

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2004-2005

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston	Pittsburgh
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	22,184	7,687	2,620	2,876	1,154
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes	\$62,002	\$74,851	\$61,496	\$67,927	\$52,637
Age of reference person	50.2	50.6	49.3	48.8	52.9
Average number in consumer unit:					
Persons	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3
Children under 186	.6	.6	.6	.5
Persons 65 and over3	.3	.3	.3	.4
Earners	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
Vehicles	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.9
Percent homeowner	65	58	70	64	73
Average annual expenditures	\$47,005	\$54,121	\$47,289	\$51,679	\$39,891
Food	6,430	7,283	6,481	7,223	5,205
Food at home	3,640	4,014	3,620	3,977	2,785
Cereals and bakery products	515	568	522	579	399
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	946	1,109	963	998	681
Dairy products	421	462	408	410	331
Fruits and vegetables	645	766	611	686	460
Other food at home	1,114	1,111	1,116	1,304	915
Food away from home	2,790	3,269	2,861	3,247	2,420
Alcoholic beverages	532	553	567	834	387
Housing	16,121	20,065	15,915	17,805	12,031
Shelter	9,887	13,271	9,289	11,364	6,429
Owned dwellings	6,571	8,277	6,344	7,882	4,454
Rented dwellings	2,726	4,245	2,470	2,899	1,524
Other lodging	590	749	475	583	451
Utilities, fuels, and public services	3,257	3,528	3,600	3,169	3,103
Household operations	779	957	687	917	563
Housekeeping supplies	620	579	628	684	549
Household furnishings and equipment	1,577	1,730	1,709	1,670	1,386
Apparel and services	2,106	2,858	2,279	1,929	1,747
Transportation	7,646	7,581	8,084	8,586	7,456
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,031	2,316	3,802	3,759	3,307
Gasoline and motor oil	1,572	1,495	1,477	1,747	1,538
Other vehicle expenses	2,405	2,716	2,310	2,502	2,218
Public transportation	637	1,054	495	579	393
Healthcare	2,476	2,412	2,254	2,624	2,528
Entertainment	2,137	2,330	1,895	2,347	2,102
Personal care products and services	586	687	643	591	479
Reading	146	144	132	195	144
Education	1,256	1,643	1,235	1,744	879
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	314	265	275	287	465
Miscellaneous	793	1,064	729	599	662
Cash contributions	1,241	1,168	1,227	1,063	1,817
Personal insurance and pensions	5,223	6,068	5,573	5,851	3,989
Life and other personal insurance	371	422	350	393	378
Pensions and Social Security	4,851	5,646	5,222	5,458	3,611