

**Table 21. Selected northeastern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2010-2011**

Item	All consumer units in the Northeast	New York	Philadelphia	Boston
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	22,382	9,080	2,527	2,947
Consumer unit characteristics:				
Income before taxes .....	\$70,083	\$77,886	\$67,320	\$85,746
Age of reference person .....	50.7	50.3	50.5	50.2
Average number in consumer unit:				
Persons .....	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.5	.6
Persons 65 and older .....	.4	.3	.3	.3
Earners .....	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.4
Vehicles .....	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7
Percent homeowner .....	63	57	69	64
Average annual expenditures .....	\$53,695	\$58,172	\$50,985	\$64,802
Food .....	6,777	7,371	5,997	8,080
Food at home .....	4,005	4,163	3,577	5,089
Cereals and bakery products .....	584	597	529	780
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	871	996	734	1,028
Dairy products .....	438	437	411	528
Fruits and vegetables .....	782	858	625	1,019
Other food at home .....	1,329	1,274	1,278	1,734
Food away from home .....	2,772	3,208	2,419	2,991
Alcoholic beverages .....	509	522	492	736
Housing .....	19,293	23,154	19,810	21,053
Shelter .....	11,903	15,479	12,008	12,862
Owned dwellings .....	7,536	9,312	8,158	8,260
Rented dwellings .....	3,601	5,360	3,218	3,499
Other lodging .....	766	807	631	1,104
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	4,041	4,273	4,442	4,121
Household operations .....	1,192	1,384	1,201	1,569
Housekeeping supplies .....	630	610	701	641
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,527	1,408	1,460	1,859
Apparel and services .....	1,996	2,596	1,771	1,877
Transportation .....	8,097	7,843	7,337	9,127
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	2,515	1,891	2,289	3,382
Gasoline and motor oil .....	2,209	2,006	2,147	2,489
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,651	2,813	2,457	2,579
Public and other transportation .....	722	1,133	444	678
Health care .....	3,247	3,089	3,086	4,107
Entertainment .....	2,677	2,512	2,385	3,688
Personal care products and services .....	615	679	600	734
Reading .....	127	113	136	166
Education .....	1,619	1,654	1,457	2,542
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	368	249	282	479
Miscellaneous .....	884	763	1,260	1,267
Cash contributions .....	1,627	1,473	1,268	2,672
Personal insurance and pensions .....	5,859	6,155	5,105	8,276
Life and other personal insurance .....	378	357	248	437
Pensions and Social Security .....	5,481	5,798	4,857	7,839

Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September, 2012