

Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2003-2004

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston	Pittsburgh
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	22,116	7,503	2,441	2,636	1,117
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes ¹	\$59,187	\$71,247	\$62,647	\$61,778	\$52,703
Age of reference person	50.1	50.2	50.3	49.7	52.5
Average number in consumer unit:					
Persons	2.4	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.3
Children under 186	.7	.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	1.6	1.6	1.9
Percent homeowner	65	57	71	62	72
Average annual expenditures	\$44,202	\$51,979	\$44,484	\$46,444	\$40,604
Food	6,049	7,054	5,622	6,578	5,527
Food at home	3,470	3,879	3,051	3,791	3,146
Cereals and bakery products	503	573	451	555	455
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	948	1,102	875	1,054	847
Dairy products	385	433	327	378	359
Fruits and vegetables	612	735	511	641	527
Other food at home	1,022	1,036	887	1,163	958
Food away from home	2,579	3,174	2,572	2,787	2,381
Alcoholic beverages	526	563	608	802	440
Housing	15,271	19,708	15,200	16,337	12,021
Shelter	9,379	13,047	9,015	10,556	6,322
Owned dwellings	6,159	8,146	6,240	6,882	4,314
Rented dwellings	2,669	4,190	2,248	3,198	1,573
Other lodging	551	710	526	477	435
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,993	3,248	3,312	2,822	2,964
Household operations	803	1,067	674	903	559
Housekeeping supplies	555	547	535	653	528
Household furnishings and equipment	1,541	1,799	1,664	1,403	1,649
Apparel and services	2,018	2,682	2,310	2,103	1,850
Transportation	7,332	7,599	7,678	7,400	6,488
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	3,118	2,672	3,623	3,443	2,483
Gasoline and motor oil	1,271	1,198	1,243	1,299	1,266
Other vehicle expenses	2,351	2,722	2,347	2,128	2,360
Public transportation	591	1,007	465	529	379
Health care	2,248	2,224	2,126	2,274	2,527
Entertainment	2,067	2,283	1,822	1,922	2,159
Personal care products and services	582	668	674	576	526
Reading	149	151	124	172	166
Education	1,096	1,347	1,166	1,410	881
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	301	256	234	280	478
Miscellaneous	654	808	671	519	560
Cash contributions	1,135	990	987	1,184	3,064
Personal insurance and pensions	4,776	5,647	5,263	4,887	3,916
Life and other personal insurance	409	496	377	301	444
Pensions and Social Security	4,367	5,151	4,886	4,586	3,472

¹ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only through 2003; (see glossary). Beginning in 2004 income imputation was implemented. As a result, all consumer units are considered to be complete income reporters.