

Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Diary Survey

Information Booklet

CE-805

Issued January 2015



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
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PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting the Consumer Expenditure Surveys for the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor under Title 29, United States Code. The survey's purpose is to obtain information on what Americans are purchasing in order to update the Consumer Price Index. All survey information will be used for statistical purposes only.

Any information you provide for this survey is confidential, by law, under Title 13, United States Code. Participation in this survey is voluntary and there are no penalties for refusing to answer any question(s). However, your cooperation is extremely important to help ensure the completeness and accuracy of these data.

Hispanic Origin

1. Mexican
2. Mexican-American
3. Chicano
4. Puerto Rican
5. Cuban

Race

(Please choose one or more)

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Asian
5. Native Hawaiian
6. Guamanian or Chamorro
7. Samoan
8. Other Pacific Islander

Asian Origin

1. Chinese
2. Filipino
3. Japanese
4. Korean
5. Vietnamese
6. Asian Indian

Education



1. No schooling completed or less than 1 year
2. Nursery, kindergarten, and elementary (grades 1-8)
3. High school (grades 9-12, no degree)
4. High school graduate – high school diploma or the equivalent (GED)
5. Some college but no degree
6. Associate degree in college
7. Bachelor's degree (BA, AB, BS, etc.)
8. Master's, professional, or doctoral degree (MA, MS, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)

Armed Forces



A person is considered to be in the Armed Forces if he or she serves in any branch of the U.S. military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard; their Reserve components; and the Air and Army National Guard.

OCCUPATIONS

1. Administrator, Manager

administrator manager funeral director

2. Teacher

teacher guidance counselor

3. Professional

registered nurse accountant physician social worker computer systems
lawyer engineer clergy photographer analyst

4. Administrative Support, including Clerical

secretary bookkeeper clerk receptionist computer assistant

5. Sales, Retail

cashier commodity salesperson door-to-door salesperson
apparel salesperson motor vehicle salesperson

6. Sales, Business Goods and Services

mining sales representative real estate salesperson financial services
manufacturing sales representative wholesale sales representative insurance
salesperson

7. Technician

health technician practical nurse drafting clinical laboratory technician
electronic technician

8. Protective Service

private guard police officer firefighter

9. Private Household Service

nanny household worker

10. Other Service (except private household)

janitor child care worker waiter/waitress food preparer food counter/
cook hairstylist maid/houseman orderly fountain worker

11. Machine or Transportation Operator, Laborer

truck driver assembler inspector taxi driver construction laborer
bus driver packager tractor operator material handler
freight handler stock handler machine operator

12. Construction Workers, Mechanics

automobile mechanic machine repairer machinist meat cutter
carpenter electrician painter plumber
sheet metal worker mining worker

13. Farming

farmer farm worker

14. Forestry, Fishing, Groundskeeping

forestry worker fisher groundskeeper animal caretaker

15. Armed Forces

INCOME

CARD A

0. Loss
1. \$ 0 – \$ 4,999
2. \$ 5,000 – \$ 9,999
3. \$ 10,000 – \$ 14,999
4. \$ 15,000 – \$ 19,999
5. \$ 20,000 – \$ 29,999
6. \$ 30,000 – \$ 39,999
7. \$ 40,000 – \$ 49,999
8. \$ 50,000 – \$ 69,999
9. \$ 70,000 – \$ 89,999
10. \$ 90,000 – \$ 119,999
11. \$ 120,000 and over

CARD B

1. Less than \$500
2. \$ 500 – \$ 699
3. \$ 700 – \$ 999
4. \$ 1,000 – \$ 1,299
5. \$ 1,300 – \$ 1,699
6. \$ 1,700 and over

CARD C

- 0. Loss
- 1. \$ 0 — \$ 999
- 2. \$ 1,000 — \$ 1,999
- 3. \$ 2,000 — \$ 2,999
- 4. \$ 3,000 — \$ 3,999
- 5. \$ 4,000 — \$ 4,999
- 6. \$ 5,000 — \$ 9,999
- 7. \$ 10,000 — \$ 14,999
- 8. \$ 15,000 — \$ 19,999
- 9. \$ 20,000 — \$ 29,999
- 10. \$ 30,000 — \$ 39,999
- 11. \$ 40,000 — \$ 49,999
- 12. \$ 50,000 and over

DIARY SURVEY CHECKS

When reviewing the Diary, check each page in the form. Be sure that ALL entries have as much detail as possible. The following are EXAMPLES of information that is often omitted.

CONTENT CHECKS

1. All entries should be clearly readable. If there is an unreadable entry, rewrite it. Entries that contain brand names, local names, or acronyms should be clarified and rewritten.
2. If the respondent reports no expenditures for a day, mark the NONE box at the bottom of the page.
3. Be sure there is an amount entered in the total cost column for every item entry in the diary and that the amount entered is reasonable. If an amount is unusually high or low, confirm it with the respondent. Whenever possible, a single cost for each item is required. Investigate any combined expenses to determine if individual costs can be identified.
4. In Part 1, Food and Drinks Away from Home, be sure that all the checkboxes are appropriately marked. If an alcohol check box is marked, indicating that alcoholic beverages were purchased, there should also be an amount entered in the last column. There should always be an amount entered in the total cost column.
5. In Part 2, Food and Drinks for Home Consumption, be sure a checkbox is marked to indicate whether the food is fresh, frozen, etc.
6. In Part 3, Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, and Accessories, be sure the checkboxes for gender and age are marked.
7. In Part 4, All Other Products, Services, and Expenses, be sure there is an entry in the last column to indicate if the item was purchased for someone not on your list.

EXPENDITURE DETAIL CHECKS

1. Food and Drinks Away from Home

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: If the purchase is exclusively alcohol, ensure the type(s) is (are) specified and that the total cost and the alcohol cost are the same. Both cost entries must be recorded.

MEALS: Check the type of meal (lunch, breakfast, dinner, snack/other) and the type of vendor. If alcohol is included, make sure the type(s) of alcohol is (are) marked in the checkboxes and the cost is recorded.

2. Food and Drinks for Home Consumption

BAKERY PRODUCTS: Specify type such as cupcakes, apple pie, etc.

BEEF: Specify the cut of beef and describe, such as ground beef, prime rib, etc.

COFFEE: Specify if instant or ground

JUICE, BEVERAGE: Specify type, such as orange juice, fruit punch, etc.

Diary Survey Checks

BREAD: Specify if white, whole wheat, rye, pumpernickel, etc.

PORK: Specify the cut of pork and describe, such as pork loin roast, whole ham, etc.

POULTRY: Specify whether it is chicken, turkey, or other

SOFT DRINKS: Specify if cola or other type; if not cola, specify if carbonated or noncarbonated

OTHER FOOD: Give a complete description, such as boxed scalloped potatoes

3. **Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, and Accessories**

CLOTHING: Specify the type of clothing and give a description of the item

JEWELRY: Specify the type of jewelry, such as watches, etc.

SHOES: If sport shoes, specify sport, such as football cleats, ice skates, etc.

4. **All Other Products, Services, and Expenses**

ALBUM: Specify if photo album or record album

BOOKS: Specify whether it was a part of a book club, a school book, or a non-school book. If the purchase was for school, then specify whether it was college, high school, or other.

BUS, TRAIN: Specify intercity or intracity fare

DISHWASHER: Specify whether it is portable or built-in

DOCTOR BILLS: Specify type of doctors, such as dentist, internist, etc.

FURNITURE: Specify type such as kitchen chair, living room chair, etc.

GAS: Specify if gasoline or household fuel. If household fuel, indicate whether piped or bottled.

LAUNDRY/DRY CLEANING: Specify if coin-operated or not coin-operated; specify whether household item (such as drapes) or apparel

MEDICINE: Specify if prescription or non-prescription

SOAP: Specify hand soap or laundry soap

TABLEWARE: Specify type, such as china, flatware, silver service pieces, etc.

TOOLS: Specify if power or hand tool, such as power saw, etc.

TUITION: Specify high school, college, etc.

VEHICLE: Specify new or used and type of vehicle purchased

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: Specify state or local

VEHICLE REPAIR: Specify type of service such as an oil change, brake adjustment, etc.

2015 CALENDAR

JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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JUNE						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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2016 CALENDAR

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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SEPTEMBER

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DECEMBER

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2017 CALENDAR

JANUARY

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