

Table 23. Selected southern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008-2009

Item	All consumer units in the South	Washington, D.C.	Baltimore	Atlanta	Miami	Dallas-Fort Worth	Houston
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	43,758	2,181	985	2,125	1,673	2,371	1,848
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes	\$58,761	\$99,881	\$84,177	\$70,931	\$64,010	\$69,055	\$76,652
Age of reference person	49.4	47.6	50.4	46.4	48.2	45.7	46.8
Average number in consumer unit:							
Persons	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.8
Children under 186	.7	.5	.6	.6	.8	.8
Persons 65 and older3	.2	.3	.2	.3	.2	.2
Earners	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6
Vehicles	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.8	1.9
Percent homeowner	68	68	68	67	60	61	66
Average annual expenditures							
Food	\$46,287	\$69,106	\$52,452	\$45,941	\$47,601	\$53,886	\$59,131
Food at home	6,026	7,835	5,931	5,375	5,803	6,734	7,009
Cereals and bakery products	3,488	4,160	3,300	2,717	3,741	3,600	3,649
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	471	563	446	389	520	480	453
Dairy products	836	970	853	644	867	804	921
Fruits and vegetables	380	476	356	279	467	384	373
Other food at home	580	809	597	456	780	607	598
Food away from home	1,221	1,342	1,049	949	1,106	1,325	1,305
Alcoholic beverages	2,539	3,675	2,630	2,658	2,062	3,134	3,359
Housing	379	673	353	324	349	408	710
Shelter	15,332	25,622	20,795	17,072	19,016	18,198	18,866
Owned dwellings	8,502	16,842	13,617	10,639	12,592	10,253	10,776
Rented dwellings	5,628	11,447	9,623	7,313	7,115	6,248	7,326
Other lodging	2,329	4,180	3,329	2,857	4,442	3,533	2,789
Utilities, fuels, and public services	544	1,216	665	469	1,036	473	661
Household operations	3,701	3,977	4,209	3,899	3,740	4,275	4,505
Housekeeping supplies	940	1,842	879	915	1,035	1,201	1,242
Household furnishings and equipment	656	767	860	522	558	719	634
Apparel and services	1,533	2,193	1,230	1,096	1,091	1,749	1,710
Transportation	1,779	2,687	1,511	1,580	1,677	2,161	2,256
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	7,941	9,563	6,621	6,760	8,427	8,689	10,843
Gasoline and motor oil	2,669	3,028	¹ 1,452	1,597	2,921	2,877	3,874
Other vehicle expenses	2,519	2,465	2,444	2,631	2,680	2,616	2,980
Public transportation	2,431	2,864	2,178	2,171	2,318	2,806	3,421
Cash contributions	322	1,206	547	360	508	390	568
Healthcare	2,940	3,239	2,973	2,417	1,565	3,032	3,267
Entertainment	2,489	3,320	2,591	2,045	1,807	2,910	2,972
Personal care products and services	586	969	650	611	623	733	711
Reading	86	146	80	81	25	83	110
Education	808	1,853	1,472	788	570	920	1,041
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	359	220	242	212	124	247	329
Miscellaneous	755	969	659	814	1,183	670	1,220
Cash contributions	1,718	2,002	1,461	1,695	1,762	1,996	2,233
Personal insurance and pensions	5,087	10,008	7,112	6,167	4,669	7,105	7,566
Life and other personal insurance	310	523	400	282	90	329	339
Pensions and Social Security	4,777	9,485	6,712	5,885	4,578	6,776	7,227

¹ Data are likely to have large sampling errors.