
Colonial extraction and living standards

Household budgets, women's work and consumption in the Netherlands and the Dutch East Indies, ca. 1860-1940



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Industriousness in an Imperial Economy

- Reciprocal relations between the metropole (the Netherlands) and the colony (the Netherlands-Indies).
- Main point of interest: influence of colonial relations on living standards.
- Research on the household level.

Comparison of living standards in NL and the NL-I

- Focus on 19th century (Van Zanden, 2003)
- Largely based on GDP and real wages.

Our contribution

- Regional data: budget studies from NL and NL-I
- Period 1890-1940
- Income and expenditure
- Incorporate women's and children's incomes.

No. 27.

Gemeente ROTTERDAM.
Steenhouwer.

Gezin 5 personen.
Man 36, vrouw 39, 3 kinderen 18, 14 en 11 jaar.

UITGAVEN		Percent	INKOMSTEN		
I Brood	f 188.85	f 188.85	15,68	Man Juni 1910	f 64.—
II Melk	f 37.99			Juli	77.50
Boter en Margarine	39.65			Augustus	62.—
Eieren	0.72			September	60.—
Kaas	11.15	89.51	7,43	October	71.—
III Suiker	f 40.02 ^a			November	56.—
Kruidnierswaren	85.42			December	70.—
Koffie	19.90 ^a			Januari 1911	56.—
Thee	10.14	155.49	12,08	Februari	56.—
IV Aardappelen	f 53.43			Maart	63.—
Groenten	34.70 ^a			April	80.—
Grutterswaren	5.75			Mei	64.—
Fruit	7.66	101.54 ^a	9,26	Totaal f 779.50	
V Vleesch	f 115.95 ^a			Vrouw	—
Vet	0.88			Kinderen	220.50
Visch	7.30	124.13 ^a	10,31		f 1000.—
			54,76	Bijzonderheden.	
VI Kleeding	f 103.90			Diversen:	
Schoeisel	34.29	138.19	11,48	School- en lesgeld	f 29.35
VII Brandstof	f 9.55			Voor huisdieren en voer	17.64
Verlichting	37.76	47.31	3,93	Spoorgeld	3.25
VIII Wasch- en Poetsart	f 16.69	16.69	1,39	Huishoudelijke artikelen	6.15
IX Huishuur	f 163.—	163.—	13,54	Vermaak	7.83
X Bier	f —			Het te kort wordt aangevuld uit een kapitaalje.	
Sterke Drank	—				
Tabak en Sigaren	—				
XI Contributies	f 18.02				
Fondsgelden	72.12	90.14	7,49		
XII Belasting	f 11.72	11.72	0,97		
XIII Diversen	f 77.58	77.58	6,44		
		f 1204.16	100.—		

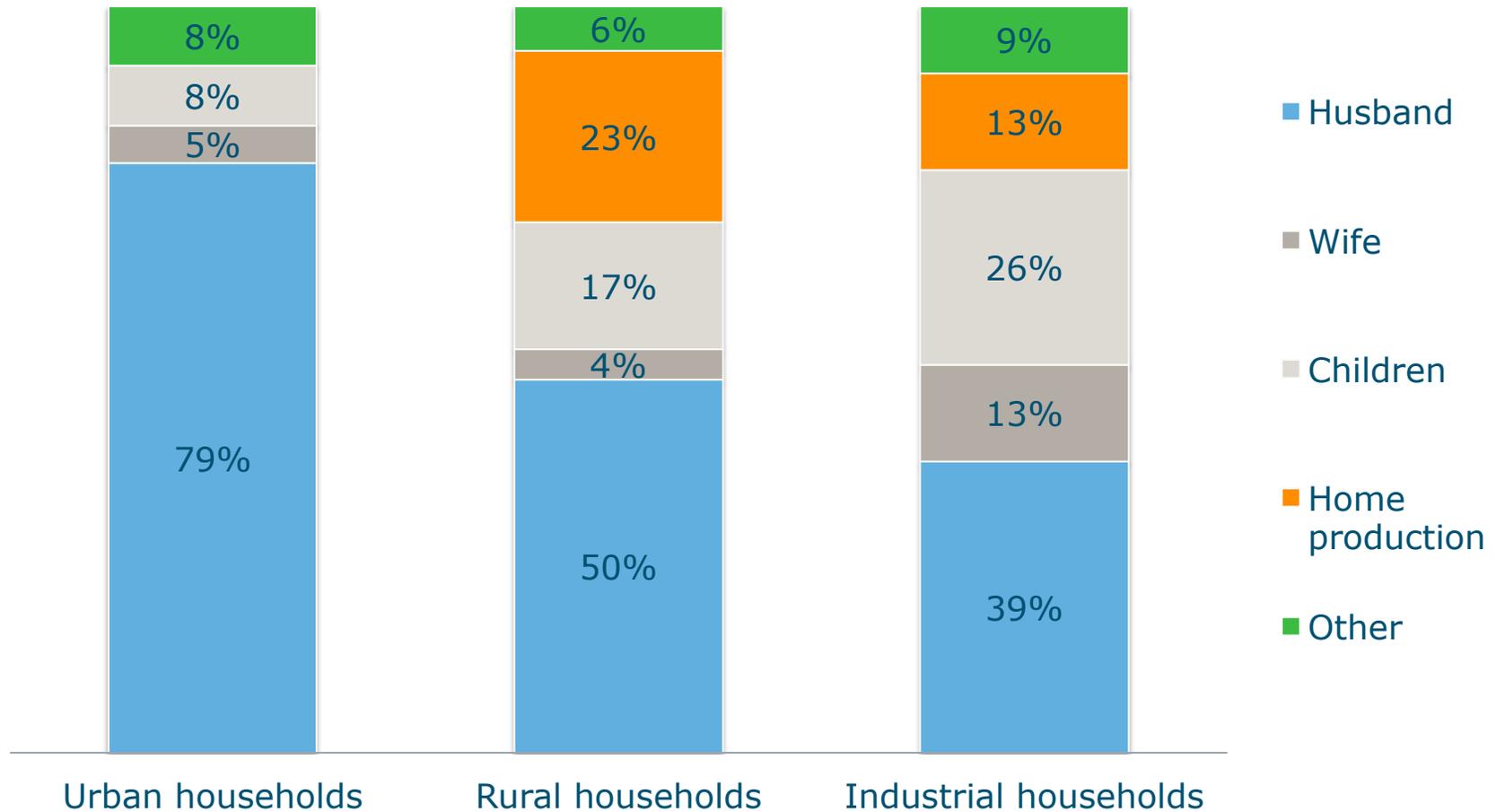
Budgets Java

Cross-section	Actual Year	Region	No. of budgets
1900	1886; 1888; 1900	Java, various regions	66
1935	1939-40	Java, various regions	1,945
Total			2011

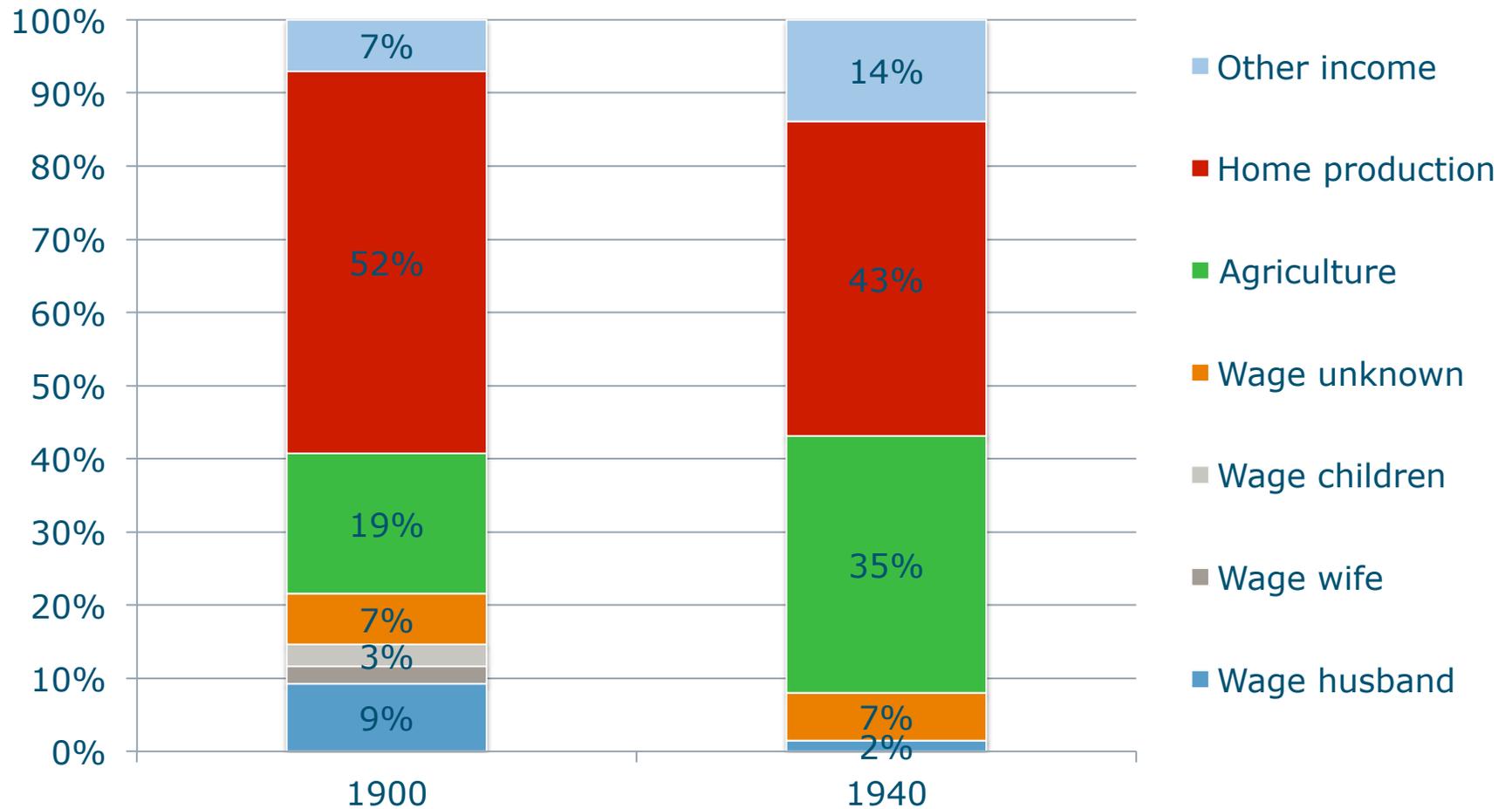
Dutch budgets according to skill level head of household

Skill level head of household	1891	1912	1913	1919	1921	1927	1930	1935	1937	Total
Unskilled	3	9	25	11	2	16	2	83	3	154
Lower-skilled	3	25	0	70	17	116	3	180	32	446
Medium-skilled	10	32	0	46	9	67	8	241	18	431
Higher-skilled	0	1	0	9	0	18	0	57	5	90
Unknown	10	3	0	2	0	22	6	37	5	85
Total	26	70	25	138	28	239	19	598	63	1206

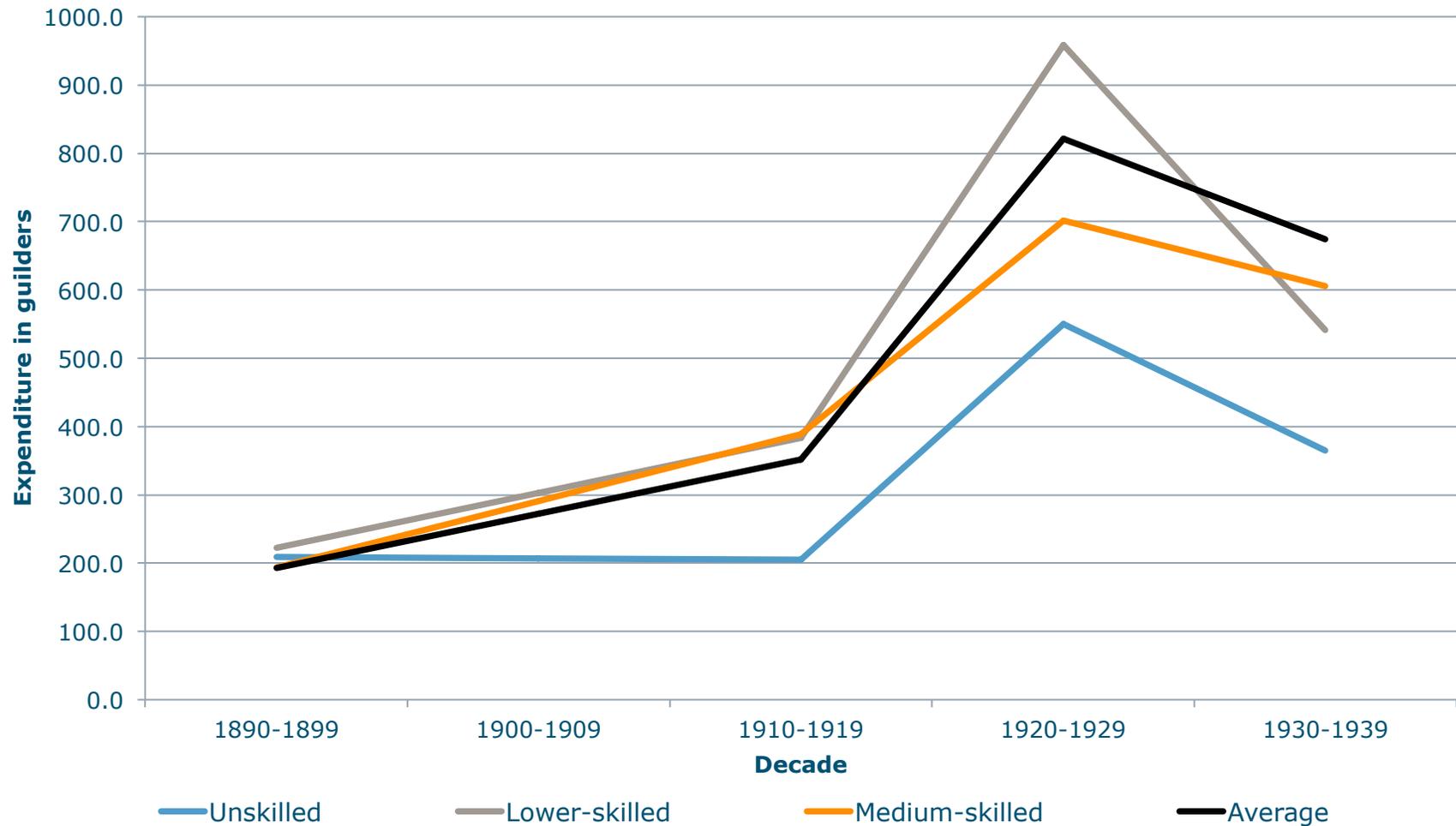
Income composition NL 1900



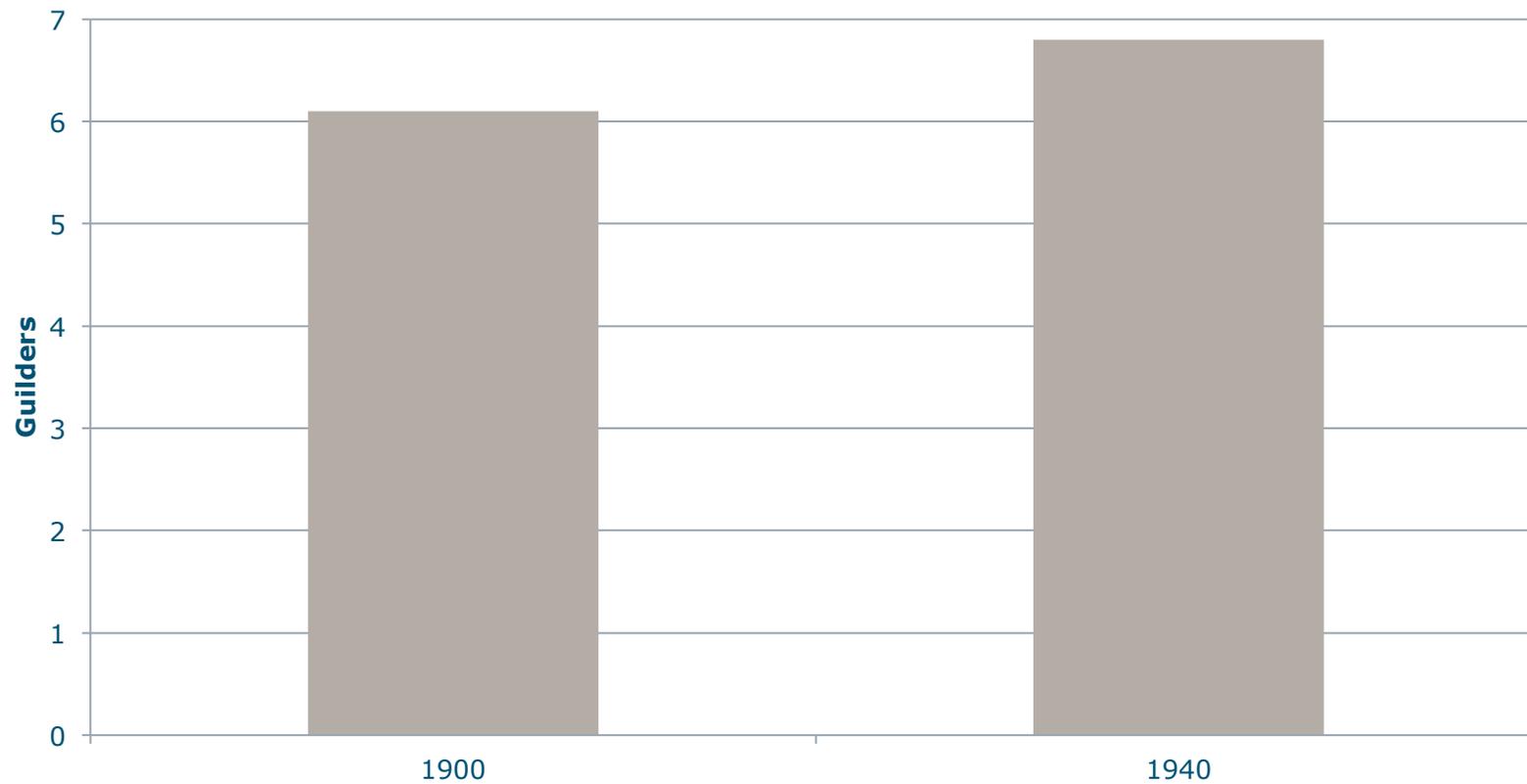
Income composition (peasants) NL-I 1900, 1940



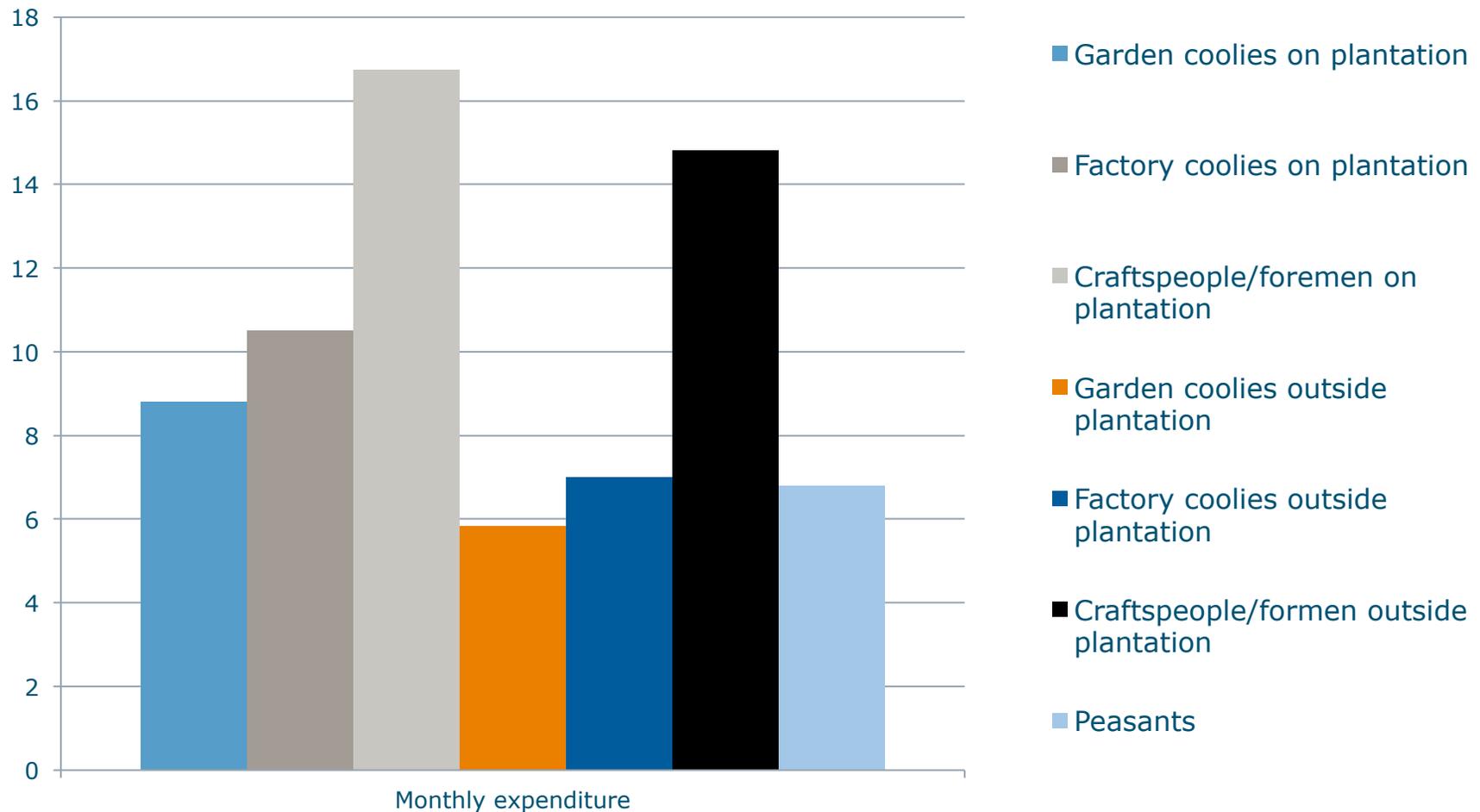
Deflated annual expenditure Dutch households in guilders per consumption unit (1935 = 100)



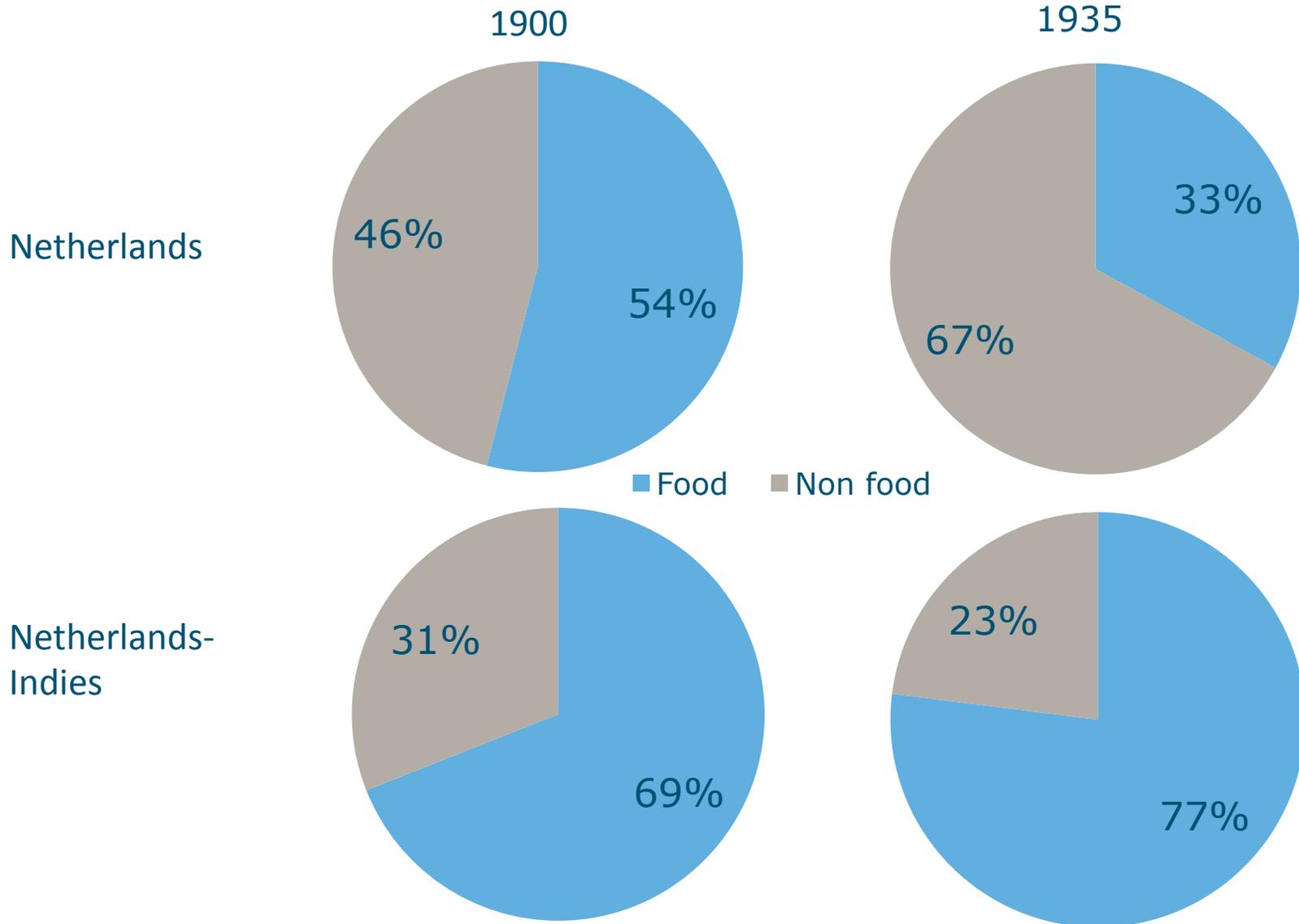
Monthly expenditure per family (peasants, NL-I) in guilders



Monthly expenditure per family in guilders (1940, NL-I)



Share of expenditure spent on food, NL and NL-I



Conclusion

1. Living standards 1900-1935:

- In NL: improved until 1930, then slightly deteriorated
- In NL-I: remained stable

2. Importance women's and children's contributions 1900-1935:

- In NL: decreased
- In NL-I: remained important

Thank you!

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