

**Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-1999**

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston	Pittsburgh
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	20,933	7,633	1,912	2,456	1,094
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes <sup>1</sup> .....	\$46,809	\$55,680	\$48,442	\$51,409	\$36,860
Age of reference person .....	49.0	48.3	49.9	46.9	52.2
Average number in consumer unit:					
Persons .....	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2
Children under 18 .....	.6	.7	.7	.6	.5
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4
Earners .....	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.2
Vehicles .....	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.8
Percent homeowner .....	62	53	73	62	68
Average annual expenditures .....	\$37,950	\$43,998	\$40,147	\$39,234	\$34,511
Food .....	5,314	6,265	4,753	4,904	4,981
Food at home .....	3,001	3,374	2,596	2,486	2,803
Cereals and bakery products .....	474	525	381	382	465
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	808	983	768	659	715
Dairy products .....	342	375	291	285	331
Fruits and vegetables .....	539	628	474	508	447
Other food at home .....	838	863	681	653	846
Food away from home .....	2,313	2,891	2,157	2,417	2,177
Alcoholic beverages .....	368	405	350	519	280
Housing .....	13,229	16,182	14,783	14,612	9,993
Shelter .....	8,150	10,554	9,239	9,480	4,946
Owned dwellings .....	5,209	6,404	6,615	6,111	3,080
Rented dwellings .....	2,390	3,544	1,875	2,396	1,587
Other lodging .....	550	606	750	973	278
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	2,457	2,592	2,841	2,419	2,426
Household operations .....	581	758	518	667	398
Housekeeping supplies .....	474	497	477	363	688
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,567	1,781	1,709	1,684	1,535
Apparel and services .....	1,831	2,327	1,433	1,671	2,331
Transportation .....	6,503	6,972	7,896	6,312	5,795
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	2,761	2,655	3,865	2,645	2,443
Gasoline and motor oil .....	901	877	869	923	862
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,266	2,523	2,706	2,143	2,184
Public transportation .....	575	917	457	600	307
Health care .....	1,788	1,863	1,781	1,686	1,932
Entertainment .....	1,821	2,007	1,721	1,937	1,631
Personal care products and services .....	399	485	295	344	522
Reading .....	198	216	192	226	181
Education .....	877	975	1,088	1,252	467
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	309	304	260	292	296
Miscellaneous .....	857	924	927	710	986
Cash contributions .....	994	1,021	1,093	1,138	1,408
Personal insurance and pensions .....	3,461	4,052	3,576	3,631	3,710
Life and other personal insurance .....	424	464	543	396	1,078
Pensions and Social Security .....	3,037	3,588	3,033	3,235	2,632

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