

Preface

This is the fourth in a series of reports presenting articles discussing the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE). The most recent report, *Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2008*, was published in December 2008. As in the previous anthologies, articles discussing ongoing research and methodological issues pertaining to the CE, and analytical articles using the survey's data, are included in this report.

The report was prepared in the Office of Prices and Living Conditions, Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey (DCES), under the general direction of Steve Henderson, Chief of the Branch of Information and Analysis, and was produced and edited by John M. Rogers, Section Chief. Articles on research and methodology were contributed by Lucilla Tan and Adam Safir of the Branch of Research and Program Development, Jennifer Edgar of the Office of Survey Methods Research, Barry Steinberg of the Division of Price Statistical Methods, and Brett Creech of the CE Branch of Information and Analysis. Analytical articles were contributed by Ann C. Foster, William Hawk, Craig J. Kreisler, and Geoffrey Paulin of the Branch of Information and Analysis.

BLS makes CE data available in news releases, reports, quarterly *Focus on Prices and Spending* articles, and articles in the *Monthly Labor Review*, as well as on CD-ROMs and the Internet. Current and historical CE tables classified by standard demographic variables are available at the BLS Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/cex>. This site also provides other survey information, including answers to frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, order forms for survey products, and *Monthly Labor Review* and other research articles. To order on CD-Rom the Consumer Expenditure Survey microdata at the consumer unit level, go to <http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxmicro.htm>.

The material that follows is divided into two sections: Section 1 includes articles on survey research and methodology, and section 2 presents analyses of topics of interest based on CE data. An appendix includes a general description of the survey and its methods and a glossary of terms.

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