# Consumer Expenditures in 2009 

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Consumer units ${ }^{1}$ spent 2.8 percent less, on average, in 2009 than in the previous year. This drop in spendingfrom $\$ 50,486$ in 2008 to $\$ 49,067$ in 2009, in nominal dol-lars-marked the first time a year-to-year decrease has been measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) since the CE began publishing integrated data in 1984. In 2008, spending rose a moderate 1.7 percent, following an increase of 2.6 percent in 2007. Prices in the United States, as measured by the average annual change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. city average, all items), fell 0.4 percent in 2009, following increases of 3.8 percent in 2008 and 2.8 percent in 2007. This report provides CE results for 2009, the latest year of data available.

## Developments in 2009

Consumers across the United States continued to feel the pressure of the economic downturn throughout 2009, even though the latest U.S. recession officially ended in June 2009. ${ }^{2}$ Of the major components of spending-food, housing, apparel and services, transportation, healthcare, entertainment, and personal insurance and pensions, which account for about 90 percent of total expenditures- all except heal thcare decreased from 2008 to 2009. (See table A.) Expenditures decreased by 1.1 percent for food, 1.3 percent for housing, 4.2 percent for apparel and services, 11.0 percent for transportation, 5.0 percent for entertainment, and 2.4 percent for personal insurance and pensions. Spending rose by 5.0 percent for healthcare.

Although overall food spending varied across income quintiles, there was a consistent pattern of spending less on food-away-from-home items from 2008 to 2009. The highest income quintile had the largest dollar drop in spending on food away from home, from $\$ 5,336$ in 2008 to $\$ 5,151$ in 2009. Food away from home includes items such as meals at restaurants, food or board at school, catered affairs, and food bought during out-of-town trips. The drop in spending by the highest income quintile was the main reason food-away-from-home spending decreased 2.9 percent for all consumer

[^0]units, on average. The lowest income quintile group had the largest percentage decrease in spending on food away from home ( -5.9 percent), but their low level of spending relative to other income quintiles had less of an effect on overall food-away-from-home spending. The drop in overall food-away-from-home spending could be evidence of a shift away from discretionary spending on food during the period. In addition, the price for food away from home, as measured by the CPI-U, increased 3.5 percent in 2009. For food-at-home spending-the other major subcomponent of overall food spending-consumer units in the lowest income quintile raised their level of spending the most of any quintile group, from $\$ 2,369$ in 2008 to $\$ 2,463$ in 2009. They also had the largest percentage spending increase ( 4.0 percent) in this category from 2008 to 2009. The second income quintile was the only other quintile group to increase spending on food at home ( 2.4 percent). Overall food-at-home spending increased a mere 0.2 percent because the increases by the two lowest income quintile groups were nearly offset by the decreases of the higher quintiles. The price for food at home, as measured by the CPI-U, increased 0.5 percent.

Housing expenditures dropped 1.3 percent from 2008 to 2009, which was not surprising considering the continuing problems for the housing sector. Housing is the largest component of overall expenditures, accounting for 34.4 percent of the total in 2009. (See table B.) New home sales and existing home sales in the United States fell for the fourth consecutive year. ${ }^{3}$ The median selling price for new homes and for existing homes fell from the previous year, 3.0 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. ${ }^{4}$ More than 3.9 million foreclosure filings-default notices, scheduled foreclosure auctions, and bank repossessionswere disclosed on more than 2.8 million U.S. properties. ${ }^{5}$ (The three types of filings could all potentially be levied at an individual property.) About 2.1 million fewer consumer units reported being homeowners with a mortgage in the 2009 CE than in the 2007 CE. During the same time

[^1]Table A. Average annual expenditures by major category of all consumer units and percent changes, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2007-2009

| Item | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | Percent Change |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands)... | 120,171 | 120,770 | 120,847 |  |  |
| Average income before taxes ................ | \$63,091 | \$63,563 | \$62,857 | . 7 | -1.1 |
| Averages: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age of reference person. | 48.8 | 49.1 | 49.4 |  |  |
| Number of persons in consumer unit. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |  |  |
| Number of earners.. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |  |  |
| Number of vehicles.. | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 |  |  |
| Percent homeowner | 67 | 66 | 66 |  |  |
| Average annual expenditures. | \$49,638 | \$50,486 | \$49,067 | 1.7 | -2.8 |
| Food | 6,133 | 6,443 | 6,372 | 5.1 | -1.1 |
| Food at home | 3,465 | 3,744 | 3,753 | 8.1 | . 2 |
| Cereals and bakery products. | 460 | 507 | 506 | 10.2 | -. 2 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs. | 777 | 846 | 841 | 8.9 | -. 6 |
| Dairy products | 387 | 430 | 406 | 11.1 | -5.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 600 | 657 | 656 | 9.5 | -. 2 |
| Other food at home.. | 1,241 | 1,305 | 1,343 | 5.2 | 2.9 |
| Food away from home...................................................... | 2,668 | 2,698 | 2,619 | 1.1 | -2.9 |
| Alcoholic beverages... | 457 | 444 | 435 | -2.8 | -2.0 |
| Housing | 16,920 | 17,109 | 16,895 | 1.1 | -1.3 |
| Shelter | 10,023 | 10,183 | 10,075 | 1.6 | -1.1 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services....................................... | 3,477 | 3,649 | 3,645 | 4.9 | -. 1 |
| Household operations.. | 984 | 998 | 1011 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 639 | 654 | 659 | 2.3 | . 8 |
| Household furnishings and equipment | 1,797 | 1,624 | 1,506 | -9.6 | -7.3 |
| Apparel and services.. | 1,881 | 1,801 | 1,725 | -4.3 | -4.2 |
| Transportation. | 8,758 | 8,604 | 7,658 | -1.8 | -11.0 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 3,244 | 2,755 | 2,657 | -15.1 | -3.6 |
| Gasoline and motor oil. | 2,384 | 2,715 | 1,986 | 13.9 | -26.9 |
| Other vehicle expenses. | 2,592 | 2,621 | 2,536 | 1.1 | -3.2 |
| Public transportation.. | 538 | 513 | 479 | -4.6 | -6.6 |
| Healthcare.. | 2,853 | 2,976 | 3,126 | 4.3 | 5.0 |
| Entertainment. | 2,698 | 2,835 | 2,693 | 5.1 | -5.0 |
| Personal care products and services . | 588 | 616 | 596 | 4.8 | -3.2 |
| Reading .. | 118 | 116 | 110 | -1.7 | -5.2 |
| Education. | 945 | 1,046 | 1,068 | 10.7 | 2.1 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies. | 323 | 317 | 380 | -1.9 | 19.9 |
| Miscellaneous | 808 | 840 | 816 | 4.0 | -2.9 |
| Cash contributions.. | 1,821 | 1,737 | 1,723 | -4.6 | -. 8 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ........................................ | 5,336 | 5,605 | 5,471 | 5.0 | -2.4 |
| Life and other personal insurance ........................................ | 309 | 317 | 309 | 2.6 | -2.5 |
| Pensions and Social Security ............................................... | 5,027 | 5,288 | 5,162 | 5.2 | -2.4 |

Table B. Percent distribution of total annual expenditures by major category for all consumer units, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2006-2009

| Spending Category | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average annual expenditures................................................. | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Food .................................................................................. | 12.6 | 12.4 | 12.8 | 13.0 |
| Food at home .................................................................... | 7.1 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 7.6 |
| Food away from home. | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Alcoholic beverages.............................................................. | 1.0 | . 9 | . 9 | . 9 |
| Housing ............................................................................. | 33.8 | 34.1 | 33.9 | 34.4 |
| Shelter | 20.0 | 20.2 | 20.2 | 20.5 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services....................................... | 7.0 | 7.0 | 7.2 | 7.4 |
| Household operations........................................................ | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Housekeeping supplies ...................................................... | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Household furnishings and equipment .................................. | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 3.1 |
| Apparel and services ........................................................... | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.5 |
| Transportation.................................................................... | 17.6 | 17.6 | 17.0 | 15.6 |
| Vehicles ........................................................................... | 7.1 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Gasoline and motor oil. | 4.6 | 4.8 | 5.4 | 4.0 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 4.9 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 |
| Public transportation.......................................................... | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Healthcare | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 6.4 |
| Entertainment .................................................................... | 4.9 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| Personal care products and services ..................................... | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Reading............................................................................. | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 |
| Education........................................................................... | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies................................. | . 7 | . 7 | . 6 | . 8 |
| Miscellaneous.................................................................... | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 |
| Cash contributions............................................................... | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 3.5 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ......................................... | 10.9 | 10.7 | 11.1 | 11.2 |
| Life and other personal insurance ....................................... | . 7 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 |
| Pensions and Social Security ............................................ | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.5 | 10.5 |

period, the number of renters increased, as did the number of homeowners without mortgages. The housing market problems in 2009 occurred as the national unemployment rate, as measured by the Current Population Survey (CPS), rose to 9.3 percent in 2009, the highest rate since 1983 when it was reported as 9.6 percent.

For those consumer units that include homeowners with a mortgage, mortgage interest payments and charges, a subcomponent of the owned dwellings category, fell from \$8,855 in 2008 to $\$ 8,455$ in 2009, a 4.5 -percent decrease. Spending on maintenance, repairs, insurance, and other expenses, another subcomponent of spending on owned dwellings, decreased 6.2 percent for the same group.

Spending on fuel oil and other fuels, a subcomponent of utilities, fuels, and public services spending, dropped 26.6 percent in 2009 for all consumer units, following a 27.2percent increase in 2008. The price change in fuel oil and other fuels, as measured by the CPI-U, was also volatile, rising 33.0 percent in 2008 and falling 28.3 percent in 2009. Chart 1 details spending changes and price changes dating back to 2005.

The CE also collects the estimated market value of owned homes. In 2009, the estimated market value of owned homes decreased 7.2 percent for all consumer units. This drop occurred after decreases of 6.9 percent in 2008 and 0.5 percent in 2007. Home values decreased in all four regions of the United States (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West) from 2008 to 2009 , with the largest decrease in the West (13.6 percent) and the smallest decrease in the South ( 3.3 percent). These decreases in the market value of owned homes lend some insight into why many A mericans owed more than their
homes were worth, or had negative equity in their homes, in 2009. ${ }^{6}$

Expenditures on apparel and services fell 4.2 percent in 2009, following a decrease of 4.3 percent in 2008. Spending on men's and boys' apparel dropped 10.3 percent, whereas women and girls' spending decreased 5.6 percent. These declines on apparel spending were influenced by the faltering economy of the past 2 years, but a prevailing trend of decreases in apparel spending in the United States has emerged when measured as a share of the household budget (chart 2). The share spent on apparel and services is the lowest it has been since the CE began publishing integrated data in 1984.

Transportation spending dipped 11.0 percent in 2009, following a more modest 1.8-percent decrease in 2008. Gasoline and motor oil spending, a major subcomponent of transportation spending, fell 26.9 percent in 2009, which was the primary reason for the drop in overall transportation spending. The decrease in spending on gasoline and motor oil corresponded closely to the 27.8-percent decrease in motor fuel prices in 2009, as measured by the CPI-U. (See chart 1.) Spending on vehicle purchases, the largest subcomponent of transportation spending, fell by 3.6 percent in 2009, following a 15.1-percent decrease in 2008. Consumer units living in rural areas spent 5.9 percent less on vehicle purchases in 2009, while urban consumer units spent 3.3 percent less. Rural households also spent 29.3 percent less on gasoline and motor oil in 2009, while urban households decreased their fuel
${ }^{6}$ For more information, see "Continued High Negative Equity and Home Value Declines Put a Damper on an Encouraging 2009," (Zillow, February 2010), http://zillow.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=159\&item=184\&wwpa $\operatorname{ram}=1294388506$.

Chart 1. Spending and price percent change in housing fuel oil and transportation fuel, Consumer Expenditure Survey(CE), Consumer Price Index(CPI), 2005-2009
Percent change


Chart 2. Expenditures on apparel and services as a share of total expenditures, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1984-2009
In percent

spending by 26.6 percent. The level of gasoline and motor oil spending is still higher for rural consumer units: $\$ 2,218$ compared with $\$ 1,964$ for urban consumer units. Rural households reported spending more on vehicle insurance than did urban households in 2009, $\$ 1,191$ versus $\$ 1,065$. This was the first time since the CE began publishing integrated data in 1984 that rural consumers spent more on vehicle insurance than urban consumers. However, because the average number of vehicles per consumer unit is higher in rural areas than in urban areas- 2.6 vehicles and 1.9 vehicles, respectively-the cost for insurance per vehicle is lower for rural consumers.

Despite the weak economy, healthcare accounted for a larger share of a household's budget in 2009, making up 6.4 percent compared with 5.9 percent in 2008 (table B). The 5.0-percent increase in spending was larger than the 3.2-percent price increase in medical care shown by the CPI-U. Chart 3 shows that the budget share for healthcare spending is higher in 2009 than in 1999 for all age groups classified by age of the reference person except for the 25 -and-under group. Spending on health insurance, the largest subcomponent of healthcare spending, was primarily responsible for the total increase in 2009, rising 8.0 percent. Health insurance includes premiums paid by consumers for private health insurance and Medicare. Since 2000 , health insurance spending has increased every year, and, for every year except 2005, the increase has been greater than 5.0 percent. According to the data classified by the age of the reference person, health insurance increased the most from 2008 to 2009 for the 45 -to-54-year-old group (10.8 percent). The 25 -and-under group actually had a decrease in health insurance spending ( -2.1 percent), but this could be because young people are choosing to carry less health insurance or no health insurance at all. For the 25-and-under group, the percentage of consumer units that reported expenditures
on health insurance dropped from 25.3 percent in 2008 to 23.8 percent in 2009 (quarterly average percent reporting).

The 5.0 -percent drop in entertainment spending in 2009 was driven by decreases in two of its main subcomponents, audio and visual equipment and services ( -5.9 percent) and other supplies, equipment, and services ( -16.5 percent). The latter includes items such as recreational vehicles, boats, sporting goods, and photographic equipment. These items tend to be discretionary purchases and the decrease may reflect the difficult economic conditions. Purchases of other supplies, equipment, and services are often large, infrequent expenditures, and therefore changes in the percent of consumer units purchasing such items can result in large changes in the average amount spent.

Spending on personal insurance and pension plans fell 2.4 percent in 2009, following a 5.0-percent increase in 2008. Pensions and Social Security, the major subcomponent of personal insurance and pensions spending, also fell 2.4 percent in 2009.

A mong the other spending components, expenditures on education increased 2.1 percent in 2009, following an increase of 10.7 percent in 2008. A pplications to undergraduate and graduate schools tend to increase during a recession because people out of work want to improve their skill set, and this may have contributed to the increase during the latest downturn. Tobacco products and smoking supplies increased 19.9 percent in 2009 , probably due to the increase in excise taxes that many states placed on cigarettes during the year. ${ }^{7}$ The
${ }^{7}$ For more information, see "State Cigarette Excise Taxes-United States, 2009," Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, April 9, 2010), http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/ mmwrhtml/mm5913a1.htm.

Chart 3. Shares of total expenditures for healthcare, by age of reference person, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1999 and 2009

In percent

3.2-percent decrease in personal care products and services could be driven by consumers cutting discretionary spending.

In 2009, the Social Security Administration administered the delivery of one-time economic recovery payments of $\$ 250$ for most recipients of Social Security, Railroad Retirement, Supplemental Security Income, and Veterans' Benefits. To examine the impact of these payments, special questions were included in the Interview component of the Consumer Expenditure Survey from July through September 2009, which collected information on whether the payment was received, and how it was used (mostly for spending, saving, or paying off debt). The data indicate that 40 percent of the recipients used the payment to purchase goods or services; 34 percent used it to pay off debt; 24 percent saved it; and 2 percent did not report using it. ${ }^{8}$

## Brief description of the Consumer Expenditure Survey

The current Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) began in 1980 and has run continuously since then. Its principal objective is to collect information on the buying habits of Americans. Consumer expenditure data are used in a variety of research endeavors by government, business, labor, and academic analysts. In addition, the data are required for the regular revision of the CPI market basket.

[^2]The survey, which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for BLS, consists of two components: a diary (or recordkeeping) survey completed by participating consumer units for two consecutive 1 -week periods and an interview survey by which expenditures of consumer units are obtained in five interviews conducted at 3-month intervals. Results in this report are based on integrated data from both surveys.

Survey participants record dollar amounts for goods and services purchased during the reporting period, regardless of whether payment is made at the time of purchase. Expenditure amounts include all sales and excise taxes for items purchased by the consumer unit. All business-related expenditures are excluded from both surveys, as are expenditures for which the consumer unit is reimbursed.

Each component of the survey queries an independent sample of consumer units that are representative of the U.S. population. For the Diary Survey, about 7,000 consumer units are sampled each year. Each consumer unit keeps a diary for two 1 -week periods, yielding approximately 14,000 diaries a year. The Interview sample, selected on a rotating panel basis, surveys about 7,000 consumer units each quarter. The rotating panel consists of some consumer units dropping out of the survey each quarter, while other consumer units come into the survey. Each consumer unit is interviewed once per quarter, for 5 consecutive quarters. Data are collected on an ongoing basis in 91 areas of the United States.

The Interview Survey is designed to capture expenditure data that respondents can reasonably recall for a period of 3 months or longer. In general, these expenditures are relatively
large, such as expenditures for real property, automobiles, and major appliances, or they occur on a regular basis, such as rent, utility payments, and insurance premiums. The Interview Survey also collects data on expenditures incurred on leisure trips. Including global estimates of spending for food, it is estimated that about 95 percent of expenditures are covered in the Interview Survey. Nonprescription drugs, household supplies, and personal care items are excluded.

The Diary Survey is designed to capture expenditures on small, frequently purchased items that are normally difficult for respondents to recall buying. Detailed records of expenses are kept for food and beverages-consumed either at home or in eating places-and for tobacco, housekeeping supplies, nonprescription drugs, and personal care products and services. Expenditures incurred by members of the consumer unit while away from home overnight or longer are excluded from the Diary Survey. Although this survey was designed to collect information on expenditures that could not be recalled easily over an extended period, respondents are asked to report all expenses (except those spent while traveling overnight that the consumer unit incurs during the survey week.

Integrated data from the BLS Diary and Interview Surveys provide a complete accounting of consumer expenditures and income that neither survey is designed to do on its own. Data on some expenditure items are collected in only one of the surveys. For example, the Diary Survey does not collect data on expenditures for overnight travel or information on reimbursements, whereas the Interview Survey does. Examples of expenditures for which reimbursements are excluded from the Diary Survey are medical care; automobile repair; and construction, repairs, alterations, and maintenance of property.

For items that are unique to one survey or the other, the choice of which survey to use as the source of data is obvious. However, there is considerable overlap in coverage between the surveys. Consequently, integrating the data involves determining the appropriate survey component from which to select expenditure items. When data are available from both surveys, the more reliable of the two (as determined by statistical methods) is selected. As a result, some items are selected from the Interview Survey, others from the Diary Survey. Because of the overlap in the item coverage between the two surveys, the survey source is periodically reviewed and statistical methods are used to select the best source.

The population coverage of the CE differs from that of the CPI. The CE data cover the total population, whereas the CPI covers only the population in urban and metropolitan areas. Definitions of components also differ between the CE and CPI. For example, homeownership is treated differently in the two surveys: actual expenditures of homeownership are reported in the CE, whereas the CPI uses a rental-equivalence approach that estimates the change in the cost of obtaining, in the rental marketplace, services equivalent to those provided by owner-occupied homes.

## Interpreting the data

Expenditures are averages for consumer units with specified
characteristics, regardless of whether a particular unit incurred an expense for a specific item during the recordkeeping period. The average expenditure for an item may be considerably lower than the expenditure by the consumer units that purchased the item. The less frequently an item is purchased, the greater the difference is between the average for all consumer units and the average for those purchasing the item. Similarly, an individual consumer unit may spend more or less than the average, depending on its particular characteristics. Factors such as income, age of family members, geographic location, and personal preference also influence expenditures. Furthermore, even within groups with similar characteristics, the distribution of expenditures varies substantially. These points should be considered in relating reported averages to individual circumstances.

Users of these survey data should also keep in mind that prices for many goods and services have risen since the survey was conducted. For example, gasoline (all types), as measured by the CPI-U, rose 18.8 percent between 2009 (annual average index) and October 2010 (not seasonally adjusted).

In addition, sample surveys are subject to two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling errors occur because the data are collected from a sample representing the population, rather than from the entire population. Nonsampling errors result from the inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, differences in interviewers' abilities, mistakes in recording or coding, and other processing errors.

## Tables and data

Tables in this report include integrated data from both the $\mathrm{Di}-$ ary and Interview components of the CE, enabling data users to associate the full range of expenditures with consumers' demographic characteristics. Tables show data classified by income quintile, income class, age of the reference person, size of the consumer unit, composition of the consumer unit, number of earners, housing tenure, type of area (urban or rural), race, Hispanic origin, region of residence, occupation, and education. These are the same classifications published in previous reports and bulletins.

Tables for the aforementioned classifications, but with more detail than is given in this report, can be accessed on the CE page of the BLS website (http://www.bls.gov/cex). Also available are tables showing average annual data over a 2-year period for 1) income before taxes, cross-tabulated by age, consumer unit size, or region; 2) single consumers by sex, cross-tabulated by either income or age; and 3) selected metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Data are available for 1984-2009. Other survey information available on the website includes answers to frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, and order forms for survey products. Beginning with the 2000 data, estimates of standard errors for integrated Diary and Interview Survey data are also available.

## Other available data

The 2009 Diary and Interview Survey microdata-that is,
data on individual consumer units-are available for purchase on CD-ROM. The Interview Survey files contain expenditure data in two different formats: MTAB files, which present monthly values in an item coding framework based on the CPI pricing scheme; and EXPN files, which organize expenditures by the section of the interview questionnaire in which they are collected. Expenditure values on EXPN files cover different periods, depending on the specific question asked; the files also contain relevant nonexpenditure information not found on the MTAB files. Currently available on CD-ROM are microdata files back to 1990 and for selected earlier years. For years prior to 1996, the microdata are available in ASCII text format (column parametered). Beginning in 1996, the microdata are available in either ASCII text format (column parametered) or PC SAS datasets. Beginning in 2007 the microdata are available in column-parametered ASCII, comma-delimited ASCII, PC SAS, SPSS, and STATA datasets. Ordering information for the public use microdata can be found here: http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxmicro.htm.

The Consumer Expenditure Survey also publishes Con-
sumer Expenditure Survey anthologies. These reports include analyses of expenditure data as they apply to various topics of interest, as well as methodological and research articles pertaining to a number of survey topics. The most recent of these reports, Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2008 (BLS Report 1009), was published in December 2008. The next report in the series, Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2011, will be available in Spring 2011. Additional data also are presented in articles in the Monthly Labor Review.

For more detailed information on the availability of current and earlier data, contact the Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3985, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 691-6900. Email: cexinfo@bls.gov. Online at http://www.bls.gov/cex.

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## Glossary

Consumer unit. Members of a household consisting of a) occupants related by blood, marriage, adoption, or some other legal arrangement; b) a single person living alone or sharing a household with others, but who is financially independent; or c) two or more persons living together who share responsibility for at least 2 out of 3 major types of expenses-food, housing, and other expenses. Students living in university-sponsored housing are also included in the sample as separate consumer units.

Reference person. The first member mentioned by the respondent when asked to "start with the name of the person or one of the persons who owns or rents the home." It is with respect to this person that the relationship of other consumer unit members is determined.

Total expenditures. The transaction costs, including excise and sales taxes, of goods and services acquired during the interview survey period. Estimates include expenditures for
gifts and contributions as well as payments for pensions and personal insurance.

Income. The combined income earned by all consumer unit members, 14 years or older during the 12 months preceding the interview. The components of income are wages and salaries; self-employment income; Social Security and private and government retirement income; interest, dividends, and rental and other property income; unemployment and workers' compensation and veterans' benefits; public assistance, Supplemental Security Income, and food stamps; rent or meals as pay; and regular contributions for support, such as alimony and child-support payments.

Quintiles of income before taxes. Categories of income reporters, ranked in ascending order of income, and divided into five equal groups. The lower limit shown in the quintiles of income before taxes indicates the amount of income before taxes of the lowest ranked consumer unit in each income quintile.

Table 1. Quintiles of income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | Lowest 20 percent | Second 20 percent | Third 20 percent | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fourth } \\ & 20 \\ & \text { percent } \end{aligned}$ | Highest 20 percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,847 | 24,165 | 24,120 | 24,212 | 24,154 | 24,196 |
| Lower limit ............................................. | n.a. | n.a. | \$19,175 | \$35,598 | \$57,295 | \$93,784 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$9,846 | \$27,227 | \$46,012 | \$73,417 | \$157,631 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.4 | 51.4 | 51.4 | 49.3 | 47.1 | 47.8 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 1.7 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 3.1 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 4 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 4 | . 5 | . 3 | . 2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | . 5 | . 9 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 2.8 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 40 | 56 | 67 | 79 | 89 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$49,067 | \$21,611 | \$31,382 | \$41,150 | \$56,879 | \$94,244 |
| Food | 6,372 | 3,501 | 4,569 | 5,483 | 7,522 | 10,780 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 2,463 | 2,999 | 3,355 | 4,316 | 5,629 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 506 | 327 | 414 | 451 | 587 | 753 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 841 | 575 | 709 | 784 | 933 | 1,203 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 266 | 311 | 354 | 475 | 624 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 421 | 521 | 570 | 758 | 1,013 |
| Other food at home | 1,343 | 874 | 1,045 | 1,197 | 1,563 | 2,037 |
| Food away from home | 2,619 | 1,038 | 1,569 | 2,127 | 3,206 | 5,151 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 170 | 250 | 330 | 541 | 883 |
| Housing .. | 16,895 | 8,961 | 11,829 | 14,805 | 18,862 | 29,998 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 5,392 | 6,807 | 8,804 | 11,173 | 18,185 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 1,964 | 3,287 | 5,168 | 7,944 | 14,337 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 3,291 | 3,308 | 3,210 | 2,582 | 1,911 |
| Other lodging | 672 | 137 | 211 | 426 | 647 | 1,936 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,645 | 2,238 | 3,069 | 3,574 | 4,172 | 5,167 |
| Household operations | 1,011 | 417 | 583 | 721 | 1,039 | 2,295 |
| Housekeeping supplies ... | 659 | 349 | 501 | 550 | 741 | 1,153 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,506 | 565 | 869 | 1,157 | 1,738 | 3,197 |
| Apparel and services ................................. | 1,725 | 873 | 1,161 | 1,402 | 1,848 | 3,339 |
| Transportation | 7,658 | 2,855 | 5,078 | 6,717 | 9,525 | 14,105 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,657 | 778 | 1,488 | 2,232 | 3,280 | 5,501 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 926 | 1,498 | 1,982 | 2,457 | 3,067 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,536 | 984 | 1,872 | 2,199 | 3,294 | 4,327 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 479 | 167 | 220 | 303 | 494 | 1,211 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 1,628 | 2,491 | 3,069 | 3,762 | 4,677 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 1,015 | 1,668 | 2,106 | 3,197 | 5,474 |
| Personal care products and services | 596 | 268 | 397 | 496 | 650 | 1,167 |
| Reading | 110 | 48 | 72 | 91 | 119 | 217 |
| Education | 1,068 | 573 | 369 | 548 | 881 | 2,966 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 380 | 303 | 413 | 400 | 439 | 342 |
| Miscellaneous | 816 | 323 | 522 | 756 | 921 | 1,558 |
| Cash contributions | 1,723 | 559 | 868 | 1,435 | 1,949 | 3,801 |
| Personal insurance and pensions | 5,471 | 534 | 1,694 | 3,512 | 6,664 | 14,937 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 309 | 104 | 140 | 217 | 355 | 728 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,162 | 429 | 1,554 | 3,295 | 6,308 | 14,209 |

[^3]Table 2. Income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

|  |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |

Table 3. Higher income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | $\begin{gathered} \text { Less } \\ \text { than } \\ \$ 70,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 70,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 79,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 80,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 99,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100,000 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { more } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 119,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 120,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 149,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 150,000 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { more } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,847 | 82,665 | 6,640 | 9,951 | 21,589 | 7,260 | 5,882 | 8,447 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$32,063 | \$74,594 | \$89,096 | \$165,062 | \$108,564 | \$132,565 | \$236,246 |
| Age of reference person .......................... | 49.4 | 50.4 | 46.3 | 46.7 | 47.9 | 46.9 | 47.3 | 49.2 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.2 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 5 | . 7 | . 8 | . 8 | . 8 | . 8 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 4 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 57 | 81 | 83 | 90 | 87 | 89 | 93 |
| Average annual expenditures .. | \$49,067 | \$33,810 | \$57,833 | \$65,027 | \$97,576 | \$76,140 | \$85,806 | \$124,306 |
| Food | 6,372 | 4,798 | 7,818 | 8,359 | 11,088 | 9,622 | 9,886 | 13,234 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 3,064 | 4,471 | 4,713 | 5,752 | 5,319 | 5,201 | 6,529 |
| Cereals and bakery products ... | 506 | 416 | 607 | 636 | 765 | 700 | 714 | 860 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 841 | 709 | 963 | 1,040 | 1,221 | 1,134 | 1,080 | 1,401 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 327 | 492 | 525 | 632 | 594 | 568 | 712 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 530 | 772 | 808 | 1,041 | 934 | 954 | 1,197 |
| Other food at home | 1,343 | 1,082 | 1,637 | 1,704 | 2,092 | 1,957 | 1,885 | 2,359 |
| Food away from home | 2,619 | 1,734 | 3,347 | 3,646 | 5,336 | 4,303 | 4,685 | 6,704 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 282 | 534 | 569 | 936 | 735 | 832 | 1,188 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 12,509 | 19,127 | 21,666 | 30,831 | 23,907 | 27,923 | 38,824 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 7,377 | 11,393 | 12,815 | 18,736 | 14,190 | 16,872 | 23,941 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 3,880 | 8,296 | 9,663 | 14,759 | 11,090 | 13,496 | 18,790 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 3,212 | 2,404 | 2,325 | 1,900 | 2,069 | 1,832 | 1,802 |
| Other lodging | 672 | 284 | 694 | 828 | 2,078 | 1,031 | 1,544 | 3,349 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,645 | 3,089 | 4,188 | 4,470 | 5,226 | 4,618 | 5,100 | 5,837 |
| Household operations | 1,011 | 613 | 1,054 | 1,309 | 2,385 | 1,587 | 2,010 | 3,330 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 659 | 492 | 776 | 824 | 1,195 | 944 | 1,044 | 1,526 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,506 | 938 | 1,716 | 2,247 | 3,289 | 2,567 | 2,896 | 4,190 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,725 | 1,203 | 1,795 | 2,388 | 3,428 | 2,595 | 2,934 | 4,508 |
| Transportation | 7,658 | 5,373 | 9,880 | 9,929 | 14,674 | 12,378 | 13,028 | 17,799 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,657 | 1,679 | 3,410 | 3,386 | 5,835 | 4,800 | 4,713 | 7,506 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 1,573 | 2,470 | 2,669 | 3,105 | 2,942 | 3,090 | 3,257 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,536 | 1,869 | 3,452 | 3,313 | 4,442 | 3,806 | 4,245 | 5,129 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 479 | 252 | 547 | 560 | 1,292 | 830 | 980 | 1,907 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 2,541 | 3,679 | 4,158 | 4,723 | 4,385 | 4,399 | 5,242 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 1,749 | 3,364 | 3,625 | 5,690 | 4,616 | 4,824 | 7,228 |
| Personal care products and services | 596 | 412 | 653 | 782 | 1,200 | 960 | 1,082 | 1,492 |
| Reading | 110 | 76 | 118 | 130 | 226 | 174 | 198 | 292 |
| Education | 1,068 | 519 | 783 | 1,259 | 3,170 | 1,828 | 2,442 | 4,831 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies . | 380 | 384 | 449 | 377 | 344 | 408 | 307 | 314 |
| Miscellaneous | 816 | 569 | 979 | 1,005 | 1,630 | 1,327 | 1,396 | 2,054 |
| Cash contributions ....................... | 1,723 | 1,052 | 1,685 | 2,414 | 3,986 | 2,443 | 2,996 | 6,002 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ........... | 5,471 | 2,344 | 6,968 | 8,368 | 15,649 | 10,764 | 13,559 | 21,302 |
| Life and other personal insurance ..... | 309 | 171 | 432 | 391 | 761 | 472 | 639 | 1,095 |
| Pensions and Social Security ...... | 5,162 | 2,173 | 6,536 | 7,977 | 14,887 | 10,292 | 12,919 | 20,207 |

Table 4. Age of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009


[^4]Table 5. Size of consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | One person | Two or more persons |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Total | Two persons | Three persons | Four persons | Five or more persons |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ................ | 120,847 | 34,770 | 86,076 | 39,531 | 17,990 | 16,474 | 12,081 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$32,780 | \$75,006 | \$68,393 | \$76,545 | \$85,436 | \$80,132 |
| Age of reference person ...................................... | 49.4 | 53.2 | 47.8 | 54.0 | 44.5 | 41.4 | 41.5 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 1.0 | 3.1 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | n.a. | . 9 | . 1 | . 7 | 1.6 | 2.7 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 5 | . 2 | . 1 | . 1 |
| Earners | 1.3 | . 6 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Percent homeowner ........................................... | 66 | 50 | 73 | 76 | 69 | 74 | 69 |
| Average annual expenditures ................................ | \$49,067 | \$29,405 | \$57,002 | \$51,650 | \$56,645 | \$65,503 | \$63,439 |
| Food .............................................................. | 6,372 | 3,460 | 7,544 | 6,308 | 7,506 | 8,730 | 10,034 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 1,953 | 4,477 | 3,631 | 4,454 | 5,187 | 6,324 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 506 | 255 | 607 | 470 | 588 | 719 | 937 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 841 | 408 | 1,015 | 813 | 1,024 | 1,170 | 1,457 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 214 | 483 | 391 | 472 | 568 | 689 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 352 | 779 | 664 | 778 | 860 | 1,048 |
| Other food at home ... | 1,343 | 724 | 1,592 | 1,293 | 1,592 | 1,871 | 2,194 |
| Food away from home | 2,619 | 1,507 | 3,067 | 2,677 | 3,052 | 3,543 | 3,710 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 355 | 467 | 537 | 381 | 486 | 336 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 11,388 | 19,119 | 17,145 | 19,353 | 22,193 | 21,035 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 7,376 | 11,165 | 10,078 | 11,114 | 13,038 | 12,243 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 3,495 | 7,774 | 6,906 | 7,526 | 9,530 | 8,589 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 3,513 | 2,596 | 2,257 | 2,874 | 2,711 | 3,138 |
| Other lodging | 672 | 368 | 795 | 916 | 714 | 797 | 516 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,645 | 2,298 | 4,189 | 3,740 | 4,233 | 4,658 | 4,951 |
| Household operations .. | 1,011 | 548 | 1,198 | 845 | 1,345 | 1,811 | 1,303 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 659 | 345 | 785 | 779 | 771 | 803 | 798 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ................ | 1,506 | 821 | 1,782 | 1,702 | 1,891 | 1,884 | 1,741 |
| Apparel and services ......................................... | 1,725 | 975 | 2,027 | 1,566 | 2,046 | 2,571 | 2,767 |
| Transportation | 7,658 | 4,182 | 9,061 | 8,306 | 8,775 | 10,707 | 9,716 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ........................... | 2,657 | 1,441 | 3,148 | 3,039 | 2,659 | 4,004 | 3,065 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 1,022 | 2,376 | 1,993 | 2,470 | 2,761 | 2,964 |
| Other vehicle expenses .................................... | 2,536 | 1,417 | 2,987 | 2,714 | 3,086 | 3,374 | 3,203 |
| Public transportation ........................................ | 479 | 303 | 550 | 559 | 560 | 568 | 484 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 2,007 | 3,578 | 4,021 | 3,273 | 3,300 | 2,960 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 1,510 | 3,170 | 2,913 | 2,860 | 3,775 | 3,635 |
| Personal care products and services .................... | 596 | 345 | 697 | 646 | 719 | 779 | 717 |
| Reading . | 110 | 87 | 119 | 136 | 113 | 100 | 95 |
| Education | 1,068 | 492 | 1,301 | 793 | 1,563 | 1,906 | 1,746 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ............... | 380 | 253 | 431 | 403 | 463 | 443 | 458 |
| Miscellaneous . | 816 | 565 | 918 | 838 | 942 | 1,115 | 872 |
| Cash contributions ....................... | 1,723 | 1,268 | 1,907 | 2,028 | 1,776 | 1,718 | 1,964 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ......................... | 5,471 | 2,518 | 6,664 | 6,011 | 6,875 | 7,680 | 7,101 |
| Life and other personal insurance ...................... | 309 | 118 | 386 | 393 | 409 | 371 | 350 |
| Pensions and Social Security ............................ | 5,162 | 2,399 | 6,278 | 5,618 | 6,466 | 7,309 | 6,751 |

n.a. Not applicable.

Table 6. Composition of consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | Husband and wife consumer units |  |  |  |  |  |  | One parent, at least one child under 18 | Single person and other consumer units |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Husband and wife only | Husband and wife with children |  |  |  | Other husband and wife consumer units |  |  |
|  |  |  | Total | Oldest child under 6 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oldest } \\ & \text { child } \\ & 6 \text { to } 17 \end{aligned}$ | Oldest child 18 or older |  |  |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ............ | 61,271 | 26,852 | 29,480 | 5,154 | 14,983 | 9,342 | 4,939 | 6,810 | 52,766 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes ..................................... | \$84,785 | \$75,876 | \$92,616 | \$81,821 | \$94,302 | \$95,867 | \$86,478 | \$35,845 | \$40,880 |
| Age of reference person .................................. | 49.7 | 57.7 | 42.6 | 32.6 | 40.4 | 51.6 | 48.6 | 38.0 | 50.5 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons ................ | 3.2 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 2.9 | 1.7 |
| Children under 18 | . 9 | n.a. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.1 | . 6 | 1.4 | 1.7 | . 2 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 4 | . 7 | . 1 | ( ${ }^{1}$ ) | (1) | . 2 | . 5 | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | . 3 |
| Earners .................. | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 1.0 | . 9 |
| Vehicles | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.0 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner | 82 | 87 | 79 | 67 | 77 | 89 | 77 | 37 | 51 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$63,104 | \$56,777 | \$68,481 | \$62,138 | \$70,329 | \$69,089 | \$65,654 | \$36,763 | \$34,450 |
| Food | 8,264 | 6,906 | 9,369 | 7,813 | 9,827 | 9,525 | 9,182 | 5,348 | 4,352 |
| Food at home | 4,827 | 3,975 | 5,451 | 4,833 | 5,606 | 5,567 | 5,868 | 3,480 | 2,568 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 657 | 508 | 770 | 622 | 826 | 765 | 811 | 485 | 338 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 1,069 | 887 | 1,167 | 930 | 1,198 | 1,262 | 1,522 | 837 | 583 |
| Dairy products .. | 530 | 427 | 615 | 599 | 637 | 587 | 588 | 350 | 273 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 853 | 748 | 921 | 859 | 951 | 908 | 1,040 | 542 | 448 |
| Other food at home | 1,718 | 1,404 | 1,977 | 1,824 | 1,993 | 2,045 | 1,908 | 1,266 | 926 |
| Food away from home .................................. | 3,436 | 2,930 | 3,917 | 2,980 | 4,221 | 3,958 | 3,314 | 1,868 | 1,785 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 511 | 582 | 470 | 507 | 485 | 422 | 345 | 177 | 382 |
| Housing ... | 20,654 | 18,140 | 22,858 | 24,503 | 23,906 | 20,258 | 21,203 | 14,836 | 12,810 |
| Shelter | 11,960 | 10,414 | 13,412 | 14,005 | 14,410 | 11,485 | 11,706 | 8,610 | 8,074 |
| Owned dwellings | 9,049 | 7,835 | 10,226 | 10,279 | 10,796 | 9,284 | 8,626 | 3,711 | 3,997 |
| Rented dwellings | 1,936 | 1,413 | 2,308 | 3,273 | 2,602 | 1,305 | 2,563 | 4,626 | 3,705 |
| Other lodging | 975 | 1,166 | 878 | 454 | 1,012 | 896 | 517 | 272 | 372 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ................... | 4,403 | 3,937 | 4,708 | 3,853 | 4,731 | 5,144 | 5,115 | 3,438 | 2,791 |
| Household operations | 1,336 | 873 | 1,784 | 3,537 | 1,716 | 928 | 1,176 | 1,215 | 608 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 886 | 916 | 851 | 796 | 867 | 858 | 943 | 583 | 410 |
| Household furnishings and equipment .............. | 2,069 | 2,001 | 2,101 | 2,312 | 2,182 | 1,842 | 2,263 | 991 | 926 |
| Apparel and services ..................................... | 2,170 | 1,630 | 2,600 | 2,281 | 2,844 | 2,387 | 2,597 | 1,708 | 1,220 |
| Transportation ............................................... | 10,021 | 9,202 | 10,487 | 9,889 | 9,988 | 11,673 | 11,750 | 5,337 | 5,224 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ........................ | 3,504 | 3,460 | 3,406 | 3,650 | 3,190 | 3,618 | 4,323 | 1,679 | 1,800 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,572 | 2,139 | 2,868 | 2,417 | 2,838 | 3,166 | 3,159 | 1,573 | 1,360 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 3,315 | 2,962 | 3,557 | 3,191 | 3,293 | 4,241 | 3,838 | 1,801 | 1,736 |
| Public transportation ..................................... | 631 | 641 | 656 | 631 | 668 | 649 | 430 | 283 | 328 |
| Healthcare | 4,182 | 4,852 | 3,556 | 2,884 | 3,460 | 4,082 | 4,282 | 1,381 | 2,127 |
| Entertainment | 3,606 | 3,259 | 4,030 | 2,894 | 4,532 | 3,852 | 2,935 | 1,907 | 1,743 |
| Personal care products and services ................. | 758 | 708 | 798 | 779 | 800 | 802 | 799 | 552 | 415 |
| Reading | 135 | 160 | 118 | 78 | 122 | 133 | 106 | 62 | 86 |
| Education | 1,478 | 840 | 2,105 | 378 | 2,096 | 3,071 | 1,207 | 874 | 617 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ............ | 375 | 335 | 357 | 258 | 326 | 461 | 706 | 345 | 389 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,016 | 923 | 1,014 | 860 | 1,091 | 971 | 1,540 | 613 | 611 |
| Cash contributions ......................................... | 2,245 | 2,456 | 2,130 | 1,435 | 1,979 | 2,756 | 1,781 | 792 | 1,237 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ..................... | 7,689 | 6,785 | 8,590 | 7,580 | 8,873 | 8,695 | 7,220 | 2,830 | 3,237 |
| Life and other personal insurance .................... | 481 | 512 | 464 | 292 | 488 | 521 | 410 | 123 | 134 |
| Pensions and Social Security ......................... | 7,208 | 6,273 | 8,126 | 7,288 | 8,384 | 8,174 | 6,810 | 2,707 | 3,103 |

[^5]Table 7. Number of earners in consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | Single consumers |  | Consumer units of two or more persons |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | No earner | One earner | No earner | One earner | Two earners | Three or more earners |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,847 | 13,715 | 21,056 | 11,110 | 26,304 | 39,535 | 9,127 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$17,514 | \$42,723 | \$31,182 | \$56,147 | \$92,660 | \$106,232 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.4 | 68.2 | 43.5 | 64.3 | 47.5 | 43.8 | 46.2 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons | 2.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 4.4 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | n.a. | n.a. | . 4 | 1.1 | . 8 | 1.0 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 7 | . 1 | 1.2 | . 3 | . 1 | . 1 |
| Earners | 1.3 | n.a. | 1.0 | n.a. | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.3 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | . 9 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| Percent homeowner ................................... | 66 | 56 | 46 | 75 | 66 | 76 | 79 |
| Average annual expenditures ......................... | \$49,067 | \$21,768 | \$34,314 | \$36,882 | \$49,285 | \$64,241 | \$72,854 |
| Food ....................................................... | 6,372 | 2,937 | 3,782 | 5,609 | 6,742 | 8,137 | 9,879 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 2,057 | 1,892 | 3,795 | 4,339 | 4,495 | 5,715 |
| Cereals and bakery products ................... | 506 | 283 | 238 | 529 | 579 | 609 | 793 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 841 | 416 | 403 | 879 | 988 | 1,000 | 1,347 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 224 | 208 | 395 | 466 | 494 | 605 |
| Fruits and vegetables ............................. | 656 | 366 | 344 | 712 | 768 | 761 | 978 |
| Other food at home ................................ | 1,343 | 768 | 699 | 1,281 | 1,538 | 1,630 | 1,992 |
| Food away from home ............................... | 2,619 | 880 | 1,890 | 1,814 | 2,403 | 3,641 | 4,165 |
| Alcoholic beverages ................................... | 435 | 141 | 484 | 276 | 381 | 566 | 539 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 9,455 | 12,643 | 12,854 | 17,861 | 21,267 | 21,073 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 5,616 | 8,522 | 6,678 | 10,455 | 12,636 | 12,299 |
| Owned dwellings ................................... | 6,543 | 2,535 | 4,119 | 4,426 | 6,702 | 9,158 | 8,942 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 2,873 | 3,930 | 1,669 | 3,070 | 2,572 | 2,465 |
| Other lodging ........................................ | 672 | 207 | 473 | 583 | 683 | 906 | 892 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,645 | 2,256 | 2,325 | 3,512 | 3,915 | 4,322 | 5,227 |
| Household operations ......... | 1,011 | 666 | 471 | 723 | 1,031 | 1,493 | 985 |
| Housekeeping supplies ............................ | 659 | 364 | 334 | 733 | 796 | 790 | 795 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,506 | 553 | 991 | 1,208 | 1,665 | 2,026 | 1,768 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,725 | 568 | 1,224 | 1,018 | 1,906 | 2,286 | 2,545 |
| Transportation .......................................... | 7,658 | 2,360 | 5,362 | 5,780 | 7,416 | 10,052 | 13,594 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,657 | 662 | 1,949 | 1,976 | 2,427 | 3,572 | 4,819 |
| Gasoline and motor oil ...... | 1,986 | 624 | 1,280 | 1,431 | 2,053 | 2,618 | 3,410 |
| Other vehicle expenses ............................. | 2,536 | 926 | 1,729 | 2,018 | 2,514 | 3,205 | 4,672 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 479 | 147 | 405 | 355 | 423 | 658 | 693 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 2,687 | 1,566 | 4,891 | 3,301 | 3,350 | 3,768 |
| Entertainment ........................................... | 2,693 | 1,052 | 1,801 | 2,243 | 2,724 | 3,560 | 3,928 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 596 | 294 | 376 | 513 | 610 | 769 | 872 |
| Reading ................................................... | 110 | 83 | 90 | 121 | 103 | 126 | 126 |
| Education ............................................... | 1,068 | 183 | 693 | 422 | 974 | 1,498 | 2,463 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 380 | 199 | 288 | 345 | 398 | 445 | 570 |
| Miscellaneous ........................................... | 816 | 398 | 672 | 557 | 739 | 1,052 | 1,300 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,723 | 1,211 | 1,306 | 1,829 | 1,641 | 2,007 | 2,336 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,471 | 202 | 4,027 | 424 | 4,489 | 9,126 | 9,863 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 309 | 118 | 119 | 305 | 318 | 429 | 494 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,162 | 84 | 3,907 | ${ }^{1} 120$ | 4,170 | 8,697 | 9,369 |

1 Data are likely to have large sampling errors.
n.a. Not applicable.

Table 8. Housing tenure and type of area: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | Housing tenure |  |  |  | Type of area |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Homeowner |  |  | Renter | Urban |  |  | Rural |
|  |  | Total | Homeowner with mortgage | Homeowner without mortgage |  | Total | Central City | Other Urban |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,847 | 80,068 | 50,080 | 29,988 | 40,778 | 110,241 | 35,043 | 75,198 | 10,605 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$75,858 | \$88,237 | \$55,185 | \$37,329 | \$64,316 | \$55,385 | \$68,477 | \$47,692 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.4 | 53.3 | 47.8 | 62.5 | 41.7 | 49.0 | 46.6 | 50.1 | 53.7 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons $\qquad$ | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 8 | . 3 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 5 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 4 | . 2 | . 7 | . 2 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 4 |
| Earners ................................................... | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.6 | . 9 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.6 |
| Percent homeowner .................................. | 66 | 100 | 100 | 100 | n.a. | 65 | 50 | 72 | 82 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$49,067 | \$57,047 | \$64,493 | \$44,130 | \$33,404 | \$49,807 | \$43,962 | \$52,501 | \$41,325 |
| Food | 6,372 | 7,198 | 7,682 | 6,125 | 4,753 | 6,435 | 5,922 | 6,662 | 5,675 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 4,214 | 4,377 | 3,837 | 2,849 | 3,757 | 3,407 | 3,911 | 3,707 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 506 | 566 | 594 | 501 | 390 | 508 | 456 | 530 | 494 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 841 | 932 | 966 | 852 | 663 | 844 | 797 | 865 | 803 |
| Dairy products ....................................... | 406 | 459 | 478 | 415 | 302 | 404 | 360 | 423 | 429 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 744 | 760 | 704 | 486 | 658 | 614 | 677 | 638 |
| Other food at home | 1,343 | 1,514 | 1,580 | 1,366 | 1,008 | 1,343 | 1,181 | 1,414 | 1,344 |
| Food away from home ............................... | 2,619 | 2,984 | 3,306 | 2,288 | 1,904 | 2,678 | 2,515 | 2,752 | 1,968 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 477 | 525 | 370 | 352 | 448 | 458 | 444 | 289 |
| Housing ................................................... | 16,895 | 18,901 | 22,846 | 12,287 | 12,958 | 17,356 | 16,058 | 17,953 | 12,110 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 10,733 | 14,050 | 5,193 | 8,783 | 10,483 | 10,060 | 10,681 | 5,828 |
| Owned dwellings ................................... | 6,543 | 9,761 | 13,059 | 4,254 | 223 | 6,731 | 5,095 | 7,493 | 4,589 |
| Rented dwellings ................................... | 2,860 | 60 | 48 | 80 | 8,359 | 3,063 | 4,374 | 2,452 | 753 |
| Other lodging .. | 672 | 912 | 943 | 859 | 202 | 690 | 591 | 736 | 486 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,645 | 4,276 | 4,554 | 3,811 | 2,406 | 3,650 | 3,245 | 3,838 | 3,592 |
| Household operations .............................. | 1,011 | 1,217 | 1,424 | 873 | 607 | 1,056 | 929 | 1,116 | 542 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 659 | 804 | 804 | 803 | 374 | 652 | 533 | 704 | 738 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,506 | 1,872 | 2,015 | 1,607 | 788 | 1,515 | 1,292 | 1,615 | 1,409 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,725 | 1,857 | 2,085 | 1,371 | 1,466 | 1,762 | 1,777 | 1,755 | 1,328 |
| Transportation .......................................... | 7,658 | 9,089 | 10,005 | 7,568 | 4,849 | 7,623 | 6,273 | 8,249 | 8,028 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,657 | 3,247 | 3,554 | 2,734 | 1,499 | 2,611 | 1,950 | 2,920 | 3,130 |
| Gasoline and motor oil . | 1,986 | 2,276 | 2,555 | 1,809 | 1,419 | 1,964 | 1,563 | 2,151 | 2,218 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,536 | 3,023 | 3,288 | 2,589 | 1,579 | 2,545 | 2,180 | 2,711 | 2,446 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 479 | 544 | 608 | 436 | 353 | 503 | 580 | 467 | 234 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 3,944 | 3,627 | 4,478 | 1,520 | 3,105 | 2,423 | 3,422 | 3,352 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 3,256 | 3,578 | 2,655 | 1,588 | 2,716 | 2,269 | 2,920 | 2,453 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 596 | 693 | 744 | 599 | 404 | 613 | 555 | 639 | 413 |
| Reading | 110 | 136 | 135 | 137 | 58 | 111 | 99 | 117 | 91 |
| Education | 1,068 | 1,234 | 1,503 | 778 | 743 | 1,127 | 951 | 1,209 | 456 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 380 | 359 | 375 | 332 | 421 | 362 | 314 | 384 | 566 |
| Miscellaneous ........................................... | 816 | 965 | 1,028 | 863 | 525 | 795 | 720 | 830 | 1,030 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,723 | 2,164 | 2,079 | 2,306 | 858 | 1,749 | 1,404 | 1,910 | 1,451 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,471 | 6,776 | 8,282 | 4,260 | 2,910 | 5,605 | 4,739 | 6,008 | 4,084 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 309 | 417 | 466 | 336 | 97 | 306 | 240 | 337 | 336 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,162 | 6,359 | 7,816 | 3,924 | 2,813 | 5,298 | 4,499 | 5,670 | 3,748 |

n.a. Not applicable.

Table 9. Race of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | White and all other races, and Asian |  |  | Black or AfricanAmerican |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | White and all other races ${ }^{1}$ | Asian |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,847 | 106,187 | 101,604 | 4,584 | 14,659 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$65,405 | \$64,898 | \$76,633 | \$44,397 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.4 | 49.7 | 49.9 | 45.1 | 47.1 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 69 | 70 | 57 | 46 |
| Average annual expenditures ......................... | \$49,067 | \$50,957 | \$50,723 | \$56,308 | \$35,311 |
| Food ....................................................... | 6,372 | 6,622 | 6,585 | 7,565 | 4,524 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 3,871 | 3,870 | 3,905 | 2,880 |
| Cereals and bakery products . | 506 | 522 | 522 | 520 | 390 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs . | 841 | 840 | 835 | 966 | 845 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 426 | 429 | 346 | 258 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 680 | 671 | 903 | 484 |
| Other food at home ... | 1,343 | 1,403 | 1,412 | 1,169 | 903 |
| Food away from home | 2,619 | 2,751 | 2,715 | 3,660 | 1,645 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 466 | 471 | 350 | 201 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 17,362 | 17,224 | 20,395 | 13,503 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 10,372 | 10,228 | 13,571 | 7,919 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 6,944 | 6,872 | 8,543 | 3,632 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 2,697 | 2,619 | 4,411 | 4,046 |
| Other lodging | 672 | 731 | 737 | 616 | 241 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,645 | 3,641 | 3,658 | 3,270 | 3,668 |
| Household operations | 1,011 | 1,064 | 1,051 | 1,347 | 633 |
| Housekeeping supplies .... | 659 | 690 | 696 | 536 | 429 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,506 | 1,594 | 1,591 | 1,671 | 854 |
| Apparel and services | 1,725 | 1,721 | 1,704 | 2,150 | 1,755 |
| Transportation | 7,658 | 7,983 | 7,950 | 8,784 | 5,302 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,657 | 2,818 | 2,829 | 2,582 | 1,489 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 2,037 | 2,045 | 1,871 | 1,618 |
| Other vehicle expenses ............................ | 2,536 | 2,626 | 2,605 | 3,153 | 1,876 |
| Public transportation .... | 479 | 501 | 471 | 1,178 | 319 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 3,314 | 3,351 | 2,498 | 1,763 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 2,869 | 2,894 | 2,270 | 1,404 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 596 | 603 | 606 | 557 | 536 |
| Reading . | 110 | 118 | 119 | 111 | 46 |
| Education | 1,068 | 1,134 | 1,080 | 2,327 | 591 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 380 | 400 | 413 | 122 | 230 |
| Miscellaneous . | 816 | 843 | 853 | 611 | 626 |
| Cash contributions ..................... | 1,723 | 1,784 | 1,799 | 1,452 | 1,280 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,471 | 5,736 | 5,674 | 7,117 | 3,550 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 309 | 319 | 321 | 283 | 235 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,162 | 5,417 | 5,353 | 6,834 | 3,315 |

1 All other races includes Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and approximately 1 percent reporting more than one race.

Table 10. Hispanic or Latino origin of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | Hispanic or Latino | Not Hispanic or Latino |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Total | White and all other races | Black or AfricanAmerican |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,847 | 14,295 | 106,552 | 92,119 | 14,432 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$49,930 | \$64,591 | \$67,784 | \$44,211 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.4 | 43.1 | 50.2 | 50.7 | 47.1 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons .. | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | 1.1 | . 6 | . 5 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 2 | . 3 | . 4 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 51 | 68 | 72 | 46 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$49,067 | \$41,981 | \$50,015 | \$52,320 | \$35,198 |
| Food | 6,372 | 6,094 | 6,409 | 6,696 | 4,524 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 3,784 | 3,749 | 3,882 | 2,875 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 506 | 479 | 510 | 529 | 388 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs . | 841 | 955 | 826 | 823 | 846 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 403 | 406 | 429 | 258 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 734 | 646 | 671 | 483 |
| Other food at home | 1,343 | 1,213 | 1,360 | 1,430 | 900 |
| Food away from home .............................. | 2,619 | 2,310 | 2,660 | 2,814 | 1,649 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 267 | 457 | 496 | 201 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 15,983 | 17,016 | 17,579 | 13,409 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 10,043 | 10,079 | 10,429 | 7,847 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 5,298 | 6,710 | 7,198 | 3,594 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 4,415 | 2,652 | 2,437 | 4,020 |
| Other lodging . | 672 | 330 | 718 | 794 | 233 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services . | 3,645 | 3,532 | 3,660 | 3,660 | 3,660 |
| Household operations ...... | 1,011 | 714 | 1,051 | 1,119 | 618 |
| Housekeeping supplies ... | 659 | 517 | 677 | 714 | 434 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,506 | 1,177 | 1,549 | 1,657 | 850 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,725 | 2,002 | 1,689 | 1,678 | 1,761 |
| Transportation .... | 7,658 | 7,156 | 7,725 | 8,109 | 5,269 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,657 | 2,333 | 2,700 | 2,897 | 1,446 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 2,104 | 1,971 | 2,026 | 1,614 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,536 | 2,309 | 2,566 | 2,670 | 1,896 |
| Public transportation .................................. | 479 | 410 | 489 | 516 | 313 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 1,568 | 3,335 | 3,581 | 1,762 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 1,664 | 2,829 | 3,050 | 1,406 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 596 | 532 | 604 | 614 | 536 |
| Reading | 110 | 36 | 119 | 131 | 47 |
| Education | 1,068 | 707 | 1,116 | 1,197 | 599 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 380 | 182 | 406 | 434 | 232 |
| Miscellaneous ............................. | 816 | 544 | 853 | 887 | 633 |
| Cash contributions | 1,723 | 1,015 | 1,818 | 1,903 | 1,277 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,471 | 4,230 | 5,638 | 5,966 | 3,542 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 309 | 119 | 335 | 350 | 236 |
| Pensions and Social Security ...................... | 5,162 | 4,111 | 5,303 | 5,616 | 3,306 |

Table 11. Region of residence: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ...................... | 120,847 | 22,411 | 27,536 | 43,819 | 27,080 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$71,731 | \$59,908 | \$58,641 | \$65,332 |
| Age of reference person ................................................. | 49.4 | 51.2 | 48.9 | 49.6 | 48.1 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 5 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 65 | 68 | 68 | 62 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$49,067 | \$53,868 | \$46,551 | \$45,749 | \$53,005 |
| Food .................. | 6,372 | 6,975 | 6,031 | 5,944 | 6,903 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 4,043 | 3,682 | 3,481 | 4,023 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 506 | 563 | 510 | 469 | 516 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 841 | 919 | 762 | 829 | 875 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 435 | 419 | 367 | 432 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 751 | 616 | 581 | 740 |
| Other food at home | 1,343 | 1,374 | 1,375 | 1,235 | 1,461 |
| Food away from home | 2,619 | 2,932 | 2,349 | 2,463 | 2,880 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 435 | 468 | 418 | 368 | 530 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 19,343 | 15,109 | 15,387 | 19,127 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 11,944 | 8,756 | 8,524 | 12,378 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 7,513 | 6,126 | 5,613 | 7,667 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 3,507 | 1,986 | 2,361 | 4,021 |
| Other lodging | 672 | 924 | 643 | 550 | 690 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,645 | 4,095 | 3,421 | 3,741 | 3,343 |
| Household operations. | 1,011 | 1,196 | 780 | 969 | 1,164 |
| Housekeeping supplies ............ | 659 | 640 | 682 | 667 | 638 |
| Household furnishings and equipment | 1,506 | 1,467 | 1,471 | 1,485 | 1,605 |
| Apparel and services ......................... | 1,725 | 1,782 | 1,461 | 1,786 | 1,844 |
| Transportation | 7,658 | 8,108 | 7,649 | 7,400 | 7,711 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,657 | 2,754 | 2,921 | 2,612 | 2,380 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 1,787 | 1,933 | 2,103 | 2,018 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,536 | 2,885 | 2,375 | 2,371 | 2,673 |
| Public transportation .... | 479 | 682 | 420 | 314 | 640 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 3,132 | 3,272 | 3,030 | 3,128 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 2,767 | 2,627 | 2,467 | 3,062 |
| Personal care products and services | 596 | 601 | 538 | 593 | 653 |
| Reading .. | 110 | 141 | 112 | 85 | 121 |
| Education | 1,068 | 1,710 | 1,103 | 820 | 902 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 380 | 439 | 409 | 394 | 278 |
| Miscellaneous | 816 | 821 | 798 | 768 | 910 |
| Cash contributions ............................. | 1,723 | 1,568 | 1,684 | 1,692 | 1,941 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ............................... | 5,471 | 6,013 | 5,340 | 5,015 | 5,894 |
| Life and other personal insurance .............................. | 309 | 350 | 340 | 298 | 262 |
| Pensions and Social Security ................................... | 5,162 | 5,662 | 5,000 | 4,717 | 5,633 |

Table 12. Occupation of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | Selfemployed workers | Wage and salary earners |  |  |  |  |  | Retired | All other, including not reporting |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total wage and salary earners | Managers and professionals | Technical, sales and clerical workers | Service workers | Construction workers and mechanics | Operators, fabricators and laborers |  |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) | 5,824 | 77,087 | 29,707 | 21,239 | 12,844 | 4,163 | 9,133 | 21,163 | 16,772 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$81,240 | \$74,168 | \$103,040 | \$62,755 | \$49,816 | \$56,949 | \$48,895 | \$35,336 | \$39,211 |
| Age of reference person ...................... | 48.3 | 43.6 | 44.8 | 42.5 | 42.7 | 43.4 | 43.8 | 73.8 | 45.5 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons ...................................................................... | 2.7 .7 | 2.6 .7 | 2.6 .7 | 2.5 .7 | 2.6 .8 | 2.9 .8 | 2.7 .7 | 1.7 .1 | 2.9 .9 |
| Persons 65 and older ............................. | . 2 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | 1.2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.7 | . 2 | . 7 |
| Vehicles | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Percent homeowner ............................. | 74 | 65 | 75 | 60 | 53 | 62 | 58 | 79 | 53 |
| Average annual expenditures .................. | \$57,073 | \$54,465 | \$70,143 | \$48,516 | \$41,759 | \$44,034 | \$39,904 | \$35,707 | \$38,382 |
| Food | 7,198 | 6,857 | 8,212 | 6,298 | 5,683 | 5,935 | 5,801 | 4,816 | 5,839 |
| Food at home | 4,219 | 3,827 | 4,302 | 3,495 | 3,554 | 3,585 | 3,533 | 3,185 | 3,973 |
| Cereals and bakery products ............. | 576 | 518 | 579 | 486 | 465 | 478 | 480 | 433 | 525 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs ............ | 912 | 856 | 896 | 804 | 865 | 812 | 849 | 696 | 931 |
| Dairy products ................................. | 457 | 413 | 472 | 368 | 372 | 396 | 385 | 340 | 441 |
| Fruits and vegetables ....................... | 750 | 658 | 777 | 582 | 589 | 568 | 585 | 598 | 691 |
| Other food at home .......................... | 1,525 | 1,383 | 1,578 | 1,254 | 1,263 | 1,331 | 1,233 | 1,118 | 1,385 |
| Food away from home ....................... | 2,979 | 3,031 | 3,910 | 2,804 | 2,129 | 2,350 | 2,268 | 1,630 | 1,866 |
| Alcoholic beverages ............................. | 546 | 502 | 664 | 411 | 308 | 486 | 451 | 275 | 294 |
| Housing ............................................. | 18,173 | 18,525 | 23,699 | 16,552 | 14,951 | 14,813 | 13,016 | 12,863 | 14,053 |
| Shelter | 10,882 | 11,302 | 14,740 | 9,914 | 9,108 | 8,662 | 7,633 | 6,842 | 8,235 |
| Owned dwellings ............................. | 7,303 | 7,431 | 10,574 | 6,051 | 5,290 | 5,213 | 4,441 | 4,527 | 4,738 |
| Rented dwellings ............................. | 2,590 | 3,129 | 2,908 | 3,320 | 3,519 | 3,108 | 2,869 | 1,741 | 3,129 |
| Other lodging ................................. | 988 | 741 | 1,258 | 543 | 299 | 342 | 323 | 575 | 368 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ........ | 3,966 | 3,790 | 4,247 | 3,587 | 3,476 | 3,636 | 3,290 | 3,260 | 3,348 |
| Household operations ........................ | 1,001 | 1,143 | 1,737 | 907 | 733 | 738 | 525 | 834 | 632 |
| Housekeeping supplies ...................... | 648 | 644 | 777 | 616 | 571 | 478 | 468 | 759 | 604 |
| Household furnishings and equipment .. | 1,675 | 1,646 | 2,199 | 1,527 | 1,063 | 1,299 | 1,101 | 1,168 | 1,234 |
| Apparel and services .......................... | 1,638 | 2,017 | 2,505 | 1,802 | 1,620 | 1,249 | 1,830 | 913 | 1,440 |
| Transportation .................................... | 7,585 | 8,709 | 10,722 | 8,100 | 6,776 | 7,449 | 6,869 | 5,291 | 5,844 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 1,979 | 3,097 | 3,897 | 2,985 | 2,164 | 2,550 | 2,319 | 1,926 | 1,791 |
| Gasoline and motor oil ....................... | 2,263 | 2,230 | 2,419 | 2,081 | 2,022 | 2,357 | 2,192 | 1,239 | 1,716 |
| Other vehicle expenses ...................... | 2,761 | 2,822 | 3,491 | 2,622 | 2,271 | 2,267 | 2,141 | 1,799 | 2,073 |
| Public transportation .......................... | 583 | 560 | 915 | 413 | 318 | 276 | 218 | 327 | 265 |
| Healthcare ..................................... | 3,723 | 2,798 | 3,496 | 2,616 | 2,096 | 2,396 | 2,119 | 4,800 | 2,316 |
| Entertainment | 3,183 | 2,962 | 3,958 | 2,537 | 2,183 | 2,600 | 1,970 | 2,061 | 2,087 |
| Personal care products and services ...... | 595 | 651 | 855 | 617 | 490 | 404 | 414 | 517 | 441 |
| Reading ............................................. | 134 | 109 | 163 | 91 | 66 | 62 | 63 | 142 | 61 |
| Education | 962 | 1,328 | 1,922 | 1,071 | 988 | 875 | 684 | 185 | 1,023 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 331 | 400 | 275 | 441 | 433 | 710 | 521 | 210 | 518 |
| Miscellaneous ................................... | 1,542 | 889 | 1,124 | 877 | 621 | 663 | 634 | 555 | 563 |
| Cash contributions ......................... | 2,176 | 1,737 | 2,442 | 1,362 | 1,196 | 1,375 | 1,243 | 2,039 | 1,102 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ........... | 9,287 | 6,980 | 10,107 | 5,740 | 4,348 | 5,017 | 4,290 | 1,041 | 2,800 |
| Life and other personal insurance ......... | 400 | 335 | 481 | 292 | 202 | 207 | 200 | 275 | 203 |
| Pensions and Social Security .............. | 8,887 | 6,646 | 9,626 | 5,448 | 4,146 | 4,809 | 4,089 | 766 | 2,597 |

Table 13. Education of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009

| Item | All consumer units | Less than college graduate |  |  |  |  | College graduate |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | Less than high school graduate | High school graduate | High school graduate with some college | Associate's degree | Total | Bachelor's degree | Master's, professional, doctoral degree |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ......... | 120,847 | 85,270 | 16,692 | 31,015 | 25,512 | 12,051 | 35,576 | 23,410 | 12,166 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$62,857 | \$48,449 | \$33,262 | \$47,338 | \$53,065 | \$62,570 | \$97,390 | \$90,318 | \$110,998 |
| Age of reference person ............................... | 49.4 | 50.0 | 53.8 | 51.8 | 46.1 | 48.0 | 48.0 | 46.5 | 51.0 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons $\qquad$ | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 8 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 5 | . 4 | . 3 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 3 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Percent homeowner ..................................... | 66 | 62 | 54 | 65 | 59 | 69 | 77 | 75 | 80 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$49,067 | \$40,520 | \$30,323 | \$38,693 | \$44,697 | \$50,446 | \$69,389 | \$65,908 | \$76,072 |
| Food ................................ | 6,372 | 5,622 | 4,735 | 5,426 | 5,977 | 6,588 | 8,097 | 7,775 | 8,704 |
| Food at home | 3,753 | 3,476 | 3,343 | 3,439 | 3,547 | 3,598 | 4,386 | 4,275 | 4,595 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 506 | 469 | 454 | 468 | 470 | 493 | 590 | 588 | 595 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 841 | 810 | 856 | 826 | 797 | 728 | 912 | 931 | 876 |
| Dairy products | 406 | 370 | 333 | 363 | 387 | 400 | 488 | 472 | 519 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 656 | 580 | 570 | 568 | 596 | 590 | 831 | 773 | 939 |
| Other food ta home ... | 1,343 | 1,247 | 1,129 | 1,213 | 1,297 | 1,387 | 1,565 | 1,511 | 1,667 |
| Food away from home ............................... | 2,619 | 2,146 | 1,392 | 1,987 | 2,430 | 2,991 | 3,711 | 3,500 | 4,110 |
| Alcoholic beverages .................................... | 435 | 325 | 213 | 298 | 384 | 424 | 686 | 676 | 705 |
| Housing | 16,895 | 14,047 | 11,181 | 13,261 | 15,142 | 17,702 | 23,695 | 22,456 | 26,074 |
| Shelter | 10,075 | 8,111 | 6,556 | 7,547 | 8,737 | 10,391 | 14,782 | 14,106 | 16,084 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,543 | 4,841 | 3,263 | 4,556 | 5,259 | 6,876 | 10,621 | 10,187 | 11,456 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,860 | 2,885 | 3,126 | 2,652 | 2,997 | 2,911 | 2,802 | 2,767 | 2,869 |
| Other lodging .......................................... | 672 | 385 | 167 | 339 | 481 | 603 | 1,359 | 1,152 | 1,759 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ................ | 3,645 | 3,462 | 3,101 | 3,491 | 3,479 | 3,848 | 4,083 | 3,989 | 4,264 |
| Household operations | 1,011 | 705 | 346 | 598 | 889 | 1,090 | 1,745 | 1,510 | 2,198 |
| Housekeeping supplies .............................. | 659 | 573 | 414 | 568 | 607 | 723 | 854 | 741 | 1,067 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ........... | 1,506 | 1,197 | 764 | 1,057 | 1,431 | 1,650 | 2,230 | 2,110 | 2,460 |
| Apparel and services ................................... | 1,725 | 1,452 | 1,454 | 1,369 | 1,432 | 1,742 | 2,358 | 2,385 | 2,308 |
| Transportation ............................................ | 7,658 | 6,547 | 4,762 | 6,295 | 7,329 | 7,970 | 10,312 | 10,007 | 10,897 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,657 | 2,138 | 1,430 | 2,017 | 2,477 | 2,714 | 3,901 | 3,844 | 4,010 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 1,986 | 1,893 | 1,529 | 1,865 | 1,972 | 2,305 | 2,209 | 2,205 | 2,218 |
| Other vehicle expenses .............................. | 2,536 | 2,242 | 1,611 | 2,149 | 2,581 | 2,595 | 3,229 | 3,146 | 3,390 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 479 | 273 | 193 | 264 | 299 | 356 | 972 | 812 | 1,279 |
| Healthcare | 3,126 | 2,749 | 2,010 | 2,913 | 2,917 | 3,000 | 4,026 | 3,778 | 4,503 |
| Entertainment | 2,693 | 2,261 | 1,406 | 2,184 | 2,626 | 2,848 | 3,716 | 3,458 | 4,212 |
| Personal care products and services | 596 | 489 | 361 | 459 | 555 | 602 | 845 | 799 | 933 |
| Reading .................................................... | 110 | 78 | 40 | 70 | 98 | 107 | 186 | 157 | 241 |
| Education | 1,068 | 648 | 236 | 447 | 1,039 | 907 | 2,074 | 1,833 | 2,538 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 380 | 462 | 430 | 531 | 419 | 418 | 183 | 219 | 113 |
| Miscellaneous | 816 | 689 | 437 | 596 | 843 | 957 | 1,122 | 1,167 | 1,037 |
| Cash contributions | 1,723 | 1,193 | 784 | 1,123 | 1,354 | 1,600 | 2,993 | 2,734 | 3,491 |
| Personal insurance and pensions .................. | 5,471 | 3,958 | 2,275 | 3,721 | 4,580 | 5,580 | 9,098 | 8,465 | 10,318 |
| Life and other personal insurance ................. | 309 | 233 | 151 | 239 | 248 | 298 | 492 | 451 | 571 |
| Pensions and Social Security ...................... | 5,162 | 3,725 | 2,124 | 3,482 | 4,332 | 5,282 | 8,607 | 8,014 | 9,746 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ See the glossary at the end of this report for a definition of consumer unit.
    ${ }^{2}$ The National Bureau of Economic Research designated December 2007 as the beginning of the latest recession, with the contraction ending in June 2009. For more information, see "U.S. Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions," (National Bureau of Economic Research, September 2010), http:// www.nber.org/cycles/cyclesmain.html.

[^1]:    ${ }^{3}$ For more information, see "New and Existing Home Sales, U.S.," (National Association of Home Builders, January 2011), http://www.nahb.com/ fileUpload_details.aspx?contentID=55761\&wwparam=1294177751.
    ${ }^{4}$ For more information, see "New and Existing Single Family Home Prices, U.S.," (National Association of Home Builders, January 2011), http:// www.nahb.com/fileUpload_details.aspx?contentID=55764
    ${ }^{5}$ For more information, see "Record 2.8 million properties with filings in 2009," Reality Trends (RealtyTrac, February 2011), http://www.realtytrac. com/news-trends/newsletter/2010/february.html.

[^2]:    ${ }^{8}$ To view the first analysis of these data by BLS staff, see the report on the CE section of the BLS website (http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxwebarticles. htm).

[^3]:    n.a. Not applicable.

[^4]:    1 Value is less than or equal to 0.05 .

[^5]:    1 Value is less than or equal to 0.05 .
    n.a. Not applicable.

