CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DIARY SURVEY
PUBLIC USE MICRODATA
2012 Users' Documentation
September 10, 2013

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I.   Introduction

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 or CUs) of average expenditures in news releases, reports, and articles. Tabulated CE data are also available on the internet (see Section XV. Appendix 4). The microdata are available on the public BLS website for free download.

These microdata files present detailed expenditure and income data for the Diary component of the CE. They include weekly expenditure (EXPD), annual income (DTBD), and imputed income (DTID) files. The data in EXPD, DTBD, and DTID 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 (income) analysis with relative ease. The FMLD and MEMD files contain 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, to household characteristics and demographics on one set of files.

Estimates of average expenditures from the Diary survey, integrated with data from the Interview survey, are published online in the CE annual reports.. A number of recent publications containing data from the CE are available on the public website as well.

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, 2012."

II.   Changes from the 2011 Microdata Files

A. FMLI Files

Variable Deletions

Beginning in 2012Q1 the following variable will be deleted from the data:

Variable Name	Description
STRTDAY	Diary start date – date

B. MEMD Files

No changes in 2012

C. EXPD Files

Variable Additions

Beginning in 2012Q1 the following variables will be added to the data:

Variable name	Description	Start Position	Format
EXPNSQDY	Sequential day of the diary week (1-7)	41	CHAR(1)
EXPN_QDY	Flag variable for EXPNSQDY	42	CHAR(1)
EXPNWKDY	Day of the week of purchase, Sunday thru Saturday (1-7)	43	CHAR(1)
EXPN_KDY	Flag variable for EXPNWKDY	44	CHAR(1)

EXPNMO	Reference Month of this expenditure (01-12)	45	CHAR(2)
EXPNMO_	Flag variable for EXPNMO	47	CHAR(1)
EXPNYR	Reference Year of this expenditure (0000-9999)	48	CHAR(4)
EXPNYR_	Flag variable for EXPNYR	52	CHAR(1)

Variable Deletions

Beginning in 2012Q1 the following variables will be deleted from the data:

Variable name	Description
QREDATE	Purchase Date Recode Field Consists of: Sequential day of the diary week (1-7) Day of the week, Sunday thru Saturday (1-7) Reference Month of this expenditure (01-12) Reference Day of this expenditure (01-31) Reference Year of this expenditure (0000-9999)

D. DTBD Files

No changes in 2012

E. DTID Files

No changes in 2012

III.   File Information

The microdata are provided as SAS, STATA, SPSS data sets or ASCII comma-delimited files. The 2012 Diary release contains five sets of data files (FMLD, MEMD, EXPD, DTBD, DTID) and three processing files. The FMLD, MEMD, EXPD, DTBD, and DTID files are organized by the quarter of the calendar year in which the data were collected. There are four quarterly data sets for each of these files. The FMLD files contain CU characteristics, income, and summary level expenditures; the MEMD files contain member characteristics and income data; the EXPD files contain detailed weekly expenditures at the UCC level; the DTBD files contain the CUs' reported income values or the mean of the five imputed income values in the multiple imputation method; and the DTID files contain the five imputed income values.

The three processing files enhance computer processing and tabulation of data, and provide descriptive information on item codes. The three processing files are: an aggregation scheme file used in the published consumer expenditure tables (DSTUB), a UCC file that contains UCCs and their abbreviated titles, identifying the expenditure, income, or demographic item represented by each UCC, and a sample program file that verifies CE estimates (see Section VII.). The processing files are further explained in Section III.F.6. Processing Files.

In addition to these processing files, there is a "User's Guide to Income Imputation in the CE," which includes information on how to appropriately use the imputed income data.

Note that the variable NEWID, the CUs' identification number, is the common variable among files by which matching is done. Values for NEWID have a leading "blank." Because of this, it appears the NEWID values are only 7 characters long, when actually they are 8.

A. Dataset Names

The file naming convention in the SAS subfolder, X:\FILEPATH\diary12,
(where "X" references the designated drive where your data is downloaded, and FILEPATH is the directory where the data resides)
is listed in the table below. The STATA, SPSS, and ASCII comma-delimited files use the same dataset names as SAS, but have a different file extension as follows:
STATA files: *.dta
SPSS files: *.sav
Comma-delimited ASCII files: *.csv

\DIARY12\FMLD121.sas7bdat   (Diary FMLD file for first quarter, 2012)
\DIARY12\MEMD121.sas7bdat (Diary MEMD file for first quarter, 2012)
\DIARY12\EXPD121.sas7bdat   (Diary EXPD file for first quarter, 2012)
\DIARY12\DTBD121.sas7bdat   (Diary DTBD file for first quarter, 2012)
\DIARY12\DTID121.sas7bdat   (Diary DTID file for first quarter, 2012)
\DIARY12\FMLD122.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\MEMD122.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\EXPD122.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\DTBD122.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\DTID122.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\FMLD123.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\MEMD123.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\EXPD123.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\DTBD123.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\DTID123.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\FMLD124.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\MEMD124.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\EXPD124.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\DTBD124.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\DTID124.sas7bdat
\DIARY12\UCCD12.txt

Note: All data files are compressed. These files can be uncompressed using most unzip utilities.

B. Record Counts

The following are number of records in each data set. The OBS count is also applicable to the STATA and SPSS files:

Data Set	2012 Record Count
FMLD121	3,512
MEMD121	8,717
EXPD121	124,206
DTBD121	59,010
DTID121	88,818

Data Set	2012 Record Count
FMLD122	3,464
MEMD122	8,500
EXPD122	121,694
DTBD122	58,508
DTID122	87,229
FMLD123	3,369
MEMD123	8,299
EXPD123	117,826
DTBD123	56,369
DTID123	84,101
FMLD124	3,416
MEMD124	8,482
EXPD124	123,375
DTBD124	57,321
DTID124	86,446

C. Data Flags

Data fields on the FMLD and MEMD files are explained by flag variables following the data field. The names of the flag variables are derived from the names of the data fields they reference. In general the rule is to add an underscore to the last position of the data field name, for example WAGEX becomes WAGEX_. However, if the data field name is eight characters in length, then the fifth position is replaced with an underscore. If this fifth position is already an underscore, then the fifth position is changed to a zero, so that PENSIONX becomes PENS_ONX, EDUC_REF becomes EDUC0REF.

The flag values are defined as follows:

A flag value of "A" indicates a valid blank; that is, a blank field where a response is not anticipated.

A flag value of "B" indicates a blank resulting from an invalid nonresponse; that is, a nonresponse that is not consistent with other data reported by the CU.

A flag value of "C" refers to a blank resulting from a "don't know", refusal, or other type of nonresponse.

A flag value of "D" indicates that the data field contains a valid or good data value.

A flag value of "T" indicates topcoding has been applied to the data field.

Some Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) in some states are given "false" STATE codes for nondisclosure reasons.   See Section IV.A.CU Characteristics and Income File (FMLD) on topcoding of CU characteristics and income for more detail.

D. Income Imputation

Beginning in 2004, the CE has implemented multiple imputation of income data. Imputation allows income values to be estimated when they are not reported. Many income variables and other income

related variables will be imputed using a multiple imputation process. These imputed income values will be included in the FMLD, MEMD, DTBD, and DTID files. The multiple imputation process derives five imputation values and a mean imputation value per income variable. More information on the imputation process and how to appropriately use the data are found in the document "User's guide to Income Imputation in the CE."

In the public-use microdata, not all of the imputed income variables will contain the derived imputation values. For some income variables, the five derived imputations are excluded and only the mean of those imputations is available. For these variables, there are 3 associated income variables in the FMLD and MEMD files (INCOMEM, INCOMEM_, and INCOMEI). For all other imputed income variables, there are 7 associated variables in the FMLD and MEMD files:

INCOME1	the first imputed income value or the reported income value, if non-missing
INCOME2	the second imputed income value or the reported income value, if non-missing
INCOME3	the third imputed income value or the reported income value, if non-missing
INCOME4	the fourth imputed income value or the reported income value, if non-missing
INCOME5	the fifth imputed income value or the reported income value, if non-missing
INCOMEM	the mean of the five imputed income values
INCOMEM_	the flag variable for the imputed variable (see Section III.C. Data Flags)
INCOMEI	the imputation indicator

Income variables that have imputed values as components (ex: FINCBEFM) will also have 5 imputed values and a mean based on each of the imputed components.

The imputation indicator variable is a 3 digit number that is coded as follows:

The first digit in the 3 digit code defines the imputation method. The meanings are:
1: No Imputation
2: Multiple imputation due to invalid blank only
3: Multiple imputation due to bracketing only
4: Multiple imputation due to invalid blanks and bracketing
5: Multiple imputation due to conversion of a valid blank to an invalid blank (this occurs only when initial values for all sources of income for the CU were valid blanks).

The meaning of the last two digits of the three digit code differs depending on whether you are looking at one of the components of overall income, like FWAGEXM, or you are looking at the summary level variable FINCBEFM. For the components, the last 2 digits represent the number of family members who had their data imputed for that source. For example, if a family had a value of 302 for FWAGEXI that would mean that 2 of the members in the family had their salary income imputed and that in both cases the imputation was due to bracketing only. For the summary level variable FINCBEFM which is a summation of all of the income components, the last 2 digits represent the number of income sources imputed for each member added together. For example, if a family had 3 members and 2 had salary income imputed due to invalid blank only, and 2 had nonfarm income imputed due to bracketing only, and that was the only income data imputed for members of that family, then FWAGEXI for the family would be 202, FBSNSXI would be 302, and FINCBEFI would be 404.

The DTBD file includes income UCCs mapped from the associated INCOMEM variables and the income variables that are not imputed in the FMLD files. The DTID file includes UCCs mapped from income variables subject to income imputation, including the variable IMPNUM to indicate the imputation number 1 - 5.

E. File Notation

Every record from each data file includes the variable NEWID, the CU's unique identification number, which can be used to link records of one CU from several files.

Data fields for variables on the microdata files have either numeric or character values. The format column in the diary data dictionary distinguishes whether a variable is numeric (NUM) or character (CHAR) and shows the number of field positions the variable occupies. Variables that include decimal points are formatted as NUM(t,r) where t is the total number of positions occupied, and r is the number of places to the right of the decimal.

In addition to format, the diary data dictionary gives an item description, questionnaire source,and identification of codes where applicable for each variable.

An asterisk (*) is shown in front of new variables, those which have changed in format or definition, and those which have been deleted.

Some variables require special notation. The following notation is used throughout the documentation for all files:

*D(Yxxq) identifies a variable that is deleted as of the quarterly file indicated. The year and quarter are identified by the 'xx' and 'q' respectively. For example, the notation *D(Y121) indicates the variable is deleted starting with the data file of the first quarter of 2012.

*N(Yxxq) identifies a variable that is added as of the quarterly file indicated. The year and quarter are identified by the 'xx' and 'q' for new variables in the same way as for deleted variables.

*C(Yxxq) identifies a variable whose description has been changed. The year and quarter are identified by the 'xx' and 'q' for new variables in the same way as for new and deleted variables.

*L indicates that the variable can contain negative values.

F. Notes on Files

1. Consumer Unit (CU) Characteristics and Income File (FMLD)

The "FMLD" file, also referred to as the "Consumer Unit Characteristics and Income" file, contains CU characteristics, CU income, and characteristics and earnings of the reference person and of the spouse. The file includes weights needed to calculate population estimates and variances (see Sections V. Estimation Procedures and VI. Reliability Statement).

Summary expenditure variables in this file can be combined to derive weekly estimates for broad consumption categories. Demographic characteristics, such as family size, refer to the CU status on the date of the interview. Income variables contain annual values, covering the 12 months prior to the date of the interview. When there is a valid nonresponse, or where nonresponse occurs and there is no imputation, there will be missing values. The type of nonresponse is explained by associated data flag variables described in Section III.C. Data Flags.

Summary Expenditure Data

The variables FOODTOT through HOUSKEEP contain summary expenditure data. They are all BLS derived. The UCCs comprising each summary expenditure variable are listed below the variable description. UCCs may not be represented in all Diary quarters. When UCCs are added to or deleted from the summary variable definition, the quarter in which the addition (deletion) to the summary expenditure variable occurs is denoted by a leading character directly after the UCC code in the "Changes to the 2011 Microdata" section. For example, N121<UCC> or D121<UCC> identifies a new or deleted UCC for a given summary expenditure variable beginning in Q121.

2. **Member Characteristics and Income File (MEMD)**

The "MEMD" file, also referred to as the "Member Characteristics and Income" file, contains selected characteristics for each CU member, including identification of relationship to reference person. Characteristics for the reference person and spouse appear on both the MEMD file and FMLD file. Demographic characteristic data, such as age of CU member, refer to the member status at the placement of each diary. Income data are collected for all CU members over 13 years of age. Income taxes withheld and pension and retirement contributions are shown both annually and as deductions from the member's last paycheck. Income variables contain annual values for the 12 months prior to the interview month. When there is a valid nonresponse, or where nonresponse occurs and there is no imputation, there will be missing values. The type of nonresponse is explained by associated data flag variables described in Section III C. Data Flags.

3. **Detailed Expenditures File (EXPD)**

In the "EXPD" file, each expenditure recorded by a CU in a weekly diary is identified by UCC, gift/nongift status, and day on which the expenditure occurred. UCCs are six digit codes that identify items or groups of items. (See Section XIII. A. for a listing of UCCs.) There may be more than one record for a UCC on a single day if that is what was reported in the diary. There are no missing values in this file. If no expenditure was recorded for the item(s) represented by a UCC, then there is no record for the UCC on file.

4. **Income File (DTBD)**

The "DTBD" file, also referred to as the "Income" file, contains CU characteristic and income data. This file is created directly from the FMLD file and contains the same annual and point-of-placement data. It was created to facilitate computer processing when linking CU income and demographic characteristic data with EXPD expenditure data. As such, the file structure is similar to EXPD. Each characteristic and income item is identified by UCC. (See Section XIII. B for a listing of UCCs.) There are no records with missing values in DTBD. If the corresponding FMLD file variable contained a missing value, there is no record for the UCC.

5. **Imputed Income File (DTID)**

As a result of the introduction of multiply imputed income data in the Consumer Expenditure Survey, the Imputed DTID file is now on the Microdata. It is very similar to the DTBD file, except that the variable "IMPNUM" will indicate the number (1-5) of the imputation variant of the income variable and it only contains UCCs from variables subject to income imputation.

6. **Processing Files**

Dstub File

X:\FILEPATH\diary12\\Dstub2012.txt

The Dstub file shows the aggregation scheme used in the published consumer expenditure tables. It is formatted as follows:

DESCRIPTION	FORMAT
Type: represents whether information in this line contains aggregation data or not	CHAR(1)
Level: aggregation level (lowest number is highest level of aggregation)	CHAR(1)
Title: title of the line item	CHAR(60)

UCC: UCC number in the EXPD or DTBD file	CHAR(6)
Survey: Indicates survey source (D = Diary, G = Aggregated item)	CHAR(1)
Group: Indicates if the item is an expenditure, income, or asset	CHAR(7)

Note: this file is an internal BLS file used for processing expenditures. It has other information that may be ignored by users of the public use data.

UCC File

X:\FILEPATH\diary12\UCCD12.TXT

The UCC file contains UCCs and their abbreviated titles, identifying the expenditure, income, or demographic item represented by each UCC. It is formatted as follows:

DESCRIPTION	FORMAT
UCC	CHAR(6)
UCC title (See Section XIII. for a list of UCCs and their full titles by file—expenditure (EXPD) or income (DTBD).)	CHAR(50)

IV.   Topcoding and Other Nondisclosure Requirements

Sensitive CU data are changed so that users will not be able to identify CUs who participated in the survey. Topcoding refers to the replacement of data in cases where the value of the original data exceeds prescribed critical values. Critical values for each variable containing sensitive data are calculated in accordance with Census Disclosure Review Board guidelines. Each observation that falls outside the critical value is replaced with a topcoded value that represents the mean of the subset of all outlying observations. All four quarters of data in the CE microdata release are used when calculating the critical value and topcode amount. If an observation is topcoded, the flag variable assigned to that observation is set to 'T.'

Since the critical value and the mean of the set of values outside the critical value may differ with each annual (four-quarter) release, the topcode values may change annually and be applied at a different starting point. By topcoding values in this manner, the first moment will be preserved for each four-quarter data release when using the total sample. This, however, will not be the case when means are estimated by characteristic, because topcode values are not calculated by characteristic.

A. CU Characteristics and Income File (FMLD)

The following table lists FMLD file variables that are subject to topcoding as well as their associated critical values and topcode values.   For multiply imputed income variables, it is possible for an upper topcode value to be less than the upper critical value or for a lower topcode value to be greater than the lower critical value.

Variable	Description	2012 Upper Critical Value	2012 Lower Critical Value	2012 Upper Topcode Value	2012 Lower Topcode Value
ADDFEDX	Amount of Federal income tax paid in addition to that withheld	36,307	-	83,421	-
ADDOTHX	Amount of other taxes paid but not reported elsewhere	10,000	-	27,315	-
ADDSTAX	Amount of state and local income tax paid in addition to that withheld	10,000	-	21,951	-
ALIOTHX	Amount received from regular contributions by all CU members	48,000	-	81,429	-
ALIOTHXM	Amount received from regular contributions by all CU members	48,000	-	52,574	-
CHDLMPX	Amount received by all CU members for a lump sum child support payment in last 12 months	6,000	-	12,308	-
CHDOTHX	Amount received by all CU members in last 12 months for other child support	16,128	-	28,192	-
CHDOTHXM	Amount received by all CU members in last 12 months for other child support	16,128	-	25,660	-
DIVX	Amount received from dividends, royalties, estates, or trusts	75,000	-	529,714	-
DIVXM	Amount received from dividends, royalties, estates, or trusts	75,000	-	179,426	-
FEDREFX	Amount of refund from Federal income tax	9,000	-	15,130	-
INSREFX	Amount of refund from insurance policies	6,000	-	10,054	-
INTX	Amount received from interest on savings accounts, or bonds	35,000	-	60,039	-
INTXM	Amount received from interest on savings accounts, or bonds	35,000	-	41,304	-
LUMPX	Amount from lump sum payments from estates, trusts, royalties, alimony, child support, prizes, games of chance, or persons outside CU	158,904	-	244,200	-
OCCEXPNX	Amount paid by CU for occupational expenses, last 12 months	5,600	-	16,399	-
OTHINX	Amount from other money income, including money from care of foster children, cash scholarships and fellowships, or stipends, not based on working	35,522	-	115,000	-
OTHINXM	Amount from other money income, including money from care of foster children, cash scholarships and fellowships, or stipends, not based on working	35,522	-	74,968	-

Variable	Description	2012 Upper Critical Value	2012 Lower Critical Value	2012 Upper Topcode Value	2012 Lower Topcode Value
OTHREFX	Amount of refund from other sources, including any other taxes	2,300	-	4,491	-
OTHRNTX	Amount of net income or loss from other rental units	40,000	-	163,600	-
OTHRNTXM	Amount of net income or loss from other rental units	40,000	-	77,521	-
PENSIONM	Amount received from pensions or annuities from private companies, military or government, IRA or Keogh	82,000	-	72,777	-
PENSIONX	Amount received from pensions or annuities from private companies, military or government, IRA or Keogh	82,000	-	115,001	-
ROOMX	Amount of net income or loss received from roomers or boarders	40,000	-10,000	56,967	-20,680
ROOMXM	Amount of net income or loss received from roomers or boarders	40,000	-10,000	51,779	-12,390
SALEX	Amount received from sale of household furnishings, equipment, clothing, jewelry, pets or other belongings, excluding sale of vehicles or property	5,600	-	32,806	-
SSREFX	Amount of refund from overpayment on Social Security	400	-	932	-
STATREFX	Amount of refund from state or local income tax	2,374	-	3,847	-
TAXPROPX	Amount of personal property taxes paid but not reported elsewhere	1,200	-	1,801	-

Some income variables that are subject to topcoding are constructed by summing up the values of "lower level" MEMD or FMLD file component variables. These variables are not topcoded by the conventional method of replacement with a topcode value. Instead the variables' components are summed normally and the variables are flagged as topcoded if one of their component variables is topcoded.

Following are the income variables that are calculated using values of their component variables. (See the descriptions of each variable in the diary data dictionary for a list of component variables.)

EARNX	Amount of CU income from earnings before taxes
FBSNSXM, FBSNSX1-5 FBSNSX	Amount of income from non-farm business
FFARMXM, FFARMX1-5 FFARMX	Amount of income or loss received from own farm
FFEDTXX	Amount of Federal tax deducted from last pay, annualized for all CU members
FGVXM, FGVX1-5	Amount of government retirement deducted from last pay, annualized for all CU members

FGVX

FINCAFTM,   Amount of CU income after taxes
FINCAFT1-5
FINCAFTX

FINCBEFM,   Amount of CU income before taxes
FINCBEF1-5
FINCBEFX

FIRAX   Amount of money placed in individual retirement plan

FJSSDEDM,   Estimated amount of annual Social Security contribution
FJSSDED1-5
FJSSDEDX

FPVTXM   Amount of private pension fund deducted from last pay, annualized for all CU members
FPVTX

FRRXM   Amount of Railroad Retirement deducted from last pay, annualized for all CU members
FRRX

FSTATXXM,   Amount of State and local income taxes deducted from last pay, annualized for all CU
FSTATXX1-5   members
FSTATXX

FWAGEXM,   Amount received from wage and salary income before deduction
FWAGEX1-5
FWAGEX

OTHRECX   Amount of other money receipts excluded from family income

PERSTAXM,   Amount of personal taxes paid
PERSTAX1-5
PERSTAX

Here are some examples of situations that may occur. The value for the variable FBSNSX (family income from nonfarm business) is computed as the sum of the values reported for the variable BSNSX (member income from nonfarm business) from the MEMD file. BSNSX is subject to topcoding beyond the critical value of $150,000 (-$9,999). The topcode value for BSNSX is $276,000 (-$118,436).

		BSNSX		*FBSNSX*	
			AFTER		**FLAGGED AS**
CU		**REPORTED**	**TOPCODING**	**VALUE**	**TOPCODED?**
CU 1:	Member 1	$148,000	$148,000	441,000	No
	Member 2	148,000	148,000		
	Member 3	145,000	145,000		
CU 2:	Member 1	485,000	276,000	39,128	Yes
	Member 2	-15,000	-118,436		
	Member 3	-29,000	-118,436		
CU 3:	Member 1	205,000	276,000	406,000	Yes
	Member 2	130,000	130,000		
CU 4:	Member 1	140,000	140,000	161,564	Yes
	Member 2	140,000	140,000		
	Member 3	-300,000	-118,436		

While CUs 1 and 2 each originally report a total of $441,000 for all members in BSNSX, topcoding is done only on the values reported by the members of CU 2. Thus, the value for FBSNSX for CU 2 is lower than for CU 1 and is flagged as topcoded while CU 1 is not. By using the mean of the subset of observations

that are above (below) the critical value as the topcode amount, values on the public use data can be either below or above the actual reported value. Note that while CU 2 has a topcoded value below the reported value, CU 3's topcoded FBSNSX value ($406,000) is higher than the amount that is reported, $335,000. The case of CU 4 demonstrates that the reported value for FBSNSXM can be negative, while the topcoded value can be positive. The reverse can also occur.

The value of the variable, STATE, which identifies state of residence, must be suppressed for some observations to meet the Census Disclosure Review Board's criterion that the smallest geographically identifiable area have a population of at least 100,000. STATE data were evaluated in conjunction with POPSIZE, REGION, and BLS_URBN, which show the population size of the geographic area that is sampled, the four Census regions, and the urban/rural status, respectively. Some STATE codes were suppressed because, in combination with these variables, they could be used to identify areas of 100,000 or less. On approximately 13 percent of the records on the FMLD files the STATE variable is blank.

A small proportion of STATE codes are replaced with codes of states other than the state where the CU resides. By re-coding in this manner, suppression of POPSIZE and REGION may be avoided. (In past releases selected observations of POPSIZE and REGION also required suppression.)

[RR]01	Alabama	[*]28	Mississippi
02	Alaska	29	Missouri
04	Arizona	*30	Montana
*05	Arkansas	31	Nebraska
**06	California	32	Nevada
**08	Colorado	33	New Hampshire
09	Connecticut	34	New Jersey
[R]10	Delaware	**36	New York
11	District of Columbia	*37	North Carolina
12	Florida	**39	Ohio
[RR**]13	Georgia	40	Oklahoma
15	Hawaii	**41	Oregon
16	Idaho	42	Pennsylvania
**17	Illinois	44	Rhode Island
[**]18	Indiana	45	South Carolina
**20	Kansas	*46	South Dakota
[RR]21	Kentucky	**47	Tennessee
22	Louisiana	**48	Texas
**23	Maine	49	Utah
[RR]24	Maryland	[**]51	Virginia
25	Massachusetts	53	Washington
[**]26	Michigan	[**]54	West Virginia
[R]27	Minnesota	[RR**]55	Wisconsin

*   indicates that the STATE code has been suppressed for all sampled CUs in that state.
**   indicates that the STATE code has been suppressed for some sampled CUs in that state.
[R]   indicates that either all observations from this state have been re-coded or all strata[1] of observations from this state include "re-codes" from other states.
[RR]   indicates that either some observations from this state have been re-coded or at least one stratum[1] of observations from this state includes "re-codes" from other states.
[R*]   indicates that the STATE code has been suppressed for some sampled CUs in that state, and either STATE has been re-coded or the state includes "re-codes" from other states in all strata[1].
[RR**] indicates that the STATE code has been suppressed for some sampled CUs in that state and, either STATE has been re-coded or the state includes "re-codes" from other states in at least one stratum[1].

[1] A STATE stratum is a unique POPSIZE and BLS_URBN combination.

States not listed are not in the CE sample.

B. Member Characteristics and Income File (MEMD)

The following table lists MEMD file variables that are subject to topcoding as well as their associated critical values and topcode values. For multiply imputed income variables, it is possible for an upper topcode value to be less than the upper critical value or for a lower topcode value to be greater than the lower critical value.

Variable	Description	2012 Upper Critical Value	2012 Lower Critical Value	2012 Upper Topcode Value	2012 Lower Topcode Value
AGE	Age of member	82	-	87	-
ANFEDTXM	Annual amount of Federal income tax deducted from pay	27,140	-	58,748	-
ANFEDTXX	Annual amount of Federal income tax deducted from pay	27,140	-	58,910	-
ANGVX	Annual amount of government retirement deducted from pay	9,850	-	12,230	-
ANGVXM	Annual amount of government retirement deducted from pay	9,850	-	12,230	-
ANPVTX	Annual amount of private pension fund deducted from pay	19,984	-	33,276	-
ANPVTXM	Annual amount of private pension fund deducted from pay	19,984	-	33,757	-
ANSTATXM	Annual amount of state and local income taxes deducted from pay	9,426	-	17,132	-
ANSTATXX	Annual amount of state and local income taxes deducted from pay	9,426	-	17,108	-
BSNSX	Amount of income or loss received from nonfarm business	150,000	-9,999	276,000	-118,436
BSNSXM	Amount of income or loss received from nonfarm business	150,000	-9,999	138,921	-58,892
FARMX	Amount of income or loss received from own farm	-	-9,999	-	-40,202
FARMXM	Amount of income or loss received from own farm	-	-9,999	-	-28,144
FEDTXX	Amount of Federal income tax deducted from last pay	1,200	-	3,650	-
GROSPAYX	Amount of last gross pay	6,700	-	13,941	-
GVX	Amount of government retirement deducted from last pay	840	-	1,324	-
IRAX	Amount of money placed in an individual retirement plan	25,264	-	81,771	-
JSSDEDX	Estimated annual Social Security contribution	9,001	-	12,739	-
JSSDEDXM	Estimated annual Social Security contribution	9,001	-	9,742	-
PVTX	Amount of private pension fund deducted from last pay	1,200	-	5,467	-

Variable	Description	2012 Upper Critical Value	2012 Lower Critical Value	2012 Upper Topcode Value	2012 Lower Topcode Value
SLFEMPSM	Amount of self-employment Social Security contributions	18,002	-	12,927	-
SLFEMPSS	Amount of self-employment Social Security contributions	18,002	-	21,575	-
STATXX	Amount of state and local income taxes deducted from last pay	400	-	932	-
WAGEX	Amount received from wage and salary income before deductions	150,000	-	267,977	-
WAGEXM	Amount received from wage and salary income before deductions	150,000	-	198,426	-

Special suppression for MEMD file variables

The five MEMD file variables—FEDTXX, GVX, PVTX, RRX, and STATXX—describe deductions from the most recent pay. These variables are used in conjunction with GROSPAYX (amount of last gross pay) and WAGEXM (annual wage and salary income) to derive ANFEDTXM, ANGVXM, ANPVTXM, ANRRXM, and ANSTATXM, which represent the estimated annual deductions for each of these income deduction categories. For example, the estimated annual Federal income tax deduction from pay is calculated as

$$(1) \quad ANFEDTXM = (WAGEXM (FEDTXX/GROSPAYX)).$$

Note that WAGEX can be estimated by using the above terms and rearranging such that

$$(2) \quad WAGEXM = (ANFEDTXM (GROSPAYX/FEDTXX)).$$

In the above example, a problem with disclosure may arise when neither ANFEDTXM, GROSPAYX, nor FEDTXX (calculation components) are topcoded, *but WAGEXM is.* In this situation WAGEXM can be recalculated to obtain its original value by inserting the non-topcoded values into equation (2) and solving it. In order to prevent this, the non-topcoded terms in equation (2) will be suppressed (blanked out) and their associated flags will be assigned a value of 'T.'

The following chart describes in detail the specific rules that are applied to prevent the potential disclosure outlined above.

If WAGEXM is greater than the critical value but ANFEDTXM, GROSPAYX, and FEDTXX are not, then the values for ANFEDTXM, GROSPAYX, and FEDTXX are suppressed and their flag variables are assigned a value of 'T.'

If WAGEXM is greater than the critical value but ANGVXM, GROSPAYX, and GVX are not, then the values for ANGVXM, GROSPAYX, and GVX are suppressed and their flag variables assigned a value of 'T.'

If WAGEXM is greater than the critical value but ANPVTXM, GROSPAYX, and PVTX are not, then the values for ANPVTXM, GROSPAYX, and PVTX are suppressed and their flag variables assigned a value of 'T.'

If WAGEXM is greater than the critical value but ANRRXM, GROSPAYX, and RRX are not, then the values for ANRRXM, GROSPAYX, and RRX are suppressed and their flag variables assigned a value of 'T.'

If WAGEXM is greater than the critical value but ANSTATXM, GROSPAYX, and STATXX are not, then the values for ANSTATXM, GROSPAYX, and STATXX are suppressed and their flag variables assigned a value of 'T.'

The same special suppression for MEMD file variables occurs with the original (pre-income imputation) variables that correspond to the variables noted above (WAGEX, ANFEDTXX, etc.).

C. Detailed Expenditure File (EXPD)

The following table lists UCCs for which the EXPD variable COST is subject to topcoding as well as their associated critical values and topcode values (rounded to the nearest dollar). If the value of COST is greater (less) than the designated critical values for the above UCCs, COST is set to the topcode value and the associated flag variable, COST_, is set to 'T.'

Variable	Description	2012 Upper Critical Value	2012 Lower Critical Value	2012 Upper Topcode Value	2012 Lower Topcode Value
001000	Purchase price of stocks, bonds, mutual funds	424	-	683	-
009000	Mortgage payment including coop	3,153	-	5,413	-
210110	Rent of dwelling, includes parking fees	2,120	-	2,938	-
210210	Lodging away from home	744	-	1,599	-
210310	Housing for someone at school	321	-	2,419	-
220400	Purchase of property	456	-	570	-
550320	Medical equipment for general use	130	-	449	-
550330	Supportive convalescent or medical equipment	190	-	239	-
560110	Physicians' services	194	-	445	-
560210	Dental services	1,143	-	2,629	-
560310	Eyecare services	516	-	4,365	-
560330	Lab tests and x-rays	273	-	410	-
560400	Service by professionals other than physicians	452	-	938	-
570000	Hospital care not specified	1,703	-	3,559	-
570220	Nursing or convalescent home care	480	-	1,681	-
570230	Other medical care service	132	-	495	-
570901	Rental of medical equipment	28	-	58	-

D. Income File (DTBD)

The DTBD variable AMOUNT is subject to topcoding for some UCCs. The AMOUNT variable is not topcoded by the conventional method of replacement with a topcode value. First, variables are topcoded in the FMLD files. Then those variables are mapped to their appropriate UCC. If the variable was topcoded in the FMLD files, then the associated UCC will have a topcoded AMOUNT value, and the value of AMOUNT_ is set to 'T.' All the FMLD variables that are topcoded are listed in Section IV, A of this

documentation. To obtain the concordance file that lists what FMLD variables are mapped to which UCC, please contact the Consumer Expenditure Survey via the phone number or email address listed on the last page of this documentation.

Note: For some UCCs multiple topcode values should be expected based on where the original value is mapped from.

V.   Estimation Procedure

This section provides users of the CE Diary microdata files with procedures for estimating means and variances of data associated with any U.S. subpopulation. The production of *Consumer Expenditures in 2012* used an integration methodology which incorporated information from *both* Diary and Interview Surveys. Diary data users will not be able to match published CE estimates because of this. In addition, users will not be able to match all values because of suppression of some values, due to topcoding. See the topcoding and other nondisclosure requirements in Section IV.

A. Definition of Terms

Consider the following general situation. We wish to estimate expenditures on certain food items for a special group (subpopulation) of U.S. CUs; for example, all CUs of three persons. Our specific objective is to estimate the expenditures for item *k* over a period of *q* months, where data collected over *r* months are used in the estimate. The following definitions will be helpful in formulating the above type of estimate.

Definition of Terms:

Let

      S = all CUs in the subpopulation of interest
      k = expenditure item(s) of interest
      q = number of months for which estimate is desired
      r = number of months in which expenditures were made to be used in calculating the estimate
      D = number of days in each of the months in which expenditures were made
      j = individual CU in subpopulation S
      t = month of expenditure

Then

      $X_{(j,k,t)}$ = the amount of money $CU_{(j)}$ spent on item *k* for a week during month *t*
      $W_{(j,t,F21)}$ = the weight assigned to $CU_{(j)}$ during month *t*

The F21 denotes FINLWT21 which is used for population estimates.

NOTE: The CUs on the Diary Survey microdata files represent the U.S. population. Some CUs represent more of the population than others; and hence carry more weight. The weight, $W_{(j,t,F21)}$, is a complex estimate of this representation. Refer to Section X.C. Weighting for an explanation of weights. The weights have been adjusted so that the sum of all CU weights for one month approximates one third of the U.S. population. Consequently, the weights for three months (one quarter) of data approximate the total U.S. population.

Using the above terminology, we may define:

$X_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ as an estimate for the expenditures of subpopulation *S* on item *k* over a period of *q* months, where data collected over *r* months are used.

and

$\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ as an estimate of the mean expenditures of subpopulation *S* on item *k* over a period of *q* months, where data collected over *r* months are used.

B. Estimation of Total and Mean Expenditures

As an example, let us estimate total expenditures on milk (item *k*) of subpopulation *S* over a 12-month period. Data collected over 6 months will be used to make the estimate. Users may use less than 12 months of data to perform seasonal calculations. In the notation described above, the estimate is $X_{(S,k)(12,6)}$.

$$X_{(S,k)(12,6)} = 3\left(\tfrac{12}{6}\right)\sum_{t=1}^{6}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(\frac{D_{(t)}}{7}\right)W_{(j,t,F21)}X_{(j,k,t)}\right]_{t} \qquad (1a)$$

where the inner summation sums expenditures for all *j* in *S*, indexed from *j* = 1 through *n* and the outer summation sums over months *t* = 1 through 6. The factor "3" compensates for the fact that the weights for the CUs visited in one month have been adjusted to represent one third of the U.S. population. The factor "12" reflects our desire to estimate expenditures over a 12-month period; and the "6" is the adjustment made because data for 6 months are used. Since the data $X_{(j,k,t)}$ are in terms of weekly expenditures, the factors, (number of days in the month)/7, are used to convert weekly expenditures into their monthly equivalents.

The above formula can be generalized to estimate the total expenditures of subpopulation *S* on item *k* for *q* months, but using data collected over *r* months. The generalization is

$$X_{(S,k)(q,r)} = 3\left(\tfrac{q}{r}\right)\sum_{t=1}^{r}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(\frac{D_{(t)}}{7}\right)W_{(j,t,F21)}X_{(j,k,t)}\right]_{t} \qquad (1b)$$

where the inner summation sums expenditures for all *j* in *S*, indexed from *j* = 1 through *n* and the outer summation sums over months *t* = 1 through *r*.

An estimate for the expenditures for two or more items may be obtained by summing those expenditures at the CU level and then proceeding as before.

The next example will give an estimate, $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(12,6)}$, of mean expenditures over twelve months (*q*), on item *k*, of CUs in subpopulation *S*, where data collected over a six month period (*r*) are used. The result is

$$\overline{X}_{(S,k)(12,6)} = \frac{3\left(\tfrac{12}{6}\right)\sum_{t=1}^{6}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(\frac{D_{(t)}}{7}\right)W_{(j,t,F21)}X_{(j,k,t)}\right]_{t}}{\dfrac{3\sum_{t=1}^{6}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n}W_{(j,t,F21)}\right]_{t}}{6}} \qquad (2a)$$

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where the numerator is an estimate of aggregate expenditures as formulated in equation (1a), and where the denominator is an estimate of the population of CUs in the U.S. during the six-month period for which the expenditure data are collected. The inner summation in the denominator of (2a) sums FINLWT21 for a given month (t), for all j in S, indexed from $j = 1$ through n, and the outer summation in the denominator of (2a) sums over months $t = 1$ through 6. As in the estimate of aggregate expenditures, the factor "3" to the left of the outer summation in the denominator of equation (2a) adjusts FINLWT21 to represent the entire population for each month of data used. The proper U.S. population count is arrived at by dividing the denominator by r, or in this case "6", (representing the 6 month period of collected data in this example).

The above formula generalizes to $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,k)}$, (i.e., the estimate of the mean expenditure by subpopulation S on item k for q months using data collected over r months). In detail:

$$\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)} = \frac{q\sum_{t=1}^{r}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n}\left(\frac{D_{(t)}}{7}\right)W_{(j,t,F21)}X_{(j,k,t)}\right]_t}{\sum_{t=1}^{r}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n}W_{(j,t,F21)}\right)_t} \quad (2b)$$

Note: The factors "3" (adjustment of FINLWT21 to one U.S. population) and "6", (number of months, r, for which the data are collected), which appear both in the numerator and the denominator of (2a), cancel. These scalars are dropped from the general form of $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}$.

The estimates for total ($X_{(S,k)(q,r)}$) and mean expenditures ($\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}$) are based on all CUs; not just the CUs with positive expenditures for item k. Consider the calculation for the mean expenditure of tobacco. The formula $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ includes all CUs, both smoking and nonsmoking. One might be more interested in the mean expenditures on tobacco but only for those CUs that actually have expenditures. This can be accounted for by properly defining the initial subpopulation S so as to restrict it to CUs with positive tobacco expenditures.

C. Estimation of Mean Annual Income

Let $\overline{Z}_{(S,r)}$ be an estimate of the mean annual income of CUs in subpopulation S, where income data collected over r months is to be used.

Let $Z_{(j,t)}$ = the annual income reported by CU$_{(j)}$ in month t. Then the estimated mean annual income is

$$\overline{Z}_{(S,r)} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{r}\left[\sum_{j=1}^{n}W_{(j,t,F21)}Z_{(j,t)}\right]_t}{\sum_{t=1}^{r}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{n}W_{(j,t,F21)}\right)_t}$$

VI.   Reliability Statement

A. Description of Sampling Error and Non-Sampling Error

Sample surveys are subject to two types of errors, sampling and non-sampling. Sampling errors occur because observations are not taken from the entire population. The standard error, which is the accepted measure for sampling error, is an estimate of the difference between the sample data and the data that would have been obtained from a complete census. The sample estimate and its estimated standard error enable one to construct confidence intervals.

Assuming the Normal Distribution applies to the means of expenditures, the following statements can be made:

(1)   The chances that an estimate from a given sample would differ from a complete census figure by less than one standard error are approximately 68 out of 100.

(2)   The chances that the difference would be less than 1.6 times the standard error are approximately 90 out of 100.

(3)   The chances that the difference would be less than two times the standard error are approximately 95 out of 100.

Non-sampling errors can be attributed to many sources, such as definitional difficulties, differences in the interpretation of questions, inability or unwillingness of the respondent to provide correct information, mistakes in recording or coding the data obtained, and other errors of collection, response, processing, coverage, and estimation for missing data. The full extent of the non-sampling error is unknown. Estimates using a small number of observations are less reliable. A small amount of non-sampling error can cause a small difference to appear significant even when it is not. It is probable that the levels of estimated expenditure obtained in the Diary Survey are generally lower than the "true" level due to the above factors.

B. Estimating Sampling Error

1. Variance Estimation

Variance estimation can be done in many ways. The method illustrated below (a pseudo-replication technique) is chosen because it is accurate yet simple to understand. The basic idea is to artificially construct several "subsamples" from the original sample data. This construction is done in a manner so that the variance information of the original data is preserved in these subsamples. These subsamples (or pseudo-replications) can then be used to obtain approximate variances for the estimates.

The Diary microdata files contain information that facilitates this form of variance estimation procedure. Specifically, 45 weights are associated with each CU. The forty-fifth weight, called FINLWT21 at BLS, (which is the weight for the total sample) is used for estimations of total or mean expenditures. The other weights (replicates 1 through 44) are used for variance estimation of the totals or means. Note that half of the weights in each replicate are zero. This reflects the fact that in this technique only half the CUs are used in each of the 44 pseudo-replicates. Recall that $X_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ is an estimate for the expenditures of subpopulation S on item k over a period of q months, where data collected over r months are used. This notation does not reveal the fact that 45 replicate weights are to be used for estimation of variance. We expand the notation to include this information. Specifically, let $X_{(S,k)(q,r),a}$ = an estimate of the same quantity as $X_{(S,k)(q,r)}$, but using the weights of the ath replicate.

That is $X_{(S,k)(q,r),a}$ is an estimate of the total expenditures by CUs in subpopulation S on item k over q months using r months of collection data, and where the weights from the ath replicate are used. Note that the estimate using any one of the first 44 replicate weights only uses part of the data; hence in general $X_{(S,k)(q,r),a}$ is not equal to $X_{(S,k)(q,r)}$.

An estimate for the variance of $X_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ (denoted by $V(X_{(S,k)(q,r)})$) can be calculated using the following formula:

$$V(X_{(S,k)(q,r)}) = \frac{1}{44} \sum_{a=1}^{44} \left(X_{(S,k)(q,r),a} - X_{(S,k)(q,r)} \right)^2$$

Estimates for the variances of $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ and $\overline{Z}_{(S,r)}$ are similar and are given below.

$$V\left(\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}\right) = \frac{1}{44} \sum_{a=1}^{44} \left(\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r),a} - \overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)} \right)^2$$

and

$$V\left(\overline{Z}_{(S,r)}\right) = \frac{1}{44} \sum_{a=1}^{44} \left(\overline{Z}_{(S,r),a} - \overline{Z}_{(S,r)} \right)^2$$

where $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r),a}$ and $\overline{Z}_{(S,r),a}$ are estimates similar to $\overline{X}_{(S,k)(q,r)}$ and $\overline{Z}_{(S,r)}$ except weights of the ath replicates are used.

2. Standard Error of the Mean

The standard error of the mean, $S.E.(\overline{x})$, is defined as the square root of the variance of the mean. $S.E.(\overline{x})$, is used to obtain confidence intervals that evaluate how close the estimate may be to the true population mean. A 95 percent confidence interval can be constructed around an estimate, bounded by values 1.96 times the standard error less than and greater than the estimate. For example, the average weekly expenditure for food away from home for All CUs in 2012 was $47.53. The standard error for this estimate is $3.20. Hence, the 95 percent confidence interval around this estimate is from $41.26 to $53.80. Therefore, we could conclude with 95 percent confidence that the mean weekly expenditures for food away from home for all CUs in 2012 lies within the interval $41.26 to $53.80.

3. Standard Error of the Difference between Two Means

Standard errors may also be used to perform hypothesis testing, a procedure for distinguishing between population parameters using sample estimates. The most common types of hypotheses are: 1) the population parameters are identical; versus 2) they are different.

For example, in 2012 the estimated average weekly expenditure for food away from home for CUs in the *Managers and professionals* occupation category is $62.76 and the estimate for CUs in the *Construction workers and mechanics* category is $45.44 The apparent difference between the two mean expenditures is $62.76 − $45.44 = $17.32. The standard error on the estimate of $62.75 is $1.61 and the estimated standard error for the $45.44 estimate is $3.81. The standard error (S.E.) of a difference is approximately equal to

$$S.E.(\overline{X}_1, \overline{X}_2) = \sqrt{\left(V(\overline{X}_1) + V(\overline{X}_2) \right)}$$

where

$$V(\overline{X}_i) = \left(S.E.(\overline{X}_i) \right)^2$$

This assumes that $\overline{x}_1$ and $\overline{x}_2$ are disjoint subsets of the population. Hence, the standard error of the difference in food away from home expenditures between CUs in the *Managers and professionals* occupation group and in the *Construction workers and mechanics* group is about

$$\sqrt{\left((1.61)^2 + (3.81)^2 \right)} = 4.14$$

This means that the 95 percent confidence interval around the difference is from $9.21 to $25.43. Since this interval does not include zero, we can conclude with 95 percent confidence that the mean weekly food away from home expenditures for the *Managers and professionals* occupation group is more than the mean weekly food expenditures for the *Construction workers and mechanics* group.

Analyses of the difference between two estimates can also be performed on non-disjoint sets of the population, where one is a subset of the other. The formula for computing the standard error (S.E.) of the difference between two non-disjoint estimates is

$$S.E.(\overline{X}_1, \overline{X}_2) = \sqrt{\left(V(\overline{X}_1) + V(\overline{X}_2) - 2r\left(V(\overline{X}_1) * V(\overline{X}_2) \right) \right)}$$

where

$$V(\overline{X}_i) = \left(S.E.(\overline{X}_i) \right)^2$$

and where *r* is the correlation coefficient between $\overline{x}_1$ and $\overline{x}_2$. The correlation coefficient is generally no greater than 0.2 for CE estimates.

VII.   Microdata Verification and Estimation Methodology

Sample programs available for download on the PUMD homepage, illustrate the methodology CE uses in producing publication tables, and offers an example of coding to access the data and produce a sample table. The programs are written in SAS and STATA, and shows usage of these data sets available online. (Note: CE data published by BLS may not match some values estimated using the microdata due to topcoding of data and CE publication programming methodology.) All variables and ranges referred to in the program are described in detail in the diary data dictionary (available alongside this documentation online).

It should be emphasized that these programs have been written solely for the verification of the microdata and as an illustration of the CE estimation methodology. They should not be used for any other purpose.

VIII.   Description of the Survey

The CE program consists of two separate components, each with its own questionnaire and independent sample:

1) A Diary or recordkeeping survey completed by the sample CUs for two consecutive 1-week periods; the sample is surveyed across a 12-month period.

2) An Interview panel survey in which each CU in the sample is interviewed once every 3 months over five consecutive quarters to obtain a year's worth of data. New panels are initiated every month of the year.

Data are collected by the Bureau of the Census under contract with BLS. All data collected in both surveys are subject to The U.S. Census Bureau confidentiality requirements, which prevent the disclosure of the CU member's identity.

The Diary survey collects expenditure data for items purchased each day over two one-week periods. This survey is designed to collect expenditure data for small, frequently purchased items such as food, beverages, food consumed away from home, gasoline, housekeeping supplies, nonprescription drugs and medical supplies, and personal care products and services. Respondents are not limited to recording expense for these items only.

A Household Characteristics Questionnaire is completed to record demographic and family characteristics data pertaining to age, sex, race, marital status, and CU relationships each CU member. Income information, such as wage, salary, unemployment compensation, child support, and alimony, as well as information on the employment of each CU member age 14 and over is collected. The expenditure collection instrument is a self-reporting, product-oriented diary on which respondents record all expenses for two consecutive one-week periods. It is divided by day of purchase and by broad classification of goods and services, a format designed to aid the respondents when recording daily purchases.

At the beginning of the two-week collection period, the interviewer uses the Household Characteristics Questionnaire to record demographic and characteristics information pertaining to CU members. Also at this time, a diary for the first week is left with the participating CU. At the completion of the first week, the interviewer picks up the diary, reviews the entries, clarifies any questions, and leaves a second diary for the following week. At the end of the second week, the diary is picked up and reviewed. At this point, the interviewer again uses the Household Characteristics Questionnaire to collect information on CU income, employment and earnings of CU members. These data, along with the other household characteristics information, permit data users to classify sample units for research purposes, and allow BLS to adjust population weights for CUs who do not cooperate in the survey.

IX.   Data Collection and Processing

In addition to its data collection duties, the U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for field editing and coding, consistency checking, quality control, and data transmittal to BLS. BLS performs additional review and editing procedures in preparing the data for publication and release.

A. The US Census Bureau Activities

Data collection activities have been conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau on a continuing basis since October 1979. Due to differences in format and design, the Diary Survey and the Interview Survey data are collected and processed separately. Preliminary Diary survey data processing carried out by the U.S.

Census Bureau includes programming the Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) instrument used to collect household characteristics, keying the expenditure data from the diary questionnaire, clerical data editing, and correcting for inconsistencies in the collected data.

The data collected on household characteristics using CAPI are sent directly to the Census Demographic Surveys Division (DSD). Upon completion of the written questionnaire by respondents, the diaries are sent from the regional offices to the Census National Processing Center (NPC) in Jeffersonville, IN. At the NPC, the expenditure data are keyed and codes are applied. The keyed expenditure data are sent to DSD, where they are merged with the household characteristic data. Inconsistencies and errors in the combined data are identified and corrected.

After clerical processing at the NPC, the data are transmitted to the Census Processing Center in Suitland, MD, where they pass through basic quality checks of control counts, missing values, etc. The data are then electronically transmitted to BLS in Washington, DC.

B. Bureau of Labor Statistics Activities

Upon receipt from the U.S. Census Bureau, the data undergo a series of computer edits that identify and correct irregularities and inconsistencies. Other adjustments apply appropriate sales taxes and derive CU weights based on BLS specifications. In addition, demographic and work experience items are imputed when missing or invalid. All data changes and imputations are identified with flags on the Interview data base.

Next, BLS conducts an extensive review to ensure that severe data aberrations are corrected. The review takes place in several stages: a review of counts, weighted means, and unweighted means by region; a review of family relationship coding inconsistencies; a review of selected extreme values for expenditure and income categories; and a verification of the various data transformations.

Cases of extreme data values are investigated by reviewing images of the questionnaires. Errors discovered through this procedure are corrected prior to release of the data.

Two major types of data adjustment routines--imputation and allocation--are carried out to improve and classify the estimates derived from the Diary Survey. Data imputation routines correct for missing or invalid entries among selected CU characteristic fields. Allocation routines are applied when respondents provided insufficient expenditure detail to meet tabulation requirements. For example, reports of combined expenditures for fuels and utilities are allocated among gas, electricity, and other items in this group. To analyze the effects of these adjustments, tabulations are made before and after the data adjustments.

X. Sampling Statement

A. Survey Sample Design

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 non-institutionalized 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 2012 sample is composed of 91 areas. The design classifies the PSUs into four categories:

21 "A" certainty PSUs are Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA's) with a population greater than 1.5 million.
38 "X" PSUs, are medium-sized MSAs.
16 "Y" PSUs are nonmetropolitan areas that are included in the CPI.
16 "Z" 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 2012 survey is generated from the 2000 Population Census 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 non-permit-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.

B. Cooperation Levels

The annual target sample size at the United States level for the Diary Survey is 7,050 participating sample units. To achieve this target the total estimated work load is 12,100 sample units. This allows for refusals, vacancies, or nonexistent sample unit addresses.

Each participating sample unit selected is asked to keep two 1-week diaries. Each diary is treated independently, so response rates are based on twice the number of housing units sampled.

The response rate for the 2012 Diary Survey is 67.8% as shown below. This response rate refers to all diaries in the year.

Eligible housing unit interviews

Number of Diaries Designated for the Survey	Type B or C Ineligible Cases	Number of Potential Diaries	Type A Non-Responses	Total Respondent Interviews
25,356	5,058	20,298	6,537	13,761

Type B or C cases are housing units that are vacant, nonexistent, or ineligible for diary placement. Type A non-responses are housing units which the interviewers were unable to contact or the respondents refused to participate in the survey. The response rate stated above is based only on the eligible housing units (i.e., the designated sample cases less type B and type C ineligible cases).

C. Weighting

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 a diary is obtained. There are four basic 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 diary 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 on the CU as a whole. The weight for the CU is adjusted for individuals within the CU to meet the controls for the 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 CU who own their living quarters. The weighting procedure uses an iterative process to ensure that the sample estimates will meet all the population controls.

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

D. 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.

XI.   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. 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.

XII.   Appendix 1—Glossary

Population
The civilian non-institutional population of the United States as well as that portion of the institutional population living in the following group quarters: Boarding houses, housing facilities for students and workers, staff units in hospitals and homes for the aged, infirm, or needy, permanent living quarters in hotels and motels, and mobile home parks. Urban population is defined as all persons living in a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA's) and in urbanized areas and urban places of 2,500 or more persons outside of MSA's. Urban, defined in this survey, includes the rural populations within MSA. The general concept of an MSA is one of a large population nucleus together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. Rural population is defined as all persons living outside of an MSA and within an area with less than 2,500 persons.

Consumer unit (CU)
A consumer unit comprises either: (1) all members of a particular household who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or other legal arrangements; (2) a person living alone or sharing a household with others or living as a roomer in a private home or lodging house or in permanent living quarters in a hotel or motel, but who is financially independent; or (3) two or more persons living together who use their income to make joint expenditures. Financial independence is determined by the three major expense categories: housing, food, and other living expenses. To be considered financially independent, at least two of the three major expense categories have to be provided entirely or in part by the respondent.

Reference person
The first member mentioned by the respondent when asked to "Start with the name of the person or one of the persons who owns or rents the home." It is with respect to this person that the relationship of other CU members is determined.

Income before taxes
The combined income earned by all CU members 14 years old or over during the 12 months preceding the interview. The components of income are: Wage and salary income, business income, farm income, Social Security income and Supplemental Security income, unemployment compensation, workmen's compensation, public assistance, welfare, interest, dividends, pension income, income from roomers or boarders, other rental income, income from regular contributions, other income, and food stamps.

Income after taxes
Income before taxes minus personal taxes, which includes Federal income taxes, state and local taxes, and other taxes.

Geographic regions
CUs are classified by region according to the address at which they reside during the time of participation in the survey. The regions comprise the following States:

Northeast - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont

Midwest - Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin

South - Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia

West - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming

XIII.   Appendix 2—Universal Classification Codes (UCCs)

*L denotes UCCs that could have negative values.

A. Expenditure UCCs on EXPD File

001000	Stocks, bonds, mutual funds
001100	Precious metals
001200	Miscellaneous investments
001400	Employment counseling & fees
002000	Savings account deposit
002100	Insurance other than health, hospital, vehicle and property
002200	Retirement plans
004000	Contributions
004100	Cash gifts
004190	Gifts not specified
005000	Alimony and child support
009000	Mortgage payment including coop
009900	Property assessment
010110	Flour
010120	Prepared flour mixes
010210	Cereal
010310	Rice
010320	Pasta, cornmeal, other cereal products
020110	White bread
020210	Bread other than white
020310	Fresh biscuits, rolls, muffins
020410	Cakes and cupcakes, fresh and other, excluding frozen
020510	Cookies, excluding refrigerated dough
020610	Crackers, excluding crumbs
020620	Bread and cracker products
020710	Doughnuts, sweet rolls, coffeecakes, fresh and other, excluding frozen
020810	Frozen refrigerated and canned bakery products, such as biscuits, rolls, muffins, cakes, cupcakes, doughnuts, pies, tarts, turnovers, and miscellaneous products, including dough and batter
020820	Pies, tarts, turnovers, fresh and other, excluding frozen
030110	Ground beef, excluding canned
030210	Chuck roast, excluding canned
030310	Round roast, excluding canned
030410	Other beef roast, excluding canned
030510	Round steak, excluding canned
030610	Sirloin steak, excluding canned
030710	Other steak, excluding canned
030810	Other beef, excluding canned
040110	Bacon

040210	Pork chops
040310	Ham, excluding canned
040410	Other pork, excluding canned
040510	Pork sausage, excluding canned
040610	Canned ham
050110	Frankfurters, excluding canned
050210	Bologna, liverwurst, salami, excluding canned
050310	Other lunchmeat
050410	Lamb and organ meats, excluding canned
050900	Mutton, goat, game
060110	Fresh and frozen whole chicken
060210	Fresh or frozen chicken parts
060310	Other poultry
070110	Canned fish, seafood and shellfish
070230	Fresh fish and shellfish
070240	Frozen fish and shellfish
080110	Eggs
090110	Fresh milk all types
090210	Cream
100110	Butter
100210	Cheese
100410	Ice cream and related products, including frozen yogurt
100510	Other dairy products, including powdered milk, and fresh, canned and non-frozen yogurt
110110	Apples
110210	Bananas
110310	Oranges
110410	Other fresh fruits
110510	Citrus fruits excluding oranges
120110	Potatoes
120210	Lettuce
120310	Tomatoes
120410	Other fresh vegetables
130110	Frozen orange juice
130121	Frozen fruits
130122	Frozen fruit juices
130211	Fresh fruit juices
130212	Canned/bottled fruit juices
130310	Canned fruits
130320	Dried fruits
140110	Frozen vegetables
140210	Canned beans
140220	Canned corn
140230	Miscellaneous canned vegetables, not collected in a separate UCC
140310	Other processed dried vegetables, such as squash, not collected in a separate UCC
140320	Dried peas
140330	Dried beans
140340	Dried carrots, onions, leafy greens, and cabbage
140410	Frozen vegetable juices
140420	Fresh/canned vegetable juices
150110	Candy and chewing gum
150211	Sugar
150212	Artificial sweeteners
150310	Jams, jellies, preserves and other sweets
160110	Margarine
160211	Fats and oils
160212	Salad dressings

160310	Non-dairy cream substitutes
160320	Peanut butter
170110	Cola drinks
170210	Other carbonated drinks
170310	Coffee, roasted
170410	Coffee, instant or freeze dried
170510	Noncarbonated fruit flavored drinks, including lemonade-non frozen
170520	Tea
170531	Other noncarbonated beverage/ice
170532	Bottled water
170533	Sports Drinks
180110	Soup
180210	Frozen meals
180220	Frozen prepared food other than meals
180310	Potato chips and other snacks
180320	Nuts
180410	Salt, other seasonings & spices
180420	Olives, pickles, relishes
180510	Sauces and gravies
180520	Other condiments
180611	Prepared salads
180612	Prepared desserts
180620	Baby food
180710	Miscellaneous prepared foods including items such as canned meats (see UCCs 030110 - 030810, 040410 - 040510, 050110, 050310 - 050410, 060110 - 060310), fresh and canned ethnic foods, fresh and canned pizza
180720	Vitamin supplements
190111	Lunch at Fast Food
190112	Lunch at Full Service
190113	Lunch at Vending Machine
190114	Lunch at Employer
190115	Lunch at Board
190116	Lunch at Catered Affairs
190211	Dinner at Fast Food
190212	Dinner at Full Service
190213	Dinner at Vending Machine
190214	Dinner at Employer
190215	Dinner at Board
190216	Dinner at Catered Affairs
190311	Snacks at Fast Food
190312	Snacks at Full Service
190313	Snacks at Vend Machine
190314	Snacks at Employer
190315	Snacks at Board
190316	Snacks at Catered Affairs
190321	Breakfast at Fast Food
190322	Breakfast at Full Service
190323	Breakfast at Vending Machine
190324	Breakfast at Employer
190325	Breakfast at Board
190326	Breakfast at Catered Affairs
190911	Board at Fast Food
190912	Board at Full Service
190913	Board at Vending Machine
190914	Board at Employer
190915	Board

190916	Board at Catered Affairs
190921	Catered Affairs at Fast Food
190922	Catered Affairs at Full Service
190923	Catered Affairs at Vending Machine
190924	Catered Affairs at Employer
190925	Catered Affairs at Board
190926	Catered Affairs
200111	Beer and ale at home
200112	Nonalcoholic beer
200210	Whiskey at home
200310	Wine at home
200410	Other alcoholic beverages at home
200511	Beer at Fast Food
200512	Beer at Full Service
200513	Beer at Vending Machine
200514	Beer at Employer
200515	Beer at Board
200516	Beer at Catered Affairs
200521	Wine at Fast Food
200522	Wine at Full Service
200523	Wine at Vending Machine
200524	Wine at Employer
200525	Wine at Board
200526	Wine at Catered Affairs
200531	Alcoholic Beverage Excluding Beer/Wine Fast Food
200532	Alcoholic Beverage Excluding Beer/Wine Full Service
200533	Alcoholic Beverage Excluding Beer/Wine Vending Machine
200534	Alcoholic Beverage Excluding Beer/Wine at Employer
200535	Alcoholic Beverage Excluding Beer/Wine at Board
200536	Alcoholic Beverage Excluding Beer/Wine Catered Affairs
210110	Rent of dwelling, including deposit and parking fees
210210	Lodging away from home
210310	Housing for someone at school
210900	Ground or land rent
220000	Capital improvements, not specified
220110	Fire/extended coverage insurance
220120	Homeowners insurance
220210	Property taxes
220400	Purchase of property or real estate
220510	Capital improvements - commodities
220610	Capital improvements - services
220900	Parking, owned dwelling
230000	Repair, maintenance, and improvements for built in dishwasher, garbage disposal, and range hood
230110	Maintenance of property, including items such as ceiling repair, black top, brick, or masonry work, air conditioner repair, roof and awning repair, house painting, papering, chimney cleaning, electrical inspection, furnace inspection and repair, wiring, pest control, carpenter, plumber, etc...
230120	Installed hard surface flooring
230130	Installed wall-to-wall carpet
230140	Repair disposal, dishwasher, range hood
230900	Maintenance fees, such as service repair of property fees, management fees, homeowners association dues, condo fees, and community pool fees
240110	Paint, wallpaper and supplies
240120	Tools and equipment for painting and papering

240210	Lumber, paneling, tile, awning, glass, plywood, doors, windows, screens, siding, roofing and fencing materials
240220	Blacktop and masonry materials
240310	Plumbing supplies, fixtures and equipment
240320	Electric heating and air conditioning supplies and equipment
240900	Soft surface floor covering
250110	Fuel oil
250210	Bottled or tank gas
250220	Coal
250900	Miscellaneous fuels, such as wood, kerosene, charcoal, oil mix for gas, lawnmower oil, lamp oil, duraflame log, and sterno
260110	Electricity
260210	Utility - natural gas
270000	Telephone service, including public pay phones
270210	Water and sewerage maintenance
270310	Cable/Satellite/Com Antenna Serv
270410	Garbage, trash collection
270900	Septic tank cleaning
270905	Steam heat
280110	Bathroom linens
280120	Bedroom linens
280130	Kitchen and dining room linens
280210	Curtains and drapes, excluding shower
280220	Slipcovers, decorative pillows, and cushions
280230	Sewing materials for slipcovers, curtains, and other home handiwork
280900	Other linens
290110	Mattress and springs
290120	Other bedroom furniture
290210	Sofas
290310	Living room chairs
290320	Living room tables
290410	Kitchen and dining room furniture
290420	Infants' furniture
290430	Patio, porch or outdoor furniture
290440	Modular wall units, shelves or cabinets, or other living room, family or rec-room furniture including desks
300110	Refrigerator, home freezer
300210	Washers
300220	Dryers
300310	Stoves, ovens
300320	Microwave ovens
300330	Portable dishwashers
300410	Window air conditioners
300900	Miscellaneous household appliances
310140	Televisions
310210	Video players, video recorders, video tape player, video tape recorder, video disc player, video camera receiver and recorder, and camcorder
310220	Video cassettes, tapes and discs, laser discs, reels, prerecorded and blank video cassettes, video tapes, and diskettes
310231	Video game software
310232	Video game hardware and accessories
310311	Radio, not installed in vehicles
310312	Phonograph or record player
310313	Tape recorder and player
310315	Digital media players and recorders

310320	Sound components, component systems, amplifiers, receivers, turn tables, tape decks, tuners, stereos, speakers, and compact disc sound systems
310241	Streaming Video Files
310242	Downloading Video Files
310314	Digital Audio Players
310331	Miscellaneous sound equipment
310332	Sound equipment accessories
310334	Satellite dishes
310335	Miscellaneous video equipment
310340	Records, CDs, and Audio Tapes
310351	Streaming Audio Files
310352	Downloading Audio Files
310900	Accessories for electronic equipment
320110	Room-size rugs and other non-permanent floor coverings
320120	Venetian blinds, window shades and other window coverings
320130	Infants' equipment
320140	Laundry and cleaning equipment
320150	Outdoor equipment
320220	Lamps and other lighting fixtures
320232	Telephones and accessories
320233	Clocks and other household decorative items
320310	Plastic dinnerware
320320	China and other dinnerware
320330	Stainless, silver and other flatware
320340	Glassware
320350	Silver serving pieces
320360	Serving pieces other than silver
320370	Nonelectric cookware
320380	Tableware, nonelectric kitchenware
320410	Lawnmowing equipment and other yard machinery, powered and nonpowered
320420	Power tools
320430	Other hardware, including curtain and drapery hardware, rope, portable ladders, sheds, non-permanent shelves and shelving
320511	Electric floor cleaning equipment
320512	Sewing machines
320521	Small electrical kitchen appliances
320522	Portable heating and cooling equipment
320610	Miscellaneous supplies and equipment, such as caulking compound, duct tape, carpet tape, carpet knife, bolts, screws, drill bits, door knobs, tool box, keys, mailbox, gutter screens, clamps, shelf brackets, tool table, work bench, etc...
320620	Permanent hard surface floor covering
320630	Landscaping items, such as grass, grass seed, trees, shrubs, plants, sod, and fork lift
320901	Office furniture for home use
320902	Non-powered tools
320903	Fresh flowers or potted plants
320904	Closet and storage items
320905	Miscellaneous household equipment and parts
320906	Electronic testing equipment
330110	Soaps and detergents, excluding hand soaps
330210	Other laundry and cleaning products
330310	Paper towels, napkins, toilet tissue, facial tissue
330410	Stationery, giftwrap and wrap accessories, greeting cards, pens, pencils, tape
330510	Miscellaneous household products, including paper, plastic and foil products
330610	Lawn and garden supplies, including outdoor plants
340110	Postage
340120	Delivery services

340210	Babysitting or other home care for children
340310	Housekeeping service, such as housekeeping, cooking, maid service, interior decorating, and carpet and upholstery cleaning services
340410	Gardening and lawn care services, such as mowing, tree services, fertilizing, and yard work
340510	Moving, storage, and freight express
340520	Non-clothing household laundry or dry cleaning not coin operated
340530	Non-clothing household laundry or dry cleaning - coin-operated
340610	Repair of television, radio, and sound equipment, excluding installed in vehicles
340620	Repair of household appliances; including stove, vacuum, washer, dryer, sewing machine, refrigerator, and calculator; excluding garbage disposal, range hood, and built-in dishwasher
340630	Furniture repair, refurnishing, or reupholstery
340901	Rental or repair of lawnmowing equipment and other yard machinery, power and non-power tools
340903	Miscellaneous home services and small repair jobs not already specified
340904	Rental of furniture
340906	Care for invalids, convalescents, handicapped or elderly persons in the CU
340907	Rental of household equipment items, such as refrigerators, home freezers, washers, microwave ovens, dishwashers, water cooler, stroller, china; excluding tools and lawn/garden equipment
340908	Rental of office equipment for non-business use, includes items such as calculators, typewriters, projectors, and other office machines.
340909	Rental of TV or radio sound equipment
340913	Repair and alterations of miscellaneous household equipment, furnishings, and textiles
350110	Tenants' insurance
360110	Men's suits
360120	Men's sportcoats and tailored jackets
360210	Men's coats, jackets, and furs
360311	Men's underwear
360312	Men's hosiery
360320	Men's sleepwear/loungewear
360330	Men's accessories
360340	Men's sweaters and vests
360350	Men's active sportswear
360410	Men's shirts
360513	Men's pants and shorts
360901	Men's uniforms
370110	Boys' coats, jackets, and furs
370120	Boys' sweaters
370130	Boys' shirts
370211	Boys' underwear
370212	Boys' sleepwear/loungewear
370213	Boys' hosiery
370220	Boys' accessories
370311	Boys' suits, sportcoats, and vests
370314	Boys' pants and shorts
370901	Boys' uniforms and active sportswear
380110	Women's coats, jackets and furs
380210	Women's dresses
380311	Women's sportcoats and tailored jackets
380312	Women's vests, sweaters, and sweater sets
380313	Women's shirts, tops, and blouses
380320	Women's skirts and culottes
380333	Women's pants and shorts
380340	Women's active sportswear
380410	Women's sleepwear/loungewear

380420	Women's undergarments
380430	Women's hosiery
380510	Women's suits
380901	Women's accessories
380902	Women's uniforms
390110	Girls' coats, jackets, and furs
390120	Girls' dresses and suits
390210	Girls' sport coats, tailored jackets, shirts, blouses, sweaters, sweater sets, and vests
390223	Girls' pants and shorts
390230	Girls' active sportswear
390310	Girls' undergarments and sleepwear/loungewear
390321	Girls' hosiery
390322	Girls' accessories
390901	Girls' uniforms
400110	Men's footwear
400210	Boys' footwear
400220	Girls' footwear
400310	Women's footwear
410110	Infants' coats, jackets, and snowsuits
410120	Infants' rompers, dresses, and sweaters
410130	Infants' undergarments, including diapers
410140	Infants' sleeping garments
410901	Infants' accessories, hosiery, and footwear
420110	Sewing material for making clothes
420120	Sewing notions, patterns
430110	Watches
430120	Jewelry
430130	Travel items, including luggage, and luggage carriers
440110	Shoe repair and other shoe services
440120	Apparel laundry and dry cleaning - coin-operated
440130	Alteration, repair, tailoring of apparel and accessories
440140	Clothing rental
440150	Watch and jewelry repair
440210	Apparel laundry and dry cleaning not coin operated
440900	Clothing storage
450110	New cars
450210	New trucks, pick-ups, vans, or jeeps
450220	New motorcycles, motor scooters, or mopeds
450310	Lease payment (car lease)
450410	Lease payment (truck/pick-up/van/jeep lease)
460110	Used cars
460901	Used trucks or vans
460902	Used motorcycles, motor scooters, or mopeds
460903	Used aircraft
470111	Gasoline
470112	Diesel fuel
470114	Gasohol
470211	Motor oil
470220	Coolant/antifreeze, oil, brake & transmission fluids, additives, and radiator/cooling system protectant
480110	Tires (new, used or recapped); replacement and mounting of tires, and belting
480212	Vehicle products, such as wax, touch up paint, de-icer, protectant, polish, tar and bug remover, polish cloth, rubbing compound, auto freshener, etc...
480213	Battery replacement, floormats, seatcovers, filter, brake parts, and other equipment, supplies, parts, and accessories for auto; boating supplies and accessories
480214	Vehicle audio equipment, excluding labor

490000	Miscellaneous auto repair and servicing
490110	Body work, painting, repair and replacement of upholstery, vinyl/convertible top, and glass
490211	Clutch and transmission repair
490212	Drive shaft and rear-end repair
490220	Brake work, excluding brake adjustment
490231	Steering or front end repair
490232	Cooling system repair
490311	Motor tune-up
490312	Lubrication and oil changes
490313	Front end alignment, wheel balance and rotation
490314	Shock absorber replacement
490315	Brake adjustment
490316	Gas tank repair and replacement
490411	Exhaust system repair
490412	Electrical system repair
490413	Motor repair and replacement
500110	Vehicle insurance
520110	State or local vehicle registration
520310	Drivers' license
520410	Vehicle inspection
520511	Auto rental, excluding trips
520521	Truck or van rental, excluding trips
520531	Parking fees at garages, meters, and lots, excluding fees that are costs of property ownership in home city
520541	Tolls or electronic toll passes
520550	Towing charges
520560	Global Positioning Services
520901	Docking and landing fees for boats and planes, boat ramp fees
520902	Rental of motorcycle, motor scooters, moped, etc., including mileage charges
520904	Rental of non camper-type trailer, such as for boat or cycle
530110	Airline fares
530210	Intercity bus fares
530311	Intracity mass transit fares
530412	Taxi fares
530510	Intercity train fares
530901	Ship fares
530902	Private school bus
530903	Car/van pool & non-motorized transportation
540000	Prescription drugs and medicines
550110	Purchase of eye glasses or contact lenses, excluding exam fee
550210	Over-the-counter drugs
550310	Topicals and dressings, such as band aids, gauze, cotton balls/rolls
550320	Purchase of medical or surgical equipment for general use, such as thermometers, needles/syringes, ice bags, heating pads, (not including band aids, gauze, cotton rolls/balls)
550330	Purchase of supportive or convalescent medical equipment, such as crutches, wheelchairs, braces, and ace bandages
550340	Hearing aids
550410	Nonprescription vitamins
550900	Recreational drugs
560110	Physicians' services
560210	Dental services
560310	Eye exams, treatment or surgery, glass/lens service, glasses repaired
560330	Lab tests and x-rays
560400	Services by medical professionals other than physicians
570000	Hospital care not specified
570220	Care in convalescent in nursing home

570230	Other medical care service, such as ambulance service
570901	Rental of medical or surgical equipment for general use
570902	Repair of medical equipment
570903	Rental of supportive and convalescent equipment
580000	Hospital and health insurance not spec.
580110	Commercial health insurance
580210	Blue Cross or Blue Shield
580310	Health maintenance plans
580901	Medicare payments
590110	Newspapers (single copy and subscriptions)
590210	Magazines and periodicals (single copy and subscriptions)
590220	Books purchased through book clubs
590230	Books not purchased through book clubs
590900	Newsletters
600110	Outboard motor
600120	Unpowered boats, trailers
600130	Powered sports vehicles
600210	Ping pong, pool tables, other similar items, general sports equipment, and health and exercise equipment
600310	Bicycles
600410	Camping equipment
600420	Hunting and fishing equipment
600430	Winter sports equipment
600900	Water sports and miscellaneous sports equipment
600903	Global Positioning System Devices
610110	Toys, games, hobbies, tricycles, and battery powered riders
610120	Playground equipment
610130	Musical instruments and accessories
610140	Stamp And Coin Collecting
610210	Film
610220	Other photographic supplies
610230	Photographic equipment
610310	Pet food
610320	Pets, pet supplies and medicine for pets
610901	Fireworks
610902	Souvenirs
610903	Visual goods
620111	Membership fees for country clubs, health clubs, swimming pools tennis clubs, social or other recreational organizations, civic, service, or fraternal organizations
620112	Membership fees for credit card memberships
620113	Membership fees for automobile service clubs
620121	Fees for participant sports, such as golf, tennis, and bowling
620211	Admission fees for entertainment activities, including lectures, movie, theatre, concert, opera or other musical series
620221	Admission fees to sporting events
620310	Fees for recreational lessons or other instructions
620320	Photographer fees
620330	Film processing
620410	Pet services
620420	Veterinarian expenses for pets
620510	Miscellaneous fees for admissions
620610	Miscellaneous entertainment services
620710	Camp fees
620810	Rental and repair of sports, photographic and music equipment, passport fees
620912	Rental of video cassettes, tapes, and discs
620913	Coin-operated pinball/electronic video games

620915	Sport vehicle rental
620925	Lotteries and Parimutuel Losses
620926	Miscellaneous Fees
620930	Online Entertainment Services
630110	Cigarettes
630210	Cigars, pipe tobacco, and other tobacco products
630220	Smoking accessories
630900	Marijuana
640110	Hair care products
640120	Non-electric articles for the hair
640130	Wigs, hairpieces, and toupees
640210	Oral hygiene products, articles
640220	Shaving needs
640310	Cosmetics, perfume, cologne, bath preparations, hand soap, face and body powder, skin care products, nail preparations, manicure and eye make-up implements and accessories
640410	Deodorant, female hygiene products, miscellaneous personal care products and supplies
640420	Electrical personal care appliances
640430	Adult diapers
650110	Personal care services for females, including haircuts
650210	Personal care services for males, including haircuts
650900	Rental and repair of personal care appliances
660000	School supplies., etc. - unspec., including reference books not in a set
660110	School books, supplies, and equipment for college
660210	School books, supplies, and equipment for elementary and high school
660310	Encyclopedia and other sets of reference books
660900	School books , supplies, and equipment for day care center, nursery school and other
670110	Tuition for college
670210	Tuition for elementary and high school
670310	Other expenses for day care centers and nursery schools, including tuition
670901	Tuition for other schools
670902	Rentals of books and equipment, and other school-related expenses
680110	Legal fees, excluding real estate closing costs
680140	Funeral, burial or cremation expenses
680210	Safe deposit box rental
680220	Charges for checking accounts and other banking services, excluding safe deposit
680901	Purchase and upkeep of cemetery lots or vaults
680902	Accounting fees
680903	Miscellaneous personal services, advertising, fines, duplicating services
680904	Dating Services
690114	Computer information services
690115	Personal Digital Assistants
690116	Internet Services Away From Home
690118	Digital book readers
690119	Computer software
690120	Computer accessories
690210	Telephone answering devices
690230	Typewriters and other office machines for non-business use
999000	Home ownership expense not specified
999900	Taxes not specified

NOTE: The following lists the UCCs necessary to derive expenditures for these "food away" items:

[1] for LUNCH
190111, 190112, 190113, 190114, 190115, 190116

[2] for DINNER
190211, 190212, 190213, 190214, 190215, 190216

[3] for SNACKS
190311, 190312, 190313, 190314, 190315, 190316

[4] for BREAKFAST
190321, 190322, 190323, 190324, 190325, 190326

[5] for CATERED AFFAIRS
 190921, 190922,190923, 90924, 190925, 190926

[6] for BOARD
 190911, 190912, 190913,190914, 190915, 190916

[7] for BEER
200511, 200512, 200513, 200514, 200515, 200516

[8] for WINE
200521, 200522, 200523, 200524, 200525, 200526

[9] for ALCOHLIC BEVERAGES, EXCL. BEER AND WINE
200531, 200532, 200533, 200534, 200535, 200536

B. Income and Related UCCs on DTBD File

*L denotes UCCs could have negative values

	800700	Meals received as pay
	800710	Rent received as pay
	800910	Payroll deductions for government retirement
	800920	Payroll deductions for railroad retirement
	800931	Payroll deductions for private pensions
	800932	Non-payroll deposit to individual retirement plan, such as IRA's
	800940	Payroll deductions for social security
	900000	Wages and salaries
*L	900010	Net business income
*L	900020	Net farm income
	900030	Social security and railroad retirement income
	900040	Pensions and annuities
	900050	Dividends, royalties, estates, or trusts
*L	900060	Income from roomers and boarders
*L	900070	Other rental income
	900080	Interest from saving accounts or bonds
	900090	Supplemental security income
	900100	Unemployment compensation
	900110	Worker's compensation and veterans payments including education benefits
	900120	Public assistance or welfare including money received from job training grants such as job corps
	900131	Child support payments received
	900132	Other regular contributions received including alimony
	900140	Other income including money received from care of foster children, cash scholarships and fellowships or stipends not based on working
	900150	Food stamps

	910000	Lump sum payments from estates, trusts, royalties, alimony, child support, prizes or games of chance, or from persons outside of the CU
	910010	Money from sale of household furnishings, equipment, clothing, jewelry, pets or other belongings, excluding the sale of vehicles or property
	910020	Overpayment on social security
	910030	Refund from insurance policies
	910040	Refunds from property taxes
	910041	Lump sum child support payments received
	950002	Federal income tax (deducted)
	950003	Additional federal income tax (paid)
*L	950001	Federal income tax refunds
	950012	State/local income tax (deducted)
	950013	Additional state/local income tax (paid)
*L	950011	State and local income tax refunds
	950021	Other taxes
	950022	Personal property taxes
*L	950023	Other tax refunds
*L	980000	Income before taxes
	980010	Family size
	980020	Age of reference person
	980030	Number of earners
	980040	Number of vehicles
	980050	Number of persons under 18
	980060	Number of persons 65 and over
*L	980070	Income after taxes

The following UCCs contain values of 100 depending on whether the CU satisfies the condition. For example, if the CU owns the home, then UCC 980090, homeowner, will have a value of 100. These UCCs are used at BLS to compute percentages for the published tables.

980090	Percent homeowner
980210	Percent male reference person
980220	Percent female reference person
980230	Percent homeowner with mortgage
980240	Percent homeowner without mortgage
980250	Percent homeowner with mortgage not reported
980260	Percent renter
980270	Percent black reference person
980280	Percent non-black reference person
980290	Percent reference person with elementary education
980300	Percent reference person with high school education
980310	Percent reference person with college education
980320	Percent reference person with no education and other
980330	Percent vehicle owner

XIV. Appendix 3—UCC Aggregation

The Dstub file found with the documentation and sample programs when you download the data shows the UCC aggregation used in the sample programs.

XV.   Appendix 4—Publications and Data Releases from the Consumer Expenditure Survey

Consumer Expenditure Survey Data on the Internet

CE reports and data tables can be found on-line at http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm.
The following One-Year, Mid-Year and Two-Year Tables of integrated Diary and Interview data are available under the Tables Created by BLS heading:

One-Year Tables
    Standard Tables from 1984-2011
    Expenditure Shares Tables from 1998-2011
    Aggregate Expenditure Shares Tables from 1998-2012
    Combined Expenditure, Share and Standard Error Tables from 2012

Mid-Year Tables (July 20xx – June 20xy, where xy= xx+1)
    Combined Expenditure, Share and Standard Error Tables from 2011-12

Two-Year Tables
    Cross-Tabulated Tables from 1986-2012
    Metropolitan Statistical Area Tables from 1986-2012
    Region Tables from 1998-2012
    High Income Tables from 1998-2002
    Multi-Year Tables for 1984-1992 and 1994-2012

CDs and Free Online Data
The data releases are to be made available online in reverse chronological order, starting with the 2010 data release in July 2012, with prior years appearing incrementally until the 1996 data release is posted. Post-1995 data releases will remain available on CD for purchase until posted online. Please see PUMD on CD for ordering information. Pre-1996 PUMD will continue to only be available on CD for purchase.

For information and downloading of past PUMD releases, please visit the links below. Multiple zip files can also be downloaded at one time. Please see Instructions for Downloading Consumer Expenditure Survey (CE) Microdata and Documentation for information on downloading the files.
Public Use Microdata that are not available online must be purchased through the Bureau of Labor Statistics Division of Financial Planning and Management. To purchase CDs by check or charge, print and complete the order form (PDF) and return it with payment to: Bureau of Labor Statistics Division of Financial Planning and Management, Room 4135, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20212-0001. Phone (202) 691-7794, Fax (202) 691-7796.

CE microdata on CD are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for 1972-73, 1980-81, 1990-91, 1992-93, and for each individual year after 1993 (excluding those years which are currently available for free download online). The 1980-81 through 2012 releases contain Interview and Diary data, while the 1972-73 CD includes Interview data only. The 1980-81, and the 1990 files (of the 1990-91 CD) include selected EXPN data, while the 1991 files (from the 1990-91 CD) and the 1992-93 CD do not. In addition to the Interview and Diary data, the CDs from 1994-2004 include the complete collection of EXPN files. A 1984-94 "multi-year" CD that presents Interview FMLI file data is also available. In addition to the microdata, the CDs also contain the same integrated Diary and Interview tabulated data (1984-2009) that are found on the Consumer Expenditure Survey web site (http://www.bls.gov/cex).

More information on the particular CDs available and the order form can be found on the Consumer Expenditure Survey web site: http://www.bls.gov/cex/pumdhome.htm#order

State Codes
Addendum files containing state codes from 1980 to 1992 are available for the Interview Survey by request. The files contain the variables NEWID and STATE, thus enabling the microdata user to identify the states in which consumer units reside. Caution should be exercised when analysis is done by state, due to the composition of some PSUs. PSUs in some state border areas may not be unique to one state, but may contain CUs from two or more states (see Section X.D. State Identifier). Also, because of nondisclosure requirements STATE has been suppressed for some sampled CUs (see Section IV.A. CU Characteristics and Income File (FMLI)). The state data files are free and may be obtained by contacting the BLS national office.

XVI.   Inquiries, Suggestions and Comments

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments about the survey, the microdata, or its documentation, please call (202) 691-6900 or email cexinfo@bls.gov.

Written suggestions and comments should be forwarded to:

> Division of Consumer Expenditure Survey
> Branch of Information and Analysis
> Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3985
> 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E.
> Washington, DC. 20212-0001

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will use these responses in planning future releases of the microdata.