

The upper bar graph illustrates data regarding the percentage of households owning three electrical appliances in a country, over a century between 1920 and 2019, while the lower one depicts how much time was spent on doing housework in each week and by each household in the same country and time span.

Overall, there were upward trends in the ownership of all three appliances over the period in question. Furthermore, the total number of hours spent on washing clothes, preparing meals and cleaning witnessed a steady fall.

With regards to the ownership of refrigerator, having started at around 2% in 1920, the figure then rose sharply and reached a plateau in 1980. From this year to the end of the period, all households owned refrigerator. Likewise, the percentage of households owning vacuum cleaner increased significantly by 70% (from 30% to 100%) over the first 80 years and remained constant for the rest of the period. As for washing machine, despite increasing from 40% in 1920 to around 70% in 1960, the figure then showed a negligible decline by 5% in 1980, and subsequently, experienced a gradual growth to 75%.

If we look at the number of hours of housework, the figure started at 50 hours per week for each household and after a gradual decrease to roughly 20 hours in 1960, followed by a slight decline, it finished at just over 10%.