Case Imitates Black Italian Marble . . . . .	\$5.05
Nestor Cigarettes, Pack of 10, Imported . . . . .	\$0.40
Night Dresses, Handmade . . . . .	\$7.25
Records, Wax-Cylinder, Standard Size . . . . .	\$0.18
Sewing Basket, to Include Scissors, Bodkins, Pen Knife, Knitting and Crocheting Needles . . . . .	\$7.50-\$35.00
Sewing Machine with Seven Drawers . . . . .	\$16.45
Silk Stockings, French, per Pair . . . . .	\$4.50
Stereoscopic Views, 100 Views of St. Louis World's Fair . . . . .	\$0.85