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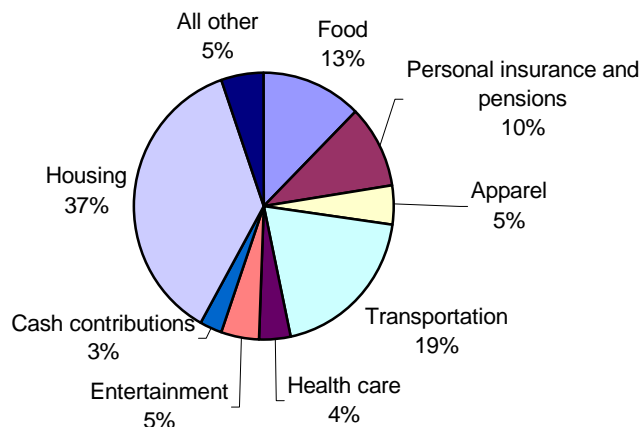
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CONSUMER SPENDING PATTERNS IN MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, 1998-99

Consumer units¹ in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida, metropolitan area spent \$38,099 per year in 1998-99, 5.1 percent more than the national average. Miami area consumers spent 17.9 percent more than households nationwide for housing and 9.0 percent more on transportation. However, expenditures to cover out-of-pocket medical expenses were 23.3 percent below the national average.

The typical Miami household spent a slightly larger share of its total budget for food, housing, and transportation (68.8 percent) than the average U.S. household (65.1 percent). (See table 1.) The percentage of Miami's budget spent on these three categories was also the highest when compared to six other metropolitan areas in the South. (Geographical boundaries of the region and metropolitan areas referenced in this release are contained in the Technical Note.)

Miami Expenditure Shares, Consumer Expenditure Survey 1998-99



This report contains annual data averaged over a two-year period - 1998 and 1999. The data are from the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which is conducted on an ongoing basis by the Bureau of

¹ See technical note for definition of a consumer unit. The terms consumer unit and household are used interchangeably throughout the text for convenience.

Labor Statistics (BLS). The Bureau of the Census collects the survey data for BLS. The Consumer Expenditure Survey is the only national survey that provides both complete data on household expenditures and the demographic characteristics of those households. Survey data cannot be used to make cost of living comparisons between areas. Expenditures vary among areas not only because of economic factors such as the price of goods and services and family income, but also because of differences such as the age of the population, climate, consumer tastes, family size, etc. The survey provides average expenditures for consumer units. An individual consumer unit may spend more or less than the average, depending on its particular characteristics. (See table 2.)

On average, spending on housing accounted for 36.7 percent of total household expenditures in the Miami area. Of the metropolitan areas in the South that were surveyed, Miami consumer units spent the largest share of their budget for housing. Nationally, households spent 32.7 percent on housing in the 1998-99 period. Only Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston had an expenditure share less than the national average. The majority of housing expenditures in Miami (60.5 percent) went for shelter, which includes mortgage interest, property taxes, repairs, and rent, among other items. Utilities, fuels and public services accounted for another 19.5 percent of total housing expenditures. The rate of homeownership in Miami, at 64 percent, was similar to the national average of 65 percent.

Transportation was the second largest expenditure category in the Miami area accounting for 19.5 percent of a household's budget. Miami households spent close to the same proportion on transportation as the average American household, which spent 18.8 percent. Of the \$7,425 annual expenditure, 94.0 percent was spent buying and maintaining private vehicles; the rest was spent on public transportation. The average number of vehicles per household in Miami was 1.6, less than the national average of 1.9. In other southern cities, the average number of vehicles ranged from 2.0 per household in Atlanta to 1.7 in both Baltimore and Tampa.

Miami consumers spent 12.6 percent of their budget on food compared to 13.6 for the nation. Elsewhere in the South, the share spent on food in Baltimore, Tampa, Dallas-Fort Worth, and Houston was higher than Miami's, while in Washington, D.C. and Atlanta it was lower. Miami households spent 60.2 percent of their food budget on food prepared and eaten at home, compared to 57.9 percent spent by households nationwide. The remaining 39.8 percent of their food budget was spent on food prepared away from home, such as restaurant meals, carry-outs, board at school, and catered affairs.

Payments for personal insurance and pensions accounted for 10.0 percent of the typical Miami household budget, higher than the 9.4 percent share spent nationally. Social Security and pension contributions accounted for 91.1 percent of Miami consumer units' expenses in this category.

Miami area households spent 4.7 percent of their budget on entertainment, equaling the percentage spent by a typical household in the South region, but below the national average of 5.1 percent. Baltimore's expenditure share for entertainment, at 5.3 percent, was the highest among the selected metropolitan areas in the South.

Spending on apparel and related services accounted for 4.6 percent of total expenditures in Miami, not much different from the 4.7 percent spent nationally. Within the South, only households in Dallas-Fort Worth and Washington, D.C. spent a greater share on clothing.

Miami area households spent 3.9 percent of their budget covering out-of-pocket medical expenses--health insurance premiums, medical services, drugs (prescription and nonprescription) and medical supplies. This proportion was similar to the share allocated for health care costs by consumer units in Baltimore (4.2 percent). Of the seven metropolitan areas in the South, Tampa spent the largest

share of its budget—7.0 percent—on out-of-pocket medical costs, and was the only area to surpass the national average of 5.3 percent.

Cash contributions accounted for 2.8 percent of a household’s spending in Miami, below the 3.2 percent national average. Among the metropolitan areas surveyed in the South, only households in Tampa spent a smaller proportion of their budget (2.5 percent) on this category.

Additional Data Available

Detailed information is available for the four Census regions and the nation. These tables may be obtained from the Bureau’s automated Fax-on-Demand service. (See below.) Additional tables are offered under the heading “*Tables*” on the BLS Internet site (<http://www.bls.gov/csxhome.htm>).

| BLS Fax-on-Demand – Atlanta (404) 331-3403 | Number of pages | Document no. |
|---|-----------------|--------------|
| Consumer Expenditures in 1999 - national news release (annual) | 2 | 2705 |
| CEX expenditure data - | | |
| By quintiles of income before taxes (Table 1) | 4 | 2710 |
| By income before taxes (Table 2) | 4 | 2715 |
| By age of reference person (Table 3) | 4 | 2720 |
| By size of consumer unit (Table 4) | 4 | 2725 |
| By composition of consumer unit (Table 5) | 4 | 2730 |
| By number of earners (Table 6) | 4 | 2735 |
| By housing tenure, race, Hispanic origin, and type of area - urban or rural (Table 7) | 4 | 2740 |
| By region of residence (Table 8) | 4 | 2745 |
| By occupation of reference person (Table 9) | 4 | 2750 |
| By education of reference person (Table 10) | 4 | 2760 |

Technical Note

The current Consumer Expenditure Survey program began in 1980. Its principal objective is to collect information on the buying habits of American consumers. The consumer expenditure data are used in a wide variety of research by government, business, labor, and academic analysts. The data are also required for periodic revision of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The survey consists of two components: A Diary or recordkeeping survey completed by participating consumer units for two consecutive 1-week periods which collects data on frequently purchased smaller items, and an Interview survey in which the expenditures on larger-cost items and those that occur on a regular basis are obtained in five interviews conducted every 3 months. The data presented in this release are based on integrated data from both surveys.

Each component of the survey queries an independent sample of consumer units which is representative of the U.S. population. Over the year, about 7,500 consumer units are sampled for the Diary survey. The Interview sample is conducted on a rotating panel basis, with about 7,500 consumer units participating each quarter. The data are collected on an ongoing basis in 105 areas of the country.

The Metropolitan Statistical Areas covered by the Consumer Expenditure Survey represent areas designated by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are based on definitions in effect as of December 1992. Generally speaking, a MSA consists of one or more counties and meets specified size criteria—either it contains a city of at least 50,000 inhabitants, or it contains an urbanized area of 50,000 inhabitants, and has a population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The largest MSAs are classified as Consolidated Metropolitan Areas (CMSAs), loosely defined as metropolitan areas with a population of at least 1 million which have been divided into two or more sub-metropolitan areas each

having a population of at least 100,000 called Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs). Due to a change in sampling frame and in area definitions, local data for the 1998-99 period are not directly comparable to data prior to 1996. The following are definitions of the areas discussed in this release:

Atlanta, GA MSA, includes Barrow, Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding, and Walton Counties.

Baltimore, MD PMSA, includes Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties.

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX CMSA, includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant Counties.

Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX CMSA, includes Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties.

Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL CMSA, includes Broward and Dade Counties.

Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL MSA, includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

Washington, DC PMSA, includes the District of Columbia; Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; and Berkeley and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia.

Definitions

Consumer unit. A single person living alone or sharing a household with others but who is financially independent; members of a household related by blood, marriage, adoption, or other legal arrangement; or two or more persons living together who share responsibility for at least 2 out of 3 major types of expenses - food, housing, and other expenses. The terms household or consumer unit are used interchangeably for convenience.

Complete income reporter. In general, a consumer unit that provides values for at least one of the major sources of its income such as wages and salaries, self employment income, or Social Security income. Even complete income reporters may not have provided a full accounting of all income from all sources.

Table 1. Consumer unit characteristics and percent distribution of expenditures, U.S. average, South region and selected Southern metropolitan statistical areas, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-99

| Item | United States average | South | Washington D.C. | Baltimore | Atlanta | Miami | Tampa | Dallas-Fort Worth | Houston |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Consumer unit characteristics: | | | | | | | | | |
| Income before taxes 1/ | \$42,770 | \$39,371 | \$65,387 | \$48,355 | \$49,483 | \$45,233 | \$40,101 | \$52,874 | \$50,313 |
| Age of reference person | 47.8 | 47.6 | 46.5 | 48.7 | 45.6 | 49.2 | 50.8 | 44.6 | 44.8 |
| Average number in consumer unit: | | | | | | | | | |
| Persons | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Children under 18 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.5 | 0.7 | 0.9 |
| Persons 65 and over | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Earners | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Vehicles | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| Percent homeowner | 65 | 67 | 64 | 66 | 68 | 64 | 70 | 59 | 56 |
| Average annual expenditures | | | | | | | | | |
| Total (percent) | \$36,251 100.0 | \$33,135 100.0 | \$46,801 100.0 | \$39,782 100.0 | \$38,727 100.0 | \$38,099 100.0 | \$32,928 100.0 | \$44,224 100.0 | \$43,038 100.0 |
| Food | 13.6 | 13.7 | 11.4 | 13.0 | 11.5 | 12.6 | 14.4 | 14.7 | 13.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 0.9 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.7 | 1.0 |
| Housing | 32.7 | 31.1 | 35.0 | 33.9 | 35.5 | 36.7 | 33.5 | 29.9 | 30.5 |
| Apparel and services | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| Transportation | 18.8 | 20.3 | 17.5 | 16.0 | 20.8 | 19.5 | 18.2 | 17.7 | 22.2 |
| Health care | 5.3 | 5.9 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 4.7 | 3.9 | 7.0 | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| Entertainment | 5.1 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.3 |
| Personal care products & services | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Reading | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Education | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Tobacco products & smoking supplies | 0.8 | 0.9 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Miscellaneous | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 5.3 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 2.2 |
| Cash contributions | 3.2 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 5.1 | 3.2 |
| Personal insurance and pensions | 9.4 | 9.2 | 11.4 | 10.9 | 9.1 | 10.0 | 9.2 | 11.6 | 11.1 |

1/ Components of income and taxes are derived from "complete income reporters" only; see definitions.

Table 2. Average annual expenditures, U.S. average, South region and selected metropolitan areas, Consumer Expenditure Survey, 1998-99

| Item | United States average | South | Washington D.C. | Baltimore | Atlanta | Miami | Tampa | Dallas-Fort Worth | Houston |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| Average annual expenditures | \$36,251 | \$33,135 | \$46,801 | \$39,782 | \$38,727 | \$38,099 | \$32,928 | \$44,224 | \$43,038 |
| Food | 4,921 | 4,533 | 5,358 | 5,165 | 4,449 | 4,791 | 4,750 | 6,490 | 5,624 |
| Food at home | 2,848 | 2,660 | 2,907 | 2,967 | 2,390 | 2,884 | 2,741 | 3,512 | 2,948 |
| Food away from home | 2,073 | 1,873 | 2,451 | 2,198 | 2,060 | 1,908 | 2,009 | 2,979 | 2,676 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 313 | 253 | 419 | 371 | 240 | 306 | 405 | 329 | 412 |
| Housing | 11,843 | 10,303 | 16,386 | 13,484 | 13,740 | 13,966 | 11,040 | 13,227 | 13,108 |
| Shelter | 6,849 | 5,467 | 10,477 | 8,164 | 8,136 | 8,446 | 6,255 | 7,358 | 7,166 |
| Utilities, fuels, & services | 2,391 | 2,482 | 2,640 | 2,356 | 3,054 | 2,723 | 2,457 | 2,909 | 2,882 |
| Household operations | 606 | 553 | 815 | 606 | 793 | 1,017 | 639 | 797 | 762 |
| Housekeeping supplies | 490 | 473 | 473 | 661 | 340 | 407 | 449 | 538 | 489 |
| Household furnishings | 1,506 | 1,328 | 1,981 | 1,697 | 1,417 | 1,372 | 1,240 | 1,624 | 1,809 |
| Apparel and services | 1,708 | 1,610 | 2,279 | 1,660 | 1,712 | 1,734 | 1,330 | 2,492 | 1,950 |
| Transportation | 6,815 | 6,738 | 8,171 | 6,347 | 8,058 | 7,425 | 5,986 | 7,835 | 9,569 |
| Vehicle purchases (net outlay) | 3,136 | 3,354 | 3,914 | 2,801 | 3,814 | 2,840 | 2,602 | 3,687 | 5,039 |
| Gasoline & motor oil | 1,036 | 1,052 | 1,040 | 1,012 | 1,074 | 1,085 | 900 | 1,272 | 1,243 |
| Other vehicle expenses | 2,230 | 2,033 | 2,463 | 2,100 | 2,824 | 3,054 | 2,074 | 2,468 | 2,853 |
| Public transportation | 413 | 298 | 755 | 435 | 346 | 446 | 411 | 407 | 435 |
| Health care | 1,931 | 1,971 | 2,202 | 1,581 | 1,835 | 1,481 | 2,294 | 2,148 | 1,919 |
| Entertainment | 1,844 | 1,574 | 2,261 | 2,104 | 1,692 | 1,780 | 1,471 | 2,011 | 1,847 |
| Personal care products & services | 405 | 393 | 640 | 462 | 343 | 408 | 292 | 528 | 537 |
| Reading | 160 | 121 | 244 | 129 | 177 | 88 | 118 | 163 | 130 |
| Education | 607 | 431 | 856 | 671 | 545 | 433 | 392 | 535 | 490 |
| Tobacco products & smoking supplies | 287 | 288 | 228 | 243 | 198 | 204 | 284 | 301 | 346 |
| Miscellaneous | 864 | 750 | 1,038 | 2,090 | 727 | 608 | 707 | 794 | 959 |
| Cash contributions | 1,145 | 1,122 | 1,366 | 1,122 | 1,488 | 1,059 | 834 | 2,251 | 1,388 |
| Personal insurance and pensions | 3,409 | 3,048 | 5,353 | 4,354 | 3,523 | 3,815 | 3,026 | 5,121 | 4,758 |
| Life & other personal insurance | 396 | 414 | 674 | 433 | 503 | 341 | 324 | 545 | 478 |
| Pensions & Social Security | 3,012 | 2,635 | 4,679 | 3,921 | 3,020 | 3,474 | 2,702 | 4,575 | 4,280 |