

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2010-2011

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	22,382	9,080	2,527	2,947
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes	\$70,083	\$77,886	\$67,320	\$85,746
Age of reference person	50.7	50.3	50.5	50.2
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4
Children under 186	.6	.5	.6
Persons 65 and older4	.3	.3	.3
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4
Vehicles	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7
Percent homeowner	63	57	69	64
Average annual expenditures				
Food	\$53,695	\$58,172	\$50,985	\$64,802
Food at home	6,777	7,371	5,997	8,080
Food away from home	4,005	4,163	3,577	5,089
Cereals and bakery products	584	597	529	780
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	871	996	734	1,028
Dairy products	438	437	411	528
Fruits and vegetables	782	858	625	1,019
Other food at home	1,329	1,274	1,278	1,734
Food away from home	2,772	3,208	2,419	2,991
Alcoholic beverages	509	522	492	736
Housing	19,293	23,154	19,810	21,053
Shelter	11,903	15,479	12,008	12,862
Owned dwellings	7,536	9,312	8,158	8,260
Rented dwellings	3,601	5,360	3,218	3,499
Other lodging	766	807	631	1,104
Utilities, fuels, and public services	4,041	4,273	4,442	4,121
Household operations	1,192	1,384	1,201	1,569
Housekeeping supplies	630	610	701	641
Household furnishings and equipment	1,527	1,408	1,460	1,859
Apparel and services	1,996	2,596	1,771	1,877
Transportation	8,097	7,843	7,337	9,127
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,515	1,891	2,289	3,382
Gasoline and motor oil	2,209	2,006	2,147	2,489
Other vehicle expenses	2,651	2,813	2,457	2,579
Public and other transportation	722	1,133	444	678
Health care	3,247	3,089	3,086	4,107
Entertainment	2,677	2,512	2,385	3,688
Personal care products and services	615	679	600	734
Reading	127	113	136	166
Education	1,619	1,654	1,457	2,542
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	368	249	282	479
Miscellaneous	884	763	1,260	1,267
Cash contributions	1,627	1,473	1,268	2,672
Personal insurance and pensions	5,859	6,155	5,105	8,276
Life and other personal insurance	378	357	248	437
Pensions and Social Security	5,481	5,798	4,857	7,839

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September, 2012