

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2007-2008

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	22,365	8,811	2,571	2,744
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes	\$70,186	\$82,011	\$73,674	\$75,087
Age of reference person	50.7	51.1	49.8	49.8
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4
Children under 186	.6	.7	.6
Persons 65 and older3	.3	.3	.3
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Vehicles	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.7
Percent homeowner	65	59	68	64
Average annual expenditures	\$53,268	\$59,185	\$55,706	\$55,954
Food	6,688	7,223	6,107	7,446
Food at home	3,806	3,892	3,422	4,629
Cereals and bakery products	537	535	467	641
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	875	986	803	1,044
Dairy products	430	414	398	522
Fruits and vegetables	686	755	589	802
Other food at home	1,278	1,203	1,165	1,620
Food away from home	2,881	3,331	2,685	2,817
Alcoholic beverages	481	516	465	604
Housing	19,305	23,441	20,870	20,677
Shelter	11,831	15,472	12,637	13,051
Owned dwellings	7,752	9,760	8,790	8,804
Rented dwellings	3,052	4,387	2,721	3,155
Other lodging	1,027	1,325	1,126	1,092
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,975	4,146	4,356	4,067
Household operations	1,094	1,365	1,131	1,215
Housekeeping supplies	620	610	701	527
Household furnishings and equipment	1,786	1,848	2,044	1,817
Apparel and services	2,021	2,535	1,940	2,097
Transportation	8,455	8,249	8,658	8,067
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,597	2,102	2,455	2,572
Gasoline and motor oil	2,233	2,051	2,447	2,224
Other vehicle expenses	2,867	2,928	2,977	2,615
Public transportation	757	1,168	779	657
Healthcare	2,840	2,829	2,682	2,936
Entertainment	2,885	2,763	2,874	3,334
Personal care products and services	624	699	641	594
Reading	138	113	151	177
Education	1,374	1,795	1,895	1,538
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	342	210	378	349
Miscellaneous	889	964	935	868
Cash contributions	1,453	1,462	2,106	1,042
Personal insurance and pensions	5,772	6,386	6,004	6,222
Life and other personal insurance	363	396	294	268
Pensions and Social Security	5,409	5,990	5,710	5,954