

# Consumer Expenditures in 2013



decrease in spending. In 2012, prices increased 2.1 percent, which was below the 3.5-percent increase in spending that year. This report highlights consumer spending patterns for 2013 from the CE.

## Developments in 2013

During 2013, changes in consumer spending varied among the seven largest categories of expenditures tracked by CE: food, housing, apparel and services, transportation, healthcare, entertainment, and personal insurance and pensions. (See table A.) Spending increased in three categories, decreased in three, and was unchanged in one. In 2012, all but one of the major categories showed increased spending from the prior year. In 2013, the increases ranged from just 0.1 percent for transportation to 2.1 percent for healthcare. Expenditures decreased by a

**C**onsumer spending in 2013 decreased 0.7 percent from 2012, based on annual data from the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE). This decrease follows 2 years of increasing expenditures. Consumer units' (CUs) average annual expenditures decreased from \$51,442 in 2012 to \$51,100 in 2013. Along with the decrease in expenditures in 2013, there was also a decline in income from 2012 to 2013. Average annual income before taxes decreased 2.8 percent from \$65,596 in 2012 to \$63,784 in 2013. In contrast, average pretax income rose 3.0 percent from 2011 to 2012. Prices, as measured by the average annual change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U, U.S. city average, all items) rose 1.5 percent in 2013, compared with the 0.7-percent

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CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table A

Average annual expenditures by major category of all consumer units and percent changes, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2010–2013							
Item	2010	2011	2012	2013	Percent change		
					2010–2011	2011–2012	2012–2013
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	121,107	122,287	124,416	125,670	...	...	...
Consumer unit characteristics:					...	...	...
Income before taxes	\$62,481	\$63,685	\$65,596	\$63,784	1.9	3.0	-2.8
Age of reference person	49.4	49.7	50.0	50.1	...	...	...
Average number in consumer unit:					...	...	...
People	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	...	...	...
Children under 18	.6	.6	.6	.6	...	...	...
Adults 65 and older	.3	.3	.3	.3	...	...	...
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	...	...	...
Vehicles	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	...	...	...
Percent homeowner	66	65	64	64	...	...	...
Average annual expenditures	\$48,109	\$49,705	\$51,442	\$51,100	3.3	3.5	-7
Food	6,129	6,458	6,599	6,602	5.4	2.2	0.0
Food at home	3,624	3,838	3,921	3,977	5.9	2.2	1.4
Cereals and bakery products	502	531	538	544	5.8	1.3	1.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	784	832	852	856	6.1	2.4	.5
Dairy products	380	407	419	414	7.1	2.9	-1.2
Fruits and vegetables	679	715	731	751	5.3	2.2	2.7
Other food at home	1,278	1,353	1,380	1,412	5.9	2.0	2.3
Food away from home	2,505	2,620	2,678	2,625	4.6	2.2	-2.0
Alcoholic beverages	412	456	451	445	10.7	-1.1	-1.3
Housing	16,557	16,803	16,887	17,148	1.5	.5	1.5
Shelter	9,812	9,825	9,891	10,080	.1	.7	1.9
Owned dwellings	6,277	6,148	6,056	6,108	-2.1	-1.5	.9
Rented dwellings	2,900	3,029	3,186	3,324	4.4	5.2	4.3
Other lodging	635	648	649	649	2.0	.2	0.0
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,660	3,727	3,648	3,737	1.8	-2.1	2.4
Household operations	1,007	1,122	1,159	1,144	11.4	3.3	-1.3
Housekeeping supplies	612	615	610	645	.5	-8	5.7
Household furnishings and equipment	1,467	1,514	1,580	1,542	3.2	4.4	-2.4
Apparel and services	1,700	1,740	1,736	1,604	2.4	-.2	-7.6
Transportation	7,677	8,293	8,998	9,004	8.0	8.5	.1
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,588	2,669	3,210	3,271	3.1	20.3	1.9
Gasoline and motor oil	2,132	2,655	2,756	2,611	24.5	3.8	-5.3
Other vehicle expenses	2,464	2,454	2,490	2,584	-.4	1.5	3.8
Public and other transportation	493	516	542	537	4.7	5.0	-.9
Healthcare	3,157	3,313	3,556	3,631	4.9	7.3	2.1
Entertainment	2,504	2,572	2,605	2,482	2.7	1.3	-4.7
Personal care products and services	582	634	628	608	8.9	-.9	-3.2
Reading	100	115	109	102	15.0	-5.2	-6.4
Education	1,074	1,051	1,207	1,138	-2.1	14.8	-5.7
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	362	351	332	330	-3.0	-5.4	-.6
Miscellaneous	849	775	829	645	-8.7	7.0	-22.2
Cash contributions	1,633	1,721	1,913	1,834	5.4	11.2	-4.1
Personal insurance and pensions	5,373	5,424	5,591	5,528	.9	3.1	-1.1
Life and other personal insurance	318	317	353	319	-.3	11.4	-9.6
Pensions and Social Security	5,054	5,106	5,238	5,209	1.0	2.6	-.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table B**

### Percent distribution of total annual expenditures by major category for all consumer units, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2010–2013

Spending category	2010	2011	2012	2013
Average annual expenditures	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Food	12.7	13.0	12.8	12.9
Food at home	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.8
Food away from home	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.1
Alcoholic beverages	.9	.9	.9	.9
Housing	34.4	33.8	32.8	33.6
Shelter	20.4	19.8	19.2	19.7
Utilities, fuels, and public services	7.6	7.5	7.1	7.3
Household operations	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.2
Housekeeping supplies	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
Household furnishings and equipment	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0
Apparel and services	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.1
Transportation	16.0	16.7	17.5	17.6
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	5.4	5.4	6.2	6.4
Gasoline and motor oil	4.4	5.3	5.4	5.1
Other vehicle expenses	5.1	4.9	4.8	5.1
Public and other transportation	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Healthcare	6.6	6.7	6.9	7.1
Entertainment	5.2	5.2	5.1	4.9
Personal care products and services	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Reading	.2	.2	.2	.2
Education	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.2
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	.8	.7	.6	.6
Miscellaneous	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.3
Cash contributions	3.4	3.5	3.7	3.6
Personal insurance and pensions	11.2	10.9	10.9	10.8
Life and other personal insurance	.7	.6	.7	.6
Pensions and Social Security	10.5	10.3	10.2	10.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

range of 1.1 percent for personal insurance and pensions to 7.6 percent for apparel and services. Food expenditures, in nominal dollars, did not change in 2013. Even with the decrease in average annual expenditures (0.7 percent) and average income before taxes in 2013 (2.8 percent), there was an increase in consumer confidence. Consumer confidence levels increased slightly in 2013, as reflected by the Consumer Confidence Index of the Conference Board, which registered an average level of 73 in 2013, up from 67 in 2012.<sup>1</sup> (The level is an index, with 1985 = 100. Levels of 100 or more reflect higher consumer optimism compared with the base year.) The improvement in consumer confidence may be in part attributed to the gradual decline in the unemployment rate in 2013. The annual average monthly unemployment rate, although improved, still remained above prerecession levels but fell throughout the

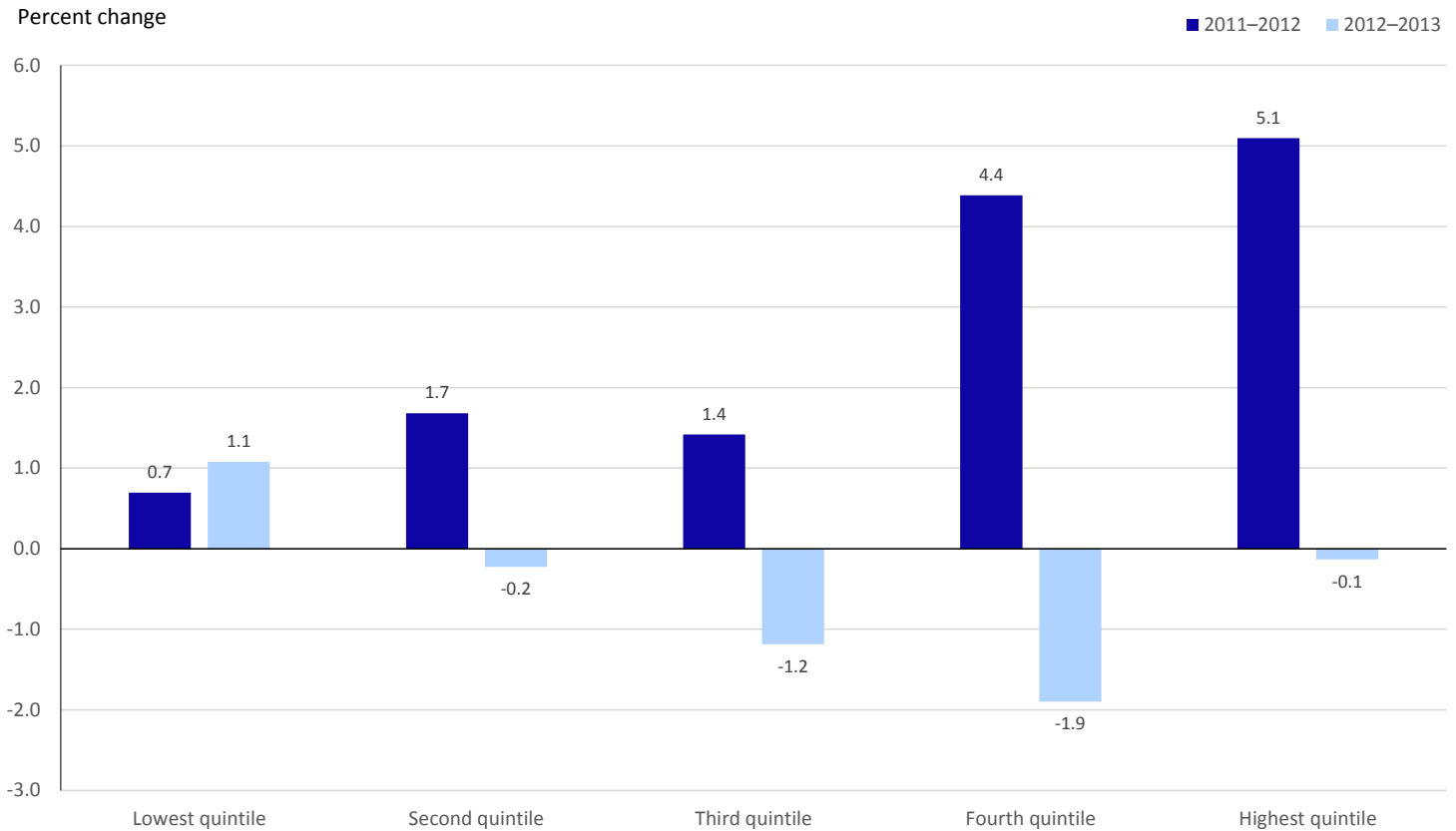
year. According to the Current Population Survey (CPS), the annual average monthly unemployment rate was 7.4 percent in 2013, lower than the average rate of 8.1 percent for 2012. The monthly rate fell from 7.9 percent in January 2013 to 6.7 percent in December 2013.<sup>2</sup> The number of long-term (over 26 weeks) unemployed individuals declined from 5.1 million in 2012 to just over 4.3 million in 2013 but was also higher than prerecession levels. In addition, consumer confidence may also reflect the gradual economic recovery, as evidenced by the 1.9-percent increase in real GDP in 2013.<sup>3</sup>

### Expenditure shares

Table B provides expenditure shares, which are the percent distribution of total annual expenditures by major expenditure categories for all CUs from 2010 to 2013.

**Chart 1**

**Percent change in average annual expenditures by income quintile, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2011–2013**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Expenditure shares usually do not fluctuate much in the short term and thus are more useful for identifying spending trends over time. As in previous years, housing was the largest component of overall expenditures, accounting for 33.6 percent of total expenditures in 2013. This was followed by transportation (17.6 percent) and food expenditures (12.9 percent). The most notable changes in expenditure shares were in housing, which increased to 33.6 percent in 2013, from 32.8 percent in 2012. Expenditure shares for the subcategory shelter increased to 19.7 percent of total expenditures in 2013, from 19.2 percent in 2012. In contrast, expenditure shares on gasoline and motor oil decreased to 5.1 percent in 2013, from 5.4 percent in 2012. Also, expenditure shares on apparel and services continued the long-term trend, declining to 3.1 percent in 2013, from 3.4 percent in 2012, and 3.8 percent

in 2007, the year before the recession of December 2007–June 2009.

### Expenditures by income quintile

From 2012 to 2013, the decline in spending was widespread, with CUs in 4 of the 5 income quintiles decreasing expenditures. This differed from 2011 to 2012 when expenditures increased across all five quintiles. The first (lowest) income quintile was the only quintile to show increased expenditures, climbing 1.1 percent from 2012 to 2013. Expenditures among the fifth (highest) income quintile decreased slightly by 0.1 percent from 2012 to 2013, following a 5.1-percent rise from 2011 to 2012. The fourth income quintile had the largest percentage decrease in expenditures with a 1.9-percent drop from 2012 to 2013. (See chart 1.)

## Housing

Expenditures on mortgage interest and charges for homeowners increased for the first time since 2007. However, homeowners spent 17.1 percent less on this component of housing in 2013 (\$4,808) than they did in 2007 (\$5,799). This is likely the result of the continuing trend of lower interest rates, which has been in place since the recession began.

In addition, although the recession led to an overall trend of fewer CUs owning homes, the CE reported a reversal of this trend in 2013, as the number of homeowners increased from 79.9 million in 2012, to 80.1 million in 2013. This was still below the prerecession level of 80.2 million homeowners in 2007 (66.8 percent of all CUs). In percentage terms, however, homeownership dropped from 64.3 percent in 2012 to 63.7 percent in 2013. There

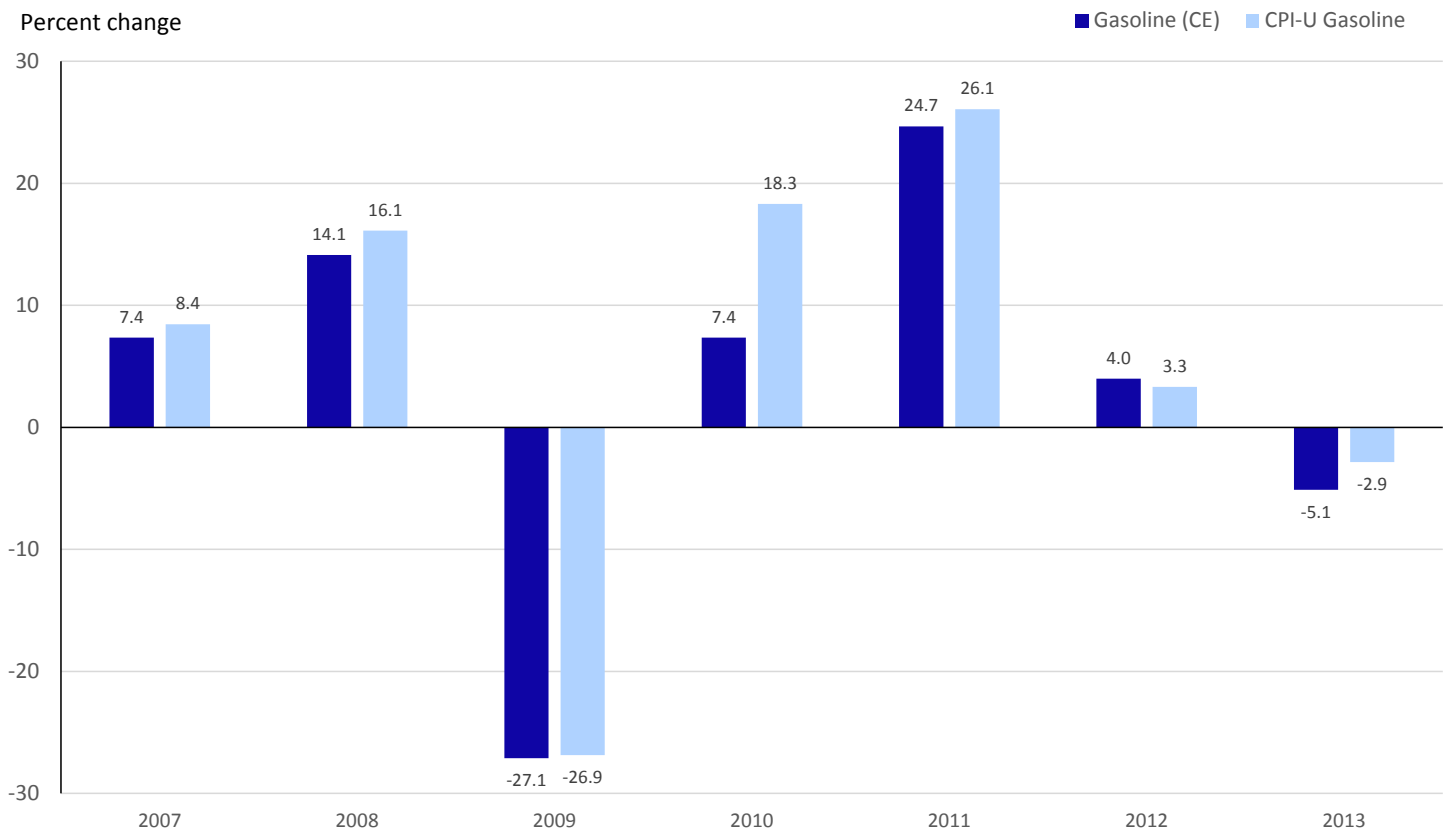
has been an increase in renters since 2007. In 2013, there were 45.6 million renters, compared with 39.9 million in 2007. According to the CPI-U, rents for primary residences have increased 14.1 percent since 2007. During that same time span, the average annual rental payments reported in the CE increased 17 percent (\$9,050 in 2013, compared with \$7,732 in 2007), reflecting the increase in demand for rental units.

## Gasoline

Expenditures on gasoline decreased in 2013, the first decrease since 2009. CUs spent 5.1 percent less in 2013 (\$2,418) than they did in 2012 (\$2,549). Despite this decrease, expenditures on gasoline are above the prerecession level of \$2,202 in 2007. Chart 2 shows the correlation between the percentage change in expenditures on gasoline and the price of gasoline between 2007 and

**Chart 2**

**Spending and price index percent changes on gasoline, Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE), Consumer Price Index (CPI), 2007–2013**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Table C**

**Dollar change and percent change in average annual expenditures on major categories, by income quintile, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012–2013**

Item	Lowest		Second		Third		Fourth		Highest	
	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent	Dollar	Percent
Average annual expenditure change:										
Total	\$239	1.1	-\$73	-0.2	-\$509	-1.2	-\$1,138	-1.9	-\$131	-0.1
Food	153	4.4	257	5.7	-70	-1.2	-176	-2.2	-150	-1.3
At home	98	4.1	230	7.7	-27	-0.7	-111	-2.4	90	1.5
Away from home	56	5.2	28	1.8	-42	-1.9	-66	-2.0	-241	-4.5
Housing	127	1.4	-264	-2.2	53	0.4	221	1.2	1196	4.0
Apparel and services	-35	-4.6	-92	-8.1	19	1.4	-254	-12.0	-296	-8.8
Transportation	-120	-3.5	394	7.2	-110	-1.3	-641	-5.6	516	3.2
Healthcare	113	6.7	63	2.3	12	0.4	217	5.2	-30	-0.5
Entertainment	13	1.3	-187	-11.7	-59	-2.9	-64	-2.2	-311	-5.7
Cash contributions	-121	-17.3	-55	-5.0	-6	-0.5	-94	-4.3	-109	-2.6
Personal insurance and pensions	-26	-5.3	41	2.5	-127	-3.5	-84	-1.3	-91	-0.6
All other expenditures	137	7.8	-231	-10.8	-223	-8.6	-264	-7.2	-853	-11.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2013. For the most part, the change in consumer spending is similar to the change in prices with the exception that the increase in prices was much higher than the increase in expenditures in 2010. In 2013, the percentage decrease in spending on gasoline was bigger (5.1 percent) than the drop in the CPI index for gasoline, (down 2.9 percent). Gasoline expenditures decreased in every income quintile in 2013 with the exception of the first (lowest) quintile. The second quintile had the highest percentage decrease in expenditures from 2012 to 2013, a decrease of 7.7 percent. By age of reference person,<sup>4</sup> all but one age group (65 years and older) decreased spending in 2013. The biggest percentage decrease was in the under-25 age group (10.5 percent), followed by the 45- to 54-years age group (10.1 percent).

Table C shows that within spending categories, expenditures on apparel and services in all but the third income quintile decreased from 2012 to 2013. Spending on healthcare

increased in all quintiles, with the exception of the fifth quintile, while spending on housing increased in all but the second quintile in 2013. The highest income quintile exhibited the largest increase in spending on housing (4.0 percent), from \$29,705 in 2012 to \$30,901 in 2013. Spending on cash contributions decreased among all income quintiles. Food expenditures increased for the two lowest income quintiles, but decreased for the three upper quintiles. Also, expenditures on gasoline decreased for all but the first (lowest) quintile.

### Food

As noted earlier, food expenditures increased for only the two lowest quintiles in 2013. This differs from 2012, during which food expenditures increased for the three highest income quintiles. In 2013, the second quintile registered the largest percentage increase in food expenditures, an increase of 5.7 percent from \$4,524 in 2012, to \$4,781 in 2013. This reflected a 7.7-percent increase in food at home

spending and a 1.8-percent increase in food away from home expenditures. The upper three quintiles had decreases in overall food expenditures of 1.2 percent, 2.2 percent, and 1.3 percent, respectively. This contrasts with increases of 3.2 percent (third quintile), 4.9 percent (fourth quintile), and 3.1 percent (highest quintile) in 2012. The decrease in food spending for the highest quintile was due to a 4.5-percent decrease in food away from home expenditures, compared with a 1.5-percent increase in food at home expenditures.

There was an increase in food expenditures in all but three age groups from 2012 to 2013. The under-25 age group had the highest percentage increase in overall food expenditures, with spending rising 6.5 percent in 2013. Spending on food for the two oldest age groups increased by 3.9 percent for the 65 to 74 years old group and by 0.1

percent for the 75 years and older group. This differs from 2012, where CUs in both of these age groups decreased spending on food.

## Endnotes

1. For more information regarding the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Survey, see: [http://future.aae.wisc.edu/data/monthly\\_values/by\\_area/998?area=US](http://future.aae.wisc.edu/data/monthly_values/by_area/998?area=US)
2. For more information about the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Population Survey see <http://www.bls.gov/cps/> and for the CPS monthly unemployment rate data, see: <http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/LNS1400000>
3. For more information on the Bureau of Economic Analysis' 2013 real GDP release, see: [http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/2014/gdp4q13\\_3rd.htm](http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/2014/gdp4q13_3rd.htm)
4. The reference person is 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 the other consumer unit members is determined.

# Statistical Tables



CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 1. Quintiles of income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

Item	All consumer units	Lowest 20 percent	Second 20 percent	Third 20 percent	Fourth 20 percent	Highest 20 percent
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	25,090	25,219	25,082	25,178	25,101
Lower limit .....	n.a.	n.a.	\$17,883	\$34,958	\$57,968	\$95,336
Consumer unit characteristics:						
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$9,658	\$26,275	\$45,826	\$74,546	\$162,720
Age of reference person .....	50.1	51.3	53.0	49.0	48.1	49.0
Average number in consumer unit:						
People .....	2.5	1.7	2.2	2.5	2.8	3.2
Children under 18 .....	.6	.4	.5	.6	.7	.8
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.4	.5	.4	.3	.2
Earners .....	1.3	.5	.9	1.3	1.7	2.1
Vehicles .....	1.9	.9	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.8
Percent homeowner .....	64	39	54	61	75	89
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$22,393	\$32,559	\$42,495	\$58,842	\$99,237
Food .....	6,602	3,655	4,781	5,728	7,655	11,184
Food at home .....	3,977	2,514	3,221	3,606	4,482	6,058
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	353	443	485	620	817
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	560	740	805	941	1,235
Dairy products .....	414	267	335	371	469	627
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	463	599	684	838	1,167
Other food at home .....	1,412	870	1,105	1,260	1,614	2,212
Food away from home .....	2,625	1,142	1,561	2,122	3,173	5,125
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	168	275	357	505	917
Housing .....	17,148	8,963	11,994	14,808	19,084	30,901
Shelter .....	10,080	5,452	7,002	8,602	10,993	18,363
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	1,728	3,021	4,371	7,237	14,191
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	3,583	3,732	3,898	3,107	2,296
Other lodging .....	649	140	248	333	648	1,876
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	2,197	3,012	3,641	4,321	5,515
Household operations .....	1,144	401	672	805	1,172	2,672
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	325	461	555	760	1,121
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	588	848	1,204	1,838	3,230
Apparel and services .....	1,604	724	1,040	1,332	1,867	3,056
Transportation .....	9,004	3,327	5,856	8,071	10,908	16,860
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	860	1,976	2,803	3,889	6,831
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	1,231	1,850	2,622	3,284	4,071
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	1,074	1,781	2,273	3,244	4,548
Public and other transportation .....	537	163	249	374	491	1,409
Healthcare .....	3,631	1,790	2,850	3,375	4,386	5,755
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,002	1,416	1,997	2,866	5,133
Personal care products and services .....	608	275	412	503	706	1,147
Reading .....	102	37	68	84	117	207
Education .....	1,138	830	452	552	925	2,932
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	291	317	361	396	282
Miscellaneous .....	645	292	389	527	737	1,279
Cash contributions .....	1,834	577	1,054	1,304	2,095	4,143
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	463	1,653	3,496	6,594	15,443
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	95	190	230	347	731
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	368	1,463	3,266	6,248	14,712

n.a. Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table 2. Income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013

Item	All consumer units	Less than \$5,000	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 to \$14,999	\$15,000 to \$19,999	\$20,000 to \$29,999	\$30,000 to \$39,999	\$40,000 to \$49,999	\$50,000 to \$69,999	\$70,000 and more
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	5,675	5,686	8,751	8,261	14,750	13,031	11,179	17,887	40,451
Consumer unit characteristics:										
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$380	\$8,011	\$12,808	\$17,508	\$24,881	\$34,655	\$44,576	\$59,101	\$131,945
Age of reference person .....	50.1	46.2	47.5	54.5	56.2	53.2	50.7	48.5	48.5	48.6
Average number in consumer unit:										
People .....	2.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.7	3.0
Children under 18 .....	.6	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.5	.6	.6	.8
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.2	.3	.4	.5	.5	.5	.4	.3	.2
Earners .....	1.3	.5	.5	.4	.6	.8	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.9
Vehicles .....	1.9	.9	.8	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.6
Percent homeowner .....	64	35	33	41	51	53	56	60	69	85
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$22,830	\$20,697	\$21,452	\$25,506	\$32,491	\$36,093	\$41,750	\$50,637	\$85,264
Food .....	6,602	3,635	3,571	3,298	4,082	4,683	5,077	5,753	6,733	9,983
Food at home .....	3,977	2,388	2,433	2,202	2,959	3,197	3,267	3,670	4,043	5,528
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	312	351	306	425	439	460	477	571	743
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	552	547	459	677	743	742	794	885	1,135
Dairy products .....	414	263	259	247	308	345	322	375	419	574
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	428	391	434	557	591	617	709	748	1,056
Other food at home .....	1,412	834	885	757	992	1,079	1,127	1,315	1,420	2,019
Food away from home .....	2,625	1,247	1,138	1,096	1,123	1,485	1,810	2,083	2,690	4,454
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	203	141	136	195	273	301	359	435	771
Housing .....	17,148	9,507	8,145	8,772	10,009	11,805	12,996	14,827	16,972	26,745
Shelter .....	10,080	5,935	4,990	5,357	5,888	6,875	7,499	8,771	9,735	15,771
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	2,131	1,189	1,694	2,281	2,929	3,310	4,422	5,616	11,839
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	3,669	3,599	3,582	3,435	3,696	3,924	4,032	3,623	2,500
Other lodging .....	649	134	201	81	172	250	265	316	496	1,432
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	2,139	1,939	2,252	2,604	2,977	3,243	3,613	4,037	5,105
Household operations .....	1,144	446	335	364	522	690	682	787	1,024	2,118
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	327	314	276	386	452	509	520	640	1,010
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	661	567	524	609	811	1,063	1,135	1,536	2,742
Apparel and services .....	1,604	809	648	665	790	1,011	1,166	1,247	1,551	2,683
Transportation .....	9,004	3,430	3,099	3,089	3,724	5,924	6,843	7,861	9,666	14,794
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	863	886	669	914	2,068	2,305	2,854	3,271	5,854
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	1,296	1,106	1,194	1,414	1,793	2,241	2,580	3,016	3,806
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	1,049	966	1,101	1,169	1,813	2,019	2,079	2,934	4,065
Public and other transportation .....	537	221	141	124	226	249	279	347	444	1,070
Healthcare .....	3,631	1,656	1,241	1,936	2,469	2,864	3,041	3,310	3,994	5,243
Entertainment .....	2,482	994	1,049	876	1,184	1,464	1,520	1,856	2,414	4,388
Personal care products and services .....	608	272	266	259	317	413	447	500	590	998
Reading .....	102	32	33	34	60	64	73	77	106	174
Education .....	1,138	1,056	991	848	369	531	377	448	797	2,195
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	275	381	272	262	295	397	358	332	338
Miscellaneous .....	645	204	357	205	407	413	398	529	614	1,099
Cash contributions .....	1,834	527	407	506	850	1,164	1,140	1,326	1,590	3,422
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	230	368	558	788	1,587	2,315	3,299	4,842	12,430
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	88	66	119	117	215	180	238	269	598
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	142	302	439	672	1,373	2,135	3,061	4,573	11,833

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table 3. Higher income before taxes: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013

Item	All consumer units	Less than \$70,000	\$70,000 to \$79,999	\$80,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 and more	\$100,000 to \$119,999	\$120,000 to \$149,999	\$150,000 and more
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	85,219	6,681	10,781	22,989	6,967	6,581	9,441
Consumer unit characteristics:								
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$31,430	\$74,535	\$89,114	\$168,715	\$108,624	\$132,587	\$238,245
Age of reference person .....	50.1	50.8	47.8	48.3	48.9	48.3	48.8	49.5
Average number in consumer unit:								
People .....	2.5	2.2	2.7	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.3
Children under 18 .....	.6	.5	.6	.7	.8	.8	.8	.9
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.4	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2
Earners .....	1.3	1.0	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.5	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8
Percent homeowner .....	64	54	77	81	89	85	90	91
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$34,900	\$58,978	\$66,650	\$101,686	\$79,530	\$90,450	\$126,242
Food .....	6,602	5,005	7,762	8,347	11,422	9,775	10,848	13,198
Food at home .....	3,977	3,245	4,558	4,831	6,151	5,508	5,959	6,837
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	449	596	667	824	793	797	872
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	725	943	1,004	1,255	1,115	1,226	1,396
Dairy products .....	414	338	453	523	635	574	579	731
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	606	870	907	1,183	1,036	1,118	1,357
Other food at home .....	1,412	1,126	1,695	1,731	2,253	1,991	2,240	2,481
Food away from home .....	2,625	1,760	3,204	3,516	5,271	4,267	4,889	6,361
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	291	458	592	949	613	924	1,245
Housing .....	17,148	12,595	18,433	21,743	31,515	24,408	27,905	39,348
Shelter .....	10,080	7,379	10,520	12,650	18,761	14,463	16,502	23,507
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	3,388	7,011	9,129	14,513	10,581	13,079	18,414
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	3,715	2,870	2,737	2,281	2,681	1,889	2,260
Other lodging .....	649	277	639	784	1,967	1,201	1,534	2,833
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	3,088	4,237	4,689	5,552	4,875	5,265	6,252
Household operations .....	1,144	682	1,102	1,378	2,761	1,837	2,124	3,891
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	472	691	971	1,126	902	1,026	1,393
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	973	1,883	2,056	3,316	2,333	2,989	4,305
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,094	2,073	2,190	3,098	2,662	2,674	3,757
Transportation .....	9,004	6,256	10,845	11,881	17,310	15,217	15,843	19,901
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	2,045	3,981	4,510	7,028	6,223	6,506	7,986
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	2,044	3,234	3,498	4,117	3,968	4,099	4,239
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	1,883	3,127	3,314	4,691	4,153	4,116	5,512
Public and other transportation .....	537	284	503	559	1,475	874	1,123	2,165
Healthcare .....	3,631	2,866	4,278	4,655	5,800	5,046	5,502	6,573
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,579	3,238	3,178	5,292	4,057	4,403	6,842
Personal care products and services .....	608	424	724	810	1,167	923	1,145	1,371
Reading .....	102	68	108	136	211	163	174	273
Education .....	1,138	636	803	1,212	3,061	1,862	2,075	4,642
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	325	413	434	272	315	294	225
Miscellaneous .....	645	429	643	874	1,338	1,024	1,183	1,678
Cash contributions .....	1,834	1,080	2,407	2,258	4,263	2,824	3,561	5,816
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	2,252	6,793	8,341	15,987	10,641	13,920	21,372
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	186	393	377	761	498	681	1,011
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	2,065	6,400	7,964	15,226	10,143	13,240	20,361

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table 4. Age of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013

Item	All consumer units	Under 25 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and older	65-74 years	75 years and older
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	8,275	20,707	21,257	24,501	22,887	28,042	16,024	12,018
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$27,914	\$59,002	\$78,385	\$78,879	\$74,182	\$45,157	\$53,451	\$34,097
Age of reference person .....	50.1	21.6	29.8	39.7	49.7	59.2	74.3	68.8	81.6
Average number in consumer unit:									
People .....	2.5	2.0	2.8	3.4	2.7	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.6
Children under 18 .....	.6	.4	1.1	1.4	.6	.2	.1	.1	( <sup>1</sup> )
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	.1	.1	1.4	1.4	1.3
Earners .....	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.3	.5	.7	.2
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.1	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.6	1.9	1.3
Percent homeowner .....	64	14	40	62	69	79	81	82	79
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$30,373	\$48,087	\$58,784	\$60,524	\$55,892	\$41,403	\$46,757	\$34,382
Food .....	6,602	4,698	6,197	7,920	7,907	6,711	5,191	6,020	4,144
Food at home .....	3,977	2,602	3,559	4,641	4,701	4,232	3,327	3,728	2,825
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	363	467	646	650	573	457	488	418
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	580	775	993	1,048	898	689	809	538
Dairy products .....	414	274	383	495	475	426	351	380	314
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	448	689	866	857	797	663	730	580
Other food at home .....	1,412	936	1,245	1,641	1,672	1,538	1,168	1,320	975
Food away from home .....	2,625	2,096	2,639	3,280	3,206	2,479	1,864	2,292	1,319
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	379	489	443	545	465	326	400	232
Housing .....	17,148	10,379	17,207	20,619	19,001	17,937	14,204	15,639	12,314
Shelter .....	10,080	6,944	10,712	12,271	11,208	10,251	7,755	8,410	6,882
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	1,003	4,560	7,981	7,378	7,265	5,284	6,072	4,234
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	5,728	5,881	3,834	2,938	1,937	1,808	1,444	2,292
Other lodging .....	649	213	271	455	892	1,049	663	894	356
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	1,842	3,186	4,299	4,277	4,135	3,480	3,824	3,022
Household operations .....	1,144	428	1,404	1,612	1,020	1,034	1,007	984	1,037
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	323	497	674	751	706	682	803	532
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	842	1,408	1,763	1,745	1,811	1,280	1,618	841
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,513	1,832	1,960	1,826	1,563	1,022	1,222	768
Transportation .....	9,004	5,672	9,183	10,519	10,782	9,482	6,760	7,972	5,149
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	2,262	3,641	4,010	3,958	3,275	2,133	2,396	1,783
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	1,717	2,676	3,218	3,093	2,792	1,799	2,233	1,220
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	1,444	2,416	2,740	3,074	2,824	2,302	2,677	1,805
Public and other transportation .....	537	249	450	552	657	591	527	665	341
Healthcare .....	3,631	943	2,189	3,188	3,801	4,378	5,069	5,188	4,910
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,243	2,214	2,958	3,070	2,651	2,027	2,488	1,422
Personal care products and services .....	608	342	538	672	723	638	563	619	491
Reading .....	102	46	60	105	88	132	138	146	127
Education .....	1,138	2,055	1,019	903	1,970	1,241	319	349	280
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	219	309	331	447	438	185	258	89
Miscellaneous .....	645	207	577	643	686	841	628	672	571
Cash contributions .....	1,834	473	970	1,440	2,007	2,382	2,574	2,391	2,817
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	2,203	5,304	7,081	7,672	7,033	2,396	3,392	1,068
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	50	125	290	367	440	421	559	237
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	2,153	5,178	6,791	7,305	6,593	1,975	2,833	832

<sup>1</sup> Value is too small to display.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 5. Size of consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

Item	All consumer units	One person	Two or more people				
			Total	Two people	Three people	Four people	Five or more people
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	37,770	87,900	40,073	19,390	16,226	12,210
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$32,292	\$77,316	\$71,292	\$75,921	\$88,828	\$84,001
Age of reference person .....	50.1	53.9	48.4	54.4	45.6	42.2	41.8
Average number in consumer unit:							
People .....	2.5	1.0	3.1	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.7
Children under 18 .....	.6	n.a.	.8	.1	.7	1.5	2.8
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.3	.3	.6	.2	.1	.1
Earners .....	1.3	.6	1.6	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.1
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.4
Percent homeowner .....	64	50	70	73	67	69	66
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$31,248	\$59,510	\$54,568	\$59,029	\$68,299	\$65,129
Food .....	6,602	3,654	7,800	6,586	7,679	9,588	9,825
Food at home .....	3,977	2,126	4,726	3,862	4,730	5,794	6,309
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	289	647	506	643	822	910
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	412	1,036	834	1,025	1,237	1,495
Dairy products .....	414	233	487	402	476	615	630
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	419	885	746	865	1,066	1,159
Other food at home .....	1,412	773	1,672	1,375	1,721	2,054	2,116
Food away from home .....	2,625	1,528	3,074	2,725	2,949	3,794	3,516
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	339	488	573	428	464	316
Housing .....	17,148	11,751	19,454	17,757	19,039	22,511	21,617
Shelter .....	10,080	7,530	11,176	10,316	10,859	12,871	12,253
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	3,384	7,279	6,588	6,902	8,989	7,869
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	3,837	3,103	2,803	3,233	3,171	3,791
Other lodging .....	649	308	795	925	724	711	593
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	2,341	4,337	3,822	4,368	4,735	5,451
Household operations .....	1,144	610	1,373	1,033	1,486	2,044	1,419
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	368	757	726	666	906	803
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	903	1,810	1,859	1,660	1,954	1,690
Apparel and services .....	1,604	861	1,908	1,522	1,974	2,486	2,362
Transportation .....	9,004	4,952	10,737	9,491	11,160	12,529	11,789
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	1,592	3,993	3,370	4,381	5,023	4,053
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	1,373	3,143	2,686	3,144	3,670	3,942
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	1,676	2,967	2,741	3,083	3,216	3,208
Public and other transportation .....	537	311	634	693	553	621	586
Healthcare .....	3,631	2,375	4,169	4,532	3,919	3,971	3,632
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,547	2,878	2,676	2,604	3,452	3,238
Personal care products and services .....	608	360	711	695	650	815	728
Reading .....	102	74	115	136	83	101	113
Education .....	1,138	643	1,349	944	1,733	1,663	1,658
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	244	366	353	391	377	359
Miscellaneous .....	645	509	703	697	758	685	659
Cash contributions .....	1,834	1,382	2,028	2,503	1,572	1,754	1,561
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	2,558	6,804	6,103	7,038	7,904	7,274
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	158	388	426	352	366	348
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	2,400	6,416	5,676	6,686	7,538	6,926

n.a. Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table 6. Composition of consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013

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	Oldest child 6 to 17	Oldest child 18 or older			
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	60,304	26,456	28,668	5,559	14,066	9,042	5,180	6,777	58,589
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income before taxes .....	\$89,992	\$82,773	\$97,441	\$89,637	\$98,275	\$100,944	\$85,630	\$35,012	\$40,137
Age of reference person .....	50.6	58.6	43.2	32.4	40.8	53.5	50.6	38.4	50.9
Average number in consumer unit:									
People .....	3.2	2.0	4.0	3.5	4.2	4.0	4.9	3.0	1.7
Children under 18 .....	.9	n.a.	1.6	1.5	2.2	.6	1.3	1.8	.2
Adults 65 and older .....	.4	.7	.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	.3	.6	( <sup>1</sup> )	.3
Earners .....	1.6	1.2	2.0	1.7	1.7	2.5	2.2	1.0	.9
Vehicles .....	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.0	2.4	3.2	2.7	1.1	1.3
Percent homeowner .....	79	84	76	62	74	87	74	37	51
Average annual expenditures .....	\$66,855	\$61,246	\$72,518	\$66,247	\$72,639	\$76,085	\$64,841	\$37,752	\$36,263
Food .....	8,506	7,150	9,572	8,001	9,825	10,026	10,010	5,550	4,674
Food at home .....	5,065	4,168	5,674	4,921	5,715	6,015	6,622	3,697	2,830
Cereals and bakery products .....	692	540	814	679	833	854	843	545	383
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	1,092	901	1,201	962	1,203	1,327	1,544	823	604
Dairy products .....	534	441	606	566	630	585	638	381	288
Fruits and vegetables .....	971	828	1,065	932	1,096	1,082	1,243	624	526
Other food at home .....	1,776	1,458	1,989	1,783	1,952	2,167	2,354	1,325	1,028
Food away from home .....	3,441	2,982	3,898	3,080	4,111	4,011	3,388	1,853	1,845
Alcoholic beverages .....	514	601	452	516	399	511	381	179	403
Housing .....	21,374	19,184	23,678	25,385	23,840	22,412	19,804	14,703	13,061
Shelter .....	12,187	10,956	13,597	13,904	14,216	12,447	10,671	8,803	8,060
Owned dwellings .....	8,783	7,887	9,937	9,194	10,346	9,757	6,981	3,758	3,626
Rented dwellings .....	2,396	1,871	2,745	4,245	2,897	1,587	3,138	4,789	4,109
Other lodging .....	1,008	1,198	916	465	973	1,103	552	256	324
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	4,656	4,127	5,009	3,811	5,008	5,747	5,400	3,351	2,836
Household operations .....	1,585	1,131	2,084	4,523	1,789	1,042	1,142	1,096	696
Housekeeping supplies .....	850	814	869	887	854	887	939	451	446
Household furnishings and equipment .....	2,096	2,156	2,119	2,260	1,973	2,289	1,651	1,002	1,023
Apparel and services .....	2,076	1,672	2,461	2,519	2,540	2,310	2,124	1,595	1,097
Transportation .....	12,153	10,896	13,057	11,696	12,715	14,464	13,602	6,781	6,005
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	4,620	4,056	4,971	4,822	4,793	5,339	5,565	2,537	1,967
Gasoline and motor oil .....	3,453	2,928	3,840	3,068	3,879	4,252	3,990	2,045	1,811
Other vehicle expenses .....	3,322	3,089	3,510	3,210	3,266	4,110	3,501	1,905	1,889
Public and other transportation .....	757	822	737	597	777	763	545	294	338
Healthcare .....	4,917	5,477	4,436	3,503	4,344	5,153	4,715	1,752	2,523
Entertainment .....	3,240	2,976	3,630	2,629	4,154	3,356	2,484	1,724	1,781
Personal care products and services .....	776	772	791	708	772	872	730	548	438
Reading .....	136	164	112	77	115	130	118	58	74
Education .....	1,532	880	2,223	743	2,150	3,235	1,051	765	773
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	320	313	299	184	280	399	481	241	349
Miscellaneous .....	786	773	798	629	727	1,019	793	391	528
Cash contributions .....	2,466	3,226	1,955	1,482	1,880	2,363	1,416	751	1,308
Personal insurance and pensions .....	8,059	7,163	9,053	8,174	8,897	9,834	7,133	2,715	3,249
Life and other personal insurance .....	489	566	441	267	435	558	359	125	166
Pensions and Social Security .....	7,570	6,597	8,611	7,907	8,462	9,276	6,774	2,590	3,083

<sup>1</sup> Value is too small to display.

n.a. Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 7. Number of earners in consumer unit: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

Item	All consumer units	Single consumers		Consumer units of two or more people			
		No earner	One earner	No earner	One earner	Two earners	Three or more earners
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	16,287	21,482	12,730	25,960	39,074	10,137
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$18,467	\$42,775	\$33,241	\$60,151	\$94,313	\$111,100
Age of reference person .....	50.1	67.2	43.8	64.1	47.5	44.0	48.3
Average number in consumer unit:							
People .....	2.5	1.0	1.0	2.4	3.0	3.0	4.4
Children under 18 .....	.6	n.a.	n.a.	.4	1.0	.8	.9
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.7	.1	1.2	.3	.1	.2
Earners .....	1.3	n.a.	1.0	n.a.	1.0	2.0	3.4
Vehicles .....	1.9	.9	1.2	1.7	1.9	2.3	3.2
Percent homeowner .....	64	58	44	75	62	71	78
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$24,570	\$36,336	\$39,950	\$52,594	\$65,910	\$77,828
Food .....	6,602	3,087	4,096	5,697	7,229	8,278	10,516
Food at home .....	3,977	2,135	2,119	3,787	4,631	4,711	6,485
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	297	282	523	645	634	893
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	417	407	856	1,035	994	1,500
Dairy products .....	414	244	225	388	480	494	623
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	408	427	725	868	888	1,159
Other food at home .....	1,412	768	777	1,295	1,603	1,701	2,310
Food away from home .....	2,625	953	1,977	1,910	2,599	3,567	4,031
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	178	464	376	341	581	706
Housing .....	17,148	9,992	13,089	13,904	18,232	21,334	22,356
Shelter .....	10,080	6,034	8,664	7,128	10,785	12,376	12,643
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	2,938	3,723	4,497	6,404	8,380	8,767
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	2,889	4,556	1,873	3,684	3,150	2,977
Other lodging .....	649	207	385	758	696	846	898
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	2,321	2,355	3,558	4,061	4,421	5,700
Household operations .....	1,144	676	560	912	1,128	1,744	1,153
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	368	367	663	716	786	893
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	592	1,142	1,643	1,543	2,007	1,967
Apparel and services .....	1,604	586	1,074	1,041	1,984	2,112	1,976
Transportation .....	9,004	3,501	6,050	6,911	9,000	11,785	16,070
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	920	2,101	2,476	3,090	4,393	6,665
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	915	1,721	1,898	2,740	3,473	4,470
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	1,481	1,821	2,039	2,639	3,204	4,179
Public and other transportation .....	537	185	408	497	531	714	756
Healthcare .....	3,631	2,944	1,944	4,986	3,825	4,005	4,656
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,234	1,789	1,760	2,551	3,296	3,546
Personal care products and services .....	608	314	395	539	657	776	825
Reading .....	102	72	75	127	107	115	120
Education .....	1,138	502	749	706	1,121	1,393	2,573
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	229	256	308	336	373	490
Miscellaneous .....	645	416	580	501	590	779	961
Cash contributions .....	1,834	1,307	1,438	2,419	1,762	2,061	2,097
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	210	4,338	676	4,859	9,022	10,935
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	174	145	299	300	442	516
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	36	4,193	377	4,559	8,580	10,419

n.a. Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table 8. Housing tenure and type of area: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013

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) .....	125,670	80,077	46,886	33,191	45,593	114,948	38,145	76,803	10,722
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$78,465	\$92,163	\$59,116	\$37,998	\$65,204	\$55,386	\$70,079	\$48,565
Age of reference person .....	50.1	54.7	49.1	62.7	41.9	49.8	47.3	51.1	52.9
Average number in consumer unit:									
People .....	2.5	2.6	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.6	2.4
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.8	.3	.6	.6	.5	.6	.6
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.5	.2	.7	.2	.3	.3	.4	.4
Earners .....	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2
Vehicles .....	1.9	2.3	2.4	2.1	1.1	1.8	1.4	2.0	2.4
Percent homeowner .....	64	100	100	100	n.a.	62	47	70	79
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$59,672	\$68,416	\$46,899	\$36,008	\$51,872	\$45,323	\$55,079	\$42,784
Food .....	6,602	7,386	7,933	6,368	5,211	6,686	6,181	6,919	5,667
Food at home .....	3,977	4,439	4,683	3,968	3,155	4,000	3,675	4,149	3,717
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	606	644	534	432	545	505	564	522
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	935	970	865	718	863	795	893	788
Dairy products .....	414	464	489	416	324	412	372	430	437
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	838	896	727	595	763	747	770	611
Other food at home .....	1,412	1,596	1,684	1,425	1,087	1,417	1,255	1,492	1,357
Food away from home .....	2,625	2,947	3,250	2,401	2,055	2,686	2,507	2,770	1,950
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	497	554	390	352	455	470	448	334
Housing .....	17,148	19,072	23,299	13,087	13,762	17,646	16,281	18,317	11,801
Shelter .....	10,080	10,489	14,066	5,437	9,363	10,515	10,099	10,722	5,419
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	9,525	13,093	4,485	107	6,315	4,687	7,123	3,895
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	63	72	51	9,050	3,532	4,892	2,856	1,094
Other lodging .....	649	901	901	901	206	669	521	743	430
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	4,462	4,775	4,020	2,463	3,733	3,243	3,976	3,786
Household operations .....	1,144	1,432	1,646	1,127	639	1,183	1,042	1,254	724
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	777	772	786	409	640	576	669	693
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	1,911	2,040	1,716	889	1,575	1,321	1,696	1,179
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,730	1,907	1,418	1,381	1,641	1,599	1,659	1,200
Transportation .....	9,004	10,709	12,283	8,493	6,004	8,960	7,225	9,816	9,476
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	3,945	4,791	2,750	2,087	3,229	2,411	3,635	3,725
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	3,029	3,418	2,479	1,878	2,578	2,000	2,866	2,964
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	3,088	3,393	2,664	1,694	2,586	2,199	2,771	2,576
Public and other transportation .....	537	647	680	600	344	567	615	544	211
Healthcare .....	3,631	4,651	4,518	4,844	1,839	3,603	2,824	3,989	3,929
Entertainment .....	2,482	3,031	3,414	2,433	1,515	2,509	1,989	2,758	2,195
Personal care products and services .....	608	713	780	601	423	624	599	635	441
Reading .....	102	128	122	137	57	104	89	111	89
Education .....	1,138	1,305	1,585	902	843	1,194	1,044	1,268	537
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	321	335	301	345	313	260	339	508
Miscellaneous .....	645	808	853	736	358	653	556	701	551
Cash contributions .....	1,834	2,375	2,184	2,645	883	1,838	1,489	2,011	1,797
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	6,947	8,648	4,543	3,036	5,646	4,716	6,108	4,259
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	446	480	398	95	317	286	332	342
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	6,501	8,168	4,145	2,941	5,330	4,430	5,777	3,917

n.a. Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 9. Race of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

Item	All consumer units	White and all other races, and Asian			Black or African American
		Total	White and all other races <sup>1</sup>	Asian	
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	109,939	104,561	5,377	15,732
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$66,717	\$66,090	\$78,912	\$43,288
Age of reference person .....	50.1	50.4	50.7	44.0	48.0
Average number in consumer unit:					
People .....	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.5
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.6	.6	.7
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.4	.4	.2	.2
Earners .....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.1
Vehicles .....	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.2
Percent homeowner .....	64	67	67	54	43
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$53,101	\$52,740	\$60,167	\$37,080
Food .....	6,602	6,805	6,743	8,073	5,168
Food at home .....	3,977	4,074	4,057	4,413	3,290
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	556	553	627	453
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	850	844	981	899
Dairy products .....	414	435	439	367	263
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	775	764	1,020	574
Other food at home .....	1,412	1,456	1,458	1,418	1,101
Food away from home .....	2,625	2,731	2,686	3,660	1,878
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	479	486	326	201
Housing .....	17,148	17,634	17,463	20,918	13,748
Shelter .....	10,080	10,379	10,186	14,143	7,992
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	6,495	6,403	8,291	3,406
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	3,180	3,084	5,049	4,325
Other lodging .....	649	704	699	803	261
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	3,756	3,770	3,481	3,605
Household operations .....	1,144	1,190	1,180	1,377	826
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	673	682	490	441
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	1,635	1,645	1,427	884
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,605	1,583	2,073	1,595
Transportation .....	9,004	9,371	9,381	9,165	6,437
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	3,437	3,470	2,797	2,114
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	2,682	2,689	2,557	2,117
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	2,676	2,689	2,419	1,940
Public and other transportation .....	537	576	534	1,393	266
Healthcare .....	3,631	3,862	3,894	3,255	2,013
Entertainment .....	2,482	2,644	2,661	2,321	1,344
Personal care products and services .....	608	623	621	666	506
Reading .....	102	110	111	89	50
Education .....	1,138	1,202	1,098	3,233	687
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	346	357	122	217
Miscellaneous .....	645	679	690	462	407
Cash contributions .....	1,834	1,912	1,900	2,148	1,289
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	5,830	5,754	7,315	3,417
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	328	330	286	255
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	5,502	5,424	7,029	3,162

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 10. Hispanic or Latino origin of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

Item	All consumer units	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino		
			Total	White and all other races	Black or African American
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	15,979	109,691	94,226	15,465
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$47,438	\$66,165	\$69,911	\$43,342
Age of reference person .....	50.1	43.2	51.1	51.6	48.0
Average number in consumer unit:					
People .....	2.5	3.2	2.4	2.3	2.5
Children under 18 .....	.6	1.0	.5	.5	.7
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.2	.4	.4	.2
Earners .....	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.2
Percent homeowner .....	64	45	66	70	44
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$41,958	\$52,432	\$54,953	\$37,027
Food .....	6,602	6,771	6,573	6,807	5,126
Food at home .....	3,977	4,042	3,966	4,071	3,315
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	519	547	562	457
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	1,009	832	820	907
Dairy products .....	414	419	413	437	263
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	828	738	764	579
Other food at home .....	1,412	1,267	1,435	1,488	1,109
Food away from home .....	2,625	2,729	2,606	2,736	1,811
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	365	457	498	201
Housing .....	17,148	15,316	17,418	18,021	13,732
Shelter .....	10,080	9,314	10,192	10,554	7,986
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	3,886	6,432	6,927	3,418
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	5,195	3,051	2,845	4,303
Other lodging .....	649	232	709	782	265
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	3,351	3,793	3,822	3,620
Household operations .....	1,144	878	1,183	1,242	826
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	567	657	691	443
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	1,206	1,593	1,712	856
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,924	1,554	1,554	1,554
Transportation .....	9,004	7,622	9,206	9,656	6,463
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	2,484	3,386	3,589	2,151
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	2,578	2,616	2,698	2,120
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	2,210	2,640	2,756	1,926
Public and other transportation .....	537	350	564	613	267
Healthcare .....	3,631	1,931	3,879	4,187	2,003
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,635	2,609	2,816	1,339
Personal care products and services .....	608	524	621	638	512
Reading .....	102	38	112	122	51
Education .....	1,138	497	1,231	1,319	694
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	154	355	377	220
Miscellaneous .....	645	421	677	722	407
Cash contributions .....	1,834	884	1,972	2,083	1,300
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	3,876	5,769	6,153	3,426
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	127	347	361	258
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	3,748	5,422	5,792	3,168

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 11. Region of residence: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

Item	All consumer units	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	125,670	22,769	27,905	46,913	28,084
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$71,606	\$63,184	\$58,624	\$66,658
Age of reference person .....	50.1	51.9	49.7	50.3	48.6
Average number in consumer unit:					
People .....	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.6
Children under 18 .....	.6	.5	.6	.6	.6
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.4	.3	.3	.3
Earners .....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.6	2.1	1.8	1.9
Percent homeowner .....	64	63	67	66	57
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$57,027	\$50,527	\$45,956	\$55,460
Food .....	6,602	7,033	6,592	6,056	7,180
Food at home .....	3,977	4,222	4,119	3,607	4,267
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	604	584	492	544
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	943	821	835	856
Dairy products .....	414	462	436	352	458
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	819	781	634	862
Other food at home .....	1,412	1,394	1,497	1,293	1,548
Food away from home .....	2,625	2,811	2,473	2,449	2,913
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	527	436	360	528
Housing .....	17,148	20,341	15,914	15,000	19,376
Shelter .....	10,080	12,517	9,055	8,327	12,053
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	7,742	5,917	5,141	6,590
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	4,012	2,437	2,670	4,739
Other lodging .....	649	763	701	517	724
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	4,126	3,564	3,772	3,535
Household operations .....	1,144	1,387	1,068	1,000	1,264
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	648	665	586	721
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	1,665	1,563	1,315	1,802
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,816	1,485	1,453	1,801
Transportation .....	9,004	9,354	9,102	8,673	9,168
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	3,279	3,494	3,222	3,124
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	2,389	2,616	2,726	2,594
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	2,889	2,463	2,395	2,768
Public and other transportation .....	537	797	528	330	682
Healthcare .....	3,631	3,784	4,095	3,295	3,609
Entertainment .....	2,482	2,615	2,460	2,165	2,928
Personal care products and services .....	608	626	575	556	714
Reading .....	102	117	113	79	119
Education .....	1,138	1,870	1,207	728	1,159
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	343	358	344	267
Miscellaneous .....	645	654	656	587	720
Cash contributions .....	1,834	1,527	2,081	1,683	2,089
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	6,422	5,453	4,975	5,801
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	376	310	310	295
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	6,045	5,143	4,665	5,506

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

Table 12. Occupation of reference person: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013

Item	Self-employed 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) .....	7,964	75,318	28,804	20,328	14,904	3,746	7,536	24,041	18,346
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income before taxes .....	\$94,004	\$74,959	\$103,730	\$62,798	\$50,976	\$59,083	\$53,115	\$37,802	\$38,837
Age of reference person .....	50.2	43.8	44.6	42.8	43.4	41.5	45.6	73.2	45.5
Average number in consumer unit:									
People .....	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8	1.7	2.8
Children under 18 .....	.6	.7	.7	.6	.7	.8	.7	.1	.9
Adults 65 and older .....	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	1.2	.2
Earners .....	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	.2	.6
Vehicles .....	2.1	2.0	2.1	1.9	1.7	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.5
Percent homeowner .....	74	61	70	58	50	56	57	81	47
Average annual expenditures .....	\$67,558	\$55,870	\$71,881	\$50,351	\$41,513	\$48,140	\$43,119	\$40,237	\$38,852
Food .....	8,092	7,130	8,744	6,725	5,553	6,315	6,094	5,151	5,803
Food at home .....	4,626	4,126	4,748	3,893	3,512	3,776	3,943	3,332	3,974
Cereals and bakery products .....	609	564	644	534	488	530	535	455	551
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	922	888	973	857	798	874	857	702	905
Dairy products .....	495	423	501	389	354	429	376	349	431
Fruits and vegetables .....	929	770	908	712	665	623	716	668	716
Other food at home .....	1,671	1,481	1,722	1,401	1,207	1,319	1,458	1,158	1,372
Food away from home .....	3,466	3,004	3,995	2,831	2,041	2,539	2,151	1,820	1,829
Alcoholic beverages .....	693	505	678	488	308	478	350	339	247
Housing .....	20,981	18,560	23,498	16,815	14,618	15,574	13,852	13,906	13,975
Shelter .....	12,166	11,102	14,218	10,039	8,712	8,969	7,845	7,569	8,273
Owned dwellings .....	8,384	6,675	9,478	5,791	4,166	4,966	4,160	5,084	4,135
Rented dwellings .....	2,631	3,776	3,675	3,798	4,138	3,706	3,426	1,764	3,810
Other lodging .....	1,151	650	1,065	451	407	297	259	721	328
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	4,331	3,883	4,277	3,687	3,554	3,733	3,635	3,388	3,335
Household operations .....	1,530	1,258	1,889	1,044	755	749	679	981	723
Housekeeping supplies .....	885	647	871	584	442	541	501	626	570
Household furnishings and equipment .....	2,069	1,670	2,243	1,461	1,155	1,581	1,192	1,341	1,074
Apparel and services .....	2,016	1,767	2,373	1,678	1,313	1,158	1,106	1,072	1,483
Transportation .....	10,421	10,136	11,983	9,460	7,975	10,428	9,155	6,994	6,378
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,493	3,796	4,283	3,608	2,965	4,498	3,732	2,476	2,062
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,976	2,976	3,252	2,803	2,579	3,387	2,972	1,747	2,087
Other vehicle expenses .....	3,163	2,770	3,470	2,641	2,057	2,258	2,228	2,304	1,942
Public and other transportation .....	789	594	978	408	373	286	223	467	286
Healthcare .....	4,877	3,290	4,128	3,048	2,329	2,562	3,020	5,077	2,599
Entertainment .....	3,188	2,711	3,707	2,464	1,823	2,047	1,815	1,996	1,889
Personal care products and services .....	747	650	863	634	460	442	407	565	441
Reading .....	128	99	141	84	68	39	72	134	64
Education .....	1,669	1,241	1,883	898	835	1,088	595	326	1,553
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	334	332	231	382	343	534	464	212	472
Miscellaneous .....	928	683	879	583	524	981	378	619	400
Cash contributions .....	2,787	1,745	2,623	1,319	1,016	1,406	1,146	2,446	986
Personal insurance and pensions .....	10,697	7,021	10,152	5,773	4,348	5,088	4,667	1,401	2,563
Life and other personal insurance .....	537	326	478	253	196	219	251	335	174
Pensions and Social Security .....	10,160	6,695	9,674	5,520	4,152	4,869	4,415	1,066	2,390

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

CONSUMER EXPENDITURES IN 2013

**Table 13. Highest education level of any member: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2013**

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) .....	125,670	77,102	9,974	26,151	26,646	14,331	48,568	28,552	20,016
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income before taxes .....	\$63,784	\$43,135	\$24,078	\$38,064	\$45,440	\$61,369	\$96,564	\$80,844	\$118,987
Age of reference person .....	50.1	50.7	54.4	53.0	47.9	48.8	49.2	47.9	51.0
Average number in consumer unit:									
People .....	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.6
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.8	.5	.5	.7	.6	.6	.6
Adults 65 and older .....	.3	.4	.4	.4	.3	.3	.3	.3	.4
Earners .....	1.3	1.1	.7	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.7	1.1	1.6	1.7	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2
Percent homeowner .....	64	57	45	59	55	66	74	70	79
Average annual expenditures .....	\$51,100	\$38,630	\$25,971	\$34,385	\$41,203	\$50,842	\$70,774	\$63,165	\$81,645
Food .....	6,602	5,458	4,331	4,908	5,831	6,745	8,361	7,829	9,130
Food at home .....	3,977	3,492	3,072	3,279	3,557	4,159	4,719	4,543	4,975
Cereals and bakery products .....	544	479	412	451	491	569	642	635	653
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	856	803	719	762	812	941	939	932	948
Dairy products .....	414	358	336	336	363	411	500	470	544
Fruits and vegetables .....	751	628	590	580	640	737	938	870	1,038
Other food at home .....	1,412	1,225	1,015	1,150	1,251	1,501	1,700	1,636	1,793
Food away from home .....	2,625	1,967	1,258	1,629	2,273	2,585	3,642	3,286	4,155
Alcoholic beverages .....	445	305	151	237	365	445	659	577	777
Housing .....	17,148	13,178	9,866	12,002	13,896	16,373	23,435	20,903	27,050
Shelter .....	10,080	7,479	5,820	6,722	8,007	9,032	14,211	12,653	16,433
Owned dwellings .....	6,108	3,848	2,157	3,417	4,035	5,463	9,696	8,373	11,585
Rented dwellings .....	3,324	3,348	3,589	3,120	3,590	3,145	3,285	3,373	3,161
Other lodging .....	649	283	74	184	383	424	1,229	908	1,688
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,737	3,372	2,576	3,341	3,361	4,005	4,316	4,090	4,638
Household operations .....	1,144	689	376	562	760	1,008	1,866	1,424	2,498
Housekeeping supplies .....	645	527	430	453	556	709	824	776	893
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,542	1,111	665	924	1,211	1,620	2,218	1,960	2,588
Apparel and services .....	1,604	1,229	1,074	1,042	1,319	1,561	2,182	2,108	2,290
Transportation .....	9,004	7,157	4,239	6,456	7,508	9,862	11,925	11,209	12,946
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,271	2,538	1,359	2,396	2,482	3,719	4,436	4,211	4,755
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,611	2,328	1,483	2,183	2,432	2,987	3,061	3,003	3,144
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,584	2,053	1,260	1,699	2,306	2,827	3,419	3,248	3,660
Public and other transportation .....	537	239	138	178	288	330	1,010	746	1,386
Healthcare .....	3,631	2,958	2,009	2,811	3,122	3,580	4,698	4,251	5,336
Entertainment .....	2,482	1,817	1,065	1,530	1,965	2,636	3,528	3,089	4,158
Personal care products and services .....	608	445	299	396	488	566	862	790	966
Reading .....	102	63	30	54	72	84	166	129	219
Education .....	1,138	537	151	270	815	778	2,090	1,703	2,644
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	330	416	317	472	377	460	192	231	136
Miscellaneous .....	645	468	325	332	535	690	926	794	1,114
Cash contributions .....	1,834	1,138	620	1,004	1,193	1,639	2,939	2,100	4,136
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,528	3,461	1,493	2,874	3,718	5,424	8,810	7,454	10,743
Life and other personal insurance .....	319	209	103	222	191	292	493	375	661
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,209	3,252	1,390	2,651	3,527	5,132	8,317	7,078	10,083

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



# Technical Notes

## Brief description of the Consumer Expenditure Survey

The annual CE began in 1980. Its principal objective is to collect information on the buying habits of Americans. 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 CE survey, which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for BLS, consists of two components: A diary (or recordkeeping) survey completed by participating consumer units for two consecutive 1-week periods and an interview survey by which expenditures of consumer units is obtained in four 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 payment is made at the time of purchase. Expenditure amounts include all sales and excise taxes for items purchased by the consumer unit. All business-related expenditures are excluded from both surveys, as are expenditures for which the consumer unit is reimbursed. Each component of the survey queries an independent sample of consumer units that are 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. With the rotating panel, some consumer units drop out of the survey each quarter, while others come in. Each consumer unit is interviewed once per quarter, for four 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, such as 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 buying. 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 spent while traveling overnight 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 is designed to do on its own. Data on some expenditure items are collected in only one of the surveys. For example, the Diary Survey does not collect information on reimbursements, whereas the Interview Survey does. Examples of expenditures for which reimbursements are excluded from the Diary Survey are medical care; automobile repairs; 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 reviewed every 2 years and statistical methods are used to select the best source. See “CE Source Selection for Publication Tables” in the Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2011 (**BLS Report, no. 1030**) for source selection details.

The population and spending coverage of the CE differs from that of the CPI. The CE data cover the total population including rural areas, 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 the difference between the average for all consumer units and the average for those purchasing the item. Similarly, 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 characteristics, 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, all prices, as measured by the CPI-U, increased 1.6 percent from 2013 (annual average index) to 2014 (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 highest education level of any consumer-unit member. Tables for the aforementioned classifications, but with more detail than is given in this report, can be accessed on the CE page of the BLS website (<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 gender, cross-tabulated by either income or age
3. Selected metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs).

Data are available for 1984–2013. Other survey information available on the website 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.

Prepublication tables containing additional detailed subcategories of spending are available upon request to [CEXInfo@bls.gov](mailto:CEXInfo@bls.gov). These detailed level tables have higher variances.

## Other available data

The 2013 CE public-use microdata, including Interview Survey data, Diary Survey data, and paradata (information about the survey process), are available on the CE website for free electronic download. The Interview files contain expenditure data in two different formats: MTBI files that present monthly values in an item-coding framework based on the CPI pricing scheme, and EXPN files that organize expenditures by the section of the Interview questionnaire in which they are collected. Expenditure values on EXPN files cover different time periods depending on the specific questions asked, and the files also contain relevant nonexpenditure information not found on the MTBI files. The public-use microdata for 2013 also includes the new estimates of local, state, and federal tax liabilities. The CE introduced these estimates to improve the quality of the surveyed tax liabilities, which suffered from low response rates. The surveyed tax data will still be available for 2013, after which they will no longer be collected. For more information on the improvements, see *Estimating Taxes in the Consumer Expenditure Survey*, and for new applications of the tax estimates see *New and Improved Estimates of Personal Income Taxes have Tripled the Tax Data*, both soon to be published by BLS. Past releases of CE public-use microdata that were previously only available on USB flash drives for purchase will become available on the CE website for free download. The 1999 to 2012 releases are already available online. Previously

published releases will be posted incrementally online in reverse chronological order through the 1996 release. For releases published before 1996 and those not yet available online, users can continue to purchase USB flash drives using the public-use microdata order form (see [www.bls.gov/cex/pumdhome.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cex/pumdhome.htm)). Future releases of public-use microdata will be available online for free download.

The Consumer Expenditure program also publishes **BEYOND THE NUMBERS** articles. 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. As of December 2014, the most recent of these reports is *Income and spending patterns among Black households*. Additional data also are presented in articles in the *Monthly Labor Review*. These reports can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm#publications>. For more detailed information on the availability of current and earlier data, contact the Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey, Office of Prices and Living Conditions, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212-0001 or call (202) 691-6900; Email: [cexinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cexinfo@bls.gov). Online at <http://www.bls.gov/cex>. Information in this publication is in the public domain and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission. Information in this report is available upon request to sensory-impaired individuals: Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.