

# United States - Consumer Expenditure Diary Survey 2003

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# Overview

## Identification

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### ID NUMBER

USA\_2003\_CES\_DS\_V01\_M\_BLS

## Overview

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### ABSTRACT

The Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) program provides a continuous and comprehensive flow of data on the buying habits of American consumers. These data are used widely in economic research and analysis, and in support of revisions of the Consumer Price Index. To meet the needs of users, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces population estimates for consumer units (CUs) of average expenditures in news releases, reports, issues, and articles in the Monthly Labor Review. Tabulated CE data are also available on the Internet and by facsimile transmission (See Section XV. APPENDIX 4). The microdata are available online at <http://www/bls.gov/cex/pumdhome.htm>.

These microdata files present detailed expenditure and income data for the Diary component of the CE for 2003. They include weekly expenditure (EXPD) and annual income (DTBD) files. The data in EXPD and DTBD files are categorized by a Universal Classification Code (UCC). The advantage of the EXPD and DTBD files is that with the data classified in a standardized format, the user may perform comparative expenditure (or income) analysis with relative ease. The FMLD and MEMD files present data on the characteristics and demographics of CUs and CU members. The summary level expenditure and income information on the FMLD files permits the data user to link consumer spending, by general expenditure category, and household characteristics and demographics on one set of files.

Estimates of average expenditures in 2003 from the Diary survey, integrated with data from the Interview survey, are published in Consumer Expenditures in 2003. A list of recent publications containing data from the CE appears at the end of this documentation.

The microdata files are in the public domain and with appropriate credit, may be reproduced without permission. A suggested citation is: "U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Survey, Diary Survey, 2003".

### STATE IDENTIFIER

Since the CE is not designed to produce state-level estimates, summing the consumer unit weights by state will not yield state population totals. A CU's basic weight reflects its probability of selection among a group of primary sampling units of similar characteristics. For example, sample units in an urban nonmetropolitan area in California may represent similar areas in Wyoming and Nevada. Among other adjustments, CUs are post-stratified nationally by sex-age-race. For example, the weights of consumer units containing a black male, age 16-24 in Alabama, Colorado, or New York, are all adjusted equivalently. Therefore, weighted population state totals will not match population totals calculated from other surveys that are designed to represent state data.

To summarize, the CE sample was not designed to produce precise estimates for individual states. Although state-level estimates that are unbiased in a repeated sampling sense can be calculated for various statistical measures, such as means and aggregates, their estimates will generally be subject to large variances. Additionally, a particular state-population estimate from the CE sample may be far from the true state-population estimate.

### INTERPRETING THE DATA

Several factors should be considered when interpreting the expenditure data. The average expenditure for an item may be considerably lower than the expenditure by those CUs that purchased the item. The less frequently an item is purchased, the greater the difference between the average for all consumer units and the average of those purchasing. (See Section V.B. for ESTIMATION OF TOTAL AND MEAN EXPENDITURES). Also, an individual CU may spend more or less than the average, depending on its particular characteristics. Factors such as income, age of family members, geographic location, taste and personal preference also influence expenditures. Furthermore, even within groups with similar characteristics, the distribution of expenditures varies substantially.

Expenditures reported are the direct out-of-pocket expenditures. Indirect expenditures, which may be significant, may be reflected elsewhere. For example, rental contracts often include utilities. Renters with such contracts would record no direct expense for utilities, and therefore, appear to have no utility expenses. Employers or insurance companies frequently pay

other costs. CUs with members whose employers pay for all or part of their health insurance or life insurance would have lower direct expenses for these items than those who pay the entire amount themselves. These points should be considered when relating reported averages to individual circumstances.

The Diary survey PUMD are organized into five major data files for each quarter:

1. FMLD - a file with characteristics, income, and summary level expenditures for the household
2. MEMD - a file with characteristics and income for each member in the household
3. EXPD - a detailed weekly expenditure file categorized by UCC
4. DTBD - a detailed annual income file categorized by UCC
5. DTID - a household imputed income file categorized by UCC

#### **KIND OF DATA**

Sample survey data [ssd]

#### **UNITS OF ANALYSIS**

Consumer Unit

## Producers and Sponsors

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#### **PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
United States Census Bureau	

## Metadata Production

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#### **METADATA PRODUCED BY**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>
International Labour organization	ILO		

#### **DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION**

2014-08

#### **DDI DOCUMENT ID**

DDI\_USA\_2003\_CES\_DS\_V01\_M\_BLS

# Sampling

## Sampling Procedure

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Samples for the CE are national probability samples of households designed to be representative of the total U. S. civilian population. Eligible population includes all civilian noninstitutional persons.

The first step in sampling is the selection of primary sampling units (PSUs), which consist of counties (or parts thereof) or groups of counties. The set of sample PSUs used for the 2003 sample is composed of 105 areas. The design classifies the PSUs into four categories:

- 31 "A" certainty PSUs are Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) with a population greater than 1.5 million.
- 46 "B" PSUs, are medium-sized MSA's.
- 10 "C" PSUs are nonmetropolitan areas that are included in the CPI.
- 18 "D" PSUs are nonmetropolitan areas where only the urban population data will be included in the CPI.

The sampling frame (that is, the list from which housing units were chosen) for the 2003 survey is generated from the 1990 Population Census 100-percent-detail file. The sampling frame is augmented by new construction permits and by techniques used to eliminate recognized deficiencies in census coverage. All Enumeration Districts (ED's) from the Census that fail to meet the criterion for good addresses for new construction, and all ED's in nonpermit-issuing areas are grouped into the area segment frame.

To the extent possible, an unclustered sample of units is selected within each PSU. This lack of clustering is desirable because the sample size of the Diary Survey is small relative to other surveys, while the intraclass correlations for expenditure characteristics are relatively large. This suggests that any clustering of the sample units could result in an unacceptable increase in the within-PSU variance and, as a result, the total variance.

Each selected sample unit is requested to keep two 1-week diaries of expenditures over consecutive weeks. The earliest possible day for placing a diary with a household is predesignated with each day of the week having an equal chance to be the first of the reference week. The diaries are evenly spaced throughout the year. During the last 6 weeks of the year, however, the Diary Survey sample is supplemented to twice its normal size to increase the reporting of types of expenditures unique to the holidays.

# Questionnaires

No content available

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Cycle</b>
2003	2003	N/A

### Data Collection Mode

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Computer Assisted Personal Interview [capi]

## **Data Processing**

No content available

## Data Appraisal

No content available



## Related Materials

### Questionnaires

#### Computer Assisted Diary Household Characteristics Questionnaire

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Title Computer Assisted Diary Household Characteristics Questionnaire  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename Diary Characteristics Questionnaire 2003.pdf

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#### Diary survey form\_ Record of daily expenses

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Title Diary survey form\_ Record of daily expenses  
 Date 2003-01-01  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename Diary Survey Form 2003.pdf

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### Reports

#### Consumer Expenditures in 2003

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Title Consumer Expenditures in 2003  
 Date 2003-01-01  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename annual report03.pdf

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#### Consumer Expenditure survey anthology, 2003

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Title Consumer Expenditure survey anthology, 2003  
 Date 2003-01-01  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename anthology03.pdf

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### Technical documents

#### Consumer Expenditure and Income ( Presentation and methodology)

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Title Consumer Expenditure and Income ( Presentation and methodology)  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename presentation.pdf

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## CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DIARY SURVEY/ PUBLIC USE MICRODATA DOCUMENTATION

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Title CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DIARY SURVEY/ PUBLIC USE MICRODATA DOCUMENTATION  
Date 2003-01-01  
Country United States  
Language English  
Filename Diary Documentation 2003.pdf

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### Errata

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Title Errata  
Date 2003-01-01  
Country United States  
Language English  
Filename FMLIErrata9904.pdf

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### Errata 2

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Title Errata 2  
Date 2003-01-01  
Country United States  
Language English  
Filename HHIDErrata8006.pdf

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