

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1996-97

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston	Pittsburgh
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	20,711	7,715	1,769	2,351	1,041
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes ¹	\$42,025	\$45,877	\$45,470	\$51,616	\$39,139
Age of reference person	48.1	48.1	48.0	46.1	52.5
Average number in consumer unit:					
Persons	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3
Children under 186	.7	.7	.6	.5
Persons 65 and over3	.3	.3	.2	.4
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2
Vehicles	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.8
Percent homeowner	59	50	67	61	69
Average annual expenditures	\$35,131	\$38,470	\$34,489	\$37,069	\$34,873
Food	5,150	5,927	3,879	4,297	4,906
Food at home	2,995	3,410	2,223	2,325	3,039
Cereals and bakery products	497	563	375	397	511
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	794	977	597	594	777
Dairy products	334	369	269	281	315
Fruits and vegetables	534	648	361	435	464
Other food at home	836	852	621	619	972
Food away from home	2,155	2,517	1,656	1,972	1,867
Alcoholic beverages	366	443	281	427	298
Housing	12,155	14,234	12,694	13,616	10,967
Shelter	7,373	9,267	8,067	8,377	5,479
Owned dwellings	4,544	5,463	5,466	5,049	3,442
Rented dwellings	2,308	3,367	1,785	2,528	1,613
Other lodging	521	437	816	800	425
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,455	2,470	2,637	2,514	2,724
Household operations	494	562	401	592	498
Housekeeping supplies	437	455	371	407	435
Household furnishings and equipment	1,396	1,480	1,218	1,727	1,830
Apparel and services	1,909	2,211	1,964	1,956	1,775
Transportation	5,720	5,202	5,732	6,698	6,769
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,042	1,225	1,755	2,656	3,108
Gasoline and motor oil	945	847	1,016	1,056	1,061
Other vehicle expenses	2,147	2,269	2,497	2,334	2,160
Public transportation	586	861	464	653	440
Health care	1,656	1,736	1,466	1,753	1,804
Entertainment	1,758	1,791	1,938	1,995	1,826
Personal care products and services	507	600	494	461	502
Reading	189	196	160	215	194
Education	698	870	472	647	334
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	249	224	228	259	315
Miscellaneous	865	822	1,165	719	946
Cash contributions	756	923	537	581	893
Personal insurance and pensions	3,154	3,291	3,480	3,444	3,344
Life and other personal insurance	369	378	345	439	497
Pensions and Social Security	2,785	2,914	3,134	3,005	2,848

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see glossary.