August 2026 Report 1119

Consumer expenditures in 2024



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This report analyzes data from the Diary and Interview Surveys of the Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) program.[1] The data in this report are drawn from a collection of CE tables, highlighting the vast array of demographic data the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has available. Income and expenditure data in this report are expressed as nominal values and show spending in U.S. dollars as reported by surveyed consumers.[2] These data are collected by the U.S. Census Bureau for BLS. BLS publishes the data in categories, usually defined by characteristics of the reference person for a given consumer unit (CU).[3]

Inflation slowed down in 2024

How did inflation affect the average household's spending? The average CU spent 1.8-percent more on goods and services in 2024 than in 2023. Prices increased 2.9 percent from 2023 to 2024. Real spending growth, the difference between the nominal rate of spending and the rate of inflation, was −1.1 percent (1.8 percent minus 2.9 percent). As such, the average CU had a decline in real spending.[4]

Like spending and inflation, income growth slowed down. Although income before taxes continued to increase in 2024, the 2.4-percent increase was considerably below that of the increases in 2023 and 2022.[5] (See table 1.)

Table 1. Expenditures, income, and inflation growth, 2021 to 2024, in percent

Year	Expenditures	Income before taxes	Inflation
2020–21	9.1	3.7	4.7
2021–22	9.0	7.5	8.0
2022–23	5.7	8.3	4.1
2023–24	1.8	2.4	2.9

Note: Inflation is as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Expenditure trends by major component: 2021 to 2024

Table 2 displays average annual expenditures and their associated percent changes from 2021 to 2024. Average annual expenditures rose 1.8 percent in 2024, rising $1,377 from 2023 levels of spending to $78,535.[6] As such, 2024 contributed to a 3-year trend of decelerating spending growth. In 2021, average annual expenditures rose 9.1 percent. Spending growth decelerated in 2022 and 2023, when it rose by 9.0 and 5.7 percent, respectively.

Table 2. Average annual expenditures by major component of all consumer units and percent changes, Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 2021–24

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage change 2021–22	Percentage change 2022–23	Percentage change 2023–24
Number of consumer units (in thousands) [1]	133,595	134,090	134,556	135,760	[2]	[2]	[2]
Consumer unit characteristics:							
Income before taxes (in dollars)	87,432	94,003	101,805	104,207	7.5	8.3	2.4
Age of reference person	51.8	52.1	52.1	52.2	[2]	[2]	[2]
Average number in consumer unit:							
People	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Data are rounded to the nearest thousand.

[2] No data reported.

[3] Estimates differ from those published in previous annual reports because of corrections that occurred postpublication. These corrections did not meet the BLS threshold for republication of CE data.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percentage change 2021–22	Percentage change 2022–23	Percentage change 2023–24
Children under 18	.6	.6	.6	.6	[2]	[2]	[2]
Adults 65 and older	.4	.4	.4	.4	[2]	[2]	[2]
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	[2]	[2]	[2]
Vehicles	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	[2]	[2]	[2]
Percent homeowner	65	65	65	65	[2]	[2]	[2]
Average annual expenditures (in dollars)	66,928	72,973 [3]	77,158 [3]	78,535	9.0	5.7	1.8
Food	8,289	9,343	9,985	10,169	12.7	6.9	1.8
Food at home	5,259	5,703	6,053	6,224	8.4	6.1	2.8
Cereals and bakery products	672	712	830	779	6.0	16.6	-6.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	1,115	1,216	1,164	1,414	9.1	-4.3	21.5
Dairy products	492	532	602	631	8.1	13.2	4.8
Fruits and vegetables	1,033	1,099	988	953	6.4	-10.1	-3.5
Other food at home	1,947	2,144	2,469	2,447	10.1	15.2	-.9
Food away from home	3,030	3,639	3,933	3,945	20.1	8.1	.3
Alcoholic beverages	554	583	637	643	5.2	9.3	.9
Housing	22,624	24,298	25,436	26,266	7.4	4.7	3.3
Shelter	13,258	14,507	15,499	16,317	9.4	6.8	5.3
Owned dwellings	7,591	8,230	8,699	9,310	8.4	5.7	7.0
Rented dwellings	4,684	4,990	5,370	5,660	6.5	7.6	5.4
Other lodging	983	1,287	1,430	1,347	30.9	11.1	-5.8
Utilities, fuels, and public services	4,223	4,549	4,625	4,736	7.7	1.7	2.4
Household operations	1,638	1,849	1,985	1,921	12.9	7.4	-3.2
Housekeeping supplies	803	787	818	877	-2.0	3.9	7.2
Household furnishings and equipment	2,701	2,606	2,508	2,414	-3.5	-3.8	-3.7
Apparel and services	1,754	1,945	2,041	2,001	10.9	4.9	-2.0
Transportation	10,961	12,295	13,174	13,318	12.2	7.1	1.1
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	4,828	4,496	5,539	5,337	-6.9	23.2	-3.6
Gasoline and other fuels	[2]	[2]	2,694	2,645	[2]	[2]	-1.8
Other vehicle expenses	3,534	3,834	3,845	4,206	8.5	.3	9.4
Public and other transportation	452	845	1,096	1,131	86.9	29.7	3.2
Healthcare	5,452	5,856 [3]	6,159	6,197	7.4	5.2	.6
Entertainment	3,568	3,458	3,635	3,609	-3.1	5.1	-.7
Personal care products and services	771	866	950	978	12.3	9.7	2.9
Reading	114	117	117	125	2.6	.0	6.8
Education	1,226	1,335	1,535 [3]	1,569	8.9	15.0	2.2
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	341	371	370	352	8.8	-.3	-4.9
Miscellaneous	986	1,009	1,184	1,218	2.3	17.3	2.9
Cash contributions	2,415	2,755	2,378	2,292	14.1	-13.7	-3.6
Personal insurance and pensions	7,873	8,742	9,556	9,797	11.0	9.3	2.5
Life and other personal insurance	473	519	546	575	9.7	5.2	5.3
Retirement, pensions, and Social Security	7,400	8,223	9,011	9,222	11.1	9.6	2.3

[1] Data are rounded to the nearest thousand.

[2] No data reported.

[3] Estimates differ from those published in previous annual reports because of corrections that occurred postpublication. These corrections did not meet the BLS threshold for republication of CE data.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Average annual spending changed little across all 14 major expenditure components from 2023 to 2024. Only four components saw decreased spending (entertainment, apparel and services, tobacco products and smoking supplies, and cash contributions). Spending on the five largest major components (housing, transportation, food, personal insurance and pensions, and healthcare) increased by varying degrees.

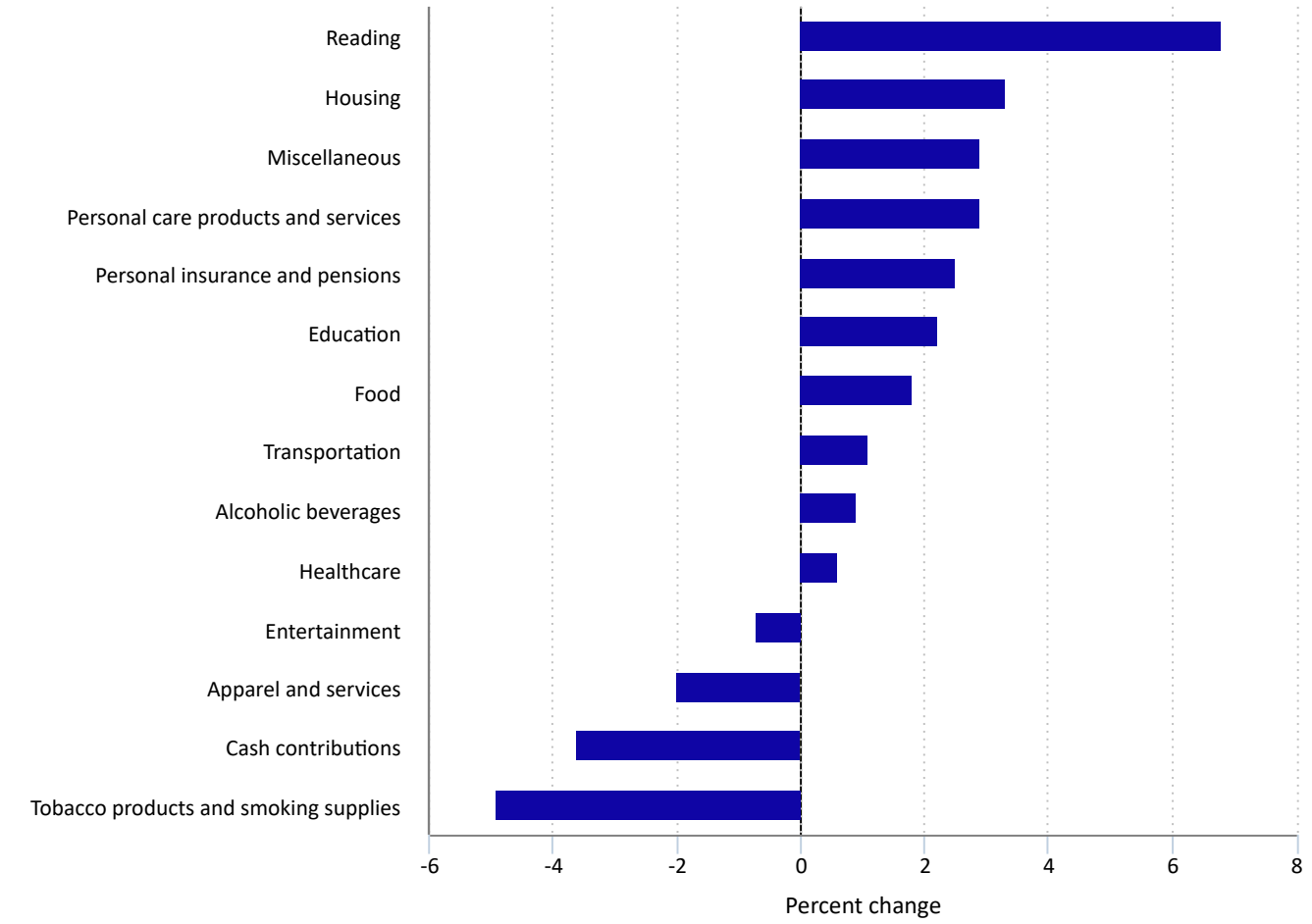
Housing

Housing continues to make up the largest share of consumer spending and increased by 3.3 percent in 2024.[7] As was the case in 2023, upward pressure on home prices, rent for apartments, and mortgage rates contributed to this increase in spending. Spending rose for owned (by 7.0 percent) and rented (by 5.4 percent) dwellings. While the Federal Reserve did make small cuts to the federal funds rate, mortgage rates continued to remain elevated.[8] As of the fourth quarter of 2024, the housing inventory level in the United

States was 926,044 active listings, which is below the total quantity of homes on the market that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic.[9] Thus, supply and demand forces in the housing market continued to pose challenges to prospective homebuyers.

Despite current inventory levels, the Q4 2023 to Q4 2024 change in median sales price of houses sold declined 0.9 percent.[10] Even so, the homeownership rate remained stagnant at 65 percent for the fourth year in a row. Similarly, the percentage of people renting stayed the same. Rent expenditures (excluding maintenance, utilities, etc.) increased by 6.8 percent, contributing to the overall increase in rent and housing expenditures. Besides spending on shelter, spending on housekeeping supplies and utilities, fuels, and public services rose by 7.2 and 2.4 percent respectively.

Chart 1. Annual percent change for major expenditure groups, 2023–24



Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

View Chart Data

Food

Food spending rose for a third consecutive year, though at a slower rate. Average annual expenditures on food increased 1.8 percent in 2024, after rising by 12.7 percent in 2022 and 6.9 percent in 2023. Food at home expenditures, which covers spending at grocery stores and similar venues, increased 2.8 percent in 2024.[11] Spending in most sections of the grocery store, such as fruits and vegetables (−3.5 percent) and cereals and bakery products (−6.1 percent), declined. Spending in some sections, including other food at home, remained virtually unchanged.[12] However, spending on meat, poultry, fish, and eggs rose 21.5 percent. On an individual level, each subcomponent under meat, poultry, fish, and eggs had noticeable spending gains. (See table 3.)

Table 3. Changes in consumer expenditures and inflation for meat, poultry, fish, and eggs, 2024, in percent

Item	Expenditures	Inflation
Meat, poultry, fish, and eggs	21.5	2.2
Beef [1]	32.0	5.4
Poultry	24.8	.8
Fish and seafood [2]	21.7	-1.9
Pork	19.8	1.3
Eggs	6.1	8.5

[1] The title for the BLS publication component for CE data is "Beef" and "Beef and veal" for CPI data.

[2] The title for the BLS publication component for CE data is "Fish and seafood" and "Seafood" for CPI data.

Note: Inflation is as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The food away from home component captures spending at restaurants, takeout establishments, delis, and any other similar dining arrangement where food is prepared outside of the home. Food away from home spending remained nearly unchanged in 2024, increasing by just $12.[13] According to a 2025 report and accompanying survey, 37 percent of polled consumers (44 percent of those classified as lower income in this report) stated that they were dining out less frequently, with over 80 percent in the lower income cohort citing higher prices.[14]

Transportation

After increases of 7.1 percent in 2023 and 12.2 percent in 2022, transportation expenditures rose at a much less accelerated rate of 1.1 percent in 2024. Spending on vehicle insurance increased 12.3 percent.[15] This follows an 11.5-percent increase in 2023.[16] Multiple variables have been influencing this rise in vehicle insurance spending, including increased claim severity from auto accidents. According to a 2024 report, bodily injury claims, material damage severity, and total loss claims rose by 20, 47, and 29 percent, respectively, since 2020.[17] In addition to increased claim severity, the report cited higher rates of risky driving behavior: major and minor speeding incidents rose 10 and 16 percent, respectively, and distracted driving rose 10 percent. Lastly, rising vehicle repair costs helped elevate auto insurance rates, likely due to factors including technological advancements in vehicle parts and infotainment, leading to more costly repairs and general labor shortages in the mechanic market.[18]

Outside of vehicle insurance, small increases were seen in public and other transportation (3.2 percent). This 3.2-percent increase in public and other transportation was caused by spending on ship fares, which increased by 27.6 percent.[19]

Lastly, vehicle purchases declined by 3.6 percent. Used trucks was the only major subcomponent with spending growth (14.8 percent) while spending on new vehicles (both cars and trucks) declined by 14.7 percent.

Healthcare, education, and cash contributions

Healthcare expenditures remained nearly unchanged, only increasing 0.6 percent in 2024. Health insurance rose 0.1 percent, and medical services remained unchanged. Drug expenditures rose 11.3 percent, with a 21.7-percent rise in prescription drug spending.[20]

Spending on education slowed down sharply from 2023, only rising 2.2 percent compared with 15.0 percent in 2023. Reductions in rate of increase for college and elementary and high school tuition accounted for this slowed spending growth.[21] Cash contributions declined by 3.6 percent, led by a 27.6-percent decline in charitable donations.

Expenditure shares: how do consumers divide up their spending?

Expenditure shares show how consumers parse out their spending. They are important in understanding short- and long-run spending trends, as well as recognizing changing consumer preferences. In the short run, expenditure shares show how the average consumer divides up their spending among the categories of items. In the long run, expenditure shares reflect changes to living standards.[22]

Table 4. Percent distribution of total annual expenditures by major component for all consumer units, Consumer Expenditure Surveys, 2021–24

Item	2021	2022	2023	2024
Average annual expenditures	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Food	12.4	12.8	12.9	12.9
Food at home	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9
Food away from home	4.5	5.0	5.1	5.0
Alcoholic beverages	.8	.8	.8	.8
Housing	33.8	33.3	33.0 [2]	33.4
Shelter	19.8	19.9	20.1	20.8
Utilities, fuels, and public services	6.3	6.2	6.0	6.0
Household operations	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.4
Housekeeping supplies	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Household furnishings and equipment	4.0	3.6	3.3 [2]	3.1
Apparel and services	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.5
Transportation	16.4	16.8	17.1	17.0
Vehicle purchases (net outlay)	7.2	6.2	7.2	6.8
Gasoline and other fuels	[1]	[1]	3.5	3.4
Other vehicle expenses	5.3	5.3	5.0	5.4
Public and other transportation	.7	1.2	1.4	1.4
Healthcare	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9
Entertainment	5.3	4.7	4.7	4.6
Personal care products and services	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Reading	.2	.2	.2	.2
Education	1.8	1.8	2.0 [2]	2.0
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	.5	.5	.5	.4
Miscellaneous	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.6
Cash contributions	3.6	3.8	3.1	2.9
Personal insurance and pensions	11.8	12.0	12.4	12.5
Life and other personal insurance	.7	.7	.7	.7
Retirement, pensions, and Social Security	11.1	11.3	11.7	11.7

[1] No data reported.

[2] Estimates differ from those published in previous annual reports because of corrections that occurred postpublication. These corrections did not meet the BLS threshold for republication of CE data.

Note: Values may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In 2024, the five largest spending components (housing, transportation, food, healthcare, and personal insurance and pensions) accounted for 83.7 percent of spending.[23] The next three largest (entertainment, cash contributions, and apparel and services) accounted for 10.0 percent, down from 2023 (10.4 percent). The other six components made up the remaining 6.3 percent of spending.

How was the division of spending changing in 2024? Housing, personal insurance and pensions, and various miscellaneous expenditures were the only three components that had a larger share of household spending in 2024 than in 2023. Because that money had to shift from somewhere else, six components had reductions in their share of spending. Five components remained unchanged. (See table 4.)

Components with increased shares of spending

Housing occupies the greatest share of spending for the average CU, accounting for 33.4 cents of every dollar spent in 2024. Housing spending shares had declined from 2021 to 2023. However, in 2024 housing shares rose by 0.4 percentage points. This marks the first time that housing shares have risen since the pandemic-driven renovation boom of

2020. The 2024 increase was mainly driven by a 0.6-percentage-point increase in expenditure shares for owned dwellings.[24]

The heightened share of personal insurance and pensions can be mainly attributed to higher Social Security deductions. The increase within the miscellaneous component was broad, rather than a single line-item expenditure having a major influence.

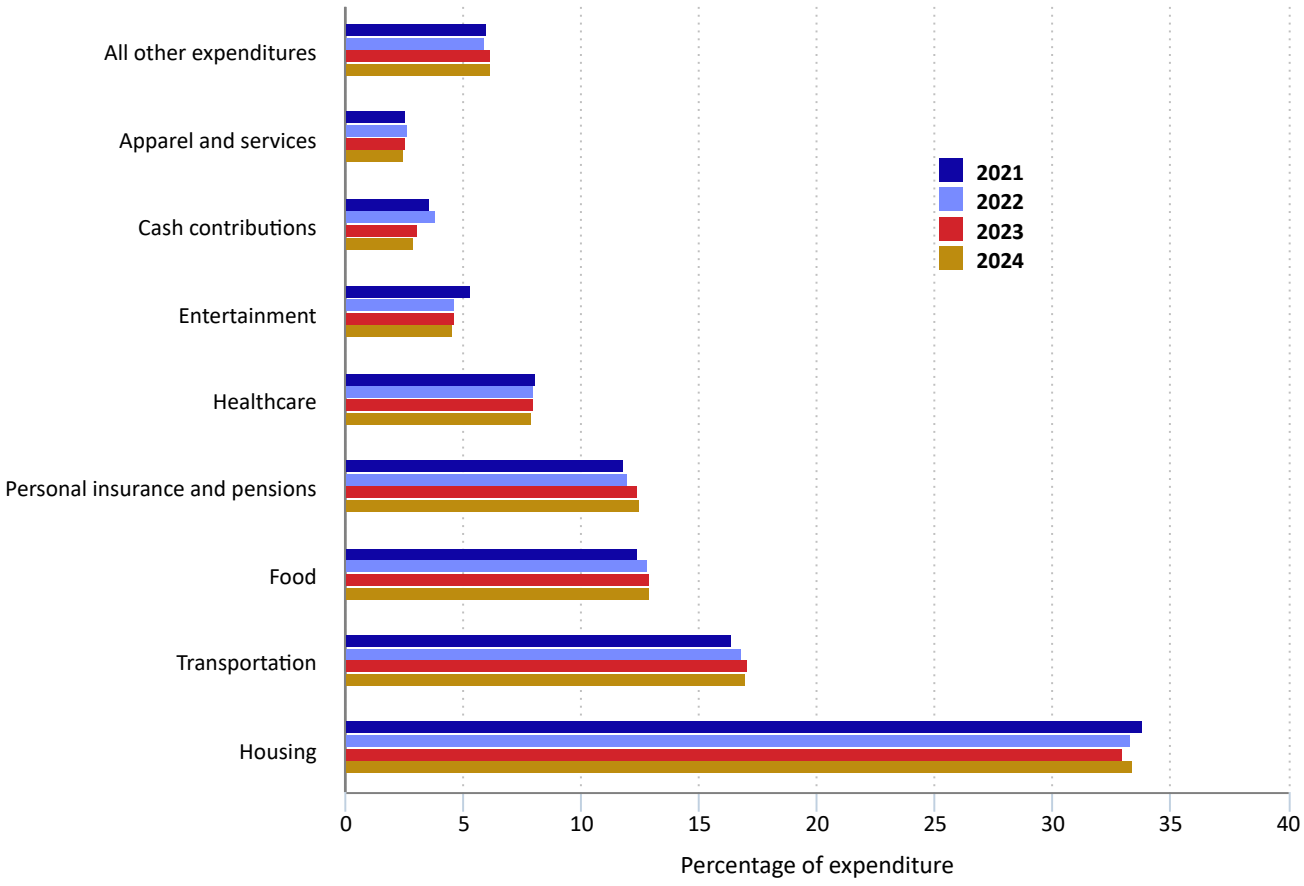
Components with decreased shares of spending

Expenditure shares for cash contributions, healthcare, transportation, entertainment, apparel and services, and tobacco products and smoking supplies all declined slightly, falling by 0.1 percentage points (except for cash contributions, which fell by 0.2 percentage points). The decline in cash contributions was due to a decline in the share of charitable donations. A reduction in the share of vehicle purchases and gasoline and other fuels contributed to the decline in the share of transportation spending, but an increase in other vehicle expenses partially offset the decrease. The slight decline in healthcare expenditures was due in part to small reductions in the share of spending on health maintenance organization plans and commercial Medicare supplements.

Components with little change

Shares of food (12.9 percent), education (2.0 percent), personal care products and services (1.2 percent), alcoholic beverages (0.8 percent), and reading (0.2 percent) remained unchanged from 2023 to 2024.[25]

Chart 2. Percentage of expenditure by component, 2021–24



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Note: "All other expenditures" includes the reading, education, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smoking supplies, personal care products and services, and miscellaneous expenditures components.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

View Chart Data

Income and expenditure dynamics by income quintile

Historically, income typically accounts for differences in spending patterns, because if you are paid more you can spend more.[26] Those in higher income quintiles, on average, outspend those in lower income quintiles.[27] The following section analyzes how five distinct income groups adjusted their spending habits in a dynamic, ever-evolving market.

Table 5. Dollar change and percent change in average annual expenditures on major components by income quintiles, 2023–24.

Item	Lowest quintile (in dollars)	Lowest quintile (in percent)	Second quintile (in dollars)	Second quintile (in percent)	Third quintile (in dollars)	Third quintile (in percent)	Fourth quintile (in dollars)	Fourth quintile (in percent)	Highest quintile (in dollars)	Highest quintile (in percent)
Income before taxes	1,062	6.8	2,174	5.3	3,417	4.8	4,831	4.1	-8	.0
Total average annual expenditures	1,282	3.8	1,143	2.3	1,512	2.3	2,123	2.4	661	.4
Food	220	4.2	300	4.2	108	1.2	295	2.6	-7	.0
At home	136	3.7	272	5.8	64	1.1	245	3.5	138	1.5
Away from home	84	5.3	27	1.1	43	1.3	49	1.1	-145	-1.9
Alcoholic beverages	27	12.4	13	4.0	63	14.3	-46	-6.0	-31	-2.2
Housing	620	4.4	518	2.8	1,419	6.3	1,423	5.1	136	.3
Apparel and services	186	19.8	81	6.5	2	.1	-453	-18.2	-16	-.4
Transportation	188	3.8	621	8.0	-252	-2.1	38	.2	99	.4
Healthcare	-94	-2.7	-18	-.4	-77	-1.3	237	3.4	138	1.4
Entertainment	-129	-8.9	-78	-3.5	46	1.7	262	6.8	-238	-3.0
Personal care products and services	-11	-2.5	22	3.5	-23	-2.6	34	3.1	115	6.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Item	Lowest quintile (in dollars)	Lowest quintile (in percent)	Second quintile (in dollars)	Second quintile (in percent)	Third quintile (in dollars)	Third quintile (in percent)	Fourth quintile (in dollars)	Fourth quintile (in percent)	Highest quintile (in dollars)	Highest quintile (in percent)
Reading	-18	-27.7	3	4.2	-6	-6.8	-31	-20.3	92	44.2
Education	113	15.8	-112	-21.6	-232	-23.6	250	22.7	137	3.1
Tobacco products and smoking supplies	-38	-10.1	-1	-.3	-13	-2.9	-36	-9.1	2	.8
Miscellaneous	191	44.6	-256	-25.0	84	7.7	188	14.8	-34	-1.6
Cash contributions	29	3.9	-52	-3.5	85	4.6	-92	-3.9	-410	-7.5
Personal insurance and pensions	-2	-.3	104	4.0	306	5.1	56	.5	675	2.5

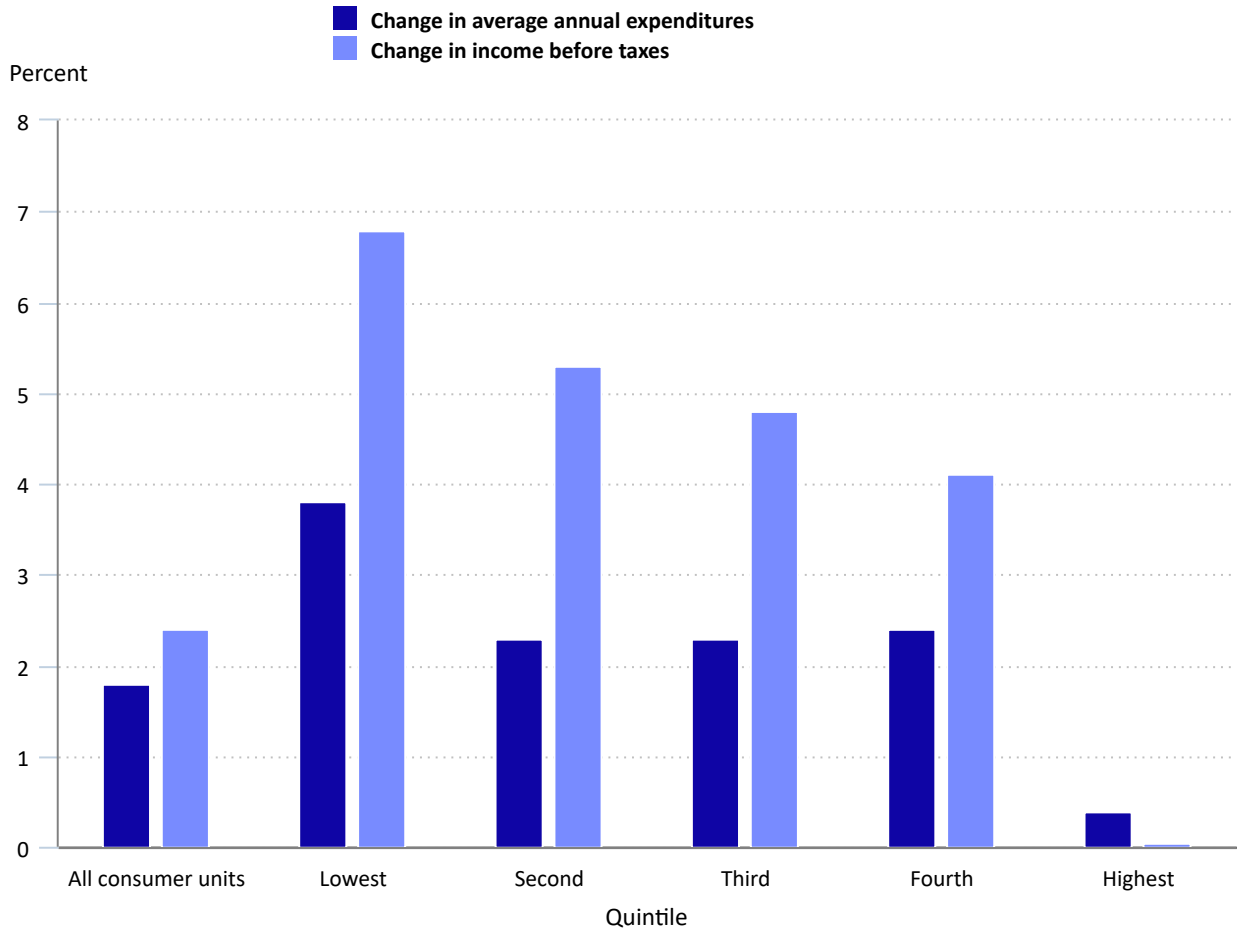
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Income by quintile

Income before taxes increased for all income quintiles except the highest income quintile. As shown in chart 3, income increased the fastest for the lowest income quintile (6.8 percent) and the slowest for the highest income quintile (0.0 percent).

For the third consecutive year (2022, 2023, 2024), income growth in the lowest income quintile equaled or exceeded 6.8 percent, and for the second consecutive year outpaced all other quintiles. The 6.8-percent gain in 2024 was caused by a 9.0-percent uptick in wage and salary income and a 3.2-percent increase in the Social Security cost-of-living adjustment (COLA).[28] This growth outpaced the approximately 2.9-percent annual CPI-U increase for 2024. Therefore, all income quintile groups, with the exception of the highest income quintile, experienced real (inflation-adjusted) income gains in 2024.

Chart 3. Percent change in average annual expenditures by income quintile 2023–24



Click legend items to change data display. Hover over chart to view data.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

View Chart Data

Expenditures by income quintile

Average annual expenditures rose across all five income quintiles in 2024. (See chart 3.) In contrast to 2023, the lowest income earners' increase in spending far outpaced that of any other group, at 3.8 percent, while spending growth for the highest quintile increased 0.4 percent. The three middle income quintiles had spending growth between 2.3 and 2.4 percent in 2024.

For the lowest income quintile, there was not one unique component that occupied a majority share of the $1,282 increase. This increase was concentrated in housing, while increases in food, apparel and services, education, and miscellaneous expenditures further contributed to the growth in total expenditures. (See table 5.)

The largest increase in average annual expenditures belongs to the fourth income quintile, at $2,123. For that quintile, $1,423 went toward housing and $794 was spread among food, healthcare, and entertainment.[29]

CUs in the highest income quintile, on average, reduced spending on half of all major expenditure components with notable exceptions being reading (which increased 44.2 percent) and personal care products and services (which increased 6.8 percent). The total dollar contribution of these two components amounted to an increase of $207, on average.

Summary

In 2024, the average consumer unit (CU) experienced annual inflation of 2.9 percent and spent 1.8 percent more than the previous year in nominal terms (−1.1 percent in real terms). Consumers spent less on entertainment, apparel and services, tobacco products and smoking supplies, and cash contributions than they did in the year before. Housing, personal insurance and pensions, and various miscellaneous expenditures each increased as a share of spending. Inflation-adjusted income before taxes increased for around 80 percent of consumer units, with only the highest quintile not experiencing an increase.

Notes

[1] For details about these components, including how their results are integrated in publication, see "Consumer Expenditures and Income: Calculation" in *Handbook of Methods* (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, last modified September 12, 2022), https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cex/calculation.htm.

[2] Unlike real dollar expenditures, nominal dollar expenditures are not adjusted for price change over time but reflect prices at the time of purchase.

[3] A consumer unit consists of 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 expenditure decisions.

The reference person is 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 the other consumer unit members is determined.

[4] These point estimates are within confidence intervals, and so there is a range of possible real-spending estimates that are not presented here.

[5] For historical changes in average annual expenditures and income before taxes, see the BLS archive of previous CE annual reports, https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/archive.htm.

[6] Expenditure rose by $1,377 from $77,158 to $78,535. All the figures in this report are point estimates and their changes over time. Because these data are derived from surveys, these point estimates represent the best estimate of the true value. Because of sampling error, the true value may differ from the best estimate.

[7] Though housing spending rose, housing inflation rose at a faster rate, with prices increasing by 5.2 percent.

[8] For 30-year fixed rate mortgage data for 2024 and comparable years, see "30-year fixed rate mortgage average in the United States [MORTGAGE30US]," Freddie Mac (retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, June 2026), https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MORTGAGE30US.

[9] For data on the total quantity of housing listings, see "Housing inventory: active listing count in the United States [ACTLISCOUUS]," Realtor.com (retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, June 2026), https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ACTLISCOUUS.

[10] For data on median quarterly housing prices, see "Median sales price of houses sold for the United States [MSPUS]," U.S. Bureau of the Census (retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, June 2026), https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MSPUS.

[11] This 2.8-percent increase in spending outpaced food at home's inflation rate of 1.2 percent.

[12] The other food at home component covers spending on sugar products, fats and oils, canned food, condiments, seasonings, and other products found in the interior grocery store aisles.

[13] This minimal increase in spending was accompanied by a 4.1-percent rise in the price of food away from home.

[14] For the rationale as to why consumers are patronizing restaurants less frequently, see "U.S. dining out report 2025," YouGov, October 2025, https://commercial.yougov.com/rs/464-VHH-988/images/WP-2025-10-US-dining-out-report.pdf.

[15] Vehicle insurance spending went from an average of $1,775 in 2023 to $1,993 in 2024. These estimates can be found in the Consumer Expenditure Surveys (CE) LABSTAT database.

[16] These increases in vehicle insurance spending were both exceeded by vehicle insurance inflation. In 2023, the price increased 17.4 percent. In 2024, it rose another 17.8 percent. Altogether, this was a 38.2 percent increase in the price of vehicle insurance over just 2 years.

[17] For insight and explanations into rising auto insurance rates and payments, see "Auto insurance trends report," LexisNexis Risk Solutions, no date, https://risk.lexisnexis.com/insights-resources/white-paper/auto-insurance-trends-report; and Alison Tobin, "Why are car insurance rates going up?," U.S. News, May 4, 2026, https://www.usnews.com/insurance/auto/why-are-car-insurance-rates-going-up.

[18] For a key data point on the dynamics of the auto mechanic labor market, please see "Service technicians," NADA, accessed June 18, 2026, https://www.nada.org/nada/issues/service-technicians.

[19] For more information on ship fares and expenditures, see Tourism Economics, *Economic contribution of cruise tourism to the United States 2024* (Cruise Lines International Association, 2026), https://cruising.org/sites/default/files/2026-03/CLIA_United%20States_2024_Final_Report.pdf; and *CLIA 2024 global market report* (Cruise Lines International Association, 2025), https://cruising.org/sites/default/files/2025-06/CLIA%20001%20Overview%20Global%202024%20Annual%20Report%20w%20Cover.pdf.

[20] For estimates not included in table 2, please see the CE LABSTAT database.

[21] For estimates not included in table 2, please see the CE LABSTAT database.

[22] For example, CUs that allocate lower portions of total spending on core expenditure components of food, transportation, housing, and healthcare can spend more on discretionary items (such as entertainment and personal care products).

[23] The five largest spending components accounted for 83.4 percent in 2023, so little changed.

[24] The increase for owned dwellings was specifically in maintenance, repair, insurance, and other expenses (0.3 percentage points), mortgage interest and charges (0.1 percentage points), and property management and security (0.1 percentage points). Percentage point changes in shares of total expenditures can be calculated from available data on CE's LABSTAT database by subtracting the 2023 share from the 2024 share of a given individual expenditure.

[25] Reading expenditures includes not just books but also newspapers, magazines, and the like.

[26] For additional information on the effect of income on consumer spending, please see Saddique Ansari, "Income effect," in *Economics Online,* January 28, 2020), https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/definitions/income_effect.html/.

[27] A "quintile" is 20 percent of a measure. As such, the highest quintile here is the 20 percent of consumer units that have the highest income. Income quintiles are constructed by sorting consumer units in the sample from lowest to highest income before taxes, multiplying the units by the associated population weight, and then dividing them into five equal parts by population. CUs in the first (lowest income) quintile had an income between $0 and $29,932, CUs in the second quintile had an income between $29,933 and $57,452, CUs in the third quintile had an income between $57,453 and $94,511, CUs in the fourth quintile had an income between $94,512 and $155,925, and the highest income quintile contained every CU that had an income above $155,925.

[28] For additional information on the 2024 Social Security cost-of-living adjustment, please see, "2024 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) fact sheet," Social Security Administration, October 12, 2023, https://www.ssa.gov/news/en/cola/factsheets/2024.html.

[29] The sum of those components, $2,217, exceeds the $2,050 net change in spending. Consumer units in this quintile decreased spending elsewhere, like apparel and services. See table 5.

Statistical Tables

Data used for this report can be obtained from any of the CE data products: published tables, public use microdata, and LABSTAT database.