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**CONSUMER EXPENDITURES MIDYEAR UPDATE -- JULY 2012  
THROUGH JUNE 2013 AVERAGE**

Average expenditures per consumer unit<sup>1</sup> for July 2012 through June 2013 were 1.5 percent higher than the July 2011 through June 2012 midyear average, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

Most major components of household spending increased over the 12 months ending June 2013. The 6.6-percent rise in cash contributions (including payments for support of college students, alimony and child support, and giving to charities and religious organizations) was the largest percentage increase among all major components. This was followed by a 5.8-percent increase in transportation spending. Average incomes were essentially unchanged, showing a slight drop of 0.2 percent.

**Table A. Average expenditures and characteristics of all consumer units and percent changes, Consumer Expenditure Survey**

Item	July 2011 - June 2012 Average	July 2012 - June 2013 Average	Percent change
			July 2011 - June 2012 to July 2012 - June 2013
Income before taxes.....	\$65,132	\$65,029	-0.2
Average annual expenditures.....	50,631	51,408	1.5
Food.....	6,532	6,598	1.0
Food at home.....	3,905	3,899	-0.2
Food away from home.....	2,628	2,698	2.7
Housing.....	16,940	17,041	0.6
Apparel and services.....	1,730	1,706	-1.4
Transportation.....	8,505	8,999	5.8
Health care.....	3,466	3,520	1.6
Entertainment.....	2,573	2,586	0.5
Cash contributions.....	1,829	1,949	6.6
Personal insurance and pensions....	5,565	5,573	0.1
All other expenditures.....	3,489	3,437	-1.5

<sup>1</sup> Consumer units include families, single persons living alone or sharing a household with others but who are financially independent, or two or more persons living together who share expenses.

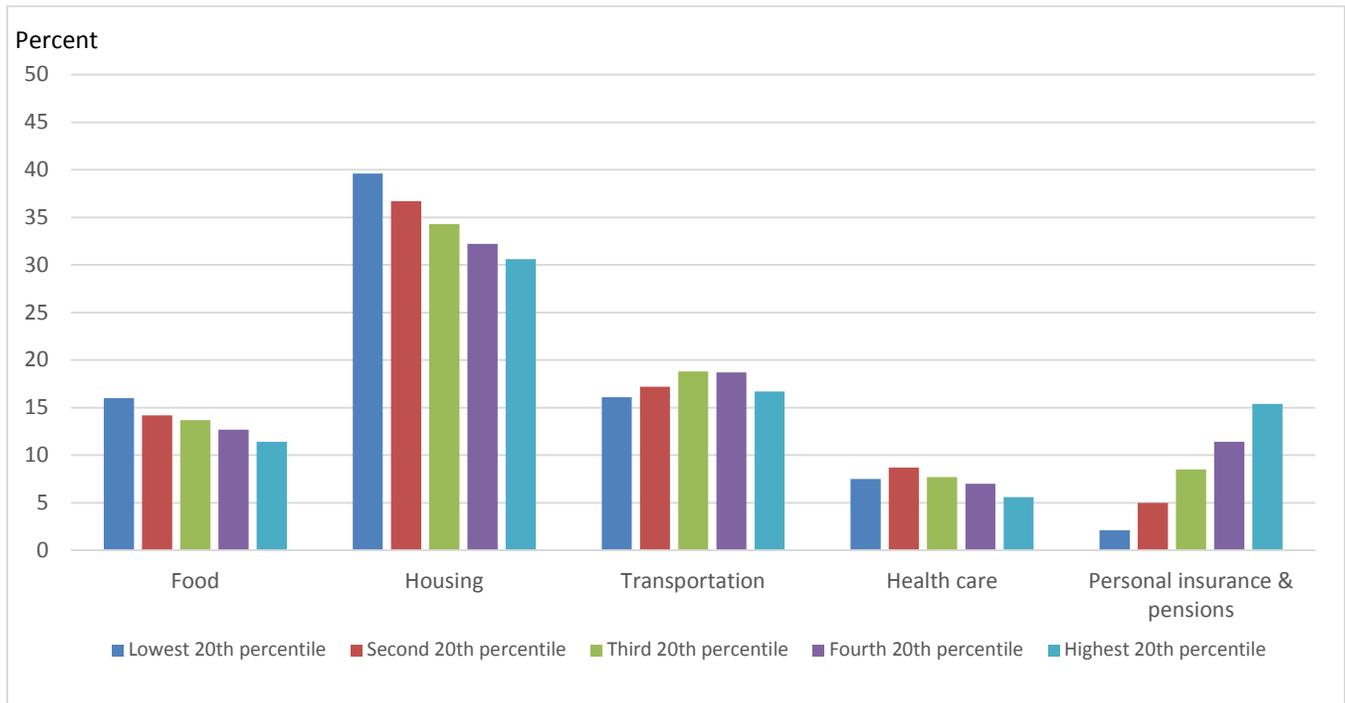
## Spending by selected demographics

Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) data measure how consumers allocate their spending among the various components of total expenditures. For example, table B and chart 1 compare the share allocated to selected expenditures by income quintiles. The lowest income quintile allocated larger shares to food and housing than the other quintiles. The highest income group allocated a larger share to personal insurance and pensions (including payments for life insurance, other nonhealth insurance, pensions, and Social Security) than any other group. No clear pattern existed for the shares allocated to transportation and health care among the income quintile groups.

**Table B. Shares of average expenditures on selected major components by income quintiles, July 2012 through June 2013**

Item	Income Quintiles				
	Lowest 20th percentile	Second 20th percentile	Third 20th percentile	Fourth 20th percentile	Highest 20th percentile
Food.....	16.0	14.2	13.7	12.7	11.4
Housing.....	39.6	36.7	34.3	32.2	30.6
Transportation.....	16.1	17.2	18.8	18.7	16.7
Health care.....	7.5	8.7	7.7	7.0	5.6
Personal insurance & pensions.	2.1	5.0	8.5	11.4	15.4

**Chart 1. Shares of average expenditures on selected major components by income quintiles, July 2012 through June 2013**



## Spending patterns, July 2012 – June 2013 compared to July 2011 – June 2012

Table C and chart 2 show amounts spent for selected expenditure components from the middle of 2011 through June 2013. Spending results included:

- Cash contributions, which include payments for support of college students, alimony and child support, and giving to charities and religious organizations, continued to increase.
- The 5.8 percent increase in transportation expenditures was driven by vehicle purchases. Spending on used cars and trucks increased 19.7 percent and new cars and trucks increased 6.4 percent.
- Expenditures on gasoline and motor oil were unchanged during the same period.
- Health care spending rose to \$3,520 for July 2012 through June 2013. This was caused by a 4.0 percent increase in health insurance expenditures. The level of spending for health care has increased every year beginning in 1996.
- Mortgage interest and charges for owned homes, a subcomponent of housing, fell to \$3,075 for July 2012 through June 2013.

**Table C. Average consumer expenditures for selected components**

Item	July 2011 - June 2012 Average	July 2012 - June 2013 Average	Percent change
			July 2011 - June 2012 to July 2012 - June 2013
Cash contributions.....	\$1,829	\$1,949	6.6
Transportation.....	8,505	8,999	5.8
New cars and trucks.....	1,448	1,540	6.4
Used cars and trucks.....	1,327	1,588	19.7
Gasoline and motor oil.....	2,706	2,706	0.0
Health care.....	3,466	3,520	1.6
Mortgage interest and charges.....	3,153	3,075	-2.5

**Chart 2. Average consumer expenditures for selected components**

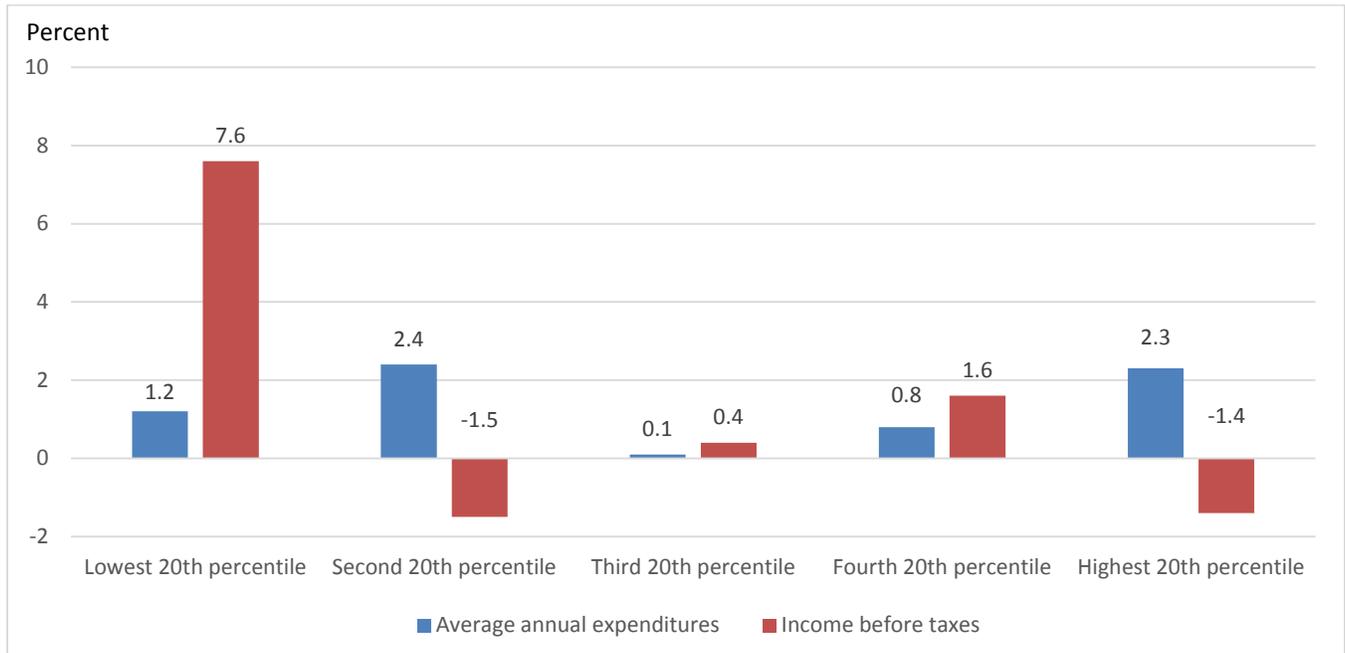


Table D and chart 3 show expenditures and income before taxes by quintile from the middle of 2011 through June 2013. All quintiles showed small increases in spending across the 12 months ending June 2013. There was no obvious trend in income changes by quintile.

**Table D. Percent change in average annual expenditures and income before taxes by income quintile**

Income quintile	Average annual expenditures			Income before taxes		
	July 2011 - June 2012	July 2012- June 2013	Percent change	July 2011 - June 2012	July 2012- June 2013	Percent change
Lowest 20th percentile	22,067	22,336	1.2	9,455	10,174	7.6
Second 20th percentile	32,299	33,075	2.4	27,518	27,094	-1.5
Third 20th percentile	42,666	42,728	0.1	46,823	47,017	0.4
Fourth 20th percentile	58,688	59,155	0.8	74,781	75,990	1.6
Highest 20th percentile	97,382	99,651	2.3	167,012	164,647	-1.4

**Chart 3. Percent change in average annual expenditures and income before taxes by income quintile, July 2012 – June 2013 compared to July 2011 – June 2012**



Consumer Expenditure Survey data include the expenditures and income of consumers, as well as the demographic characteristics of those consumers. Tables with more expenditure detail than provided in this release are available at [www.bls.gov/cex](http://www.bls.gov/cex). Newly published tables provide July 2012 through June 2013 average CE data by standard classifications that include income quintile, income class, age of reference person, size of consumer unit, number of earners, composition of consumer unit, region of residence, housing tenure, type of area (urban-rural), race, Hispanic origin, occupation, and highest education level of any member. The midyear tables add spending information from January through June 2013 while dropping the January through June 2012 expenditures.

## Other available data

Data tables with more detailed subcategories of expenditures are available by sending a request to [cexinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cexinfo@bls.gov).

The 2012 Annual Report includes a brief discussion of expenditure changes in 2012 and tables with data classified by the standard characteristics that are included on the website (see [www.bls.gov/cex/csxann12.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxann12.pdf)). Future articles in the BLS *Beyond the Numbers* web report series will highlight recent trends in prices and spending in the U.S. economy, and will feature CE data. Recent CE-specific articles provide analyses of topical economic issues and long term spending trends, as well as comparisons of CE data to other data series (see [www.bls.gov/cex/csxwebarticles.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxwebarticles.htm) and [www.bls.gov/cex/cecomparison.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cex/cecomparison.htm)). Additional methodological and analytical articles using CE data will be published in 2014. All data published in the Annual Report and posted to the website are integrated from the two CE components—the quarterly Interview Survey and weekly Diary Survey.

Other survey information available on the Internet includes answers to frequently asked questions, a glossary, order forms for survey products, and analytical articles that use CE data. Also available are the Diary Survey questionnaire form and a modified version of the computer assisted personal interview (CAPI) instrument used to collect the Interview Survey data.

The 2004 through 2012 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 non-expenditure information not found on the MTBI files. Prior releases will be posted incrementally online in reverse chronological order through the 1996 release. For releases prior to 1996 and those not yet available online for download, users can continue to purchase USB flash drives using the public-use microdata order form (see [www.bls.gov/cex/pumhome.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cex/pumhome.htm)). All future releases of public-use microdata will solely be available online for free electronic download.

Annual public-use microdata covering an entire calendar year will continue to be released in September, and will not be released on a rolling half-year basis.

The annual CE Microdata Users' Workshop and Survey Methods Symposium will be held July 15-18, 2014 at the Bureau of Labor Statistics national office. Registration is free. More information and the registration form are available at [www.bls.gov/cex/csxannualworkshop.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cex/csxannualworkshop.htm).

For further information, contact the Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey, Office of Prices and Living Conditions at (202) 691-6900 or by email at [cexinfo@bls.gov](mailto:cexinfo@bls.gov). Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1 (800) 877-8339.