
Information Dissemination and Data Users

Outline

- **Disseminating CE Products and Services:**
 - Expenditure tables
 - Public use microdata
 - Reports and analysis
- **Data Users of the CE and their needs**

CE: the Face of America

How you spend your money matters

As the founder of *American Demographics* magazine, Peter Francisco (currently director of Demographic Forecasts for The New England Economic Partnership) states: "Providers of goods and services need timely and accurate information about consumer demand. It is vitally important for marketers and forecasters to understand the spending behavior trends of different types of households such as home-owners, or married couples. Only the BLS surveys are large, accurate, and consistent enough to provide nationally comparable data on consumer spending for so many different consumer groups. The BLS survey data is of great value to businesses looking at where to expand (and thus to create jobs), but it is also useful to answer questions about the need for a livable housing or public transportation. I have been using the Consumer Expenditure data for many purposes for over 30 years, and I can safely say that our economic growth would be a lot less predictable and probably smaller without it."

Your input is important. How important? Your household, chosen randomly to participate, actually represents as many as 15,000 other households. By participating, you make sure that the *Consumer Expenditure Survey* is as accurate as possible and represents all Americans. You are helping the United States and performing a public service. Your participation gives you a voice in the statistics that are used to evaluate and guide the actions of the Federal Government. By law, your participation is kept confidential, and you cannot be identified by your responses.



Denver

"Households in the Denver area spent less in 2003-2004 than in the previous 2 years but still exceeded the typical U.S. household by 15.5 percent..."

Rocky Mountain News, 5.19.2005



Atlanta

"...Atlantans are spending 18.7 percent of annual household expenditures on transportation...Atlantans spend more on housing, 36.8 percent."

Jeanne Frankston, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 6.15.2005



Seattle

"Households in the Seattle Tacoma-Bremerton area spent an average of \$48,348 a year in 2001-2002, about 21 percent more than the typical U.S. household..."

Stephen H. Dunphy, The Seattle Times, 5.16.2004

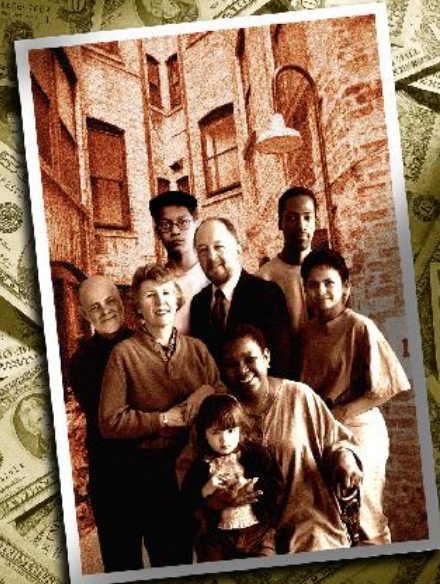


New York City

"The New York family's expenses in 2003 were about 25 percent higher, at \$50,319, than the national average. The bulk of that money went toward housing, transportation and food, in that order."

Derrick McGeehan, The New York Times, 5.20.2008

How YOU spend your money...



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Helping You Make Informed Decisions



CE Tables and Source Selection

Published expenditures come from combining Interview and Diary items:

- The two surveys have approximately 225 overlapping **detailed expenditure categories (UCC's) out of 900**
- The CE publishes integrated data, selecting just one source for a published expenditure
- In general, the source with the higher mean is selected
- Exceptions are based on insufficient sample size and the need for including reimbursements

We publish Standard Tables on the Web using integrated data from both surveys

Expenditures by Age, Income, Household size,



Standard Tables on the Web

Expenditures by Education level, Race, Ethnicity, Region,



Standard Tables on the Web

By income quintile, by Urban/Rural, by family size and age of children, and owner/renter.



Additional on-line CE Tables

In addition, the CE publishes:

- Annual Expenditure Share tables for the same categories
- Aggregate Expenditure Share Tables
- Annual Standard Error Tables –variance data available starting in 2000
- 2-Year cross-tabulated tables, such as consumer unit size by income
- 2-Year Metropolitan Statistical Area tables

30 Page Prepublication Table

Available Only Upon Request

Contains the most detailed subcategories.

Table 1732. Housing tenure and type of area: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2005

Item	All consumer units	Housing tenure				Type of area			
		Total	Homeowner with mortgage	Homeowner without mortgage	Renter	Urban			Rural
						Total	Central City	Outer Urban	
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	117,358	78,072	50,072	28,000	38,294	107,387	34,332	72,705	10,289
Consumer unit characteristics:									
Income source (dollars)	\$26,712	\$16,791	\$22,422	\$23,543	\$13,783	\$26,874	\$21,898	\$16,791	\$40,554
Income after taxes	25,224	17,828	24,512	24,732	12,978	21,460	19,855	16,969	44,873
Age of reference person	49.8	52.3	48.5	62.5	43.9	48.4	48.8	49.2	51.0
Average number in consumer unit:									
Persons	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.5
Children under 18	.8	.8	.9	.3	.8	.8	.8	.7	.8
Persons 65 and over	.3	.4	.3	.7	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Bachelors	1.3	1.4	1.3	2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3
Vehicles	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.0	1.3	1.9	1.5	2.1	2.0
Vehicles (owned)	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.0	1.2	1.8	1.4	2.1	2.0
Vehicles (leased)	.1	.1	.1	(¹)	(¹)	.1	(¹)	.1	(¹)
Percent distribution:									
Sex of reference person:									
Male	47	48	50	48	45	47	45	48	47
Female	53	52	50	52	55	53	55	52	53
Housing tenure:									
Homeowner	67	100	100	100	n/a	68	52	73	82
With mortgage	43	80	100	n/a	n/a	43	34	47	43
Without mortgage	24	20	0	100	n/a	25	18	26	39
Renter	33	n/a	n/a	n/a	100	34	48	27	18
Race of reference person:									
Race of African-American	12	9	9	9	19	13	20	9	5
White, Asian, and all other races	88	91	91	91	81	87	80	91	95
White	82	88	87	93	74	81	72	88	93
Asian	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	3	(¹)
All other races	7	2	7	1	3	2	3	2	1
Hispanic or Latino origin of reference person:									
Hispanic or Latino	11	8	9	8	16	11	18	8	2
Not Hispanic or Latino	89	92	91	92	84	89	82	91	98
Education of reference person:									
Elementary (1-5)	5	4	3	7	3	5	8	4	8
High school (9-12)	38	32	28	42	48	35	34	35	43
College	59	62	69	50	52	60	59	60	48
Never attended and other	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Owned site vehicle owned or leased	88	90	87	91	74	87	79	81	85
Owned site vehicle owned	87	94	89	90	72	85	75	80	85
Owned site vehicle leased	4	5	8	3	3	4	4	5	3
Average annual expenditures	\$48,438.93	\$54,729.89	\$62,294.48	\$18,674.98	\$36,482.10	\$47,119.81	\$41,697.53	\$49,747.86	\$33,465.69
Food	5,691.28	6,712.38	7,235.22	5,628.57	4,234.88	6,815.80	5,490.90	6,247.98	5,103.00
Food at home	3,298.98	3,883.49	3,971.52	3,315.98	2,475.29	3,229.50	3,096.90	3,430.98	3,007.49
Cereals and bakery products*	445.00	500.28	517.55	482.74	330.35	447.93	403.82	487.28	419.87
Cereals and cereal products*	143.90	159.55	162.35	141.04	116.78	143.33	137.63	149.79	139.21
Flour*	4.90	5.18	5.23	4.83	4.48	4.71	4.52	4.79	5.82
Prepared flour mixes*	11.88	13.87	14.35	12.01	7.14	11.80	10.51	12.38	15.82
Ready-to-eat and cooked cereals*	88.14	96.51	99.12	96.90	70.80	87.85	82.14	90.25	93.85
Rice*	18.27	19.88	17.53	17.85	11.34	17.13	18.63	19.91	8.23
Pasta, cornmeal and other cereal products*	21.80	24.41	25.72	21.82	16.76	21.85	20.98	22.87	22.89
Bakery products*	303.19	344.83	365.20	323.79	213.58	306.83	288.99	321.48	277.37
Bread*	94.90	88.80	95.82	91.58	66.23	85.19	75.88	89.27	82.11
With yeast*	32.04	34.87	35.83	32.00	21.83	31.89	29.51	32.93	35.49



Public Use Microdata CDs

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics sells CD-ROMs containing annual CE Survey public use microdata
- The CD-ROMs contain Interview survey data, Diary survey data, summary variables, and sample programs

Public Use Microdata

- The microdata CDs contain a detailed description of the demographic characteristics of each consumer unit and a description of the reported expenditures and dollar amounts
- Care is taken to protect the confidentiality of the respondents through topcoding or adding noise to the data, and by suppressing some geographic and other details

Public Use Microdata

- The CE sells approximately 300 of these CDs annually
- Each summer the CE hosts a free workshop for microdata users to learn how to correctly use the data. First held in July 2006
- Hands-on training in the BLS computer labs and information sessions conducted by staff and microdata users

Other CE Data Products

- Press Releases and Annual Report
- Biannual Reports
- CE Research Anthologies
- MLR articles, Quarterly *Focus* articles, & more

Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2005



U.S. Department of Labor
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
April 2006
Report 961



Data Users of the CE and their needs

- CPI
- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)
- IRS
- U.S. Defense Department
- U.S. Bureau of the Census
- Other Federal Agencies
- State governments
- Businesses
- Researchers
- General Public

CPI

- The CPI has been moving towards a cost of living index with more frequently updated relative shares
- The weights make a difference – the 2006 Social Security payments indexed to the CPI were higher because the CPI-W showed inflation increased **faster for wage earners' expenditures than for the overall CPI-U.**

BEA use of CE data

- **The CE provides data on Owners' Equivalent Rent**
- used in calculating the Group Health Insurance component of Employer Contributions for Employee Pension and Insurance Funds for the national income estimates
- **used to estimate tenants' unreimbursed** expenditures for major replacements and for maintenance and repairs
- used for estimates of motor vehicle leasing and taxicab expenditures.

IRS

- The CE produces special data tabulations on the purchase of taxable items for use in calculating the sales tax deductions
- The IRS also uses CE data in evaluating standard expenditures and income for targeted groups



Defense Department

- The Defense Department uses CE data in calculating cost-of-living allowances for military personnel not living on military bases
- The CE annually provides 3-year compilations of expenditures by these personnel



US Census Bureau and Poverty Measures

- US Census Bureau with the BLS Division of Price Index Number Research (DPINR) has done extensive research on alternative and supplemental measures of poverty using CE data.
- These measures are based on recommendations by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and observations of a 2010 Interagency Technical Working Group.
- More information is at:
<http://www.bls.gov/pir/spmhome.htm>

US Census Bureau and Construction Put in Place

The Census Bureau uses annual CE data to estimate improvements in residences for their PFEI
Construction Put in Place



Other Customers

- Federal agencies
- State governments
- Reporters
- Businesses and Attorneys
- Research Firms
- Universities and Students
- General Public

Examples of General Research Needs

- Total expenditures in one time period for a household
- Detailed demographic data – number and ages of persons, education, race, income, taxes, work status and occupation (especially farmer/military, wage earner & clerical) urban/rural, Hispanic origin, etc.
- 12-months of spending for one consumer unit
- Assets and liabilities and accurate savings information
- Housing description
- Information about vehicles
- Supporting information for poverty calculations regarding near-cash income and public transfers

General Public

Our most popular web pages according to the number of hits in 2010 were:

- Reports on annual spending
- Research anthologies
- Standard tables by age, income, or household composition
- Our online information about the surveys

Publication Schedule

- CE Data are released annually and are final upon release
- No preliminary estimates