

**Table 23. Selected southern metropolitan statistical areas: Average annual expenditures and characteristics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2004-2005**

Item	All consumer units in the South	Washington, D.C.	Baltimore	Atlanta	Miami	Dallas-Fort Worth	Houston
Number of consumer units (in thousands) .....	41,986	2,344	1,169	1,989	1,779	2,054	1,751
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes .....	\$52,066	\$86,526	\$63,372	\$59,942	\$51,799	\$61,753	\$69,557
Age of reference person .....	48.4	47.0	51.3	45.8	50.4	44.9	45.1
Average number in consumer unit:							
Persons .....	2.5	2.5	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9
Children under 18 .....	.6	.6	.5	.7	.7	.8	1.0
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.2	.4	.2	.4	.2	.2
Earners .....	1.3	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5
Vehicles .....	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.9
Percent homeowner .....	69	69	69	72	67	68	68
Average annual expenditures .....	\$40,903	\$55,977	\$39,217	\$39,992	\$37,673	\$50,637	\$52,998
Food .....	5,404	5,831	4,324	5,496	5,522	6,426	5,862
Food at home .....	3,065	3,055	2,655	2,676	3,793	3,560	3,118
Cereals and bakery products .....	413	407	374	364	507	489	422
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	790	766	737	750	1,029	805	776
Dairy products .....	331	337	275	255	470	414	338
Fruits and vegetables .....	488	597	448	502	736	579	556
Other food at home .....	1,043	949	820	804	1,052	1,273	1,025
Food away from home .....	2,340	2,776	1,670	2,820	1,729	2,867	2,744
Alcoholic beverages .....	349	551	354	337	272	540	430
Housing .....	12,862	21,523	14,714	14,346	14,807	16,706	16,609
Shelter .....	6,936	13,997	9,487	8,497	9,465	9,453	9,245
Owned dwellings .....	4,719	10,250	6,644	6,019	6,150	6,818	6,373
Rented dwellings .....	1,867	3,178	2,366	2,202	3,027	2,147	2,255
Other lodging .....	350	570	476	276	289	488	617
Utilities, fuels, and public services .....	3,108	3,618	2,944	3,430	3,140	3,833	3,877
Household operations .....	725	1,326	614	717	741	929	1,067
Housekeeping supplies .....	561	567	417	518	525	645	653
Household furnishings and equipment .....	1,532	2,015	1,253	1,184	936	1,845	1,767
Apparel and services .....	1,740	2,224	1,641	1,744	954	2,228	2,265
Transportation .....	7,620	7,876	5,799	6,044	6,282	8,838	10,326
Vehicle purchases (net outlay) .....	3,366	2,758	2,052	2,359	2,013	3,587	4,584
Gasoline and motor oil .....	1,835	1,726	1,541	1,695	1,633	1,982	2,249
Other vehicle expenses .....	2,132	2,601	1,844	1,748	2,284	2,799	3,107
Public transportation .....	288	790	363	242	353	469	386
Healthcare .....	2,569	2,510	2,215	1,837	2,003	3,027	2,942
Entertainment .....	2,124	2,632	1,696	2,079	1,412	2,111	2,338
Personal care products and services .....	525	637	507	397	516	767	746
Reading .....	96	166	80	65	33	118	129
Education .....	662	1,610	998	773	576	921	1,061
Tobacco products and smoking supplies .....	304	188	219	142	141	228	246
Miscellaneous .....	587	847	395	421	455	783	879
Cash contributions .....	1,479	1,667	1,228	1,047	852	1,855	2,677
Personal insurance and pensions .....	4,583	7,713	5,046	5,265	3,846	6,090	6,488
Life and other personal insurance .....	406	609	235	364	218	437	425
Pensions and Social Security .....	4,177	7,104	4,811	4,901	3,628	5,652	6,063