

Table 1. Consumer unit characteristics, average annual expenditures, and share of average annual expenditures, U.S. and Boston metropolitan area, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2006-2007

Item	United States		Boston	
	Expenditure	Share	Expenditure	Share
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes	\$61,820		\$80,966	
Age of reference person	48.8		48.1	
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons	2.5		2.3	
Children under 18	0.6		0.6	
Persons 65 and over	0.3		0.3	
Earners	1.3		1.4	
Vehicles	1.9		1.7	
Percent homeowners	67		62	
Average annual expenditures	\$49,279	100.0	\$55,189	100.0
Food	6,122	12.4	6,700	12.1
Food at home	3,441		3,893	
Cereals and bakery products	453		553	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	787		887	
Dairy products	378		423	
Fruits and vegetables	596		657	
Other food at home	1,227		1,374	
Food away from home	2,681		2,807	
Alcoholic beverages	477	1.0	565	1.0
Housing	16,684	33.9	20,174	36.6 *
Shelter	9,849		13,068	
Owned dwellings	6,624		8,822	
Rented dwellings	2,596		3,175	
Other lodging	629		1,071	
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,437		3,850	
Household operations	966		1,036	
Housekeeping supplies	639		542	
Household furnishings and equipment	1,793		1,678	
Apparel and services	1,893	3.8	2,093	3.8
Transportation	8,737	17.7	8,707	15.8 *
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,332		3,420	
Gasoline and motor oil	2,306		2,026	
Other vehicle expenses	2,577		2,642	
Public transportation	521		618	
Healthcare	2,810	5.7	2,809	5.1 *
Entertainment	2,637	5.4	3,352	6.1
Personal care products and services	586	1.2	546	1.0 *
Reading	117	0.2	177	0.3 *
Education	917	1.9	1,381	2.5 *
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	325	0.7	350	0.6
Miscellaneous	827	1.7	736	1.3
Cash contributions	1,845	3.7	1,235	2.2 *
Personal insurance and pensions	5,303	10.8	6,365	11.5 *
Life and other personal insurance	316		254	
Pensions and Social Security	4,987		6,111	

* The percent share at the Boston metropolitan level is statistically different from the percent share at the National level.

NOTE: Percent shares of expenditures may not add to 100 due to rounding.