

Computing Mean Expenditures for Individual Items Using Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey Microdata



Step One: Acquire Data

Food at Home information is located in an MTBI File.

Things we need:

- Universal Classification Code (UCC) – Identifies the items we need to construct our category.
- Cost – Tells us how much a consumer unit (CU) spent on the item.
- NewID – A unique identifier for the CU.

We can calculate our summary expenditures using just the three variables identified above.

Step Two: Restrict Sample

Food At Home UCCs

"790240"

"190904"

	NewID	UCC	Cost
1	2554935	790240	100
2	2554935	790240	100
3	2554935	790240	100
4	2554936	790240	250
5	2554936	790240	250
6	2554936	790240	250
7	2554936	190904	400
8	2554937	190904	500

Step Three: Sum the Cost

- Add up the cost column for each individual CU.
- After you do this, you should have only one value for each CU instead of multiple values per CU.
 - ▶ If you have restricted the sample to the correct UCCs, on each row you will have what that particular CU spent on Food at Home.
- **\$8,251,702** for 2014 Quarter 1 across all CUs.



Step Four: Generate the Mean

- We now have an aggregate for all CUs or a file containing the amount each CU spent on Food at Home.
- Depending on your program, take the mean of the individual CU values or compute it directly by dividing the aggregate by the number of CUs in your sample.



$$\text{Mean}(\text{cost}) = \$1289.73$$

$$\$8,251,702 / 6398 = \$1289.73$$