

**Table 23. Selected southern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2006-2007**

Item	All consumer units in the South	Washington, D.C.	Baltimore	Atlanta	Miami	Dallas-Fort Worth	Houston
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	42,804	2,175	1,006	2,204	1,646	2,171	1,837
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes .....	\$57,216	\$100,486	\$78,930	\$67,859	\$54,990	\$67,145	\$71,124
Age of reference person .....	48.8	45.8	48.9	45.7	48.8	45.5	45.3
Average number in consumer unit:							
Persons .....	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.7
Children under 18 .....	.7	.6	.6	.7	.6	.9	.8
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.2	.3	.2	.3	.2	.2
Earners .....	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.8
Percent homeowner .....	70	69	71	66	63	64	65
Average annual expenditures .....	\$45,225	\$65,894	\$53,244	\$46,705	\$46,201	\$54,334	\$55,381
Food .....	5,715	7,533	6,222	5,646	5,728	6,160	6,547
Food at home .....	3,223	3,747	3,386	2,871	3,830	3,498	3,447
Cereals and bakery products .....	423	451	438	368	476	434	419
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	767	864	820	662	949	774	802
Dairy products .....	347	407	338	281	443	381	355
Fruits and vegetables .....	532	780	573	518	854	605	607
Other food at home .....	1,154	1,244	1,217	1,042	1,107	1,304	1,264
Food away from home .....	2,492	3,786	2,836	2,775	1,898	2,662	3,099
Alcoholic beverages .....	374	650	479	345	276	381	603
Housing .....	14,719	25,525	19,123	17,716	18,708	18,169	17,752
Shelter .....	8,056	17,040	11,930	10,860	12,190	9,843	9,965
Owned dwellings .....	5,536	12,380	8,921	7,353	8,100	6,446	6,872
Rented dwellings .....	2,107	3,947	2,504	2,831	3,809	2,892	2,533
Other lodging .....	412	713	505	676	281	505	560
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,550	4,037	3,951	3,874	3,611	4,551	4,297
Household operations .....	898	1,592	960	1,035	1,197	1,192	1,080
Housekeeping supplies .....	627	703	650	515	569	728	746
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,588	2,153	1,632	1,433	1,140	1,856	1,664
Apparel and services .....	1,720	2,440	1,755	1,792	1,269	1,907	2,345
Transportation .....	8,578	9,531	8,673	8,053	7,938	10,764	11,119
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,428	3,319	3,562	2,957	2,859	4,866	4,544
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,440	2,272	2,508	2,407	2,457	2,559	2,936
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,368	3,163	2,049	2,119	2,092	2,902	3,149
Public transportation .....	342	778	554	570	530	439	490
Healthcare .....	2,788	2,641	2,431	2,355	2,167	2,967	3,293
Entertainment .....	2,322	2,995	2,726	2,130	1,583	2,515	2,789
Personal care products and services .....	568	682	565	513	641	747	782
Reading .....	87	130	84	75	42	101	89
Education .....	726	1,664	1,771	420	1,054	739	918
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	334	237	229	202	197	265	299
Miscellaneous .....	689	1,234	908	635	770	765	761
Cash contributions .....	1,762	2,168	1,891	1,281	1,421	2,223	1,821
Personal insurance and pensions .....	4,843	8,463	6,387	5,542	4,407	6,632	6,264
Life and other personal insurance .....	305	341	546	242	192	346	417
Pensions and Social Security .....	4,537	8,123	5,841	5,300	4,215	6,286	5,847