

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2006-2007

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	22,570	8,716	2,722	2,890
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes	\$67,060	\$76,022	\$65,637	\$80,966
Age of reference person	50.1	50.7	48.4	48.1
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3
Children under 186	.6	.6	.6
Persons 65 and over3	.3	.3	.3
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Vehicles	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7
Percent homeowner	65	58	70	62
Average annual expenditures				
Food	\$50,703	\$56,683	\$48,649	\$55,189
Food at home	6,320	7,023	5,600	6,700
Food away from home	3,529	3,822	3,028	3,893
Cereals and bakery products	486	528	408	553
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	825	955	734	887
Dairy products	390	396	343	423
Fruits and vegetables	641	743	559	657
Other food at home	1,187	1,199	984	1,374
Food away from home	2,791	3,202	2,571	2,807
Alcoholic beverages	513	533	451	565
Housing	18,408	22,295	18,411	20,174
Shelter	11,335	14,848	10,755	13,068
Owned dwellings	7,452	9,327	7,410	8,822
Rented dwellings	3,039	4,438	2,613	3,175
Other lodging	843	1,084	732	1,071
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,707	3,879	3,981	3,850
Household operations	971	1,171	1,054	1,036
Housekeeping supplies	579	572	602	542
Household furnishings and equipment	1,815	1,824	2,020	1,678
Apparel and services	2,069	2,619	2,041	2,093
Transportation	8,107	8,048	7,345	8,707
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,703	2,349	2,244	3,420
Gasoline and motor oil	1,994	1,892	2,106	2,026
Other vehicle expenses	2,722	2,721	2,447	2,642
Public transportation	688	1,085	548	618
Healthcare	2,618	2,674	2,175	2,809
Entertainment	2,666	2,600	2,327	3,352
Personal care products and services	583	685	602	546
Reading	134	118	109	177
Education	1,121	1,420	1,228	1,381
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	346	221	406	350
Miscellaneous	855	1,006	689	736
Cash contributions	1,445	1,517	1,486	1,235
Personal insurance and pensions	5,517	5,924	5,778	6,365
Life and other personal insurance	338	338	289	254
Pensions and Social Security	5,179	5,586	5,488	6,111