



1905 FAMILY PROFILE

The Stella family of nine Italian Catholics lives in a tenement house in one of the most overcrowded and poverty-ridden sections of New York City. The man, a first-generation American, is an oyster selector, working long hours on the docks. The woman works as a “washerwoman.” Three of the seven children work with their father on the docks.

Annual Income

Husband	\$744.00
Wife	\$410.00
Three Children	\$346.00
Total	\$1,500.00

Annual Budget

Clothing	\$560.00
Food	\$520.00
Insurance, Dues	\$56.60
Light and Fuel	\$55.00
Rent	\$168.00
Sundries	\$169.40
Total	\$1,529.00

Life at Home

- Rent is \$14.00 a month for four rooms for nine people. The Stella family has no bath, and only one family in 10 has a toilet in their apartment.
- They do have a window and access to outer air; the apartments in the back of the building have no windows.
- The children older than 14 are considered boarders; it is the custom for older children to pay approximately \$5.00 a week board to their mother, according to their ability to work, clothe themselves, and save toward getting married.
- Breakfast consists of rolls and coffee, occasionally eggs or oatmeal.



1905 ECONOMIC PROFILE

Income, Standard Jobs

Average for All Industries,	
Including Farm Labor	\$510.00
Clerical Workers in Manufacturing . .	\$1,076.00
Domestic	\$278.00
Farm Labor	\$302.00
Finance and Insurance Executive . . .	\$1,115.00
Gas and Electricity Worker	\$543.00
Minister	\$773.00
Public School Teacher	\$392.00
Telephone Industry Worker	\$401.00
Wholesale and Retail Worker	\$393.00

Selected Prices

Aerel Washcloth, Cleans Itself	\$0.05
Bishop's Hat	\$3.00
Bissell Carpet Sweeper	\$4.00
Blondine Hair Bleach, Large Bottle	\$0.70
Boy's Shoes	\$1.75
Cabbage Plants	\$1.50/1,000



HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

1905–1906

- The newly formed Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) attacked the American Federation of Labor for accepting the capitalist system
- A New York law limiting hours of work in the baking industry to 60 per week was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court
- U.S. auto production reached 15,000 cars per year, up from 2,500 in 1899
- William Randolph Hearst acquired *Cosmopolitan* magazine for \$400,000
- Royal Typewriter Company was founded by New York financier Thomas Fortune Ryan
- Sales of Jell-O reached \$1 million
- Oklahoma was admitted to the Union
- Planters Nut and Chocolate Company was created
- A-1 Sauce was introduced in the United States by Hartford's G.F. Heublein & Brothers
- Samuel Hopkins Adams' *The Great American Fraud* exposed the fraudulent claims of many patent medicines
- The Temperance movement was gaining momentum; New York had one saloon for every 200 people
- Anti-liquor campaigners received powerful support from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, lead by Frances E. Willard, who often fell to her knees and prayed on saloon floors
- Former U.S. President Grover Cleveland wrote in *The Ladies' Home Journal* that women of sense did not wish to vote: "The relative positions to be assumed by men and women in the working out of our civilizations were assigned long ago by a higher intelligence than ours."
- Current President Theodore Roosevelt admonished well-born white women who were using birth control for participating in willful sterilization, a practice becoming known as racial suicide
- As early as 1891 recent Irish immigrants dominated police work in cities such as Boston, New York, and Chicago, prompting a cartoon showing "The Wonder of the Age. An American Policeman; The Only Policeman Ever Born in America."