



An economic study of some of the factors affecting spending on food in Egypt

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Abstract : Food is considered one of the most important basics of life that the state is highly interesting to provide for all citizens since it plays an important role in keeping the individual's health, vitality and his ability to work and produce. Spending money on food and drinking occupies the greatest share of the total consuming spending in the developing countries since it is valued by about 73-80% and by about 9-36% in the developed countries ⁽¹⁾ from the total consumer spending. As for Egypt, it ranges in-between 39-51% from the total consumer spending ⁽²⁾. Therefore, this study aims at identifying how fare some characteristics of the household head; such as his educational status, position, employment status, economic activity and family size, affect spending on food and drinking and the consumer spending during 2010-2011 and 2012-2013.

This study concludes that the demand on food and drinking is an inflexible demand in both the rural and urban. Besides, it ends that the family's annual spending on food and drinking according to the family size that is reduced in 2012-2013 comparing to 2010-2011 in all segments except the family that is consisted of one individual only. Besides, this study finds out that spending money on food and drinking is increased as long as the job of the family head needs more physical effort. Additionally, spending on food and drinking for all sectors under study, according to the main sector of the household *head* in the urban, is less than that of the rural during the two years of the study, equally. Also, it became clear that as long as the educational status of the household head is increased, the spending ratio on food and drinking in both the rural and the urban is equally decreased. Moreover, the spending ratio on food and drinking according to the employment status of the household head is increased in both the rural and the urban in all sectors in 2011-2012 in comparison to 2012-2013. Finally, this study introduces some recommendations that have the ability to correct spending on food and drinking in all of the society's groups.

Key Words : Spending on food and drinking - the educational status of the household head – the economical activity of the household head – family size – the flexibility of spending.