# Consumer Expenditures in 2008 

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Consumer units ${ }^{1}$ spent $\$ 50,486$, on average, in 2008, a 1.7-percent increase over the previous year. This was a more moderate increase than the 2.6-percent growth in spending in 2007 and the 4.3 -percent increase in 2006. The increase in consumer expenditures in 2008 was lower than the 3.8-percent increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Items in 2008. The increase in spending was the smallest increase since the 0.3 -percent increase in 2003. This report provides the latest results from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE).

## Developments in 2008

The major components of spending-food, housing, apparel and services, transportation, healthcare, entertainment, and personal insurance and pensions-account for about 90 percent of total expenditures, and all but two (apparel and services, transportation) increased in 2008. (See table A.) Expenditures increased by 5.1 percent for food, 1.1 percent for housing, 4.3 percent for healthcare, 5.1 percent for entertainment, and 5.0 percent for personal insurance and pensions, but decreased by 4.3 percent for apparel and services and by 1.8 percent for transportation.

An 8.1-percent increase in spending on food at home in 2008 followed an increase of 1.4 percent in 2007. Spending on food away from home rose 1.1 percent in 2008, after decreasing by 1.0 percent in 2007. Thus, total food expenditures in 2008 rose 5.1 percent, which followed 0.4-percent and 3.0-percent increases in 2007 and 2006, respectively.

Across the four regions of the U.S. Census-Northeast, Midwest, South, and West-changes in food spending in 2008 were quite varied. The West region had the highest dollar expenditure amount relative to the other regions. An increase of 8.3 percent in spending on food at home and a decrease of 3.0 percent in spending on food away from home led to the overall 3.3-percent increase in food expenditures for the West. However, the Northeast region experienced the largest overall increase in food expenditures ( 8.4 percent), with spending on food at home increasing by 11.8 percent and spending on food away from home increasing by 4.0 percent. In the South, a 5.7-percent increase in total food expenditures in 2008 followed a 2.3-percent increase in 2007. Also, spending on food at home rose by 5.5 percent and spending on food away from home rose by 5.9 percent. The 3.0 -percent increase in food spending in the Midwest was the smallest overall gain for any of the regions. This relatively small increase was the result of a 4.1-percent decrease in spending on food away from home, partially offsetting an 8.5-percent increase in spending on food at home.

[^0]Housing expenditures, the largest component of spending, rose 1.1 percent in 2008, following a 3.4 -percent increase in 2007. By comparison, housing expenditures rose 7.9 percent in 2006 and 9.0 percent in 2005. In 2008, the share of total expenditures allocated to housing ( 33.9 percent) was close to the 2007 level ( 34.1 percent). Housing shares of total expenditures were 33.8 percent in 2006 and 32.7 percent in 2005. There were increases in the expenditure levels across several of the housing subcomponents in 2008. Spending on shelter increased 1.6 percent in 2008, following an increase of 3.6 percent in 2007. In the owned dwellings subcomponent, expenditures on mortgage interest and charges decreased 1.6 percent, following a 3.7-percent increase in 2007. Spending on the other subcomponents of shelter rose 4.7 percent for rented dwellings and 1.0 percent for other lodging in 2008, compared with the increases of 0.5 percent for rented dwellings and 21.9 percent for other lodging in 2007. Expenditures for utilities, fuels, and public services increased 4.9 percent, up from the 2.4-percent increase in 2007. The 9.7-percent increase in the CPI for fuels and utilities in 2008 was more than the increase in spending.

In 2008, the increase in housing expenditures in rural areas ( 3.6 percent) was higher than the increase in urban areas (1.0 percent). Despite the larger spending increase in rural areas in 2008, urban consumer units continued to spend a larger share of their overall expenditures on housing than did rural consumer units. There were also differences in the way urban and rural consumer units allocated their expenditures among the housing components, particularly for shelter. Chart 1 illustrates shares of expenditures for each housing component out of total expenditures for rural and urban consumer units, respectively.

The CE also collects the estimated market value of owned homes. In 2008, the estimated market value of owned homes dropped 6.9 percent, reflecting the downturn in the economy at that time. This followed a decrease of 0.5 percent in 2007 and an increase of 11.2 percent in 2006. By region, the average market value of housing decreased the most in the West (11.6 percent), followed by the South (4.6 percent).

Spending on household furnishings and equipment, another subcomponent of housing, fell 9.6 percent in 2008, after a 5.2-percent increase in 2007. The decrease in 2008 was broad-based, with large decreases in three of the subcomponents of household furnishings and equipment: furniture spending decreased 13.0 percent, miscellaneous household equipment spending fell 10.8 percent, and major appliance spending decreased 11.7 percent. Items such as lamps and lighting fixtures, lawn and garden equipment, and telephones and accessories, are included in the miscellaneous household equipment subcomponent. Personal services, a subcomponent of household operations, decreased 7.7 percent

Table A. Average annual expenditures of all consumer units and percent changes, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2006-08

| Item | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | Percent change |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | 2006-07 | 2007-08 |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) | 118,843 | 120,171 | 120,770 | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ |
| Income before taxes | \$60,533 | \$63,091 | \$63,563 | ... | ... |
| Averages: |  |  |  | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ |
| Age of reference person | 48.7 | 48.8 | 49.1 | $\ldots$ |  |
| Number of persons in consumer unit | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | $\ldots$ | .. |
| Number of earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ |
| Number of vehicles | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ |
| Percent homeowner | 67 | 67 | 66 | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ |
| Average annual expenditures | \$48,398 | \$49,638 | \$50,486 | 2.6 | 1.7 |
| Food | 6,111 | 6,133 | 6,443 | . 4 | 5.1 |
| Food at home. | 3,417 | 3,465 | 3,744 | 1.4 | 8.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 446 | 460 | 507 | 3.1 | 10.2 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 797 | 777 | 846 | -2.5 | 8.9 |
| Dairy products. | 368 | 387 | 430 | 5.2 | 11.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 592 | 600 | 657 | 1.4 | 9.5 |
| Other food at home | 1,212 | 1,241 | 1,305 | 2.4 | 5.2 |
| Food away from home | 2,694 | 2,668 | 2,698 | -1.0 | 1.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 497 | 457 | 444 | -8.0 | -2.8 |
| Housing | 16,366 | 16,920 | 17,109 | 3.4 | 1.1 |
| Shelter. | 9,673 | 10,023 | 10,183 | 3.6 | 1.6 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,397 | 3,477 | 3,649 | 2.4 | 4.9 |
| Household operations | 948 | 984 | 998 | 3.8 | 1.4 |
| Housekeeping supplies. | 640 | 639 | 654 | -. 2 | 2.3 |
| Household furnishings and equipmen | 1,708 | 1,797 | 1,624 | 5.2 | -9.6 |
| Apparel and services. | 1,874 | 1,881 | 1,801 | . 4 | -4.3 |
| Transportation. | 8,508 | 8,758 | 8,604 | 2.9 | -1.8 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 3,421 | 3,244 | 2,755 | -5.2 | -15.1 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,227 | 2,384 | 2,715 | 7.0 | 13.9 |
| Other vehicle expenses. | 2,355 | 2,592 | 2,621 | 10.1 | 1.1 |
| Public transportation | 505 | 538 | 513 | 6.5 | -4.6 |
| Healthcare. | 2,766 | 2,853 | 2,976 | 3.1 | 4.3 |
| Entertainment. | 2,376 | 2,698 | 2,835 | 13.6 | 5.1 |
| Personal care products and services | 585 | 588 | 616 | . 5 | 4.8 |
| Reading.. | 117 | 118 | 116 | . 9 | -1.7 |
| Education . | 888 | 945 | 1,046 | 6.4 | 10.7 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 327 | 323 | 317 | -1.2 | -1.9 |
| Miscellaneous | 846 | 808 | 840 | -4.5 | 4.0 |
| Cash contributions | 1,869 | 1,821 | 1,737 | -2.6 | -4.6 |
| Personal insurance and pensions | 5,270 | 5,336 | 5,605 | 1.3 | 5.0 |
| Life and other personal insurance | 322 | 309 | 317 | -4.0 | 2.6 |
| Pensions and Social Security.. | 4,948 | 5,027 | 5,288 | 1.6 | 5.2 |

Table B. Percent distribution of total annual expenditures by major category, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2005-08

| Item | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Average annual expenditures. | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Food | 12.8 | 12.6 | 12.4 | 12.8 |
| Food at home | 7.1 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 7.4 |
| Food away from home. | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.3 |
| Alcoholic beverages.. | 9 | 1.0 | 9 | . 9 |
| Housing | 32.7 | 33.8 | 34.1 | 33.9 |
| Apparel and services . | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| Transportation. | 18 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 17 |
| Vehicles | 7.6 | 7.1 | 6.5 | 5.5 |
| Gasoline and motor oil. | 4.3 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 5.4 |
| Other transportation. | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.3 | 6.2 |
| Healthcare | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.9 |
| Entertainment | 5.1 | 4.9 | 5.4 | 5.6 |
| Personal care products and services | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Reading. | . 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Education. | 2.0 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.1 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 7 | 7 | 7 | . 6 |
| Miscellaneous. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Cash contributions. | 3.6 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.4 |
| Personal insurance and pensions | 11.2 | 10.9 | 10.7 | 11.1 |
| Life and other personal insurance | . 8 | . 7 | . 6 | . 6 |
| Pensions and Social Security ...................................................... | 10.4 | 10.2 | 10.1 | 10.5 |


in 2008. This followed a 5.6-percent increase in personal services spending in 2007. The leading contributor to the decrease in personal service spending is the 8.8-percent decrease in expenditures on daycare centers, nursery schools, and preschools.

Expenditures on apparel and services fell by 4.3 percent in 2008, following an increase of 0.4 percent in 2007 and a decrease of 0.6 percent in 2006. Spending on women's and girls' apparel decreased 4.1 percent in 2008, while men's and boys' apparel expenditures fell 1.8 percent. The 4.0-percent decrease in footwear spending in 2008 followed a $7.6-$ percent increase in 2007. Expenditures on other apparel products fell by 10.1 percent in 2008. Other apparel products and services include items such as jewelry, alterations, and drycleaning.

Transportation spending fell by 1.8 percent in 2008, following increases of 2.9 percent and 2.0 percent in 2007 and 2006, respectively. The mix of spending among the subcomponents of transportation varied in 2008: public transportation spending was down 4.6 percent, vehicle insurance expenditures increased 3.9 percent, and maintenance and repairs spending decreased 0.9 percent. Vehicle purchases, the largest subcomponent of transportation spending, fell by 15.1 percent. Spending on new cars and new trucks, a subcomponent of vehicle purchases, decreased 17.0 percent. Specifically, new car expenditures rose 5.6 percent, whereas new truck expenditures fell 35.7 percent. Vehicle purchases typically consist of large expenditures made infrequently, so it is common to see fluctuations from year to year because even small changes in the percentage of consumer units purchas-
ing vehicles can affect the mean expenditure for that category; nevertheless, compared with the 3.5-percent drop in 2006 and the 5.2 -percent drop in 2007, the change in 2008 was large. The increase in gasoline and motor oil (13.9 percent) was less than the 17.0-percent rise in motor fuel prices as measured by the CPI. Across the income quintiles, only the lowest income quintile experienced an increase in transportation spending ( 5.8 percent). Those in the fourth income quintile had the largest decrease in transportation spending, at 5.3 percent. The lowest income quintile also witnessed the largest increase in gasoline and oil expenditures and public transportation expenditures, with 18.8-percent and 28.7-percent increases, respectively.

Expenditures on healthcare increased 4.3 percent in 2008, compared with the 3.1-percent increase in 2007 and the 3.8 -percent increase in 2006. As one would expect, the percent of total expenditures allocated to healthcare increases with age. Chart 2 shows the shares of total expenditures for healthcare in 1998 and 2008 by age group. Over that period, expenditure shares increased for most groups.

Of the healthcare subcomponents, health insurance (7.0 percent), medical services ( 2.5 percent), and drugs ( 0.2 percent) posted spending increases. The increase in health insurance was larger than the 5.5-percent increase in 2007 but smaller than the increase of 7.6 percent in 2006 . The 55 -to- 64 -year-old group showed the largest increase ( 10.0 percent) in healthcare expenditures in 2008, followed by the 35 -to- 45 -year-old group ( 7.9 percent) and the 45 -to-54-year-old group (4.9 percent). The under-25 age group

experienced a decrease of 14.8 percent in healthcare spending in 2008, the largest for any age group. While medical services spending rose a relatively small percentage across all consumer units, spending by the 55 -to- 64 -year-old group increased by 15.7 percent, and the 75 -years-and-older age group increased by 11.8 percent. Health insurance premiums rose substantially for middle aged consumer units; specifically, those age 45 to 54 years ( 9.9 percent) and aged 55 to 64 years ( 11.1 percent). Healthcare drug expenses remained almost constant for all consumer units in 2008. The increases in drug spending were mostly seen in the younger population: the under-25 age group increased 13.6 percent, the 25 -to-34-year-old group increased 5.9 percent, and the 35 -to-44-year-old group increased 15.2 percent. Those increases were nearly offset by the decreases in drug spending among the older population: the 45 -to-54-year-old group decreased 13.3 percent, and the 65 -and-older age group decreased 4.4 percent. Prescription drug spending dropped 2.1 percent for those 65 years and older. This is likely due to increased participation in the Medicare prescription drug benefit program that began in 2006. For the same age group, prescription drug spending dropped by 7.3 percent in 2007 and by 12.4 percent in 2006.

The 5.1-percent increase in entertainment spending in 2008 followed a 13.6 -percent increase in 2007. In 2008, expenditures for pets, toys, hobbies, and playground equipment rose by 25.7 percent. The only other subcomponent of entertainment spending to increase in 2008 was audio and visual equipment and services, which increased 5.0 percent. Other entertainment supplies, equipment, and services spending decreased by 2.8 percent in 2008, compared with an increase of 9.3 percent in 2007. This subcom-
ponent includes items such as recreational vehicles, boats, and campers, which are typically large and infrequent purchases. It is common to see volatility from year to year because even small changes in the percentage of consumer units purchasing these items can affect the mean expenditure for the subcomponent.

Spending on personal insurance and pensions increased by 5.0 percent in 2008, up from the 1.3 -percent increase in 2007. In 2008, an increase of 2.6 percent in life insurance and other personal insurance spending coincided with the 5.2 -percent increase in pensions and Social Security spending.

In regards to other spending components, expenditures on cash contributions decreased 4.6 percent in 2008, following a decrease of 2.6 percent in 2007 and an increase of 12.4 percent in 2006. The 2008 decrease was due largely to decreases in contributions to charities and other organizations ( 38.8 percent), in child support expenditures ( 6.6 percent), and gifts of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to those who are not members of the consumer unit (66.1 percent), all of which reflected the recession going on in the U.S. economy in 2008. Also, a relatively low percentage of consumer units report gifts of stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to people who are not members of the consumer unit, and the amounts contributed can be large; thus, expenditure changes in this category tend to be volatile.

Spending on personal care products and services increased by 4.8 percent in 2008, which followed an increase of 0.5 percent in 2007 and an increase of 8.1 percent in 2006. Reading expenditures decreased 1.7 percent in 2008, following an increase of 0.9 percent in 2007. In 2008, education spending increased by 10.7 percent, after an increase of 6.4 percent in 2007 and a decrease of
5.5 percent in 2006. The two subcomponents of education that accounted for most of the increase in 2008 were college tuition (11.3 percent) and elementary and high school tuition (24.1 percent). These large expenditures with low percent reporting by consumer units display volatility from year to year. Spending on alcoholic beverages also has shown some volatility over the 2006-08 period: expenditures fell by 2.8 percent in 2008, following a decrease of 8.0 percent in 2007, and an increase of 16.7 percent in 2006. Spending on tobacco products and smoking supplies decreased by 1.9 percent in 2008, after a decrease of 1.2 percent in 2007.

In May 2008, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) started mailing Economic Stimulus Payments (also called tax rebates) to an estimated 130 million income tax filers. Through questions added to the Interview survey, the CE collected data on the amount received from the tax rebate, the method by which it was received, and how it was used by recipients. The average amount received by all consumer units who reported receiving the tax rebate was $\$ 958$. For those respondents that were asked how they used their rebates, the largest percentage reported using it mostly for paying off debt (49.1 percent), followed by those using it mostly for spending ( 30.2 percent). For further information on the tax rebate data, see the report on the CE section of the BLS Web site (http:// www.bls.gov/cex/taxrebate.htm).

## Brief description of the Consumer Expenditure Survey

The current Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) program began in 1980. Its principal objective is to collect information on the buying habits of American consumers. Consumer expenditure data are used in a variety of research endeavors by Government, business, labor, and academic analysts. In addition, the data are required for the regular revision of the CPI market basket.

The survey, which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, consists of two components: a diary (or recordkeeping) survey completed by participating consumer units for two consecutive 1-week periods and an interview survey through which expenditures of consumer units are obtained in five interviews conducted at 3-month intervals. Results in this report are based on integrated data from both surveys.

Survey participants record dollar amounts for goods and services purchased during the reporting period, regardless of whether or not payment is made at the time of purchase. Expenditure amounts include all sales and excise taxes for all items purchased by the consumer unit. Excluded from both surveys are all busi-ness-related expenditures, as well as expenditures for which the consumer unit is reimbursed.

Each component of the survey queries an independent sample of consumer units that is representative of the U.S. population. For the Diary Survey, about 7,000 consumer units are sampled each year. Each consumer unit keeps a diary for two 1-week periods, yielding approximately 14,000 diaries a year. The Interview sample, selected on a rotating panel basis, surveys about 7,000 consumer units each quarter. Each consumer unit is interviewed once per quarter, for 5 consecutive quarters. Data are collected on an ongoing basis in 91 areas of the United States.

The Interview Survey is designed to capture expenditure data that respondents can reasonably recall for a period of 3 months or longer. In general, these expenditures are relatively large, such as expenditures for real property, automobiles, and major appliances, or they occur on a regular basis, like rent, utility payments, and insurance premiums. The Interview Survey also collects data on
expenditures incurred on leisure trips. Including global estimates of spending for food, it is estimated that about 95 percent of expenditures are covered in the Interview Survey. Nonprescription drugs, household supplies, and personal care items are excluded.

The Diary Survey is designed to capture expenditures on small, frequently purchased items that are normally difficult for respondents to recall. Detailed records of expenses are kept for food and beverages-consumed either at home or in eating places-and for tobacco, housekeeping supplies, nonprescription drugs, and personal care products and services. Expenditures incurred by members of the consumer unit while away from home overnight or longer are excluded from the Diary Survey. Although this survey was designed to collect information on expenditures that could not be recalled easily over an extended period, respondents are asked to report all expenses (except those for overnight travel) that the consumer unit incurs during the survey week.

Integrated data from the BLS Diary and Interview Surveys provide a complete accounting of consumer expenditures and income that neither survey alone is designed to do. Data on some expenditure items are collected in only one of the surveys. For example, the Diary Survey does not collect data on expenditures for overnight travel or information on reimbursements, whereas the Interview Survey does. Examples of expenditures for which reimbursements are excluded from the Diary Survey are medical care; automobile repair; and construction, repairs, alterations, and maintenance of property.

For items that are unique to one survey or the other, the choice of which survey to use as the source of data is obvious. However, there is considerable overlap in coverage between the surveys. Consequently, integrating the data involves determining the appropriate survey component from which to select expenditure items. When data are available from both surveys, the more reliable of the two (as determined by statistical methods) is selected. As a result, some items are selected from the Interview Survey, others from the Diary Survey. Because of the overlap in the item coverage between the two surveys, the survey source is periodically reviewed and statistical methods are used to select the best source.

The population coverage of the CE differs from that of the CPI. The CE data cover the total population, whereas the CPI covers only the population in urban and metropolitan areas. Definitions of components also differ between the CE and CPI. For example, homeownership is treated differently in the two surveys: actual expenditures of homeownership are reported in the CE, whereas the CPI uses a rental-equivalence approach that estimates the change in the cost of obtaining, in the rental marketplace, services equivalent to those provided by owner-occupied homes.

## Interpreting the data

Expenditures are averages for consumer units with specified characteristics, regardless of whether a particular unit incurred an expense for a specific item during the recordkeeping period. The average expenditure for an item may be considerably lower than the expenditure by the consumer units that purchased the item. The less frequently an item is purchased, the greater is the difference between the average for all consumer units and the average for those purchasing the item. Also, an individual consumer unit may spend more or less than the average, depending on its particular characteristics. Factors such as income, age of family members, geographic location, and personal preference also influence expenditures. Furthermore, even within groups with similar char-
acteristics, the distribution of expenditures varies substantially. These points should be considered in relating reported averages to individual circumstances.

Users of these survey data should also keep in mind that prices for many goods and services have risen since the survey was conducted. For example, rent, as measured by the CPI, rose 2.3 percent between 2008 (annual average index) and October 2009 (not seasonally adjusted).

In addition, sample surveys are subject to two types of error: sampling and nonsampling. Sampling errors occur because the data are collected from a sample representing the population, rather than from the entire population. Nonsampling errors result from the inability or unwillingness of respondents to provide correct information, differences in interviewers' abilities, mistakes in recording or coding, and other processing errors.

## Tables and data

Tables in this report include integrated data from both the Diary and Interview components of the CE, enabling data users to associate the full range of expenditures with consumers' demographic characteristics. Tables show data classified by income quintile, income class, age of the reference person, size of the consumer unit, composition of the consumer unit, number of earners, housing tenure, type of area (urban or rural), race, Hispanic origin, region of residence, occupation, and education. These are the same classifications published in previous reports and bulletins.

Tables for the aforementioned classifications, but with more detail than is given in this report, can be accessed via the CE section of the BLS Web site (http://www.bls.gov/cex). Also available are tables showing average annual data over a 2-year period for 1) income before taxes, cross-tabulated by age, consumer unit size, or region; 2) single consumers by sex, crosstabulated by either income or age; and 3) selected Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Data are available for 1984-2008. Other survey information available on the Web site includes answers to frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, and order forms for survey products. Beginning with the 2000 data, estimates of standard errors for integrated Diary and Interview Survey data are also available. Many of the tables that are
shown on the BLS Web site are published in biennial reports.

## Other available data

The 2008 Diary and Interview Survey microdata-that is, data on individual consumer units-are available for purchase on CDROM. The Interview Survey files contain expenditure data in two different formats: MTAB files, which present monthly values in an item coding framework based on the CPI pricing scheme; and EXPN files, which organize expenditures by the section of the interview questionnaire in which they are collected. Expenditure values on EXPN files cover different periods, depending on the specific question asked; the files also contain relevant nonexpenditure information not found on the MTAB files. Currently available on CD-ROM are microdata files back to 1990 and for selected earlier years. For years prior to 1996 the microdata are available in ASCII text format (column parametered). Beginning in 1996 the microdata are available in either ASCII text format (column parametered) or PC SAS datasets. Beginning in 2007 the microdata are available in column-parametered ASCII, commadelimited ASCII, PC SAS, SPSS, and STATA datasets.

The Consumer Expenditure Survey also publishes Consumer Expenditure Survey anthologies. These reports include analyses of expenditure data as they apply to various topics of interest, as well as methodological and research articles pertaining to a number of survey topics. The most recent of these reports, Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2008, Report 1009, was published in December 2008. Additional data also are presented in articles in the Monthly Labor Review.

For more detailed information on the availability of current and earlier data, contact the Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3985, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 691-6900. Email: cexinfo@bls.gov. Internet: http://www. bls.gov/cex.

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## Glossary

Consumer unit. Members of a household consisting of a) occupants related by blood, marriage, adoption, or some other legal arrangement; b) a single person living alone or sharing a household with others, but who is financially independent; or c) two or more persons living together who share responsibility for at least 2 out of 3 major types of expenses-food, housing, and other expenses. Students living in university-sponsored housing are also included in the sample as separate consumer units.

Reference person. The first member mentioned by the respondent when asked to "start with the name of the person or one of the persons who owns or rents the home." It is with respect to this person that the relationship of other consumer unit members is determined.

Total expenditures. The transaction costs, including excise and sales taxes, of goods and services acquired during the interview
period. Estimates include expenditures for gifts and contributions as well as payments for pensions and personal insurance.

Income. The combined income earned by all consumer unit members 14 years old or older during the 12 months preceding the interview. The components of income are wages and salaries; selfemployment income; Social Security and private and Government retirement income; interest, dividends, and rental and other property income; unemployment and workers' compensation and veterans' benefits; public assistance, Supplemental Security Income, and food stamps; rent or meals as pay; and regular contributions for support, such as alimony and child-support payments.

Quintiles of income before taxes. Categories of income reporters, ranked in ascending order of income, and divided into five equal groups. The lower limit shown in the quintiles of income before taxes indicates the amount of income before taxes of the lowest ranked consumer unit in each income quintile.

Table 1. Quintiles of income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Lowest 20 percent | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Second } \\ & 20 \\ & \text { percent } \end{aligned}$ | Third 20 percent | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fourth } \\ & 20 \\ & \text { percent } \end{aligned}$ | Highest 20 percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 24,122 | 24,143 | 24,172 | 24,157 | 24,177 |
| Lower limit | n.a | n.a. | \$19,065 | \$36,271 | \$59,087 | \$93,358 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$10,263 | \$27,442 | \$47,196 | \$74,090 | \$158,652 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.1 | 51.6 | 51.6 | 47.9 | 46.9 | 47.4 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 3.2 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 4 | . 5 | . 7 | . 7 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 4 | . 5 | . 3 | . 2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | . 5 | . 9 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 2.0 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.8 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 39 | 56 | 67 | 79 | 91 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$22,304 | \$31,751 | \$42,659 | \$58,632 | \$97,003 |
| Food | 6,443 | 3,473 | 4,560 | 5,602 | 7,589 | 10,982 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 2,369 | 2,929 | 3,436 | 4,340 | 5,645 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 330 | 380 | 461 | 598 | 764 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 846 | 542 | 715 | 809 | 956 | 1,209 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 280 | 329 | 386 | 489 | 664 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 409 | 524 | 583 | 753 | 1,015 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 808 | 982 | 1,196 | 1,543 | 1,994 |
| Food away from home ............................... | 2,698 | 1,103 | 1,631 | 2,167 | 3,249 | 5,336 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 183 | 275 | 350 | 539 | 873 |
| Housing .. | 17,109 | 8,900 | 11,583 | 14,917 | 19,327 | 30,791 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 5,287 | 6,743 | 8,743 | 11,307 | 18,820 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 1,856 | 3,169 | 5,346 | 8,318 | 15,098 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 3,259 | 3,311 | 3,045 | 2,352 | 1,657 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 173 | 263 | 351 | 637 | 2,066 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,649 | 2,238 | 3,019 | 3,580 | 4,229 | 5,177 |
| Household operations | 998 | 351 | 510 | 692 | 1,142 | 2,291 |
| Housekeeping supplies ............................ | 654 | 373 | 454 | 553 | 759 | 1,132 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 651 | 857 | 1,351 | 1,890 | 3,371 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,801 | 962 | 1,151 | 1,361 | 2,037 | 3,490 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 3,430 | 5,657 | 7,834 | 10,469 | 15,614 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,755 | 845 | 1,672 | 2,490 | 3,304 | 5,457 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 1,243 | 2,019 | 2,704 | 3,418 | 4,186 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 1,122 | 1,740 | 2,340 | 3,263 | 4,636 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 513 | 220 | 226 | 300 | 483 | 1,335 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 1,624 | 2,457 | 2,886 | 3,518 | 4,391 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 1,082 | 1,716 | 2,422 | 3,276 | 5,673 |
| Personal care products and services .. | 616 | 306 | 402 | 512 | 702 | 1,157 |
| Reading | 116 | 55 | 73 | 101 | 128 | 225 |
| Education | 1,046 | 625 | 361 | 498 | 843 | 2,899 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies .... | 317 | 268 | 311 | 354 | 382 | 268 |
| Miscellaneous | 840 | 297 | 512 | 758 | 954 | 1,675 |
| Cash contributions | 1,737 | 567 | 915 | 1,315 | 2,042 | 3,839 |
| Personal insurance and pensions | 5,605 | 532 | 1,778 | 3,748 | 6,825 | 15,126 |
| Life and other personal insurance .... | 317 | 83 | 146 | 236 | 350 | 767 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,288 | 449 | 1,632 | 3,512 | 6,475 | 14,358 |

[^1]Table 2. Income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Less } \\ & \text { than } \\ & \$ 5,000 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 5,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 9,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 10,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 14,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 15,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 19,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 20,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 29,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 30,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 39,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 40,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 49,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 50,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 69,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 70,000 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { more } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ...... | 120,770 | 4,463 | 5,340 | 7,883 | 7,625 | 14,700 | 12,198 | 11,287 | 18,287 | 38,987 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$63,563 | - \$1,092 | \$8,003 | \$12,662 | \$17,461 | \$24,896 | \$34,708 | \$44,733 | \$59,319 | \$128,930 |
| Age of reference person ............................ | 49.1 | 41.9 | 48.9 | 56.2 | 55.6 | 52.5 | 49.4 | 47.9 | 47.0 | 47.1 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons $\qquad$ | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 3.1 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 4 | . 3 | . 4 | . 4 | . 5 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 2 | . 3 | . 5 | . 5 | . 5 | . 4 | . 3 | . 2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | . 5 | . 4 | . 5 | . 6 | . 9 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.9 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | . 9 | . 8 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.7 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 29 | 29 | 42 | 50 | 56 | 60 | 64 | 73 | 88 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$23,036 | \$19,125 | \$21,120 | \$25,536 | \$30,367 | \$35,778 | \$40,527 | \$50,465 | \$83,700 |
| Food | 6,443 | 3,872 | 3,184 | 3,320 | 3,556 | 4,209 | 5,130 | 5,446 | 6,388 | 9,884 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 2,493 | 2,166 | 2,286 | 2,474 | 2,751 | 3,243 | 3,338 | 3,762 | 5,253 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 355 | 281 | 330 | 343 | 361 | 425 | 437 | 508 | 720 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 846 | 557 | 537 | 532 | 540 | 669 | 791 | 794 | 848 | 1,133 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 292 | 253 | 261 | 310 | 299 | 379 | 371 | 417 | 612 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 437 | 391 | 391 | 421 | 492 | 570 | 556 | 662 | 929 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 853 | 704 | 771 | 860 | 930 | 1,079 | 1,181 | 1,327 | 1,859 |
| Food away from home ... | 2,698 | 1,379 | 1,018 | 1,035 | 1,081 | 1,458 | 1,887 | 2,108 | 2,626 | 4,631 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 269 | 175 | 190 | 137 | 230 | 317 | 374 | 445 | 749 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 9,020 | 7,640 | 8,657 | 10,083 | 11,241 | 12,541 | 14,599 | 17,056 | 26,789 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 5,908 | 4,595 | 4,879 | 5,874 | 6,502 | 7,266 | 8,590 | 10,062 | 16,171 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 2,424 | 1,323 | 1,593 | 2,267 | 2,984 | 3,673 | 5,080 | 6,789 | 12,788 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 3,203 | 3,147 | 3,135 | 3,453 | 3,258 | 3,292 | 3,183 | 2,759 | 1,858 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 280 | 125 | 151 | 153 | 260 | 301 | 328 | 514 | 1,525 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,649 | 1,859 | 1,967 | 2,359 | 2,595 | 2,971 | 3,244 | 3,488 | 3,876 | 4,875 |
| Household operations | 998 | 259 | 234 | 374 | 483 | 505 | 541 | 620 | 940 | 1,878 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 654 | 309 | 280 | 420 | 388 | 443 | 515 | 533 | 630 | 1,007 |
| Household furnishings and equipment | 1,624 | 685 | 564 | 625 | 744 | 819 | 975 | 1,369 | 1,548 | 2,858 |
| Apparel and services ................................ | 1,801 | 1,006 | 845 | 983 | 929 | 1,105 | 1,381 | 1,241 | 1,713 | 2,945 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 3,088 | 2,931 | 2,987 | 4,457 | 5,591 | 6,436 | 7,225 | 9,359 | 13,805 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,755 | 430 | 810 | 606 | 1,346 | 1,770 | 2,069 | 2,098 | 3,093 | 4,615 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 1,225 | 1,090 | 1,179 | 1,464 | 1,922 | 2,310 | 2,620 | 3,033 | 3,967 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 1,131 | 755 | 1,006 | 1,494 | 1,688 | 1,803 | 2,248 | 2,841 | 4,192 |
| Public transportation ..... | 513 | 303 | 277 | 196 | 153 | 211 | 254 | 259 | 393 | 1,031 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 1,384 | 1,207 | 1,660 | 2,108 | 2,403 | 2,696 | 2,741 | 3,229 | 4,087 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 1,393 | 917 | 961 | 1,169 | 1,629 | 1,874 | 2,122 | 2,936 | 4,875 |
| Personal care products and services . | 616 | 379 | 254 | 277 | 336 | 378 | 467 | 503 | 591 | 994 |
| Reading . | 116 | 51 | 40 | 50 | 73 | 74 | 77 | 91 | 118 | 190 |
| Education | 1,046 | 1,059 | 839 | 489 | 286 | 316 | 406 | 495 | 613 | 2,171 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ..... | 317 | 227 | 241 | 305 | 264 | 313 | 317 | 347 | 392 | 307 |
| Miscellaneous | 840 | 358 | 191 | 236 | 441 | 440 | 623 | 693 | 899 | 1,414 |
| Cash contributions | 1,737 | 533 | 362 | 545 | 834 | 865 | 1,106 | 1,188 | 1,529 | 3,262 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ............... | 5,605 | 397 | 299 | 461 | 865 | 1,573 | 2,406 | 3,462 | 5,197 | 12,228 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............. | 317 | 94 | 47 | 98 | 83 | 142 | 181 | 211 | 282 | 625 |
| Pensions and Social Security ............. | 5,288 | 303 | 252 | 363 | 782 | 1,431 | 2,226 | 3,251 | 4,915 | 11,603 |

Table 3. Higher income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | $\begin{gathered} \text { Less } \\ \text { than } \\ \$ 70,000 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 70,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 79,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 80,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 99,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100,000 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { more } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 100,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 119,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 120,000 \\ \text { to } \\ \$ 149,999 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \$ 150,000 \\ \text { and } \\ \text { more } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 81,783 | 7,354 | 10,017 | 21,615 | 7,136 | 5,777 | 8,702 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$32,401 | \$74,486 | \$88,839 | \$166,035 | \$108,630 | \$132,531 | \$235,348 |
| Age of reference person | 49.1 | 50.0 | 46.1 | 46.9 | 47.5 | 46.8 | 47.2 | 48.3 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 5 | . 8 | . 8 | . 8 | . 8 | . 9 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 4 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 1 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 56 | 82 | 84 | 92 | 89 | 93 | 93 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$34,687 | \$58,742 | \$67,180 | \$100,065 | \$77,586 | \$91,590 | \$124,678 |
| Food | 6,443 | 4,818 | 7,503 | 8,760 | 11,302 | 9,773 | 10,969 | 13,011 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 3,033 | 4,312 | 5,062 | 5,690 | 5,390 | 5,755 | 5,940 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 407 | 593 | 718 | 766 | 743 | 782 | 778 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 846 | 711 | 952 | 1,092 | 1,220 | 1,183 | 1,194 | 1,279 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 344 | 484 | 601 | 664 | 627 | 680 | 690 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 529 | 735 | 878 | 1,025 | 946 | 991 | 1,132 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 1,043 | 1,548 | 1,773 | 2,015 | 1,891 | 2,107 | 2,061 |
| Food away from home .............................. | 2,698 | 1,784 | 3,191 | 3,698 | 5,611 | 4,383 | 5,214 | 7,071 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 300 | 507 | 584 | 919 | 761 | 904 | 1,083 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 12,499 | 19,617 | 21,360 | 31,784 | 25,002 | 28,058 | 39,909 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 7,328 | 11,633 | 12,396 | 19,465 | 15,095 | 16,754 | 24,848 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 3,887 | 8,824 | 9,567 | 15,629 | 12,179 | 13,792 | 19,679 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 3,137 | 2,194 | 2,087 | 1,638 | 1,587 | 1,400 | 1,838 |
| Other lodging ....... | 698 | 304 | 615 | 742 | 2,198 | 1,330 | 1,562 | 3,332 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,649 | 3,065 | 4,257 | 4,536 | 5,242 | 4,632 | 5,083 | 5,848 |
| Household operations | 998 | 578 | 1,097 | 1,367 | 2,381 | 1,487 | 2,033 | 3,345 |
| Housekeeping supplies ... | 654 | 488 | 728 | 898 | 1,165 | 1,147 | 1,097 | 1,238 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 1,039 | 1,902 | 2,163 | 3,531 | 2,642 | 3,091 | 4,631 |
| Apparel and services ................................... | 1,801 | 1,260 | 1,813 | 2,351 | 3,643 | 2,734 | 3,122 | 4,886 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 6,127 | 10,449 | 12,227 | 15,674 | 13,424 | 15,720 | 17,486 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,755 | 1,868 | 3,114 | 3,916 | 5,450 | 4,546 | 5,764 | 5,984 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 2,118 | 3,528 | 3,770 | 4,208 | 3,954 | 4,237 | 4,396 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 1,875 | 3,296 | 3,932 | 4,612 | 4,106 | 4,568 | 5,048 |
| Public transportation ....... | 513 | 266 | 512 | 608 | 1,404 | 818 | 1,151 | 2,058 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 2,446 | 3,503 | 3,695 | 4,471 | 4,037 | 4,316 | 4,931 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 1,866 | 3,261 | 3,982 | 5,869 | 4,306 | 6,363 | 6,835 |
| Personal care products and services ..... | 616 | 436 | 700 | 788 | 1,198 | 947 | 1,138 | 1,472 |
| Reading ... | 116 | 81 | 128 | 145 | 233 | 197 | 210 | 278 |
| Education | 1,046 | 509 | 808 | 1,179 | 3,096 | 1,662 | 1,934 | 5,044 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 317 | 321 | 385 | 354 | 258 | 322 | 244 | 217 |
| Miscellaneous . | 840 | 566 | 929 | 1,012 | 1,767 | 1,278 | 1,612 | 2,277 |
| Cash contributions | 1,737 | 1,009 | 2,200 | 2,318 | 4,061 | 2,357 | 3,054 | 6,127 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,605 | 2,448 | 6,939 | 8,425 | 15,791 | 10,785 | 13,945 | 21,120 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 317 | 170 | 366 | 402 | 816 | 503 | 686 | 1,160 |
| Pensions and Social Security .................... | 5,288 | 2,278 | 6,573 | 8,023 | 14,974 | 10,282 | 13,259 | 19,961 |

Table 4. Age of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Under 25 years | $\begin{aligned} & 25-34 \\ & \text { years } \end{aligned}$ | 35-44 years | $\begin{aligned} & 45-54 \\ & \text { years } \end{aligned}$ | $55-64$ years | 65 years and older | 65-74 years | 75 years and older |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 8,227 | 20,208 | 22,834 | 25,614 | 19,826 | 24,062 | 12,580 | 11,481 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$28,127 | \$59,878 | \$77,582 | \$81,844 | \$71,653 | \$39,341 | \$45,232 | \$32,886 |
| Age of reference person ....... | 49.1 | 21.5 | 29.6 | 39.7 | 49.4 | 59.3 | 75.0 | 69.0 | 81.6 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons | 25 | 2.0 | 28 | 3.3 | 27 | 2.1 | 1.7 | 18 | 1.5 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 4 | 1.0 | 1.4 | . 6 | . 2 | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | . 1 | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | ( ${ }^{1}$ ) | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | . 1 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.3 | . 4 | . 6 | . 2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 15 | 46 | 67 | 75 | 81 | 79 | 81 | 76 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$29,325 | \$48,159 | \$58,808 | \$61,179 | \$54,783 | \$36,844 | \$41,433 | \$31,692 |
| Food .......... | 6,443 | 4,447 | 6,229 | 7,849 | 7,696 | 6,357 | 4,692 | 5,338 | 3,935 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 2,330 | 3,393 | 4,509 | 4,452 | 3,710 | 3,075 | 3,421 | 2,667 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 281 | 454 | 620 | 600 | 492 | 435 | 473 | 390 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 846 | 573 | 742 | 1,014 | 1,018 | 845 | 687 | 781 | 576 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 256 | 395 | 518 | 506 | 419 | 362 | 406 | 309 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 370 | 583 | 754 | 779 | 682 | 577 | 616 | 531 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 851 | 1,219 | 1,603 | 1,549 | 1,272 | 1,015 | 1,145 | 863 |
| Food away from home | 2,698 | 2,117 | 2,836 | 3,340 | 3,244 | 2,646 | 1,617 | 1,917 | 1,268 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 448 | 491 | 462 | 505 | 525 | 251 | 343 | 144 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 9,975 | 17,318 | 20,649 | 19,562 | 17,611 | 12,993 | 13,845 | 12,035 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 6,530 | 10,935 | 12,689 | 11,629 | 10,122 | 6,933 | 7,281 | 6,553 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 1,383 | 5,873 | 9,056 | 8,606 | 7,387 | 4,685 | 5,334 | 3,974 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 4,940 | 4,734 | 3,013 | 2,037 | 1,607 | 1,658 | 1,294 | 2,057 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 206 | 328 | 621 | 986 | 1,128 | 590 | 652 | 522 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,649 | 1,875 | 3,152 | 4,130 | 4,247 | 3,974 | 3,314 | 3,538 | 3,067 |
| Household operations | 998 | 326 | 1,137 | 1,376 | 964 | 879 | 884 | 750 | 1,032 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 654 | 303 | 594 | 664 | 765 | 743 | 627 | 747 | 485 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 942 | 1,499 | 1,789 | 1,956 | 1,894 | 1,235 | 1,529 | 898 |
| Apparel and services ................................. | 1,801 | 1,351 | 1,965 | 2,235 | 2,228 | 1,622 | 1,092 | 1,381 | 755 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 5,464 | 8,699 | 9,797 | 10,691 | 9,377 | 5,620 | 6,740 | 4,392 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,755 | 1,988 | 3,149 | 3,122 | 3,351 | 2,999 | 1,502 | 1,920 | 1,044 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 1,974 | 2,754 | 3,347 | 3,298 | 2,818 | 1,629 | 2,045 | 1,173 |
| Other vehicle expenses ............................. | 2,621 | 1,273 | 2,380 | 2,798 | 3,414 | 2,921 | 2,039 | 2,261 | 1,793 |
| Public transportation ... | 513 | 229 | 416 | 530 | 628 | 638 | 450 | 513 | 382 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 682 | 1,737 | 2,499 | 2,930 | 3,825 | 4,605 | 4,779 | 4,413 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 1,608 | 2,766 | 3,603 | 3,297 | 3,036 | 1,914 | 2,418 | 1,349 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 616 | 370 | 547 | 728 | 736 | 630 | 512 | 559 | 456 |
| Reading | 116 | 48 | 79 | 102 | 124 | 157 | 142 | 152 | 132 |
| Education | 1,046 | 1,691 | 759 | 953 | 2,012 | 867 | 272 | 345 | 192 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 317 | 251 | 298 | 354 | 437 | 354 | 161 | 227 | 88 |
| Miscellaneous | 840 | 280 | 726 | 862 | 957 | 1,316 | 588 | 659 | 507 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,737 | 427 | 1,036 | 1,550 | 2,152 | 2,163 | 2,156 | 2,033 | 2,291 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,605 | 2,283 | 5,510 | 7,165 | 7,853 | 6,943 | 1,846 | 2,616 | 1,003 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 317 | 37 | 155 | 284 | 394 | 519 | 330 | 461 | 187 |
| Pensions and Social Security .................... | 5,288 | 2,246 | 5,354 | 6,881 | 7,458 | 6,424 | 1,516 | 2,155 | 815 |

[^2]Table 5. Size of consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | One person | Two or more persons |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Total | Two persons | Three persons | Four persons | Five or more persons |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) .... | 120,770 | 35,064 | 85,706 | 39,629 | 17,982 | 16,514 | 11,580 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$32,994 | \$76,068 | \$68,168 | \$77,032 | \$87,390 | \$85,464 |
| Age of reference person ..................................... | 49.1 | 52.6 | 47.6 | 53.9 | 44.0 | 41.1 | 41.5 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 1.0 | 3.1 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 5.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | n.a. | . 9 | . 1 | . 8 | 1.6 | 2.7 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 5 | . 2 | . 1 | . 1 |
| Earners | 1.3 | . 6 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 49 | 74 | 75 | 69 | 75 | 72 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$30,120 | \$58,786 | \$53,320 | \$59,488 | \$65,955 | \$66,262 |
| Food | 6,443 | 3,620 | 7,581 | 6,276 | 7,598 | 9,172 | 9,805 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 1,975 | 4,457 | 3,626 | 4,508 | 5,279 | 6,061 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 262 | 606 | 476 | 599 | 754 | 854 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 846 | 421 | 1,017 | 821 | 1,042 | 1,153 | 1,451 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 234 | 508 | 411 | 507 | 622 | 683 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 365 | 775 | 654 | 791 | 884 | 1,007 |
| Other food at home ... | 1,305 | 693 | 1,551 | 1,264 | 1,569 | 1,866 | 2,066 |
| Food away from home | 2,698 | 1,645 | 3,124 | 2,650 | 3,090 | 3,892 | 3,743 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 374 | 473 | 527 | 439 | 429 | 402 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 11,507 | 19,396 | 17,330 | 19,660 | 22,266 | 21,961 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 7,511 | 11,276 | 10,143 | 11,267 | 13,138 | 12,513 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 3,686 | 8,018 | 6,931 | 7,824 | 10,036 | 9,162 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 3,480 | 2,415 | 2,204 | 2,647 | 2,398 | 2,805 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 345 | 843 | 1,008 | 796 | 704 | 546 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,649 | 2,265 | 4,216 | 3,798 | 4,214 | 4,635 | 5,050 |
| Household operations | 998 | 511 | 1,197 | 884 | 1,293 | 1,667 | 1,447 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 654 | 347 | 778 | 691 | 775 | 910 | 900 |
| Household furnishings and equipment | 1,624 | 873 | 1,930 | 1,815 | 2,111 | 1,916 | 2,050 |
| Apparel and services | 1,801 | 922 | 2,156 | 1,710 | 2,376 | 2,494 | 2,847 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 4,439 | 10,305 | 9,225 | 10,758 | 11,515 | 11,602 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,755 | 1,217 | 3,384 | 2,987 | 3,849 | 3,538 | 3,800 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 1,384 | 3,259 | 2,789 | 3,280 | 3,805 | 4,057 |
| Other vehicle expenses .................................... | 2,621 | 1,523 | 3,067 | 2,829 | 3,062 | 3,609 | 3,151 |
| Public transportation ........................................ | 513 | 314 | 595 | 620 | 568 | 563 | 594 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 1,821 | 3,448 | 3,972 | 2,944 | 3,039 | 3,022 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 1,655 | 3,315 | 3,178 | 3,070 | 3,714 | 3,612 |
| Personal care products and services | 616 | 388 | 708 | 638 | 733 | 805 | 777 |
| Reading | 116 | 88 | 128 | 144 | 123 | 115 | 98 |
| Education | 1,046 | 602 | 1,227 | 866 | 1,404 | 1,626 | 1,617 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 317 | 214 | 359 | 326 | 421 | 350 | 385 |
| Miscellaneous | 840 | 558 | 955 | 955 | 1,005 | 946 | 888 |
| Cash contributions ..................... | 1,737 | 1,314 | 1,909 | 2,079 | 1,873 | 1,603 | 1,821 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ........................ | 5,605 | 2,620 | 6,826 | 6,095 | 7,084 | 7,881 | 7,426 |
| Life and other personal insurance ....................... | 317 | 108 | 402 | 421 | 399 | 380 | 376 |
| Pensions and Social Security ............................ | 5,288 | 2,511 | 6,424 | 5,674 | 6,685 | 7,501 | 7,050 |

n.a. Not applicable.

Table 6. Composition of consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | Husband and wife consumer units |  |  |  |  |  |  | One parent, at least one child under 18 | Single person and other consumer units |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Husband and wife only | Husband and wife with children |  |  |  | Other husband and wife consumer units |  |  |
|  |  |  | Total | Oldest child under 6 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Oldest } \\ & \text { child } \\ & 6 \text { to } 17 \end{aligned}$ | Oldest child 18 or older |  |  |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ............ | 61,244 | 26,919 | 29,804 | 5,343 | 15,479 | 8,982 | 4,521 | 6,977 | 52,550 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$85,829 |  |  |  |  |  |  | \$37,100 |  |
| Age of reference person ................................................................ | \$85,829 49.4 | \$75,312 57.6 | $\$ 94,697$ 42.2 | \$81,190 32.1 | $\$ 97,616$ 40.1 | + 51.7 | $\$ 89,986$ 48.7 | \$37,100 38.8 | $\$ 41,125$ 50.0 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons ... | 3.2 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 3.9 | 4.9 | 2.9 | 1.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 9 | n.a. | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.2 | . 6 | 1.4 | 1.8 | . 2 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 4 | . 7 | . 1 | ( ${ }^{1}$ ) | $\left({ }^{1}\right)$ | . 2 | . 5 | ( ${ }^{1}$ ) | . 3 |
| Earners ..... | 1.7 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Vehicles | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner | 83 | 86 | 81 | 67 | 82 | 88 | 78 | 40 | 51 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$65,016 | \$58,164 | \$71,308 | \$63,194 | \$72,724 | \$73,809 | \$64,445 | \$37,129 | \$35,278 |
| Food | 8,255 | 6,772 | 9,478 | 7,512 | 9,856 | 10,043 | 9,105 | 5,162 | 4,480 |
| Food at home | 4,806 | 3,913 | 5,478 | 4,488 | 5,664 | 5,777 | 5,752 | 3,210 | 2,567 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 660 | 516 | 770 | 576 | 814 | 813 | 812 | 448 | 334 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 1,072 | 871 | 1,201 | 826 | 1,246 | 1,358 | 1,432 | 762 | 592 |
| Dairy products .. | 559 | 455 | 644 | 560 | 674 | 642 | 628 | 360 | 286 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 858 | 732 | 950 | 858 | 955 | 997 | 1,020 | 458 | 446 |
| Other food at home | 1,656 | 1,339 | 1,914 | 1,667 | 1,974 | 1,966 | 1,860 | 1,181 | 909 |
| Food away from home .................................... | 3,449 | 2,859 | 4,000 | 3,024 | 4,192 | 4,267 | 3,352 | 1,953 | 1,913 |
| Alcoholic beverages ........................................ | 500 | 550 | 465 | 424 | 444 | 528 | 428 | 193 | 411 |
| Housing | 20,974 | 18,256 | 23,369 | 24,705 | 24,087 | 21,345 | 21,385 | 14,892 | 12,891 |
| Shelter | 12,097 | 10,485 | 13,549 | 13,901 | 14,462 | 11,767 | 12,120 | 8,936 | 8,118 |
| Owned dwellings | 9,329 | 7,811 | 10,744 | 10,187 | 11,749 | 9,345 | 9,037 | 4,347 | 4,087 |
| Rented dwellings | 1,752 | 1,417 | 1,952 | 3,271 | 1,880 | 1,292 | 2,429 | 4,288 | 3,650 |
| Other lodging | 1,016 | 1,257 | 853 | 443 | 833 | 1,130 | 653 | 301 | 381 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ................... | 4,465 | 4,025 | 4,754 | 3,869 | 4,818 | 5,172 | 5,172 | 3,313 | 2,744 |
| Household operations | 1,310 | 871 | 1,720 | 3,398 | 1,648 | 846 | 1,213 | 1,095 | 621 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 881 | 782 | 965 | 971 | 883 | 1,108 | 920 | 520 | 405 |
| Household furnishings and equipment .............. | 2,222 | 2,092 | 2,380 | 2,567 | 2,276 | 2,452 | 1,960 | 1,028 | 1,003 |
| Apparel and services ..................................... | 2,280 | 1,696 | 2,838 | 2,472 | 2,973 | 2,834 | 2,088 | 1,855 | 1,232 |
| Transportation ............................................... | 11,450 | 10,202 | 12,436 | 10,500 | 12,046 | 14,294 | 12,378 | 5,912 | 5,637 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ........................ | 3,723 | 3,272 | 4,056 | 3,655 | 3,954 | 4,470 | 4,218 | 1,883 | 1,742 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 3,563 | 3,005 | 3,983 | 3,299 | 3,994 | 4,373 | 4,113 | 2,085 | 1,810 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 3,474 | 3,185 | 3,738 | 3,075 | 3,459 | 4,647 | 3,454 | 1,661 | 1,748 |
| Public transportation ..................................... | 690 | 740 | 659 | 471 | 640 | 804 | 593 | 283 | 338 |
| Healthcare | 3,984 | 4,725 | 3,407 | 2,593 | 3,366 | 3,964 | 3,374 | 1,530 | 1,992 |
| Entertainment | 3,798 | 3,621 | 4,124 | 3,461 | 4,597 | 3,705 | 2,702 | 1,832 | 1,840 |
| Personal care products and services ................. | 786 | 710 | 868 | 692 | 857 | 998 | 703 | 533 | 427 |
| Reading | 147 | 166 | 134 | 100 | 134 | 155 | 113 | 57 | 88 |
| Education | 1,403 | 835 | 1,956 | 441 | 1,758 | 3,200 | 1,139 | 657 | 681 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ............ | 327 | 300 | 318 | 230 | 301 | 402 | 542 | 245 | 314 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,004 | 951 | 1,034 | 809 | 1,024 | 1,186 | 1,120 | 629 | 675 |
| Cash contributions ..................... | 2,282 | 2,578 | 2,094 | 1,367 | 2,119 | 2,481 | 1,762 | 741 | 1,233 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ..................... | 7,827 | 6,802 | 8,786 | 7,888 | 9,162 | 8,673 | 7,604 | 2,891 | 3,376 |
| Life and other personal insurance .................... | 496 | 534 | 465 | 288 | 491 | 523 | 476 | 139 | 132 |
| Pensions and Social Security ......................... | 7,331 | 6,267 | 8,322 | 7,600 | 8,671 | 8,150 | 7,129 | 2,753 | 3,244 |

[^3]Table 7. Number of earners in consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Single consumers |  | Consumer units of two or more persons |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | No earner | One earner | No earner | One earner | Two earners | Three or more earners |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 13,365 | 21,699 | 10,762 | 25,011 | 40,395 | 9,540 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: <br> Income before taxes $\qquad$ | \$63,563 | \$17,682 | \$42,426 | \$31,513 | \$58,601 | \$92,124 | \$104,141 |
| Age of reference person ............................. | 49.1 | 69.0 | 42.4 | 65.3 | 47.5 | 43.3 | 46.4 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons | 2.5 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 4.4 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | n.a. | n.a. | . 3 | 1.0 | . 9 | 1.0 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 7 | . 1 | 1.2 | . 3 | . 1 | . 1 |
| Earners | 1.3 | n.a. | 1.0 | n.a. | 1.0 | 2.0 | 3.3 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | . 9 | 1.2 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 3.2 |
| Percent homeowner ................................... | 66 | 58 | 44 | 77 | 67 | 75 | 80 |
| Average annual expenditures ......................... | \$50,486 | \$21,824 | \$35,202 | \$37,908 | \$50,348 | \$66,344 | \$73,159 |
| Food ....................................................... | 6,443 | 2,788 | 4,119 | 5,479 | 6,669 | 8,166 | 10,202 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 1,923 | 2,006 | 3,788 | 4,213 | 4,500 | 5,812 |
| Cereals and bakery products ................... | 507 | 274 | 255 | 511 | 581 | 603 | 806 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 846 | 410 | 428 | 874 | 989 | 1,004 | 1,341 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 230 | 237 | 439 | 477 | 522 | 621 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 365 | 364 | 686 | 747 | 772 | 978 |
| Other food at home ... | 1,305 | 643 | 722 | 1,278 | 1,419 | 1,599 | 2,066 |
| Food away from home .............................. | 2,698 | 865 | 2,113 | 1,691 | 2,456 | 3,665 | 4,390 |
| Alcoholic beverages ................................... | 444 | 149 | 508 | 286 | 352 | 577 | 587 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 9,561 | 12,704 | 12,879 | 18,044 | 21,472 | 21,563 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 5,574 | 8,704 | 6,609 | 10,521 | 12,770 | 12,196 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 2,647 | 4,326 | 4,432 | 7,084 | 9,308 | 9,049 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 2,716 | 3,950 | 1,488 | 2,752 | 2,501 | 2,216 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 211 | 428 | 689 | 685 | 961 | 931 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,649 | 2,292 | 2,248 | 3,584 | 3,916 | 4,308 | 5,322 |
| Household operations ....... | 998 | 635 | 434 | 766 | 1,085 | 1,452 | 895 |
| Housekeeping supplies ..... | 654 | 346 | 348 | 712 | 745 | 759 | 1,042 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 715 | 969 | 1,207 | 1,777 | 2,184 | 2,109 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,801 | 628 | 1,100 | 1,116 | 1,935 | 2,491 | 2,576 |
| Transportation .......................................... | 8,604 | 2,564 | 5,591 | 6,793 | 7,960 | 11,744 | 14,416 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,755 | 447 | 1,692 | 2,224 | 2,367 | 4,008 | 4,714 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 835 | 1,723 | 1,966 | 2,739 | 3,594 | 4,663 |
| Other vehicle expenses ............................. | 2,621 | 1,070 | 1,799 | 2,088 | 2,375 | 3,465 | 4,397 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 513 | 212 | 378 | 515 | 479 | 676 | 642 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 2,443 | 1,438 | 5,010 | 3,183 | 3,164 | 3,586 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 1,134 | 1,972 | 2,122 | 2,746 | 3,963 | 3,477 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 616 | 341 | 415 | 517 | 606 | 781 | 905 |
| Reading ................................................... | 116 | 87 | 89 | 140 | 111 | 132 | 140 |
| Education | 1,046 | 333 | 768 | 313 | 887 | 1,442 | 2,244 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 317 | 151 | 253 | 276 | 328 | 361 | 518 |
| Miscellaneous .. | 840 | 319 | 704 | 595 | 803 | 1,152 | 926 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,737 | 1,182 | 1,396 | 1,833 | 1,827 | 1,918 | 2,175 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,605 | 144 | 4,144 | 550 | 4,896 | 8,981 | 9,843 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 317 | 104 | 111 | 258 | 391 | 429 | 477 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,288 | ${ }^{1} 40$ | 4,034 | 293 | 4,504 | 8,552 | 9,365 |

1 Data are likely to have large sampling errors.
n.a. Not applicable.

Table 8. Housing tenure and type of area: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Housing tenure |  |  |  | Type of area |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Homeowner |  |  | Renter | Urban |  |  | Rural |
|  |  | Total | Homeowner with mortgage | Homeowner without mortgage |  | Total | Central City | Other Urban |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 80,278 | 51,084 | 29,194 | 40,492 | 110,103 | 34,690 | 75,413 | 10,668 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$76,973 | \$88,957 | \$56,003 | \$36,976 | \$64,788 | \$55,651 | \$68,991 | \$50,917 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.1 | 52.9 | 47.2 | 62.8 | 41.5 | 48.7 | 46.6 | 49.7 | 53.1 |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons $\qquad$ | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 8 | . 3 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 4 | . 2 | . 7 | . 2 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 4 |
| Earners ................................................... | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.7 | . 9 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| Percent homeowner .................................. | 66 | 100 | 100 | 100 | n.a. | 65 | 50 | 72 | 81 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$58,801 | \$66,689 | \$44,545 | \$33,984 | \$51,148 | \$45,843 | \$53,574 | \$43,572 |
| Food | 6,443 | 7,196 | 7,757 | 5,983 | 4,942 | 6,522 | 6,218 | 6,657 | 5,566 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 4,159 | 4,385 | 3,656 | 2,918 | 3,765 | 3,601 | 3,837 | 3,514 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 568 | 594 | 509 | 386 | 510 | 471 | 527 | 475 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 846 | 916 | 962 | 814 | 707 | 848 | 859 | 843 | 828 |
| Dairy products ....................................... | 430 | 484 | 503 | 442 | 321 | 429 | 387 | 448 | 434 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 735 | 764 | 670 | 502 | 665 | 648 | 672 | 569 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 1,457 | 1,563 | 1,221 | 1,003 | 1,314 | 1,236 | 1,348 | 1,207 |
| Food away from home ............................... | 2,698 | 3,037 | 3,372 | 2,327 | 2,023 | 2,757 | 2,618 | 2,820 | 2,052 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 483 | 543 | 353 | 366 | 463 | 500 | 448 | 233 |
| Housing ................................................... | 17,109 | 19,442 | 23,382 | 12,525 | 12,479 | 17,571 | 16,144 | 18,223 | 12,336 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 11,093 | 14,487 | 5,154 | 8,379 | 10,611 | 10,051 | 10,868 | 5,769 |
| Owned dwellings ................................... | 6,760 | 10,099 | 13,426 | 4,277 | 142 | 6,978 | 5,249 | 7,774 | 4,511 |
| Rented dwellings ................................... | 2,724 | 51 | 35 | 81 | 8,024 | 2,909 | 4,215 | 2,308 | 823 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 943 | 1,027 | 796 | 213 | 724 | 587 | 787 | 436 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,649 | 4,323 | 4,569 | 3,892 | 2,314 | 3,640 | 3,216 | 3,835 | 3,741 |
| Household operations .............................. | 998 | 1,232 | 1,380 | 972 | 533 | 1,040 | 934 | 1,089 | 557 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 654 | 781 | 789 | 763 | 402 | 641 | 577 | 669 | 800 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 2,013 | 2,156 | 1,744 | 852 | 1,639 | 1,365 | 1,762 | 1,468 |
| Apparel and services .................................. | 1,801 | 1,993 | 2,196 | 1,574 | 1,417 | 1,847 | 1,865 | 1,840 | 1,298 |
| Transportation .......................................... | 8,604 | 10,085 | 11,269 | 7,995 | 5,665 | 8,541 | 7,078 | 9,211 | 9,249 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,755 | 3,201 | 3,647 | 2,420 | 1,870 | 2,700 | 2,215 | 2,922 | 3,325 |
| Gasoline and motor oil . | 2,715 | 3,147 | 3,518 | 2,497 | 1,859 | 2,674 | 2,098 | 2,939 | 3,137 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 3,123 | 3,443 | 2,542 | 1,622 | 2,632 | 2,199 | 2,827 | 2,503 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 513 | 614 | 660 | 536 | 314 | 535 | 566 | 522 | 284 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 3,753 | 3,489 | 4,220 | 1,435 | 2,938 | 2,405 | 3,182 | 3,371 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 3,410 | 3,875 | 2,524 | 1,692 | 2,830 | 2,572 | 2,949 | 2,887 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 616 | 716 | 782 | 586 | 416 | 629 | 591 | 647 | 474 |
| Reading | 116 | 143 | 143 | 142 | 64 | 118 | 111 | 121 | 101 |
| Education | 1,046 | 1,182 | 1,373 | 842 | 776 | 1,093 | 994 | 1,139 | 554 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 317 | 291 | 299 | 277 | 367 | 300 | 263 | 317 | 488 |
| Miscellaneous ........................................... | 840 | 997 | 1,065 | 876 | 528 | 847 | 756 | 889 | 756 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,737 | 2,157 | 1,981 | 2,465 | 904 | 1,749 | 1,477 | 1,874 | 1,612 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,605 | 6,953 | 8,536 | 4,183 | 2,933 | 5,698 | 4,872 | 6,078 | 4,648 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 317 | 426 | 488 | 319 | 99 | 317 | 226 | 359 | 312 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,288 | 6,526 | 8,048 | 3,864 | 2,833 | 5,381 | 4,645 | 5,719 | 4,335 |

n.a. Not applicable.

Table 9. Race of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | White and all other races, and Asian |  |  | Black or AfricanAmerican |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | White and all other races ${ }^{1}$ | Asian |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 105,938 | 101,329 | 4,609 | 14,832 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$66,340 | \$65,905 | \$75,917 | \$43,722 |
| Age of reference person .............................. | 49.1 | 49.4 | 49.6 | 43.5 | 46.9 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.5 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.5 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner ................................... | 66 | 69 | 70 | 55 | 46 |
| Average annual expenditures ........................ | \$50,486 | \$52,397 | \$52,265 | \$55,430 | \$36,721 |
| Food | 6,443 | 6,693 | 6,676 | 7,089 | 4,594 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 3,868 | 3,865 | 3,943 | 2,825 |
| Cereals and bakery products ................... | 507 | 524 | 522 | 562 | 382 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 846 | 846 | 839 | 1,010 | 848 |
| Dairy products . | 430 | 452 | 457 | 326 | 263 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 685 | 678 | 852 | 447 |
| Other food at home ... | 1,305 | 1,361 | 1,368 | 1,193 | 886 |
| Food away from home | 2,698 | 2,824 | 2,811 | 3,147 | 1,768 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 476 | 484 | 300 | 205 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 17,574 | 17,456 | 20,138 | 13,770 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 10,491 | 10,345 | 13,703 | 7,985 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 7,155 | 7,095 | 8,471 | 3,940 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 2,579 | 2,484 | 4,680 | 3,762 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 756 | 766 | 552 | 282 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,649 | 3,656 | 3,674 | 3,275 | 3,598 |
| Household operations ....... | 998 | 1,052 | 1,057 | 931 | 610 |
| Housekeeping supplies ............................ | 654 | 680 | 688 | 494 | 461 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 1,694 | 1,693 | 1,735 | 1,116 |
| Apparel and services ................................. | 1,801 | 1,776 | 1,767 | 1,997 | 1,983 |
| Transportation ... | 8,604 | 8,895 | 8,889 | 9,049 | 6,520 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,755 | 2,865 | 2,885 | 2,414 | 1,969 |
| Gasoline and motor oil ..... | 2,715 | 2,779 | 2,790 | 2,539 | 2,257 |
| Other vehicle expenses ............................. | 2,621 | 2,703 | 2,698 | 2,815 | 2,033 |
| Public transportation ................................ | 513 | 548 | 515 | 1,280 | 261 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 3,169 | 3,211 | 2,233 | 1,595 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 3,022 | 3,007 | 3,447 | 1,478 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 616 | 628 | 630 | 584 | 528 |
| Reading ................................................... | 116 | 126 | 127 | 90 | 47 |
| Education ................................................ | 1,046 | 1,121 | 1,096 | 1,676 | 508 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 317 | 330 | 337 | 166 | 223 |
| Miscellaneous ........................................... | 840 | 878 | 884 | 736 | 565 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,737 | 1,816 | 1,845 | 1,165 | 1,171 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,605 | 5,895 | 5,856 | 6,760 | 3,532 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 317 | 326 | 325 | 332 | 254 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,288 | 5,570 | 5,531 | 6,428 | 3,278 |

1 All other races includes Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, American Indian or Alaska Native, and approximately 1 percent reporting more than one race.

Table 10. Hispanic or Latino origin of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Hispanic or Latino | Not Hispanic or Latino |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Total | White and all other races | Black or AfricanAmerican |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ....... | 120,770 | 13,975 | 106,795 | 92,214 | 14,580 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$49,317 | \$65,427 | \$68,842 | \$43,826 |
| Age of reference person ............................. | 49.1 | 43.1 | 49.9 | 50.3 | 47.0 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 3.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | 1.1 | . 6 | . 5 | . 8 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 2 | . 3 | . 3 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Percent homeowner ................................... | 66 | 51 | 68 | 72 | 46 |
| Average annual expenditures ........................ | \$50,486 | \$43,052 | \$51,457 | \$53,773 | \$36,685 |
| Food | 6,443 | 6,596 | 6,423 | 6,706 | 4,566 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 4,039 | 3,707 | 3,842 | 2,813 |
| Cereals and bakery products ................... | 507 | 509 | 507 | 526 | 380 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .................. | 846 | 1,039 | 822 | 818 | 844 |
| Dairy products ....................................... | 430 | 429 | 430 | 455 | 262 |
| Fruits and vegetables ............................. | 657 | 789 | 640 | 670 | 444 |
| Other food at home ................................ | 1,305 | 1,274 | 1,309 | 1,373 | 882 |
| Food away from home ............................... | 2,698 | 2,556 | 2,716 | 2,864 | 1,753 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 297 | 463 | 502 | 208 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 15,582 | 17,307 | 17,868 | 13,743 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 9,688 | 10,248 | 10,611 | 7,953 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 5,334 | 6,947 | 7,425 | 3,921 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 4,065 | 2,549 | 2,360 | 3,745 |
| Other lodging ........................................ | 698 | 289 | 752 | 826 | 286 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ............... | 3,649 | 3,457 | 3,674 | 3,685 | 3,610 |
| Household operations .............................. | 998 | 797 | 1,024 | 1,090 | 602 |
| Housekeeping supplies ............................ | 654 | 542 | 669 | 700 | 461 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ......... | 1,624 | 1,098 | 1,692 | 1,782 | 1,117 |
| Apparel and services ................................. | 1,801 | 2,119 | 1,760 | 1,728 | 1,973 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 7,986 | 8,684 | 9,025 | 6,525 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ................... | 2,755 | 2,554 | 2,781 | 2,911 | 1,961 |
| Gasoline and motor oil ............................. | 2,715 | 2,717 | 2,715 | 2,787 | 2,259 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 2,335 | 2,658 | 2,755 | 2,041 |
| Public transportation ................................. | 513 | 380 | 530 | 573 | 264 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 1,571 | 3,160 | 3,406 | 1,596 |
| Entertainment ........................................... | 2,835 | 1,787 | 2,971 | 3,203 | 1,480 |
| Personal care products and services ............ | 616 | 545 | 625 | 641 | 520 |
| Reading ................................................... | 116 | 38 | 126 | 139 | 48 |
| Education ............................................... | 1,046 | 669 | 1,095 | 1,186 | 516 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ....... | 317 | 143 | 339 | 357 | 225 |
| Miscellaneous | 840 | 586 | 873 | 921 | 567 |
| Cash contributions ..................................... | 1,737 | 1,010 | 1,832 | 1,935 | 1,178 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................. | 5,605 | 4,124 | 5,799 | 6,156 | 3,542 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............... | 317 | 116 | 343 | 357 | 255 |
| Pensions and Social Security ..................... | 5,288 | 4,007 | 5,456 | 5,799 | 3,287 |

Table 11. Region of residence: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Northeast | Midwest | South | West |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) | 120,770 | 22,348 | 27,786 | 43,696 | 26,941 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Income before taxes | \$63,563 | \$70,436 | \$61,063 | \$58,881 | \$68,031 |
| Age of reference person ........................................... | 49.1 | 51.0 | 48.6 | 49.2 | 47.7 |
| Average number in consumer unit: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Persons | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 | . 3 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.7 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 65 | 68 | 68 | 63 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$54,918 | \$47,846 | \$46,823 | \$55,453 |
| Food ............... | 6,443 | 6,959 | 5,966 | 6,109 | 7,037 |
| Food at home | 3,744 | 4,021 | 3,528 | 3,494 | 4,140 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 579 | 483 | 472 | 528 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 846 | 920 | 750 | 843 | 888 |
| Dairy products | 430 | 461 | 421 | 392 | 473 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 725 | 591 | 580 | 792 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 1,336 | 1,283 | 1,207 | 1,459 |
| Food away from home | 2,698 | 2,938 | 2,438 | 2,615 | 2,897 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 455 | 450 | 389 | 518 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 19,525 | 15,550 | 15,276 | 19,682 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 12,023 | 8,923 | 8,479 | 12,721 |
| Owned dwellings | 6,760 | 7,889 | 6,282 | 5,643 | 8,130 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,724 | 3,068 | 2,000 | 2,297 | 3,880 |
| Other lodging | 698 | 1,066 | 641 | 539 | 711 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,649 | 4,117 | 3,527 | 3,661 | 3,369 |
| Household operations. | 998 | 1,177 | 863 | 911 | 1,128 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 654 | 665 | 678 | 646 | 635 |
| Household furnishings and equipment | 1,624 | 1,543 | 1,559 | 1,580 | 1,829 |
| Apparel and services | 1,801 | 1,974 | 1,618 | 1,772 | 1,888 |
| Transportation | 8,604 | 8,898 | 8,418 | 8,482 | 8,745 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 2,755 | 2,687 | 2,872 | 2,726 | 2,737 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2,715 | 2,386 | 2,664 | 2,937 | 2,679 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 3,059 | 2,472 | 2,488 | 2,623 |
| Public transportation | 513 | 765 | 410 | 331 | 706 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 3,035 | 3,049 | 2,849 | 3,057 |
| Entertainment | 2,835 | 2,960 | 2,758 | 2,512 | 3,333 |
| Personal care products and services .......................... | 616 | 638 | 551 | 580 | 721 |
| Reading ... | 116 | 141 | 118 | 87 | 140 |
| Education | 1,046 | 1,585 | 1,029 | 797 | 1,019 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 317 | 324 | 357 | 324 | 257 |
| Miscellaneous ............................. | 840 | 952 | 725 | 743 | 1,020 |
| Cash contributions ......................... | 1,737 | 1,485 | 1,705 | 1,744 | 1,966 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ............................... | 5,605 | 5,987 | 5,552 | 5,158 | 6,067 |
| Life and other personal insurance ............................. | 317 | 384 | 306 | 321 | 265 |
| Pensions and Social Security .................................. | 5,288 | 5,602 | 5,246 | 4,837 | 5,803 |

Table 12. Occupation of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | Selfemployed workers | Wage and salary earners |  |  |  |  |  | Retired | All other, including not reporting |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total wage and salary earners | Managers and professionals | Technical, sales and clerical workers | Service workers | Construction workers and mechanics | Operators, fabricators and laborers |  |  |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) | 5,629 | 78,486 | 30,518 | 21,583 | 12,664 | 4,352 | 9,369 | 21,174 | 15,481 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: Income before taxes | \$89,675 | \$73,261 | \$101,521 | \$61,308 | \$48,020 | \$60,607 | \$48,739 | \$34,585 | \$44,534 |
| Age of reference person ....................... | 48.1 | 43.2 | 44.8 | 41.7 | 41.8 | 42.5 | 43.8 | 73.5 | 45.7 |
| Average number in consumer unit: | 27 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 26 | 17 | 29 |
| Children under 18 | . 8 | . 7 | . 7 | . 7 | . 7 | . 7 | . 7 | . 1 | . 9 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 2 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | . 1 | 1.2 | . 2 |
| Earners | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.7 | . 2 | . 7 |
| Vehicles | 2.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.8 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| Percent homeowner | 78 | 64 | 75 | 59 | 52 | 63 | 59 | 80 | 55 |
| Average annual expenditures ................. | \$62,031 | \$55,606 | \$70,194 | \$51,584 | \$41,430 | \$46,526 | \$40,936 | \$36,003 | \$40,525 |
| Food ................................................. | 7,420 | 6,949 | 8,050 | 6,931 | 5,555 | 6,374 | 5,624 | 4,806 | 5,909 |
| Food at home | 4,387 | 3,823 | 4,215 | 3,831 | 3,189 | 3,664 | 3,491 | 3,178 | 3,912 |
| Cereals and bakery products ............. | 581 | 514 | 559 | 527 | 430 | 482 | 475 | 444 | 531 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs ............ | 930 | 860 | 911 | 850 | 753 | 914 | 846 | 711 | 930 |
| Dairy products. | 536 | 435 | 497 | 434 | 357 | 385 | 369 | 365 | 454 |
| Fruits and vegetables ........................ | 829 | 657 | 751 | 623 | 545 | 601 | 619 | 595 | 680 |
| Other food at home ........................... | 1,511 | 1,356 | 1,498 | 1,398 | 1,105 | 1,282 | 1,182 | 1,063 | 1,317 |
| Food away from home ....................... | 3,032 | 3,126 | 3,835 | 3,100 | 2,366 | 2,711 | 2,134 | 1,627 | 1,997 |
| Alcoholic beverages ............................. | 546 | 512 | 602 | 544 | 422 | 429 | 309 | 274 | 319 |
| Housing | 19,872 | 18,585 | 23,471 | 17,081 | 14,543 | 15,490 | 13,072 | 12,828 | 14,517 |
| Shelter | 11,851 | 11,308 | 14,535 | 10,270 | 8,816 | 9,106 | 7,580 | 6,778 | 8,531 |
| Owned dwellings .............................. | 8,935 | 7,524 | 10,393 | 6,550 | 5,048 | 5,536 | 4,696 | 4,529 | 5,148 |
| Rented dwellings | 2,128 | 3,009 | 2,818 | 3,144 | 3,468 | 3,139 | 2,643 | 1,640 | 2,981 |
| Other lodging ................................. | 787 | 774 | 1,324 | 576 | 299 | 432 | 241 | 609 | 402 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services ........ | 4,074 | 3,765 | 4,177 | 3,565 | 3,417 | 3,800 | 3,337 | 3,299 | 3,387 |
| Household operations ........................ | 1,156 | 1,096 | 1,602 | 982 | 618 | 801 | 496 | 821 | 679 |
| Housekeeping supplies ...................... | 798 | 670 | 823 | 619 | 518 | 459 | 612 | 639 | 557 |
| Household furnishings and equipment .. | 1,994 | 1,745 | 2,335 | 1,643 | 1,174 | 1,324 | 1,047 | 1,291 | 1,362 |
| Apparel and services ........................... | 1,838 | 2,046 | 2,647 | 1,784 | 1,705 | 1,520 | 1,442 | 1,042 | 1,636 |
| Transportation | 9,287 | 9,752 | 11,278 | 9,630 | 7,579 | 8,731 | 8,482 | 5,675 | 6,581 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ............. | 2,466 | 3,242 | 3,800 | 3,274 | 2,387 | 2,617 | 2,795 | 1,604 | 1,964 |
| Gasoline and motor oil ...... | 3,152 | 3,040 | 3,288 | 2,918 | 2,631 | 3,353 | 2,921 | 1,667 | 2,340 |
| Other vehicle expenses ...................... | 3,047 | 2,912 | 3,259 | 3,050 | 2,269 | 2,409 | 2,574 | 1,953 | 1,947 |
| Public transportation .......................... | 623 | 558 | 930 | 388 | 292 | 352 | 192 | 451 | 330 |
| Healthcare | 3,894 | 2,619 | 3,331 | 2,437 | 1,910 | 2,049 | 1,946 | 4,571 | 2,268 |
| Entertainment ..................................... | 3,268 | 3,171 | 4,051 | 3,054 | 2,172 | 2,622 | 2,207 | 2,036 | 2,121 |
| Personal care products and services ...... | 652 | 669 | 875 | 650 | 495 | 419 | 403 | 520 | 472 |
| Reading ............................................. | 135 | 114 | 169 | 101 | 65 | 63 | 56 | 145 | 79 |
| Education .......................................... | 1,168 | 1,250 | 2,037 | 1,051 | 530 | 470 | 483 | 274 | 1,024 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies | 284 | 338 | 245 | 354 | 381 | 532 | 454 | 172 | 419 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,117 | 920 | 1,150 | 865 | 751 | 848 | 564 | 594 | 667 |
| Cash contributions .............................. | 2,599 | 1,682 | 2,296 | 1,351 | 1,139 | 1,490 | 1,265 | 1,953 | 1,405 |
| Personal insurance and pensions .......... | 9,953 | 6,998 | 9,990 | 5,751 | 4,182 | 5,488 | 4,629 | 1,113 | 3,107 |
| Life and other personal insurance ......... | 446 | 338 | 470 | 275 | 275 | 233 | 184 | 253 | 252 |
| Pensions and Social Security .............. | 9,507 | 6,660 | 9,520 | 5,476 | 3,907 | 5,256 | 4,445 | 860 | 2,856 |

Table 13. Education of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008

| Item | All consumer units | Less than college graduate |  |  |  |  | College graduate |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Total | Less than high school graduate | High school graduate | High school graduate with some college | Associate's degree | Total | Bachelor's degree | Master's, professional, doctoral degree |
| Number of consumer units (in thousands) ... | 120,770 | 85,845 | 17,600 | 30,761 | 26,386 | 11,097 | 34,925 | 22,428 | 12,498 |
| Consumer unit characteristics: <br> Income before taxes <br> Age of reference person $\qquad$ | \$63,563 49.1 | $\$ 49,375$ 49.6 | \$32,909 54.1 | $\$ 48,364$ 51.4 | \$55,403 45.0 | \$63,964 48.2 | \$98,434 47.8 | \$88,888 46.5 | $\begin{array}{r} \$ 115,564 \\ 50.2 \end{array}$ |
| Average number in consumer unit: Persons | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| Children under 18 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 | . 6 | . 6 | . 7 | . 6 | . 6 | . 6 |
| Persons 65 and older | . 3 | . 3 | . 5 | . 4 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 2 | . 3 |
| Earners .................................................... | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| Vehicles | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.5 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Percent homeowner | 66 | 62 | 53 | 66 | 59 | 70 | 78 | 75 | 81 |
| Average annual expenditures | \$50,486 | \$42,205 | \$29,903 | \$40,850 | \$47,205 | \$53,385 | \$70,858 | \$66,221 | \$79,198 |
| Food | 6,443 | 5,777 | 4,692 | 5,583 | 6,143 | 7,087 | 8,086 | 7,798 | 8,614 |
| Food at home ........................................... | 3,744 | 3,526 | 3,195 | 3,486 | 3,567 | 4,045 | 4,284 | 4,192 | 4,456 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 507 | 477 | 433 | 480 | 475 | 540 | 581 | 571 | 599 |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs | 846 | 833 | 837 | 839 | 794 | 905 | 880 | 878 | 884 |
| Dairy products ...................... | 430 | 398 | 355 | 386 | 404 | 488 | 507 | 493 | 531 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 657 | 595 | 553 | 573 | 605 | 699 | 810 | 780 | 865 |
| Other food at home | 1,305 | 1,223 | 1,016 | 1,208 | 1,290 | 1,413 | 1,507 | 1,469 | 1,577 |
| Food away from home ................................ | 2,698 | 2,251 | 1,498 | 2,097 | 2,576 | 3,042 | 3,802 | 3,606 | 4,159 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 444 | 343 | 163 | 326 | 419 | 473 | 694 | 669 | 739 |
| Housing | 17,109 | 14,218 | 10,952 | 13,559 | 15,749 | 17,576 | 24,217 | 22,541 | 27,228 |
| Shelter | 10,183 | 8,197 | 6,125 | 7,627 | 9,354 | 10,314 | 15,065 | 14,037 | 16,910 |
| Owned dwellings ..................................... | 6,760 | 5,015 | 2,989 | 4,691 | 5,835 | 7,180 | 11,050 | 10,247 | 12,491 |
| Rented dwellings ..................................... | 2,724 | 2,779 | 3,007 | 2,543 | 2,976 | 2,600 | 2,592 | 2,624 | 2,532 |
| Other lodging ...... | 698 | 403 | 129 | 393 | 543 | 534 | 1,424 | 1,166 | 1,887 |
| Utilities, fuels, and public services | 3,649 | 3,457 | 3,084 | 3,536 | 3,447 | 3,854 | 4,122 | 4,012 | 4,319 |
| Household operations ................................ | 998 | 701 | 365 | 681 | 840 | 955 | 1,727 | 1,458 | 2,211 |
| Housekeeping supplies ............................... | 654 | 584 | 572 | 546 | 598 | 680 | 828 | 784 | 911 |
| Household furnishings and equipment ........... | 1,624 | 1,280 | 807 | 1,169 | 1,510 | 1,773 | 2,474 | 2,251 | 2,877 |
| Apparel and services ................................... | 1,801 | 1,521 | 1,275 | 1,357 | 1,746 | 1,818 | 2,491 | 2,464 | 2,536 |
| Transportation ............................................ | 8,604 | 7,712 | 5,293 | 7,735 | 8,341 | 9,954 | 10,795 | 10,260 | 11,763 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) ..................... | 2,755 | 2,452 | 1,544 | 2,461 | 2,650 | 3,399 | 3,499 | 3,408 | 3,662 |
| Gasoline and motor oil ................................ | 2,715 | 2,585 | 2,020 | 2,620 | 2,703 | 3,099 | 3,035 | 3,014 | 3,073 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,621 | 2,381 | 1,545 | 2,402 | 2,622 | 3,038 | 3,211 | 3,018 | 3,564 |
| Public transportation .................................. | 513 | 295 | 184 | 253 | 366 | 417 | 1,050 | 820 | 1,463 |
| Healthcare | 2,976 | 2,657 | 2,008 | 2,733 | 2,788 | 3,158 | 3,761 | 3,477 | 4,270 |
| Entertainment ............................................. | 2,835 | 2,272 | 1,318 | 2,129 | 2,700 | 3,146 | 4,220 | 4,048 | 4,530 |
| Personal care products and services .............. | 616 | 506 | 329 | 479 | 585 | 664 | 887 | 860 | 934 |
| Reading | 116 | 82 | 43 | 76 | 100 | 118 | 200 | 168 | 258 |
| Education .................................................. | 1,046 | 602 | 146 | 419 | 1,013 | 853 | 2,137 | 1,889 | 2,582 |
| Tobacco products and smoking supplies ......... | 317 | 379 | 384 | 427 | 331 | 351 | 164 | 184 | 127 |
| Miscellaneous ............................................ | 840 | 675 | 291 | 734 | 799 | 814 | 1,244 | 1,251 | 1,232 |
| Cash contributions ...................................... | 1,737 | 1,302 | 774 | 1,273 | 1,548 | 1,638 | 2,804 | 2,371 | 3,581 |
| Personal insurance and pensions ................... | 5,605 | 4,159 | 2,234 | 4,020 | 4,943 | 5,736 | 9,159 | 8,242 | 10,805 |
| Life and other personal insurance ................. | 317 | 244 | 142 | 237 | 271 | 358 | 496 | 456 | 569 |
| Pensions and Social Security ...................... | 5,288 | 3,915 | 2,091 | 3,782 | 4,671 | 5,378 | 8,663 | 7,787 | 10,236 |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ See the glossary at the end of this report for a definition of consumer unit.

[^1]:    n.a. Not applicable.

[^2]:    1 Value is less than or equal to 0.05 .

[^3]:    1 Value is less than or equal to 0.05 .
    n.a. Not applicable.

