

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008-2009

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	22,379	8,751	2,600	2,837
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes	\$71,085	\$81,509	\$76,612	\$75,729
Age of reference person	51.1	50.8	51.1	50.0
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4
Children under 185	.6	.6	.6
Persons 65 and older3	.3	.4	.3
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Vehicles	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.7
Percent homeowner	65	58	69	66
Average annual expenditures	\$54,399	\$60,273	\$56,790	\$59,227
Food	6,967	7,420	6,460	8,167
Food at home	4,032	4,066	3,805	4,905
Cereals and bakery products	571	558	526	699
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	919	987	889	1,107
Dairy products	448	449	438	533
Fruits and vegetables	738	799	681	861
Other food at home	1,355	1,273	1,271	1,704
Food away from home	2,935	3,354	2,655	3,262
Alcoholic beverages	462	498	455	641
Housing	19,434	23,624	21,135	20,802
Shelter	11,984	15,482	13,597	12,857
Owned dwellings	7,700	9,449	9,319	8,403
Rented dwellings	3,288	4,859	2,965	3,372
Other lodging	995	1,173	1,313	1,081
Utilities, fuels, and public services	4,106	4,309	4,444	4,248
Household operations	1,186	1,548	1,021	1,460
Housekeeping supplies	652	643	694	598
Household furnishings and equipment	1,505	1,642	1,379	1,639
Apparel and services	1,878	2,292	1,824	1,910
Transportation	8,510	8,495	8,202	8,591
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,721	2,321	2,037	2,818
Gasoline and motor oil	2,086	1,943	2,240	2,125
Other vehicle expenses	2,979	3,137	3,156	2,913
Public transportation	723	1,093	769	735
Healthcare	3,083	3,027	3,036	3,453
Entertainment	2,863	2,828	2,873	3,083
Personal care products and services	620	686	655	657
Reading	141	110	142	203
Education	1,648	2,043	2,252	2,184
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	382	223	396	474
Miscellaneous	886	920	879	908
Cash contributions	1,527	1,515	2,171	1,337
Personal insurance and pensions	6,000	6,591	6,309	6,817
Life and other personal insurance	367	415	317	327
Pensions and Social Security	5,632	6,176	5,992	6,490

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, October, 2010