



For Release: Friday, November 07, 2014

14-2059-CHI

MIDWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Chicago, Ill.

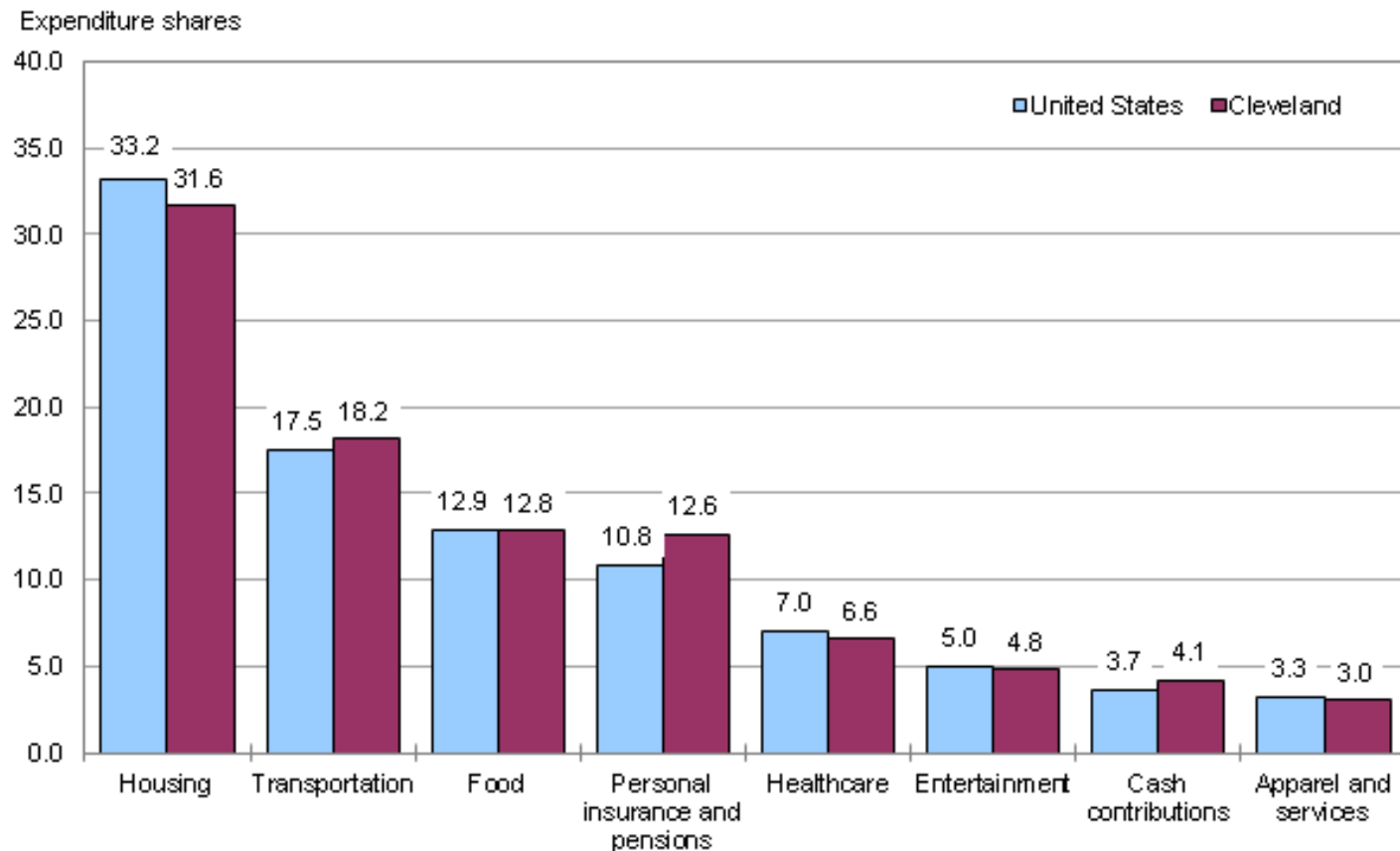
Technical information: (312) 353-1880 BLSInfoChicago@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/midwest

Media contact: (312) 353-1138

Consumer Expenditures for the Cleveland Metropolitan Area: 2012-2013

Consumer units in the Cleveland-Akron, Ohio, metropolitan area spent an average of \$49,438 per year in 2012-2013, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that this figure was similar to the \$51,299 average expenditure level for a typical household in the United States. In addition to spending about the same as U.S. households, consumer units in the Cleveland area also allocated their dollars similarly among all but one of the major consumer expenditure categories. Personal insurance and pensions was the only category where the expenditure share in Cleveland (12.6 percent) differed significantly from the national average (10.8 percent). (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Percent distribution of average annual expenditures for eight major categories in the United States and Cleveland metropolitan area, 2012-2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Housing in the Cleveland metropolitan area averaged \$15,644 annually and was the largest expenditure category, accounting for 31.6 percent of a Cleveland area household's total budget. (See [tables 1 and 2](#).) This share was similar to the 33.2-percent national average. Overall, 8 of the 18 published metropolitan areas had expenditure shares for housing significantly above the U.S. average. In contrast, one area, Detroit, had a share for housing that was significantly below the U.S. average. (See [table 3](#) and [chart 2](#).) Housing expenditures among the 18 areas ranged from 39.9 percent in Miami to 30.0 percent in Detroit. (See [table 3](#).)

The majority of housing expenditures in Cleveland went toward shelter, 57.8 percent, which includes mortgage interest, property taxes, repairs, and rent among other items; nationwide, 58.6 percent of the average housing budget was allocated for shelter. (See [table A](#).) Utilities, fuels, and public services expenses accounted for 23.4 percent of the housing budget locally; nationally, they made up 21.7 percent. The rate of homeownership in Cleveland, at 64 percent, was the same as the U.S. average.

Table A. Percent distribution of housing expenditures, United States and Cleveland, 2012-13

Category	United States	Cleveland
Total housing	100.0	100.0
Shelter	58.6	57.8
Utilities, fuels, and public services.....	21.7	23.4
Household operations	6.8	6.1
Housekeeping supplies	3.7	3.6
Household furnishings and equipment.....	9.2	9.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 due to rounding.

At 18.2 percent of the total budget, transportation was the second-largest expenditure category in the Cleveland area; the local share was not significantly different from the national average of 17.5 percent. Among the 18 published metropolitan areas nationwide, 6 had below-average transportation shares. Two areas, Houston and Detroit, had shares that were significantly above the national average at 21.0 and 19.7 percent, respectively. (See [table 3](#).)

Of the \$8,977 in annual expenditures for transportation in Cleveland, 96.0 percent was spent buying and maintaining private vehicles; this compared to the national average of 94.0 percent. The remaining 4.0 percent of a Cleveland household's transportation budget was spent on public transit, which includes fares for taxis, buses, trains, and planes. Nationally, 6.0 percent of transportation expenditures went to public transit. (See [table B](#).) The average number of vehicles per household in Cleveland (1.8) was similar to the national average (1.9).

Table B. Percent distribution of transportation expenditures, United States and Cleveland, 2012-13

Category	United States	Cleveland
Transportation	100.0	100.0
Vehicle purchases (net outlays)	36.0	42.8
Gasoline and motor oil	29.8	25.5
Other vehicle expenses.....	28.2	27.6
Public transportation.....	6.0	4.0

Note: Columns may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The portion of a Cleveland consumer unit's budget spent on food, 12.8 percent, was not significantly different from the 12.9-percent U.S. average. Among the 18 metropolitan areas, 12 had food expenditure shares that were not significantly different from the nationwide average. (See [table 3](#).)

Households in Cleveland spent \$3,783, or 59.6 percent, of their food dollars on food at home and the remaining 40.4 percent (\$2,563) on food prepared away from home, such as restaurant meals, carry-out, board at school, and catered affairs. In comparison, the typical U.S. household spent 59.8 percent of its food budget on food at home and 40.2 percent on food prepared away from home.

As noted, Cleveland is 1 of 18 metropolitan areas nationwide for which Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data are available. Metropolitan area CE data and that for the four geographic regions of the United States are available on our Web site at <https://www.bls.gov/ce/tables.htm>. Metropolitan area CE news releases are available at <https://www.bls.gov/regions/subjects/consumer-spending.htm>.

Additional Information

Data contained in this release are from the CE, which is conducted on an ongoing basis by the U.S. Census Bureau for the BLS. The CE data in this release were averaged over a two-year period, 2012 and 2013. CE data are available for the nation, the 4 geographic regions of the country, and 18 metropolitan areas. The metropolitan area discussed in this release is Cleveland-Akron, Ohio, which is comprised of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit Counties in Ohio.

The survey consists of two components, a diary or recordkeeping survey, and an interview survey. The integrated data from the BLS Diary and Interview Surveys provide a complete accounting of consumer expenditures and income, which neither survey component alone is designed to do. Due to changes in the survey sample frame, metropolitan area data in this release are not directly comparable to those prior to 1996.

A consumer unit is defined as members of a household related by blood, marriage, adoption, or other legal arrangement; a single person living alone or sharing a household with others but who is financially independent; or two or more persons living together who share responsibility for at least 2 out of 3 major types of expenses – food, housing, and other expenses. The terms household or consumer unit are used interchangeably for convenience.

CE metropolitan area estimates are not comparative cost of living surveys, as neither the quantity nor the quality of goods and services has been held constant among areas. Differences may result from variations in demographic characteristics such as consumer unit size, age, preferences, income levels, etc. However, expenditure shares, or the percentage of a consumer unit's budget spent on a particular category, can be used to compare spending patterns across areas. Sample sizes for the metropolitan areas are much smaller than for the nation, so the U.S. estimates and year-to-year changes are more reliable than those for the metropolitan areas. Users should also keep in mind that prices for many goods and services have changed since the survey was conducted.

Expenditure shares for housing and transportation that are above or below that for the nation after testing for significance at the 95-percent confidence interval are also identified in charts 2 and 3 for the 18 metropolitan areas surveyed.

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with our ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

For additional technical and related information, see www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch16.htm.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Percent distribution of average annual expenditures, United States and Cleveland metropolitan area, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013

Category	United States	Cleveland
Average annual expenditures	\$51,299	\$49,438
Percent distribution:.....	100.0	100.0
Food	12.9	12.8
Alcoholic beverages	0.9	0.8
Housing	33.2	31.6
Apparel and services.....	3.3	3.0
Transportation	17.5	18.2
Health care	7.0	6.6
Entertainment	5.0	4.8
Personal care products and services	1.2	1.1
Reading	0.2	0.2*
Education	2.3	2.3
Tobacco products and smoking supplies.....	0.6	0.6
Miscellaneous.....	1.4	1.2
Cash contributions.....	3.7	4.1
Personal insurance and pensions	10.2	12.6*

*Statistically significant difference from the U.S. average at the 95-percent confidence level.

Note: Numbers may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Table 2. Consumer unit characteristics and average annual expenditures, United States and Cleveland metropolitan area, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013

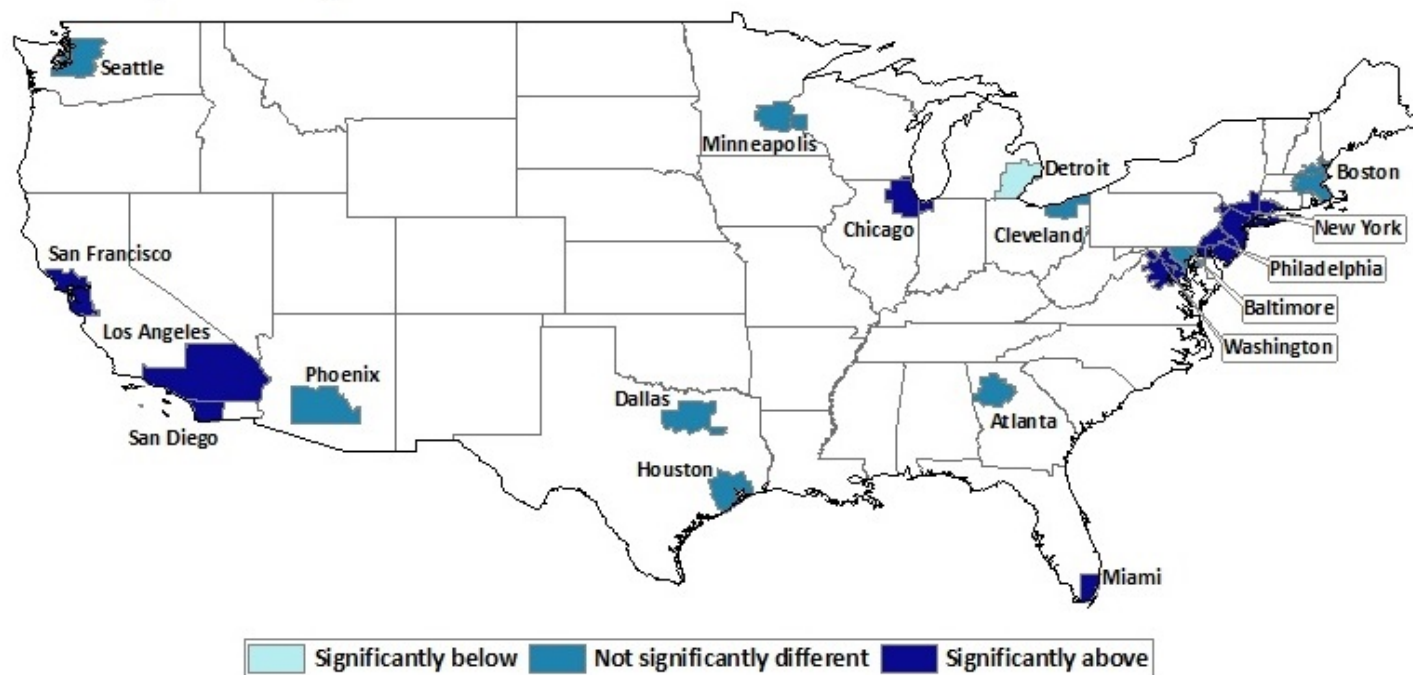
Category	United States	Cleveland
Consumer unit characteristics:		
Income before taxes	\$64,686	\$68,443
Age of reference person	50.1	54.2
Average number in consumer unit:		
Persons	2.5	2.4
Children under 18	0.6	0.5
Persons 65 and over	0.3	0.4
Earners	1.3	1.2
Vehicles	1.9	1.8
Percent homeowners	64	64
Average annual expenditures	\$51,299	\$49,438
Food	6,600	6,346
Food at home	3,949	3,783
Cereals and bakery products	541	514
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	854	884
Dairy products	416	406
Fruits and vegetables	741	668
Other food at home	1,397	1,311
Food away from home	2,651	2,563
Alcoholic beverages	448	411
Housing	17,030	15,644
Shelter	9,986	9,047
Owned dwellings	6,082	5,666
Rented dwellings	3,255	2,665
Other lodging	649	716
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,693	3,663
Household operations	1,152	957
Housekeeping supplies	627	564
Household furnishings and equipment	1,571	1,414
Apparel and services	1,677	1,498
Transportation	9,001	8,977
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,241	3,846
Gasoline and motor oil	2,683	2,292
Other vehicle expenses	2,537	2,480
Public transportation	540	360
Healthcare	3,594	3,251
Entertainment	2,553	2,378
Personal care products and services	618	564
Reading	106	84
Education	1,172	1,116
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	331	286
Miscellaneous	736	593
Cash contributions	1,873	2,046
Personal insurance and pensions	5,559	6,242
Life and other personal insurance	336	238
Pensions and Social Security	5,224	6,005

Table 3. Percent share of average annual expenditures for housing, transportation, and food, United States and 18 metropolitan areas, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013

Area	Housing	Transportation	Food
United States	33.2	17.5	12.9
Atlanta	33.4	17.1	12.6
Baltimore	32.5	15.5	11.0*
Boston	32.6	15.6*	13.3
Chicago	35.4*	15.6*	12.7
Cleveland	31.6	18.2	12.8
Dallas	33.5	17.9	12.6
Detroit	30.0*	19.7*	13.5
Houston	33.1	21.0*	12.0
Los Angeles	38.2*	15.4*	13.4
Miami	39.9*	16.2	14.0
Minneapolis	32.0	18.3	11.3*
New York	39.8*	13.5*	11.9*
Philadelphia	35.4*	15.4*	13.7
Phoenix	34.8	18.9	13.6
San Diego	38.2*	15.8	11.5*
San Francisco	35.8*	13.7*	11.9*
Seattle	33.4	15.6	13.0
Washington	35.3	16.7	10.9*

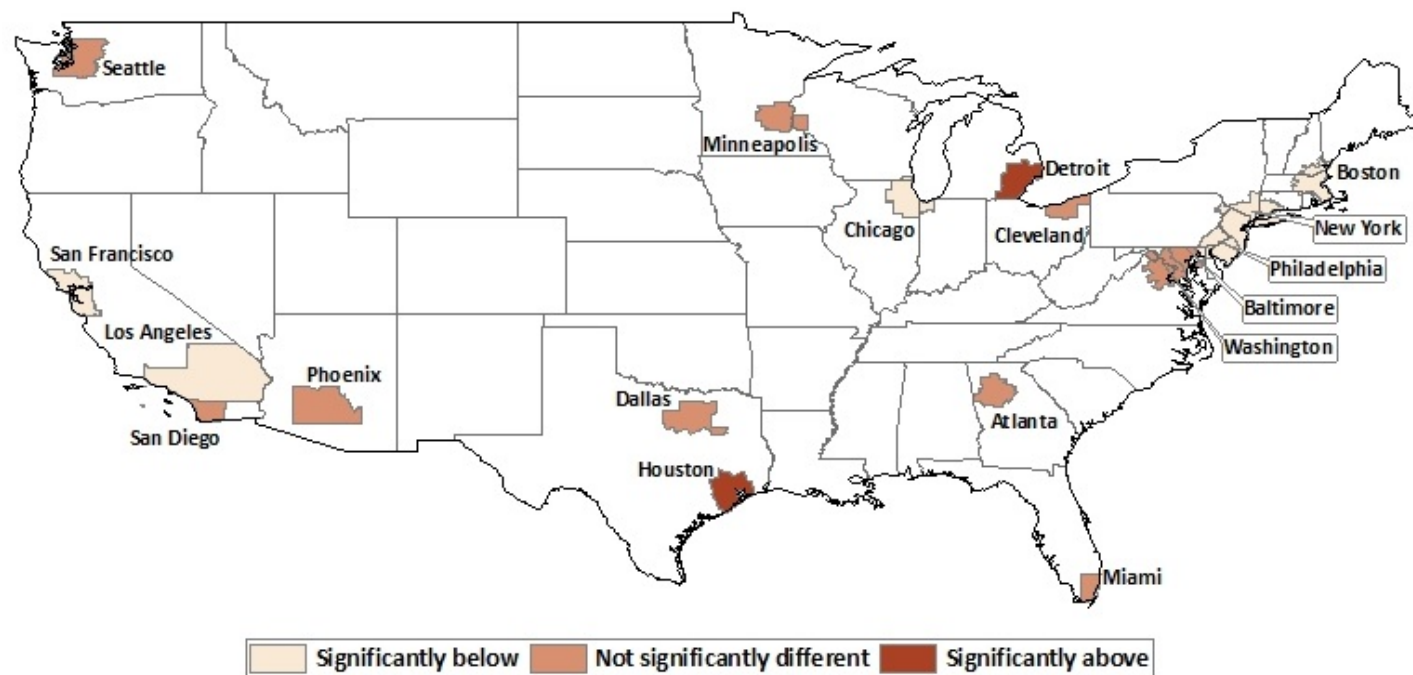
*Statistically significant difference from the U.S. average at the 95-percent confidence level.

Chart 2. Expenditure shares spent on housing in 18 metropolitan statistical areas compared to the U.S. average, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013



Note: Statistical significance testing at the 95-percent confidence interval.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Chart 3. Expenditure shares spent on transportation in 18 metropolitan statistical areas compared to the U.S. average, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012-2013



Note: Statistical significance testing at the 95-percent confidence interval.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.