

**Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2006-2007**

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	22,570	8,716	2,722	2,890
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes .....	\$67,060	\$76,022	\$65,637	\$80,966
Age of reference person .....	50.1	50.7	48.4	48.1
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons .....	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.6	.6
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.3
Earners .....	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4
Vehicles .....	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7
Percent homeowner .....	65	58	70	62
Average annual expenditures .....				
Food .....	\$50,703	\$56,683	\$48,649	\$55,189
Food at home .....	6,320	7,023	5,600	6,700
Cereals and bakery products .....	3,529	3,822	3,028	3,893
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	486	528	408	553
Dairy products .....	825	955	734	887
Fruits and vegetables .....	390	396	343	423
Other food at home .....	641	743	559	657
Food away from home .....	1,187	1,199	984	1,374
Alcoholic beverages .....	2,791	3,202	2,571	2,807
Housing .....	513	533	451	565
Shelter .....	18,408	22,295	18,411	20,174
Owned dwellings .....	11,335	14,848	10,755	13,068
Rented dwellings .....	7,452	9,327	7,410	8,822
Other lodging .....	3,039	4,438	2,613	3,175
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	843	1,084	732	1,071
Household operations .....	3,707	3,879	3,981	3,850
Housekeeping supplies .....	971	1,171	1,054	1,036
Household furnishings and equipment .....	579	572	602	542
Apparel and services .....	1,815	1,824	2,020	1,678
Transportation .....	2,069	2,619	2,041	2,093
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	8,107	8,048	7,345	8,707
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,703	2,349	2,244	3,420
Other vehicle expenses .....	1,994	1,892	2,106	2,026
Public transportation .....	2,722	2,721	2,447	2,642
Healthcare .....	688	1,085	548	618
Entertainment .....	2,618	2,674	2,175	2,809
Personal care products and services .....	2,666	2,600	2,327	3,352
Reading .....	583	685	602	546
Education .....	134	118	109	177
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	1,121	1,420	1,228	1,381
Miscellaneous .....	346	221	406	350
Cash contributions .....	855	1,006	689	736
Personal insurance and pensions .....	1,445	1,517	1,486	1,235
Life and other personal insurance .....	5,517	5,924	5,778	6,365
Pensions and Social Security .....	338	338	289	254
	5,179	5,586	5,488	6,111