

Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Diary Survey

Information Booklet

CE-805

Issued January 2021



United States[®]
Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

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PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting the Consumer Expenditure Diary Survey for the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor under Title 29, United States Code. The survey's purpose is to obtain information on what people in the U.S. are purchasing in order to update the Consumer Price Index. All survey information will be used for statistical purposes only.

Any information you provide for this survey is confidential, by law, under Title 13, United States Code. Participation in this survey is voluntary and there are no penalties for refusing to answer any question(s). However, your cooperation is extremely important to help ensure the completeness and accuracy of these data.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Hispanic Origin

1. Mexican
2. Mexican-American
3. Chicano
4. Puerto Rican
5. Cuban

Race

(Please choose one or more)

1. White
2. Black or African American
3. American Indian or Alaska Native
4. Asian
5. Native Hawaiian
6. Guamanian or Chamorro
7. Samoan
8. Other Pacific Islander

Asian Origin

1. Chinese
2. Filipino
3. Japanese
4. Korean
5. Vietnamese
6. Asian Indian

Demographics

Education



1. No schooling completed or less than 1 year
2. Nursery, kindergarten, and elementary (grades 1-8)
3. High school (grades 9-12, no degree)
4. High school graduate – high school diploma or the equivalent (GED)
5. Some college but no degree
6. Associate's degree in college
7. Bachelor's degree (BA, AB, BS, etc.)
8. Master's, professional, or doctoral degree (MA, MS, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)

Active Duty



A person is considered to be on active duty if they are on full-time duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. Active duty does not include training in the Reserve or National Guard, but does include activation from the Reserve or National Guard.

Armed Forces



A person is considered to be in the Armed Forces if he or she serves in any branch of the U.S. military. This includes the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard; their Reserve components; and the Air and Army National Guard.

OCCUPATIONS

1. Administrator, Manager

administrator funeral director manager

2. Teacher

guidance counselor teacher

3. Professional

accountant engineer lawyer physician registered nurse
clergy IT professional photographer social worker

4. Administrative Support, including Clerical

assistant bookkeeper clerk receptionist secretary

5. Sales, Retail

apparel salesperson commodity salesperson motor vehicle salesperson
cashier door-to-door salesperson

6. Sales, Business Goods and Services

insurance salesperson mining sales representative real estate salesperson
financial services manufacturing sales representative wholesale sales
representative representative

7. Technician

drafter electronic technician practical nurse
clinical laboratory technician health technician

8. Protective Service

firefighter police officer private guard

9. Private Household Service

household worker nanny

10. Other Service (except private household)

childcare worker food preparer janitor orderly
cook hairstylist maid/houseman waiter/waitress

11. Machine or Transportation Operator, Laborer

assembler freight handler material handler taxi driver
bus driver inspector packager tractor operator
construction laborer machine operator stock handler truck driver

12. Construction Workers, Mechanics

automobile mechanic machine repairer mining worker sheet metal worker
carpenter machinist painter
electrician meat cutter plumber

13. Farming

farm worker farmer

14. Forestry, Fishing, Groundskeeping

animal caretaker fisher forestry worker groundskeeper

15. Armed Forces

INCOME

CARD A

0. Loss
1. \$ 1 – \$ 4,999
2. \$ 5,000 – \$ 9,999
3. \$ 10,000 – \$ 14,999
4. \$ 15,000 – \$ 19,999
5. \$ 20,000 – \$ 29,999
6. \$ 30,000 – \$ 39,999
7. \$ 40,000 – \$ 49,999
8. \$ 50,000 – \$ 69,999
9. \$ 70,000 – \$ 89,999
10. \$ 90,000 – \$ 119,999
11. \$ 120,000 and over

CARD B

1. Less than \$500
2. \$ 500 – \$ 699
3. \$ 700 – \$ 999
4. \$ 1,000 – \$ 1,299
5. \$ 1,300 – \$ 1,699
6. \$ 1,700 and over

CARD C

- 0. Loss
- 1. \$ 1 — \$ 999
- 2. \$ 1,000 — \$ 1,999
- 3. \$ 2,000 — \$ 2,999
- 4. \$ 3,000 — \$ 3,999
- 5. \$ 4,000 — \$ 4,999
- 6. \$ 5,000 — \$ 9,999
- 7. \$ 10,000 — \$ 14,999
- 8. \$ 15,000 — \$ 19,999
- 9. \$ 20,000 — \$ 29,999
- 10. \$ 30,000 — \$ 39,999
- 11. \$ 40,000 — \$ 49,999
- 12. \$ 50,000 and over

DIARY SURVEY CHECKS

When reviewing the Diary, check each page in the form. Ensure that ALL entries have as much detail as possible. The following are EXAMPLES of information that is often omitted.

CONTENT CHECKS

1. All entries should be clearly readable. If there is an unreadable entry, rewrite it. Entries that contain local names or acronyms should be clarified and rewritten.
2. If the respondent reports no expenditures for a day, mark the NONE box at the top of the right page.
3. Ensure there is an amount entered in the total cost column for every item entry in the diary and that the amount entered is reasonable.
 - a. If an amount is unusually high or low, confirm it with the respondent.
 - b. Whenever possible, a single cost for each item is required. Investigate any combined expenses to determine if individual costs can be identified.
4. In Meals, Snacks, and Drinks Away from Home, ensure that all the checkboxes are appropriately marked.
 - a. If an alcohol check box is marked, indicating that alcoholic beverages were purchased, there should also be an amount entered in the last column.
 - b. There should always be an amount entered in the total cost column.
5. In Food and Drinks for Home Consumption, be sure a checkbox is marked to indicate whether the food is fresh, frozen, etc.
6. In Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, and Accessories, ensure a checkbox for a gender/age category is marked.
7. If the item was purchased for someone not on your list, ensure there is an entry in the last column for all sections *except* Meals, Snacks, and Drinks Away from Home.

EXPENDITURE DETAIL CHECKS

1. Food and Drinks for Home Consumption

BAKERY PRODUCTS: Specify type such as cupcakes, apple pie, etc.

BEEF: Specify the cut of beef and describe, such as ground beef, prime rib, etc.

PORK: Specify the cut of pork and describe, such as pork loin roast, whole ham, etc.

POULTRY: Specify whether it is chicken, turkey, or other

OTHER FOOD: Give a complete description, such as boxed scalloped potatoes

STORE OR WEBSITE where purchased: Check to see if the store or website was entered in this column

2. Meals, Snacks, and Drinks Away from Home

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: If the purchase is exclusively alcohol, ensure the type(s) is (are) specified and that the total cost and the alcohol cost are the same. Both cost entries must be recorded.

Diary Survey Checks

MEALS: Check the type of meal (lunch, breakfast, dinner, snack/other) and the type of vendor. If alcohol is included, ensure the type(s) of alcohol is (are) marked in the checkboxes and the cost is recorded.

RESTAURANT OR VENDOR: Check to see if a restaurant or vendor was entered in this column.

3. Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, and Accessories

CLOTHING: Specify the type of clothing and give a description of the item

JEWELRY: Specify the type of jewelry, such as watches, etc.

SHOES: If sport shoes, specify sport, such as football cleats, ice skates, etc.

STORE OR WEBSITE where purchased: Check to see if the store or website was entered in this column

4. All Other Products, Services, and Expenses

ALBUM: Specify if photo album or record album

BOOKS: Specify whether it was a part of a book club, a school book, or a non-school book. If the purchase was for school, then specify whether it was college, high school, or other.

BUS, TRAIN: Specify intercity (between cities) or intra-city (within the city) fare

DISHWASHER: Specify whether it is portable or built-in

DOCTOR BILLS: Specify type of doctors, such as dentist, internist, etc.

FURNITURE: Specify type such as kitchen chair, living room chair, etc.

GAS: Specify if gasoline or household fuel. If household fuel, indicate whether piped or bottled.

LAUNDRY/DRY CLEANING: Specify if coin-operated or not coin-operated; specify whether household item (such as drapes) or apparel

MEDICINE: Specify if prescription or non-prescription

SOAP: Specify hand soap or laundry soap

TABLEWARE: Specify type, such as china, flatware, silver service pieces, etc.

TOOLS: Specify if power or hand tool, such as power saw, etc.

TUITION: Specify high school, college, etc.

VEHICLE: Specify new or used and type of vehicle purchased

VEHICLE REGISTRATION: Specify state or local

VEHICLE REPAIR: Specify type of service such as an oil change, brake adjustment, etc.

STORE OR WEBSITE where purchased: Check to see if the store or website was entered in this column

2021 CALENDAR

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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DECEMBER

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2022 CALENDAR

JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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AUGUST

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DECEMBER

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2023 CALENDAR

JANUARY

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LANGUAGE IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Hello, I'm from the U.S. Census Bureau. Is someone here now who speaks English and can help us? If not, please give me your phone number and someone may contact you in English.

01. English

Buenos días (Buenas tardes), soy de la Oficina del Censo de los Estados Unidos. ¿Se encuentra alguien que hable inglés y pueda ayudarnos? Si no, por favor, dígame su número de teléfono; es posible que alguien se comunique con usted en español.

02. Español/Spanish

مرحباً، أنا من مكتب الإحصاء الأمريكي. هل يوجد هنا الآن شخص يتحدث الإنجليزية ويمكنه مساعدتنا؟ إذا كان لا يوجد، فالرجاء إعطائي رقم هاتفكم وربما يتصل بكم أحد الأشخاص باللغة العربية.

03. [Arabic]/Arabic

您好，我系为美国人口普查局工作嘅。请问您呢度有冇识讲英文嘅人可以帮到我地？如果有，请留低您嘅电话号码，之后可能会有人用中文同您联络。

04. [Cantonese Simplified] / Cantonese-Simplified

您好，我是美国人口普查局的工作人员。请问您这里有没有人说英语并且可以帮助我们？如果没有，请给我您的电话号码，之后可能会有人用中文与您联系。

05. [Mandarin Simplified] / Mandarin-Simplified

안녕하세요. 저는 미국 인구조사국에서 근무합니다. 영어를 사용하시는 분 중에 저희를 도와주실 수 있는 분이 여기 계십니까? 없으신 경우, 전화번호를 알려 주시면 한국어를 할 수 있는 직원이 연락드릴 수 있습니다.

06. [Korean]/Korean

Dzień dobry. Jestem z Amerykańskiego Biura Spisu Ludności. Czy ktoś tutaj mówi po angielsku I czy mógłby nam pomóc? Jeżeli nie, proszę

07. Polski/Polish

Language Identification Cards

podać mi swój numer telefonu, pod którym można skontaktować się z Państwem po polsku.

Здравствуйте! Я представляю Бюро переписи населения Соединенных Штатов. Присутствует ли здесь кто-нибудь, кто говорит по-английски и мог бы нам помочь? Если нет, то, пожалуйста, дайте нам свой номер телефона, чтобы при необходимости наш сотрудник мог с вами поговорить по-русски.

08. Русский/Russian

Xin chào, tôi là nhân viên của Cục Thống Kê Dân Số Hoa Kỳ. Ở đây hiện có ai biết nói tiếng Anh và có thể giúp chúng tôi không? Nếu không xin vui lòng cho biết số điện thoại của quý vị. Chúng tôi có thể liên lạc với quý vị bằng tiếng Việt.

09. Tiếng Việt / Vietnamese

