

Preface

This is the second in a series of reports presenting both articles that discuss ongoing research and methodological issues pertaining to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) and analytical articles using this survey's data. The first report, *Consumer Expenditure Survey Anthology, 2003*, was published in September 2003. Future CE anthology reports will be published biennially, with the next report scheduled for publication in 2006. The methodological articles included in this report are intended to provide data users with greater insight into improvements in the survey, as well as issues that are faced in collecting, processing, and publishing information from such a complex survey. The analytical articles provide information on topics of interest using CE data.

This report was prepared in the Office of Prices and Living Conditions, Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys (DCES), under the general direction of Steve Henderson, Chief of the Branch of Information and Analysis, and was produced and edited by John M. Rogers, Section Chief. Articles on research and methodology were contributed by Jeanette Davis, Eric Figueroa, Lucilla Tan, and Nhien To of the Branch of Research and Program Development, and Sylvia Johnson-Herring, Sharon Krieger, Sally Reyes-Morales, and David Swanson of the Division of Price Statistical Methods. Analytical articles were contributed by Meaghan Duetsch,

Abby Duly, George Janini, Laura Paszkiewicz, and Mark Vendemia of the Branch of Information and Analysis.

BLS makes CE data available in news releases, reports, and articles in the *Monthly Labor Review*, as well as on CD-ROMs and on the Internet. A biennial report includes standard tables of recent survey data, a discussion of expenditure changes, and a description of the survey and its methods. Current and historical CE tables classified by standard demographic variables are available at the BLS Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/cex>. This site also provides other survey information, including answers to frequently asked questions, a glossary of terms, order forms for survey products, and *Monthly Labor Review* and other research articles.

The material that follows is divided into two sections: Part 1 includes articles on survey research and methodology, and Part 2 presents analysis of topics of interest based on CE data. An appendix includes a general description of the survey and its methods and a glossary of terms.

Sensory-impaired individuals may obtain information on this publication upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200, Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339. The material presented is in the public domain and, with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission. Cover photo from the Library of Congress. For further information, call (202) 691-6900.