

# United States - Consumer Expenditure Interview survey 2002

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# Overview

## Identification

### ID NUMBER

USA\_2002\_CES\_IS\_EF\_V01\_M\_BLS

## Overview

### 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/pumhome.htm>.

These microdata files present detailed expenditure and income data from the Interview component of the CE for 2002 and the first quarter of 2003. The Interview survey collects data on up to 95 percent of total household expenditures. In addition to the FMLI, MEMI, MTBI, and ITBI files, the microdata include files created directly from the expenditure sections of the Interview survey (EXPN files). The EXPN files contain expenditure data and ancillary descriptive information, often not available on the FMLI or MTBI files, in a format similar to the Interview questionnaire. In addition to the extra information available on the EXPN files, users can identify distinct spending categories easily and reduce processing time due to the organization of the files by type of expenditure.

Estimates of average expenditures in 2002 from the Interview Survey, integrated with data from the Diary Survey, will be published in the report Consumer Expenditures in 2002. 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, Interview Survey, 2002."

### KIND OF DATA

Sample survey data [ssd]

### UNITS OF ANALYSIS

Consumer Units

## Producers and Sponsors

### PRIMARY INVESTIGATOR(S)

Name	Affiliation
United States Census Bureau	

## Metadata Production

### METADATA PRODUCED BY

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation	Role
International Labour organization	ILO		

### DATE OF METADATA PRODUCTION

2014-09

### DDI DOCUMENT ID

DDI\_USA\_2002\_CES\_IS\_EF\_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 2002 and 2003 samples 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 1.5million.
- 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 theCPI.

The sampling frame (that is, the list from which housing units were chosen) for the 2002 and 2003 surveys is generated from the 1990 Census of Population 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 (EDs) from the Census that fail to meet the criterion for good addresses for new construction, and all EDs in nonpermit-issuing areas are grouped into the area segment frame. Interviewers are then assigned to list these areas before a sample is drawn.

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.

The Interview Survey is a panel rotation survey. Each panel is interviewed for five consecutive quarters and then dropped from the survey. As one panel leaves the survey, a new panel is introduced. Approximately 20 percent of the addresses are new to the survey each month.

### STATE IDENTIFIER

Since the CE is not designed to produce state-level estimates, summing the CU 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 CUs 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.

### 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 CUs and the average of those purchasing. (See Section V.A.2.b.ii. for MEANS OF THOSE REPORTING.) 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 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 lower utility expenses. Employers or insurance companies frequently pay other costs. CU 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.

## Weighting

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Each CU included in the CE represents a given number of CUs in the U.S. population, which is considered to be the universe. The translation of sample families into the universe of families is known as weighting. However, since the unit of analysis for

the CE is a CU, the weighting is performed at the CU level. Several factors are involved in determining the weight for each CU for which an interview is obtained. There are four steps in the weighting procedure:

1)The basic weight is assigned to an address and is the inverse of the probability of selection of the housing unit.

2)A weight control factor is applied to each interview if subsampling is performed in the field.

3)A noninterview adjustment is made for units where data could not be collected from occupied housing units. The adjustment is performed as a function of region, housing tenure, family size and race.

4)A final adjustment is performed to adjust the sample estimates to national population controls derived from the Current Population Survey. The adjustments are made based on both the CU's member composition and the CU as a whole. The weight for the CU is adjusted for individuals within the CU to meet the controls for 14 age/race categories, 4 regions, and 4 region/urban categories. The CU weight is also adjusted to meet the control for total number of CUs and total number of CUs who own their living quarters. The weighting procedure uses an iterative process to ensure that the sample estimates meet all the population controls.

NOTE: The weight for a consumer unit (CU) can be different for each quarter in which the CU participates in the survey, as the CU may represent a different number of CUs with similar characteristics.

# Questionnaires

No content available

## Data Collection

### Data Collection Dates

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<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Cycle</b>
2002	2002	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

#### Quarterly Interview CAPI Survey questionnaire

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Title Quarterly Interview CAPI Survey questionnaire  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename Interview Survey Form 2002.pdf

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### Reports

#### Consumer Expenditures in 2002

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Title Consumer Expenditures in 2002  
 Date 2002-01-01  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename annual report02.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 INTERVIEW SURVEY /PUBLIC USE MICRODATA DOCUMENTATION

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Title CONSUMER EXPENDITURE INTERVIEW SURVEY /PUBLIC USE MICRODATA DOCUMENTATION  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename Interview Documentation 2002.pdf

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### Vehicle codes

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Title Vehicle codes  
 Country United States  
 Language English  
 Filename vehi02.txt

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## Errata

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Title Errata  
Country United States  
Language English  
Filename EXPNErrata0107.pdf

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## Consumer Expenditure Public-Use Microdata

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Title Consumer Expenditure Public-Use Microdata  
Country United States  
Language English  
Filename FMLIErrata9904.pdf

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## Consumer Expenditure Public-Use Microdata

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Title Consumer Expenditure Public-Use Microdata  
Country United States  
Language English  
Filename HHIDErrata8006.pdf

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