

How you spend your money matters

As the founder of American Demographics magazine, Peter Francese states: "Providers of goods and services need timely and accurate information about consumer demand. It is vitally important for researchers and forecasters to understand the spending behavior trends of different types of households such as home-owners, or married couples. Only the BLS surveys are large, accurate, and consistent enough to provide annually comparable data on consumer spending for so many different consumer groups. The BLS survey data is of great value to businesses looking at where to expand (and thus to create jobs), but it is also useful to answer questions about the need for affordable housing or public transportation. I have been using the Consumer Expenditure data for many purposes for over 20 years, and I can safely say that our economic growth would be a lot less predictable and probably smaller without it."

Your input is important

Your household, chosen randomly to participate, actually represents as many as 15,000 other households! By participating, you make sure that the Consumer Expenditure Survey is as accurate as possible and represents all Americans. You are helping the United States and performing a public service. Your participation gives you a voice in the statistics that are used to evaluate and guide the actions of the Federal Government. By law, your participation is kept confidential, and you cannot be identified by your responses.

September 2010



Dallas

"Households in the Dallas-Fort Worth area spent an average of \$52,985 per year in 2007 and 2008, according to a report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics."

Brendan Case, Economy Watch Blog Dallasnews.com, 1.7.2010



Chicago

"Of the \$8,846 annual expenditure for transportation in Chicago, 90.9 percent was spent buying and maintaining private vehicles; this compared to the national average of 94.0 percent."

Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2.05.2009



Boston

"Greater Boston households spent about 36.6 percent of their budgets on housing, including utilities, compared to 33.9 percent nationally..."

Robert Gavin, The Boston Globe, 1.13.09

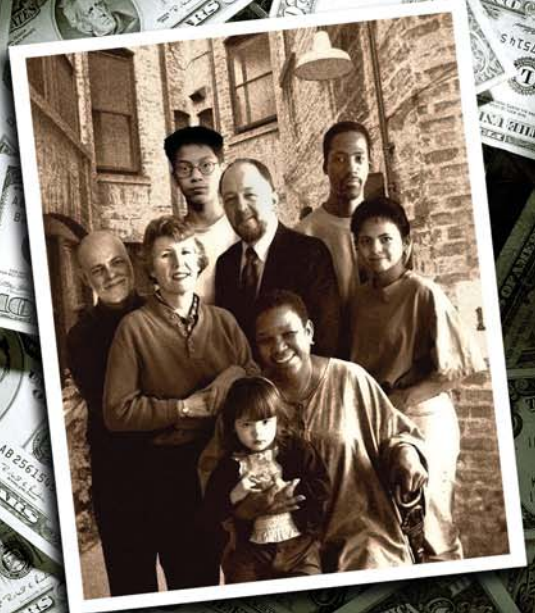


New York City

"On average, New Yorkers spend more on housing, clothes and food in restaurants and at home than Americans overall, but slightly less on transportation, tobacco and entertainment."

Crain's New York Business, 6.29.2009

How YOU spend your money.



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Helping You Make Informed Decisions



...is in the News

See how news sources from around the country use the Consumer Expenditure Survey to talk about how Americans spend their money.



Spending Gap

"...households with incomes of \$70,000 or more make up only 30 percent of consumers. But they account for more than half of the country's consumer expenditures..."

Ylan Q. Mui, The Washington Post, 10.19.2008



Military Families

"Every year the Bureau of Labor Statistics collects shopping behavior data specific to American military families. This is accomplished through a Consumer Expenditure Survey which details how military families allocate their spendable income across all COLA types of goods and services."

Staff Reports, 354th Comptroller Squadron, Eielson Air Force Base, 11.4.2008



Retirement Spending

"People who have left the workforce spend just 3 percent of their annual budget on clothing..."

Emily Brandon, U.S. News & World Report, 11.30.2009



Energy Costs

"Utility payments on average increased from \$3,477 in 2007 to \$3,649 in 2008 -- a 4.94 percent increase -- while spending on gasoline went to \$3,477 from \$2,384..."

Cristina Corbin, FOXNews.com, 1.7.10



Health Care

"Medical bills are skyrocketing, costing the average household \$2,976 last year."

CBS, 1.5.2010

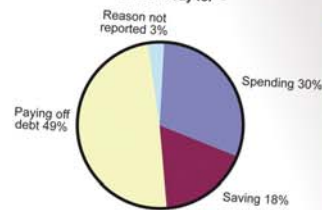


FOOD

"The average American family of four spends about \$5,000 a year on food prepared at home, according to the federal government's Consumer Expenditure Survey."

Gregory Karp, The Seattle Times, 8.16.2009

2008 Economic Stimulus Payment (tax rebate) used mostly for—



Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, June 2008–March 2009

Stimulus

"...[The] Consumer Expenditure Survey ... details how Americans spent their 2008 Economic Stimulus Payments..."

Jill Schlesinger, CBS MoneyWatch.com, 11.18.09



Children

"Families spent \$2,835 apiece on entertainment last year, and a large chunk of that went to toys, hobbies, playground equipment and pets."

Sara Murray, Wall Street Journal, 10.7.09