

Table 23. Selected southern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2007-2008

Item	All consumer units in the South	Washington, D.C.	Baltimore	Atlanta	Miami	Dallas-Fort Worth	Houston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	43,424	2,212	1,027	2,269	1,674	2,282	1,882
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes	\$58,555	\$103,756	\$82,140	\$70,428	\$58,696	\$64,899	\$75,751
Age of reference person	49.0	47.3	48.1	45.8	49.0	46.4	45.1
Average number in consumer unit:							
Persons	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.8
Children under 186	.6	.5	.6	.6	.8	.8
Persons 65 and older3	.2	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2
Earners	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5
Vehicles	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.8
Percent homeowner	69	70	70	65	62	64	62
Average annual expenditures	\$46,149	\$70,611	\$52,543	\$46,667	\$47,079	\$52,985	\$55,703
Food	5,946	8,144	5,979	6,005	5,629	6,217	6,837
Food at home	3,404	4,214	3,257	3,006	3,796	3,516	3,515
Cereals and bakery products	455	526	431	406	489	465	416
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	807	1,017	828	682	925	748	836
Dairy products	380	475	352	313	459	395	383
Fruits and vegetables	566	792	576	532	807	592	576
Other food at home	1,196	1,405	1,069	1,073	1,116	1,316	1,304
Food away from home	2,543	3,930	2,723	2,999	1,833	2,701	3,323
Alcoholic beverages	386	785	416	375	308	348	626
Housing	15,095	26,128	20,255	17,275	18,459	17,737	18,059
Shelter	8,357	17,167	12,904	10,925	12,095	9,876	10,359
Owned dwellings	5,683	12,435	9,443	7,421	7,507	6,339	6,906
Rented dwellings	2,185	3,691	2,912	2,923	4,118	3,142	2,834
Other lodging	488	1,041	548	582	470	396	619
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,604	4,001	4,170	3,811	3,576	4,307	4,332
Household operations	922	1,774	881	820	1,180	1,093	1,018
Housekeeping supplies	620	752	822	447	587	695	677
Household furnishings and equipment	1,592	2,433	1,478	1,271	1,022	1,767	1,674
Apparel and services	1,733	2,737	1,415	1,635	1,238	1,784	1,990
Transportation	8,484	10,452	7,793	7,316	8,506	10,140	10,880
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,969	3,492	2,396	2,101	3,049	4,196	4,070
Gasoline and motor oil	2,731	2,666	2,665	2,821	2,863	2,733	3,274
Other vehicle expenses	2,434	3,190	2,191	1,893	2,076	2,861	3,064
Public transportation	349	1,103	542	501	518	350	472
Healthcare	2,825	2,996	2,571	2,383	1,933	2,787	3,002
Entertainment	2,417	3,115	2,730	2,168	1,630	2,697	2,653
Personal care products and services	573	836	555	527	604	758	761
Reading	88	157	74	79	31	93	90
Education	770	1,875	1,294	467	968	774	1,009
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	328	263	225	197	143	225	298
Miscellaneous	698	1,254	746	751	1,151	690	733
Cash contributions	1,753	2,461	1,742	1,588	1,828	2,014	1,886
Personal insurance and pensions	5,054	9,408	6,746	5,900	4,651	6,721	6,879
Life and other personal insurance	310	502	444	281	130	305	346
Pensions and Social Security	4,744	8,905	6,302	5,619	4,521	6,416	6,533