This paper studies the Engel’s relationship for the consumption of food away from home (FAFH) in Argentina. Different Engel curves and their respective expenditure elasticities are estimated, including socio-economic and demographic characteristics of households, and later computing the respective elasticity-expense. It concludes that the circumstances in which FAFH consumption occurs are crucial to its economic characterization. When FAFH occurs in leisure time, it appears to be a luxury, while in work or study circumstances, it turns out a necessity. Only the last case is consistent with the so-called Engel’s law.

Keywords: Engel curves, FAFH, expenditure-elasticities, leisure time, work or study time, Argentina.

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