

1912 FAMILY PROFILE

This Cuban Rodenas family of four is supported by the booming cigar making industry in the Ybor City section of Tampa, Florida. Both the man and the woman work in the cigar industry, although the woman often works shorter hours so she can care for their two children, both under the age of 14.

Annual Income

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Husband..... | \$1,035.00 |
| Wife..... | \$580.00 |
| Total..... | \$1,615.00 |

The father of the Rodenas family of four works as a hand cigar maker, making \$0.45 per hour working about 46 hours weekly; the average worker receives \$0.29 per hour. Since cigar makers are paid on a piece rate, not hourly, the man makes more than 1,000 cigars each week.

The woman works as a bander, making \$0.18 per hour, or about \$11.50 per week, the average wage for that type of worker in the industry. She frequently works fewer hours, about 40, so that she can tend the children. Cigar workers throughout the country set their own hours and protect that privilege vociferously.

Annual Budget

The study of Cuban cigar makers does not provide a detailed listing of home expenses. A national consumer expenditure from that time period, adjusted for a family of four would be as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Auto Parts | \$4.36 |
| Auto Purchases | \$16.84 |
| Clothing..... | \$118.08 |
| Dentists | \$3.80 |
| Food | \$361.36 |
| Furniture | \$13.88 |
| Gas and Oil | \$9.40 |
| Housing..... | \$251.12 |
| Intercity Transport | \$13.28 |
| Local Transport..... | \$24.52 |
| Personal Business | \$39.44 |
| Personal Care | \$12.32 |
| Physicians | \$11.96 |
| Private Education | \$19.88 |
| Recreation | \$40.24 |
| Religion/Welfare | \$33.76 |
| Telephone | \$4.52 |
| Tobacco | \$29.56 |
| Utilities | \$18.56 |
| Per Capita Consumption | \$1,347.80 |

Life at Home

- The Rodenas family lives in a one-story house which is very close to its neighbor's.
- Although the houses are close together, common areas are set aside for gardens to grow vegetables, cutting the family's food bill by 30 percent.
- Italian vegetable vendors also tour the neighborhood with additional fruits and vegetables.
- In these pre-air conditioning days of Florida, windows are left open. None of the homes is heated because of the climate of Florida.

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R. J. BINGHAM

1912 ECONOMIC PROFILE

Income, Standard Jobs

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Average for All Industries | |
| Including Farm Labor | \$592.00 |
| Clerical Workers in | |
| Manufacturing | \$1,209.00 |
| Domestics | \$350.00 |
| Farm Labor | \$348.00 |
| Gas and Electricity Workers | \$641.00 |
| Medical Health Workers | \$352.00 |
| Public School Teachers | \$529.00 |
| State and Local Government | |
| Workers | \$724.00 |
| Telephone Workers | \$438.00 |
| Wholesale and Retail | |
| Trade Workers | \$666.00 |

Selected Prices

| | |
|---|---------|
| Abraham and Straus Baby | |
| Dress | \$0.98 |
| Baseball | \$1.15 |
| Cotton Petticoat | \$1.48 |
| Crayons, 28 Colors | \$0.04 |
| Eureka Vacuum Cleaner | \$35.00 |
| Fulton Special Hammer | \$0.66 |
| Gingham Cloth, per Yard | \$0.09 |
| Grandma Soap, Borax | |
| Powdered | \$0.05 |
| Hotel Room, Tampa, Florida, | |
| per Night | \$2.00 |
| J.F. Oxford Talking Machine | \$14.95 |
| John M. Smyth Suit, | |
| Blue Serge | \$7.98 |
| Man's Wedding Ring, 14-Karat | \$2.59 |
| Marshmallows, 200 to a Box | \$0.42 |
| Mead Bicycle | \$10.00 |
| Porch Rocking Chair | \$2.25 |
| Sanitol Toothpaste | \$0.25 |
| Silk Dress, Pongees | \$10.95 |
| Sweater Blouse, Turndown Collar | \$1.19 |
| Toilet Paper, 1,000 Sheets, Six Rolls | \$0.27 |
| Wilson Hose Supports | \$0.25 |