

Summary of data tables

Text table 1 shows consumer unit⁵ (CU) characteristics; income; and expenditures for 2003, 2004, and 2005, and percent changes over the periods 2003–2004 and 2004–2005. Text table 2 shows expenditure shares for 2002 through 2005. Data shown are integrated data from the Diary and Interview Surveys, unless otherwise noted. (See appendix B.) Integrated data from the current, ongoing survey have been published since 1984.

Integrated data are presented in 75 reference tables that show average annual expenditures for 2004 and 2005 for the total population, tabulated by selected socioeconomic characteristics. Included in this report are 13 tables classifying data by 13 standard characteristics for 2004 and 2005. Also included are 4 tables for selected metropolitan areas in each of the 4 regions of the country; 16 tables that cross-tabulate the data by income before taxes and: age of the reference person, region of residence, or size of the consumer unit; 4 tables that show data for single persons cross-tabulated by sex and age or by sex and income; 13 tables showing shares of total expenditures for 13 standard characteristics; and 13 tables showing aggregate expenditure shares for 13 standard characteristics. Cross-tabulations and metropolitan area tables include data that are annual averages over the 2 years, 2004 and 2005, to provide reliable estimates. Also, for the cross-

⁵The terms consumer unit and household are used interchangeably throughout the text for convenience.

tabulations, some classes are combined to make estimates reliable. For example, the standard age classification includes data for age classes 65 to 74 years and 75 years and older; but for the cross-tabulations, these classes are combined into one class—ages 65 years and older. Appendix A provides a glossary of terms used in this report. Appendix B contains a detailed description of survey procedures, including methods used to integrate the data from the Diary and Interview components of the survey. Appendix C shows the survey source—Diary or Interview—for expenditure items. Appendix D provides information on Consumer Expenditure Survey resources.

Introduction of multiple imputation of income in 2004

In 2004, as part of a continuous effort to produce high quality data, the CE implemented multiple imputation of income data. Prior to 2004, the CE only published income data from complete income reporters. A noticeable change in the published tables is the elimination of the incomplete reporting of income column in the quintiles of income before taxes tables, and the elimination of the total complete reporting column in the income before taxes tables. All published tables now show the all consumer units column. See the “Changes to the 2004 and 2005 Consumer Expenditure Survey Published Tables and Selected Highlights” section for a full explanation of the introduction of multiple imputation of income.