

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1997-98

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston	Pittsburgh
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	20,988	7,785	1,826	2,369	1,116
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes ¹	\$44,324	\$50,710	\$49,920	\$50,083	\$38,352
Age of reference person	48.4	48.2	48.9	46.0	52.3
Average number in consumer unit:					
Persons	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.3
Children under 186	.7	.7	.6	.4
Persons 65 and over3	.3	.3	.2	.4
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.2
Vehicles	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.8	1.9
Percent homeowner	60	51	71	60	67
Average annual expenditures	\$36,548	\$41,103	\$38,131	\$38,029	\$36,239
Food	5,124	6,090	4,134	4,542	5,029
Food at home	2,943	3,382	2,285	2,283	2,893
Cereals and bakery products	482	550	353	368	467
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	787	988	642	601	737
Dairy products	326	368	244	255	318
Fruits and vegetables	519	619	401	433	435
Other food at home	829	857	645	626	936
Food away from home	2,181	2,708	1,849	2,258	2,136
Alcoholic beverages	374	441	335	469	271
Housing	12,861	15,153	14,713	14,799	11,170
Shelter	7,789	9,711	9,428	9,370	5,329
Owned dwellings	4,904	5,777	6,774	5,815	3,247
Rented dwellings	2,327	3,409	1,735	2,436	1,692
Other lodging	558	525	918	1,120	390
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,470	2,501	2,821	2,536	2,609
Household operations	482	561	425	648	502
Housekeeping supplies	432	440	400	349	517
Household furnishings and equipment	1,688	1,940	1,638	1,896	2,213
Apparel and services	1,828	2,226	1,574	1,715	2,205
Transportation	6,186	6,293	7,159	6,145	6,572
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	2,426	2,030	2,978	2,274	2,909
Gasoline and motor oil	938	870	1,015	1,020	946
Other vehicle expenses	2,219	2,431	2,708	2,212	2,285
Public transportation	603	961	457	638	432
Health care	1,741	1,873	1,682	1,693	1,798
Entertainment	1,736	1,835	1,771	1,830	1,810
Personal care products and services	386	463	254	286	428
Reading	197	209	183	225	206
Education	793	853	550	1,012	489
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	280	258	224	282	305
Miscellaneous	854	880	984	744	1,037
Cash contributions	826	873	565	812	1,114
Personal insurance and pensions	3,362	3,655	4,004	3,475	3,805
Life and other personal insurance	415	396	483	418	1,179
Pensions and Social Security	2,947	3,259	3,520	3,057	2,626

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see glossary.