

**Text Table 9. Comparison of aggregate expenditures for food, Consumer Expenditure Diary Survey, Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE), *Supermarket Business*, and *Progressive Grocer*, 1991**

Food categories	Diary survey aggregate expenditures (in billions)	Ratio of Diary to PCE	Ratio of Diary to <i>Supermarket Business</i>	Ratio of Diary to <i>Progressive Grocer</i>
Food at home, total	\$255	0.74	1.10	1.22
Cereals and cereal products	14	.69	1.09	1.43
Bakery products	25	.66	1.06	1.12
Meat including poultry	58	.83	1.07	1.07
Fish and seafood	8	1.20	1.19	2.68
Eggs	3	1.17	2.04	1.44
Fresh milk and cream	13	1.01	1.74	1.86
Other dairy products	16	.76	1.38	1.32
Fresh fruits and vegetables	25	.92	.73	.92
Processed fruits and vegetables	16	.59	1.06	1.37
Sugar and other sweets	10	.37	1.32	2.48
Fats and oils	7	.76	1.09	1.74
Nonalcoholic beverages	22	.53	1.02	1.20
Miscellaneous prepared foods	37	.85	1.28	1.16

Source: BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey; *Supermarket Business*, Consumer Expenditure Study (September 1991); and *Progressive Grocer* (July 1991).

*Detailed food comparisons.* *Supermarket Business* conducts a comprehensive annual survey of food manufacturers, packers, wholesalers, and retailers to construct a detailed picture of grocery store sales by product line. Total grocery store sales for the study are based on U.S. Bureau of the Census estimates, and include sales by specialty food stores. Estimates are also available annually from a similar study by *Progressive Grocer*. The *Progressive Grocer* data are limited to stores with annual food sales of \$2 million or more, accounting for only 75 to 80 percent of grocery store food sales.

Text table 9 compares the industry data, as well as PCE data, with detailed CE Diary survey estimates of food expenditures. These comparisons show that the estimates for 1991 CE food at home expenditures are generally lower than PCE but that the CE estimates are almost always higher than those of *Supermarket Business* and *Progressive Grocer*. In the case of the *Progressive Grocer* estimates, this is due in part to the truncated store sample, as noted above. The results shown in text table 9 for 1991 are, in general, similar to those from previous years.

*Residential Energy Consumption Survey.* The Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) publishes data collected in the Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) on expenditures for electricity, natural gas, fuel oil and kerosene, and liquified petroleum gas. The data are published triennially. The RECS focuses on obtaining detailed data from energy suppliers on residential energy use. To make the comparison, time periods and fuel types were matched to the extent possible. Fuel oil and kerosene are not compared because of differences in how the items are categorized and the inclusion of expenditures for wood fuel in RECS.

The data in text table 10 show aggregate expenditures and ratios from the two surveys for periods back to 1984. Some difference between the CE survey and RECS is to be

expected because imputations are made in the DOE surveys for money value of utilities included in residential rents. In addition, the RECS covers military households who live on base, but the CE survey does not include such households. The 1990 data show that consumer expenditure estimates for natural gas and electricity combined are very close to those from the Energy Department survey. The consumer expenditure estimate for electricity expenditures, which is 3 percent higher than the RECS estimate, more than offset the lower expenditure amount for natural gas.

*National Health Accounts.* The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services publishes total aggregate health costs of the United States in the National Health Accounts (NHA). Total health care costs include payments from all sources, public and private. The CE survey data are compared with the out-of-pocket expenditures in the NHA. Out-of-pocket expenditures for health care include copayment and deductible amounts required by third party payers (governments, commercial insurance companies, and other nonhousehold sources) and medical care services and products not covered by third parties. To derive the out-of-pocket estimates, HCFA uses CE data along with data from administrative and industry sources. For the comparisons, estimates of insurance premiums are based on detailed data in NHA on the financing of health care.

Text table 11 shows a comparison of aggregate out-of-pocket health care expenditures from the CE survey and NHA. Expenditures by patients in nursing homes, which are not covered in the CE survey, are excluded from the comparison. Because of methodological changes in NHA, ratios in the comparison below should not be compared with those published in earlier bulletins.

As reported in the CE survey, aggregate health care expenditures were \$150 billion in 1991, or about 73 percent