

Sneak Peek: CE Now and in the Future

Brett Creech

Section Chief, Branch of Information & Analysis
Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys

CE Microdata Users' Symposium
July 17, 2025

Where are we headed and what have we done lately?

Outline

- What's new?
- What's coming?
- What's on the horizon?



What's new?



Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Search Consumer Exper [Go](#)

[CE Home](#)

[CE Publications](#)

[CE Data](#)

[CE Methods](#)

[About CE](#)

[Contact CE](#)

The **Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE)** program provides data on expenditures, income, and demographic characteristics of consumers in the United States. The CE program provides these data in [tables](#), [LABSTAT database](#), [news releases](#), [reports](#), and [public use microdata files](#).

CE data are collected by the Census Bureau for BLS in two surveys: the Interview Survey for major and/or recurring items and the Diary Survey for more minor or frequently purchased items. CE data are primarily used to revise the relative importance of goods and services in the market basket of the Consumer Price Index. The CE is the only Federal household survey to provide information on the complete range of consumers' expenditures and incomes. Here is an [overview of the CE program and its methods](#).

To be notified when new datasets become available, sign up for [CE updates](#). The menu will prompt you to select Consumer Expenditures. If you have comments or questions about this page and its contents, [contact us](#).

NOTICES

- » Update on the Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) Microdata Users Workshop (5/30/2025) [Read More »](#)
- » Update on calendar 2024 midyear data (5/8/2025) [Read More »](#)
- » CE Annual Report: Consumer Expenditures in 2023 (12/20/24) [Read More »](#)

MOST REQUESTED TABLES

- [Demographic tables](#)
- [Geographic tables](#)

[read more »](#)

RESEARCH

- [CE Redesign](#)
- [Consumption Research](#)
- [Distribution of Personal Consumption Expenditures](#)
- [Poverty Research](#)

NEWS RELEASES

Consumer unit expenditures in 2023 are \$77,280; a 5.9-percent increase from 2022

09/25/2024

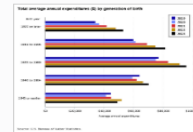
Average expenditures for all consumer units in 2023 were \$77,280, a 5.9-percent increase from 2022, and average income before taxes increased 8.3 percent.

[HTML](#) | [PDF](#) | [RSS](#)

[read more »](#)

PUBLICATIONS

THE ECONOMICS DAILY



Which generation spends more?

Does how much you spend depend on when you were born? As we observe Financial Literacy Month, let's explore how spending differs among people in different generations. [read more »](#)



What's new?

■ Public Use Microdata

▶ Interview Survey:

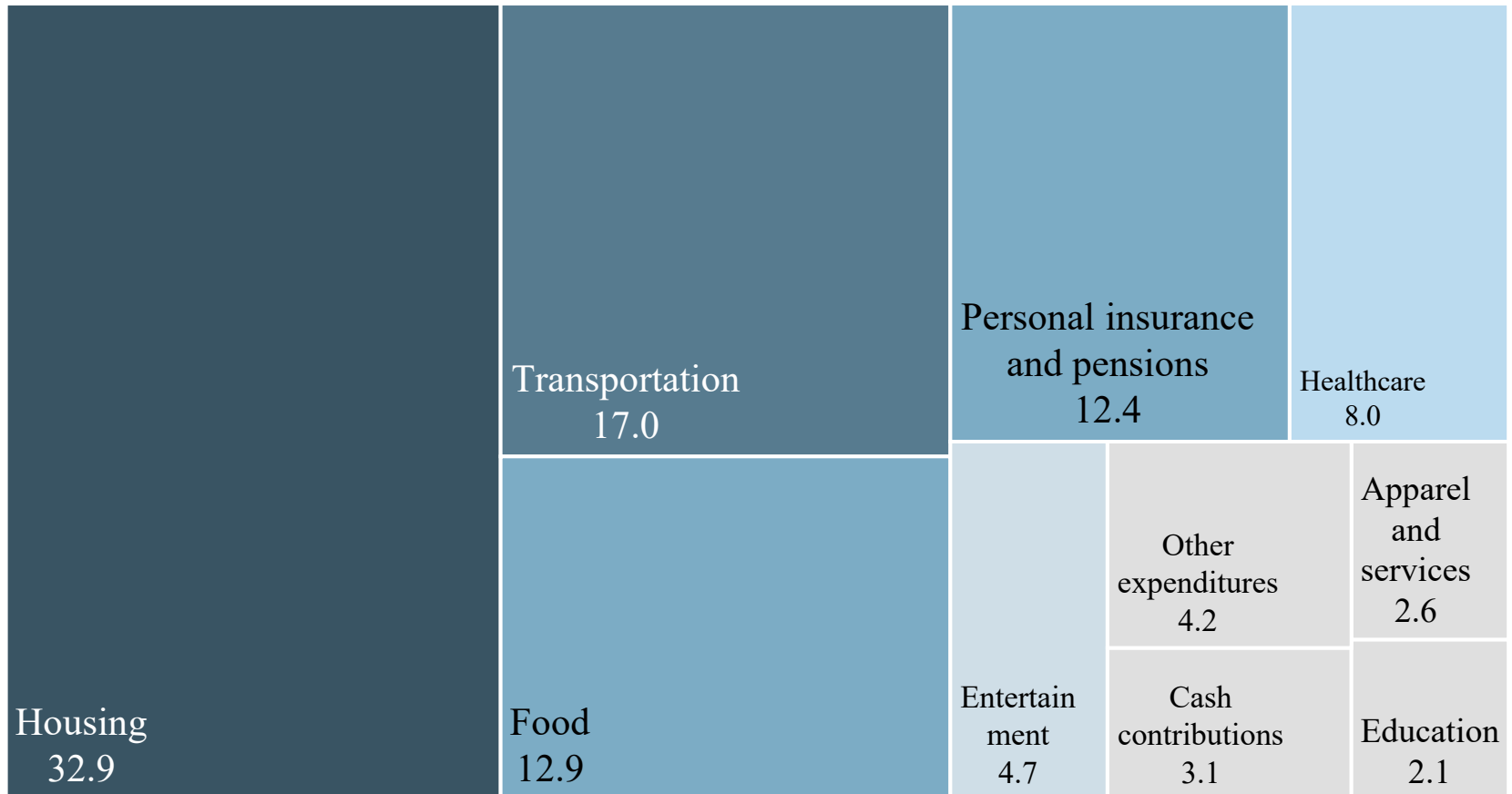
- Quarters 2 of 2023 through Quarter 1 of 2024 are available

▶ Diary Survey:

- Quarters 1 through 4 of 2023 are available.

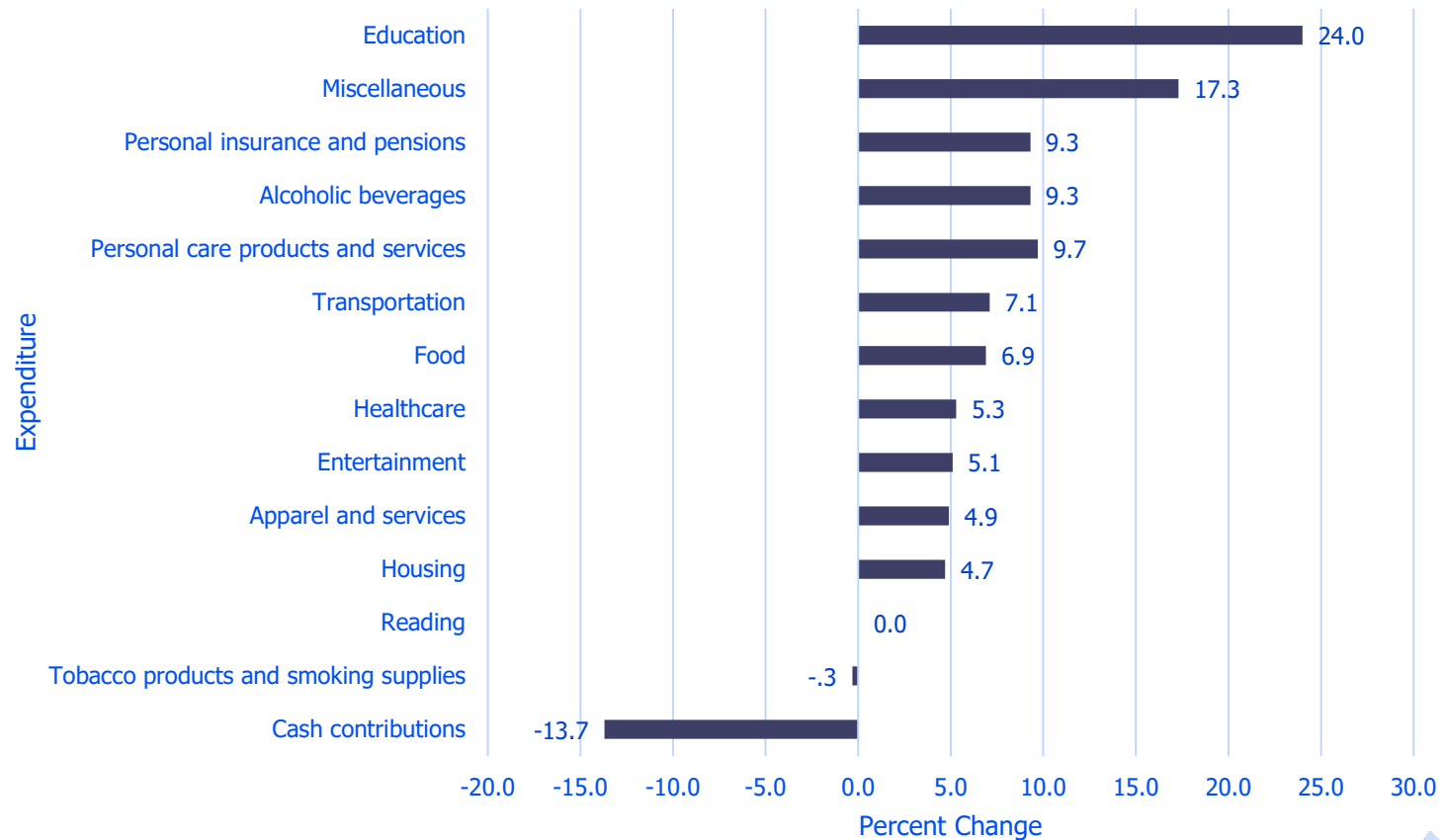
2023 CE News Release

Chart 1. Annual expenditure shares by major components, 2023



2023 CE Annual Report

Chart 1: Annual Percent Change for Major Expenditure Groups 2022-23



CE Publications






Title	Venue
2023 CE Annual Report	BLS Reports
2023 Annual News Release	News Release
Consumer Expenditure Survey 2023 Annual Data Quality Profile	CE Program Report Series
Generation X outspent baby boomers in pet care services from 2018-21	The Economics Daily
Two hours to the office, two minutes to the kitchen table: trends in local public transportation expenditures from 2018 to 2021	Monthly Labor Review

CE Publications

Title	Venue
What's your age again? Testing respondent willingness to provide full birthdate information in the Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey	CE Program Report Series
2021 Consumer Expenditure Survey online Diary paradata analysis	CE Program Report Series
Using Administrative Records to Improve the Nonresponse Weighting Procedure in the Consumer Expenditure Survey: Follow Up Analysis	CE Program Report Series
A consumption measure for automobiles	Monthly Labor Review
How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect healthcare spending?	Beyond the Numbers

LABSTAT Database

Spending & Time Use

Database Name	Special Notice	Top Picks	Data Finder	One Screen	Multi-Screen	Tables	Text Files
Spending							
Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE)							

Change Output Options: From: 2011 To: 2023 GO


☐ include graphs

[More Formatting Options](#) →

Data extracted on: June 24, 2025 (11:44:54 AM)

Consumer Expenditure Survey

Series Id: CXU470111LB2002M
Category: Expenditures
Subcategory: Transportation
Item: Gasoline
Demographics: Population size of area of residence
Characteristics: Outside urban area

Download:  [xlsx](#)

Year	Period	Estimate	Standard Error	Share of Total Expenditures	Aggregate
2011	Annual	2978	67.51	6.2	-(7)
2012	Annual	3052	78.23	6.2	-(7)
2013	Annual	2849	68.89	6.0	-(7)
2014	Annual	2673	48.39	5.4	-(7)
2015	Annual	2224	67.06	4.2	-(7)
2016	Annual	2068	53.72	3.8	22.3
2017	Annual	2158	69.91	3.7	22.0
2018	Annual	2278	47.39	3.9	21.9
2019	Annual	2235	70.68	3.7	21.7
2020	Annual	1719	37.93	2.9	22.4
2021	Annual	2417	71.76	3.5	22.5
2022	Annual	3325	85.39	4.7	22.6
2023	Annual	2821	82.56	3.8	21.9

7 : No data reported.

Database Link:

<https://www.bls.gov/data/home.htm#spending>

What's coming?

- 2024 annual data release, September 23, 2025:
 - ▶ 2024 Tables
 - Calendar year means and aggregate expenditure and shares detail level tables by 17 demographics published for the first time
 - ▶ 2024 Public Use Microdata
 - Interview Quarters 2 of 2024 through Quarter 1 of 2025
 - Diary Quarters 1 through 4 of 2024

What's coming?

- 2024 LABSTAT release:
 - ▶ Relative Standard Errors
 - ▶ Percent Reporting
 - ▶ Further breakout of Aggregate expenditures and shares

What's coming?

■ 2024 questionnaire changes:

▶ Housing:

- Rental and owned properties
- Housing characteristics
- Home improvements, repairs, and services
- Utilities and fuels

▶ Transportation:

- Vehicle expenses

What's coming?

- 2024 questionnaire changes continued:
 - ▶ Healthcare
 - Medical expenses
 - ▶ Questionnaires are published online:
 - <https://www.bls.gov/cex/csxsurveyforms.htm>

2025 Sample Redesign

- The BLS is working on phasing into the CE its new sample of primary sampling units (PSUs), based on the 2020 decennial census, and phasing out its old sample of PSUs from the 2010 decennial census.

Military Status Table

- The military status table will be available with the 2025 data release in September of 2026.

Military status within consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and sources of income, Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 2023 ([research product](#))

- Research tables using 2022 and 2023 data are available online.

Item	All consumer units	Military consumer units			Non military consumer units
		Veteran and or active duty consumer units	Veteran only consumer units	Active duty only consumer units	
Number of consumer units	134,555,809	17,627,305	14,709,031	2,818,818	116,928,504
Consumer unit characteristics (mean values):					
Income before taxes	\$101,805	\$102,214	\$99,224	\$116,071	\$101,744
Income after taxes b/	87,869	90,003	87,477	101,585	87,547
Age of reference person	52.1	60.3	63.7	43.0	50.9

What's on the horizon?

- Redesigned news release
- LABSTAT expansion
 - ▶ Reporters only
 - ▶ Medians
- HTML tables
- More charts and visuals on homepage

Contact information

Brett Creech

Section Chief, Branch of Information & Analysis
Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys
Creech.Brett@bls.gov

