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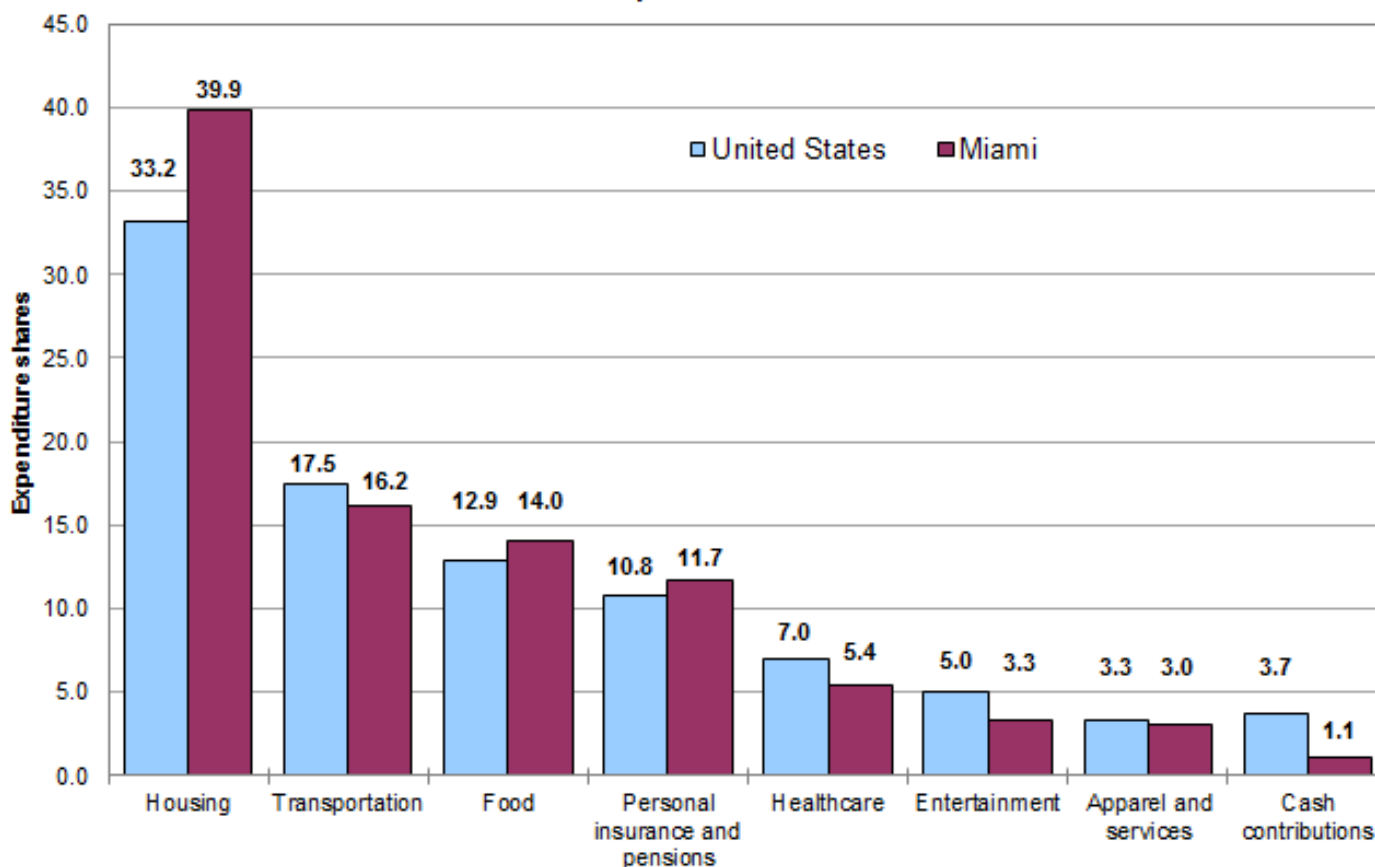
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Consumer Expenditures for the Miami Area: 2012-2013

Consumer units in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla., metropolitan area spent an average of \$40,604 per year in 2012-2013, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that this figure was about 21 percent lower than the \$51,299 average expenditure level for a typical household in the United States. Not only did households in the Miami area spend less than the U.S. average, they also allocated their dollars differently in four of the eight major categories. For example, the expenditure for healthcare, which accounted for 5.4 percent of a typical Miami household budget, was significantly less than the national average of 7.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Housing in the Miami metropolitan area averaged \$16,212 annually and was the largest expenditure category, accounting for 39.9 percent of a Miami area household’s total budget; significantly higher than the national average of 33.2 percent. (See tables 1 and 2.) Overall, 8 of the 18 published metropolitan areas had expenditure shares for housing significantly above the U.S. average. Only one area, Detroit, had a share for housing that was significantly below the U.S. average. (See chart 2.) At 39.9 percent, Miami had the highest expenditure share for housing among the 18 areas; Detroit had the lowest share at 30.0 percent. (See table 3.)

The majority of housing expenditures in Miami went toward shelter, 67.7 percent, which includes mortgage interest, property taxes, repairs, and rent, among other items; nationwide, 58.6 percent of the housing budget was allocated for shelter. (See table A.) Utilities, fuels, and public services expenses accounted for 19.9 percent of the housing budget locally; nationally, it made up 21.7 percent. The rate of home ownership in Miami was 57 percent, compared to the U.S. average of 64 percent.

Table A. Percent distribution of housing expenditures, United States and Miami, 2012-2013

Category	United States	Miami
Total housing	100.0	100.0
Shelter	58.6	67.7
Utilities, fuels, and public services.....	21.7	19.9
Household operations	6.8	4.3
Housekeeping supplies	3.7	3.6
Household furnishings and equipment.....	9.2	4.5

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

At 16.2 percent of the total budget, transportation was the second largest expenditure category in the Miami area, not significantly different than the national average of 17.5 percent. Among the 18 metropolitan areas nationwide, 6 had below average transportation expenditure shares. Two areas had transportation shares that were measurably above the U.S. average. (See chart 3.)

Of the \$6,573 in annual expenditures for transportation in Miami, 94.1 percent was spent buying and maintaining private vehicles; this was similar to the national average of 94.0 percent. The remaining 5.9 percent of a Miami household’s transportation budget was spent on public transit, which includes fares for taxis, buses, trains, and planes; this allocation was similar to the 6.0-percent national average. (See table B.) The average number of vehicles per household in Miami was 1.3 and the national average was 1.9.

Table B. Percent distribution of transportation expenditures, United States and Miami, 2012-2013

Category	United States	Miami
Transportation	100.0	100.0
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	36.0	16.6
Gasoline and motor oil	29.8	39.0
Other vehicle expenses	28.2	38.5
Public transportation.....	6.0	5.9

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

The portion of a Miami consumer unit’s budget spent on food, 14.0 percent, was not significantly different than the U.S. average. Among the 18 metropolitan areas, 12 had food expenditure shares that were not measurably different from the nationwide average. (See table 3.)

Households in Miami spent \$3,479, or 61.1 percent, of their food dollars on food at home and the remaining 38.9 percent (\$2,216) 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 away from home.

As noted, Miami 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/cex/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 report are from the CE, which is collected on an ongoing basis by the U.S. Census Bureau for the BLS. The CE data 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 Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla., which is comprised of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties in Florida.

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 documentation and related information, see <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch16.htm>.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-6915200. Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Percent distribution of average annual expenditures, United States and Miami, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2012-13

Category	United States	Miami
Average annual expenditures.....	\$51,299	\$40,604
Percent distribution:.....	100.0	100.0
Food	12.9	14.0
Alcoholic beverages	0.9	0.7*
Housing	33.2	39.9*
Apparel and services.....	3.3	3.0
Transportation	17.5	16.2
Healthcare	7.0	5.4*
Entertainment	5.0	3.3*
Personal care products and services	1.2	1.6
Reading	0.2	0.1*
Education	2.3	1.4*
Tobacco products and smoking supplies.....	0.6	0.4*
Miscellaneous.....	1.4	1.1
Cash contributions.....	3.7	1.1*
Personal insurance and pensions	10.8	11.7

Note: An asterisk (*) represents a statistically significant difference from the U.S. average at the 95-percent confidence level. Columns may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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

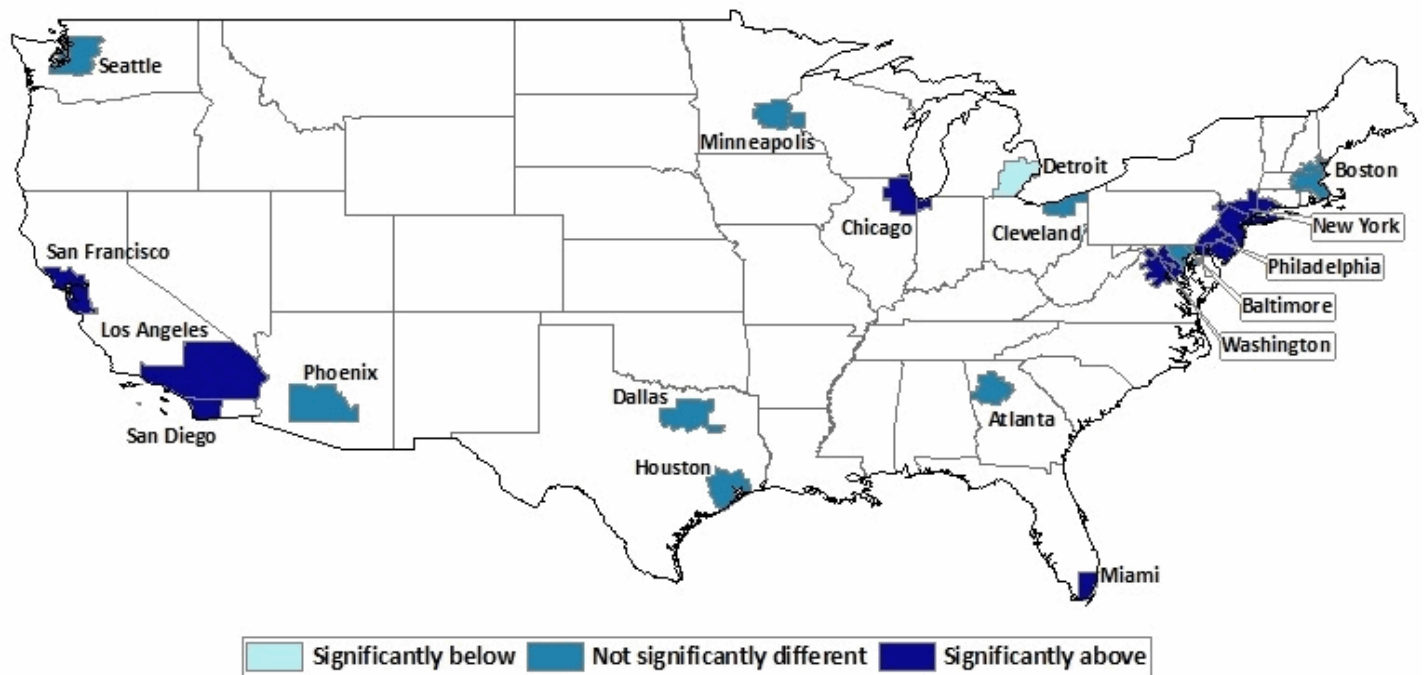
Category	United States	Miami
Consumer unit characteristics:		
Income before taxes.....	\$64,686	\$56,094
Age of reference person.....	50.1	51.3
Average number in consumer unit:		
Persons.....	2.5	2.5
Children under 18.....	0.6	0.6
Persons 65 and over.....	0.3	0.3
Earners.....	1.3	1.2
Vehicles.....	1.9	1.3
Percent homeowners.....	64	57
Average annual expenditures:		
Average annual expenditures.....	\$51,299	\$40,604
Food.....	6,600	5,695
Food at home.....	3,949	3,479
Cereals and bakery products.....	541	498
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	854	931
Dairy products.....	416	363
Fruits and vegetables.....	741	709
Other food at home.....	1,397	977
Food away from home.....	2,651	2,216
Alcoholic beverages.....	448	264
Housing.....	17,030	16,212
Shelter.....	9,986	10,983
Owned dwellings.....	6,082	5,838
Rented dwellings.....	3,255	4,631
Other lodging.....	649	515
Utilities, fuels, and public services.....	3,693	3,219
Household operations.....	1,152	700
Housekeeping supplies.....	627	578
Household furnishings and equipment.....	1,571	732
Apparel and services.....	1,677	1,219
Transportation.....	9,001	6,573
Vehicle purchases (net outlay).....	3,241	1,089
Gasoline and motor oil.....	2,683	2,562
Other vehicle expenses.....	2,537	2,533
Public transportation.....	540	389
Healthcare.....	3,594	2,204
Entertainment.....	2,553	1,352
Personal care products and services.....	618	666
Reading.....	106	48
Education.....	1,172	586
Tobacco products and smoking supplies.....	331	162
Miscellaneous.....	736	446
Cash contributions.....	1,873	446
Personal insurance and pensions.....	5,559	4,731
Life and other personal insurance.....	336	270
Pensions and Social Security.....	5,224	4,461

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*

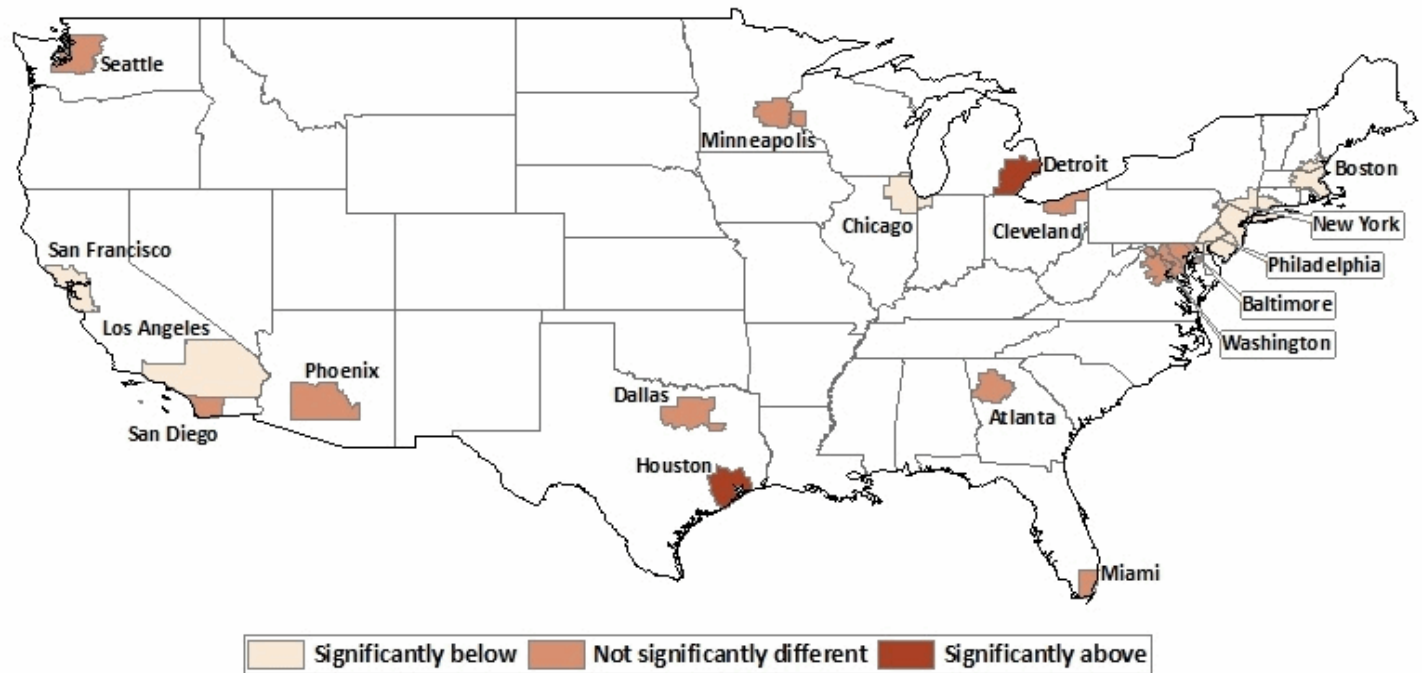
Note: An asterisk (*) represents a statistically significant difference from the U.S. average at the 95-percent confidence level.

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.