

Preface

This is the third in a series of reports presenting articles pertaining to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE). The most recent report, *Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2005*, was published in April 2005. As in the previous anthologies, articles discussing ongoing research and methodological issues pertaining to the CE and analytical articles using this survey's data are included in this report. For the first time, articles discussing processing methods and improvements are also included here.

This report was prepared in the Office of Prices and Living Conditions, Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys (DCES), under the general direction of Steve Henderson, Chief of the Branch of Information and Analysis, and was produced and edited by John M. Rogers, Section Chief. Articles on research and methodology were contributed by Lucilla Tan and Nhien To of the Branch of Research and Program Development; Sylvia Johnson-Herring, Susan King, and Sharon Krieger of the Division of Price Statistical Methods; and Nathan McDermott formerly of the Branch of Production and Control. Articles on processing improvements were contributed by Steven Bass, Brendan Livingston, and Nathan McDermott, all formerly of the Branch of Production and Control. Analytical articles were contributed by Brett Creech, Meaghan Duetsch, Geoffrey Paulin, and Mark Vendemia of the Branch of Information and Analysis.

This report was edited by Brian Baker, Edith Baker, and Monica Gabor of the Office of Publications and Special Studies; and Margaret Jones, of the same office provided layout services.

BLS makes CE data available in news releases, reports, and articles in the *Monthly Labor Review*, as well as on CD-ROMs and on the Internet. A biennial report includes standard tables of recent survey data, a discussion of expenditure changes, and a description of the survey and its methods. Current and historical CE tables classified by standard demographic variables are available at the BLS Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/cex>. This site also provides other survey information, including answers to frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, order forms for survey products, articles from the *Monthly Labor Review*, and other research articles.

The material that follows is divided into three sections: Section 1 includes articles on survey research and methodology, section 2 includes articles on processing issues and improvements, and section 3 presents analysis of topics of interest based on CE data. An appendix includes a general description of the survey and its methods and a glossary of terms.

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