

See how news sources from around the country use the **Consumer Expenditure Surveys** to talk about how U.S. consumers spend their money.

Inflation

“That 'basket' of goods and services is designed to be representative of what households actually spend their money on... That spending data is derived from the Consumer Expenditure Surveys that the BLS produces annually.”

[fortune.com](#) | February 14, 2023

Ivana Pino

“Households outside urban areas spent 37% more than the U.S. average on used cars and trucks, while spending in central cities was 9% lower than the average. The spending category saw one of the largest price increases in September's CPI, up 24.4%.”

[Wall Street Journal](#) | October 15, 2021

Max Rust and Ana Rivas



Pet spending

“Average annual household spending on pets rose from \$460 in 2013 to \$770 in 2021.”

[washingtonpost.com](#) | December 30, 2022

Andrew Van Dam and Alyssa Fowers

Food

“In the Anchorage, Alaska metro area, [2019-2020] food expenditures account for 11.24% of the average household income... Residents spend an average of \$10,291 on food each year, while 7.51% of the average household income pays for food eaten at home, the highest such percentage of any metro area.”

[yahoo.com](#) | October 7, 2021

Patrick Villanova

Housing

“The average U.S. household spends \$20,679 annually (\$1,723 per month) on housing, representing approximately 33% of total annual expenditures.”

[visionretirement.com](#) | January 12, 2021



Eating out

“In 2021, the typical household spent \$3,030 a year on food away from home, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).”

[washingtonpost.com](#) | January 6, 2023

Michelle Singletary

TV

“The BLS found that U.S. consumers spent an average of \$574.75 a year on “cable and satellite television services” in 2021.”

[washingtonpost.com](#) | January 6, 2023

Michelle Singletary

Income

“The average income in the U.S. was \$84,352 per household in 2020.”

[valuepenguin.com](#) | November 28, 2022

Lindsay Bishop



Transportation

“Households spent an average of \$10,961 on transportation in 2021... Transportation expenditures grew by the third largest amount (11.6 percent) from 2020 to 2021, behind apparel and services (22.3 percent) and food (13.4 percent).”

[data.bts.gov](#)

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Vacation

“The average household in the United States spent around \$4,580 on vacation/travel expenses, including transportation, lodging, food, and leisure.”

[businessinsider.com](#) | March 5, 2023

Devan Leos



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 is chosen randomly to participate and actually represents as many as 15,000 other households! By participating, you make sure that the *Consumer Expenditure Surveys* are as accurate as possible and represent all U.S. consumers. 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. ■



BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



How you spend your money is in the News.

Information for Respondents

For questions or additional information regarding participation in the Consumer Expenditure Surveys, visit the Information for Survey Respondents page at www.bls.gov/respondents/cex.

