

**Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2009-2010**

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	22,319	8,962	2,561	2,942
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes .....	\$70,077	\$78,441	\$69,603	\$83,851
Age of reference person .....	50.9	50.3	50.9	50.1
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons .....	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.4
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.5	.6
Persons 65 and older .....	.4	.3	.3	.3
Earners .....	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.4
Vehicles .....	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.7
Percent homeowner .....	64	57	69	66
Average annual expenditures .....	\$53,336	\$58,942	\$52,041	\$63,063
Food .....	6,866	7,412	6,217	8,066
Food at home .....	3,977	4,071	3,702	4,870
Cereals and bakery products .....	561	565	523	712
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	890	959	847	1,017
Dairy products .....	434	446	419	502
Fruits and vegetables .....	752	811	676	932
Other food at home .....	1,341	1,290	1,237	1,708
Food away from home .....	2,889	3,341	2,515	3,195
Alcoholic beverages .....	498	555	431	644
Housing .....	19,189	23,238	19,690	20,959
Shelter .....	11,859	15,321	12,268	12,866
Owned dwellings .....	7,471	9,086	8,209	8,233
Rented dwellings .....	3,571	5,340	3,095	3,639
Other lodging .....	816	896	964	994
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	4,040	4,323	4,316	4,177
Household operations .....	1,144	1,454	1,013	1,540
Housekeeping supplies .....	629	623	642	631
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,516	1,518	1,451	1,745
Apparel and services .....	1,931	2,476	1,817	1,854
Transportation .....	7,932	7,944	6,960	9,104
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	2,554	2,098	1,788	3,324
Gasoline and motor oil .....	1,845	1,741	1,802	2,056
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,835	3,029	2,746	3,061
Public transportation .....	698	1,076	624	663
Healthcare .....	3,128	3,016	2,950	4,004
Entertainment .....	2,728	2,658	2,618	3,738
Personal care products and services .....	602	677	627	707
Reading .....	133	114	121	193
Education .....	1,664	1,940	1,801	2,550
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	410	251	388	534
Miscellaneous .....	865	749	1,293	1,063
Cash contributions .....	1,506	1,586	1,609	1,723
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,885	6,325	5,519	7,925
Life and other personal insurance .....	350	381	300	410
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,535	5,944	5,220	7,515

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September, 2011