

Career

The average spend for all wage and salary earners was \$8,098, which included \$4,398 and \$3,700 for food at-home and away-from-home, respectively.

Self-employed workers spent the most on food overall in 2017, totaling \$10,096, broken into \$5,425 allocated for food at-home spending and \$4,670 for food away-from-home. Self-employed workers represented the highest-spending group for both food at-home and away-from-home. They spent 21.2% of their food budgets on meat, poultry, fish and eggs, and 34.8% on other miscellaneous categories.

Service workers had the lowest total spend on food during the year, totaling \$6,618. However, the cohort did not rank last in either food at-home or away-from-home; construction workers and mechanics spent only \$3,333 for the year on food at-home, while other workers spent the

least on food away-from-home with an annual budget of \$2,384 in 2017.

Total food expenditures represented between 11.7% and 15.4% of average annual expenditures across the groups. Additionally, food at-home accounted for between 51.8% and 64.8% of total food expenditures, while food away-from-home accounted for between 35.2% and 48.2% of total food expenditures for the year.

Other food products represented the largest spending group across career paths. Spending on meats, poultry, fish and eggs ranged between 20.2% and 23.0% of total food expenditures in 2017 across the tracked cohorts. Construction workers and mechanics spent \$1,222 in 2017 on other food at-home products in 2017, the lowest tracked, while self-employed workers spent the most on the category with \$1,899.

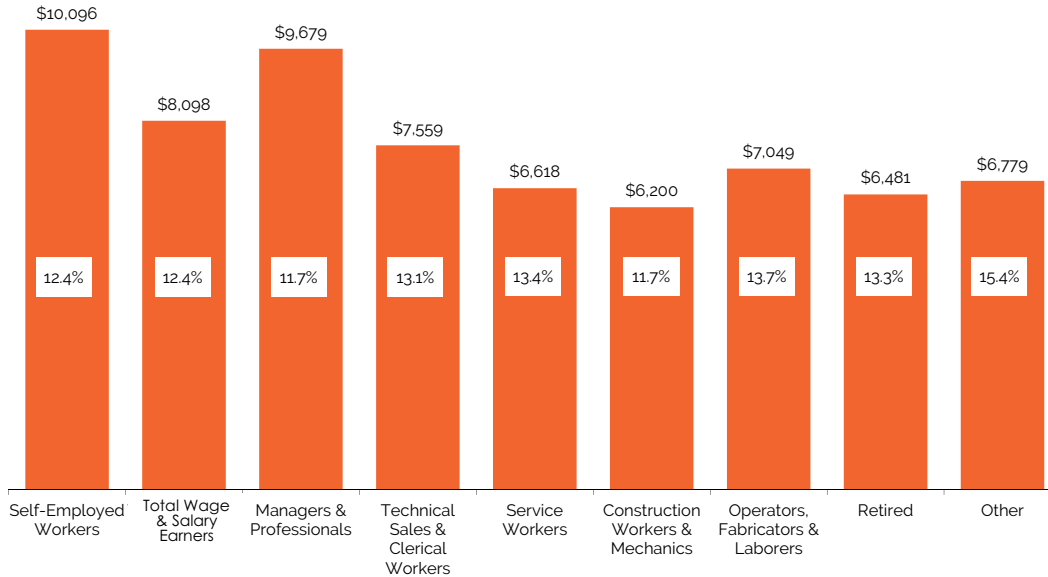
CAREER OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Average Annual Food Expenditures

(Source: Food Institute analysis based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2017 Consumer Expenditure Survey)

Item	Self-Employed Workers	Total Wage & Salary Earners	Managers & Professionals	Technical, Sales & Clerical Workers	Service Workers	Construction Workers & Mechanics	Operators, Fabricators & Laborers	Retired	Other
Number of Consumer Units (000)	7,503	79,434	32,080	19,421	17,349	3,392	7,191	26,761	16,303
Average Annual Expenditures	\$81,269	\$65,107	\$82,493	\$57,667	\$49,452	\$53,116	\$51,354	\$48,731	\$44,109
Food	\$10,096	\$8,098	\$9,879	\$7,559	\$6,618	\$6,200	\$7,049	\$6,481	\$6,779
Food At-Home	\$5,425	\$4,398	\$5,014	\$4,070	\$4,009	\$3,333	\$4,112	\$3,916	\$4,395
<i>Meats, Poultry, Fish and Eggs</i>	\$1,150	\$944	\$1,012	\$888	\$935	\$739	\$945	\$850	\$992
Beef	\$297	\$250	\$258	\$249	\$254	\$166	\$258	\$240	\$268
Pork	\$212	\$179	\$179	\$179	\$175	\$163	\$201	\$172	\$189
Poultry	\$227	\$191	\$210	\$164	\$210	\$135	\$180	\$131	\$228
Fish And Seafood	\$192	\$139	\$162	\$121	\$125	\$121	\$134	\$138	\$120
Other Meat	\$143	\$129	\$144	\$127	\$112	\$106	\$122	\$123	\$124
Eggs	\$78	\$55	\$59	\$48	\$59	\$48	\$51	\$45	\$62
<i>Fruits and Vegetables</i>	\$1,097	\$838	\$990	\$736	\$795	\$625	\$700	\$760	\$824
Fresh Fruits	\$418	\$310	\$384	\$259	\$286	\$239	\$237	\$296	\$310
Fresh Vegetables	\$360	\$277	\$337	\$243	\$255	\$204	\$216	\$245	\$265
Processed Fruits	\$157	\$113	\$124	\$105	\$111	\$90	\$99	\$101	\$105
Processed Vegetables	\$161	\$138	\$144	\$129	\$143	\$92	\$148	\$118	\$144
<i>Cereals and Bakery Products</i>	\$711	\$558	\$648	\$502	\$505	\$412	\$526	\$522	\$591
Bakery Products	\$482	\$377	\$436	\$343	\$346	\$280	\$347	\$383	\$400
Cereals and Cereal Products	\$229	\$181	\$213	\$159	\$159	\$132	\$179	\$139	\$190
<i>Dairy Products</i>	\$578	\$452	\$531	\$424	\$392	\$335	\$388	\$412	\$440
Other Dairy Products	\$402	\$304	\$366	\$283	\$258	\$234	\$245	\$283	\$283
Fresh Milk and Cream	\$177	\$148	\$166	\$141	\$134	\$101	\$143	\$129	\$158
<i>Other Food At-Home</i>	<i>\$1,889</i>	<i>\$1,605</i>	<i>\$1,833</i>	<i>\$1,521</i>	<i>\$1,381</i>	<i>\$1,222</i>	<i>\$1,554</i>	<i>\$1,372</i>	<i>\$1,548</i>
Miscellaneous Foods	\$935	\$863	\$1,012	\$828	\$711	\$616	\$781	\$685	\$800
Nonalcoholic Beverages	\$519	\$427	\$449	\$416	\$389	\$343	\$480	\$376	\$430
Sugar and Other Sweets	\$391	\$144	\$167	\$134	\$126	\$118	\$126	\$151	\$154
Fats and Oils	\$144	\$115	\$126	\$102	\$115	\$105	\$116	\$106	\$129
Food for Out-Of-Town Trips	\$100	\$57	\$79	\$41	\$39	\$39	\$51	\$54	\$35
Food Away-From-Home	\$4,670	\$3,700	\$4,665	\$3,489	\$2,610	\$2,867	\$2,937	\$2,566	\$2,384

CAREER OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Total Food Spending as a Percent of Annual Expenditures

(Source: Food Institute analysis based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2017 Consumer Expenditure Survey)



CAREER OF HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD: Distribution of Food Expenditures

(Source: Food Institute analysis based on Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2017 Consumer Expenditure Survey)

Item	Self-Employed Workers	Total Wage & Salary Earners	Managers & Professionals	Technical, Sales & Clerical Workers	Service Workers	Construction Workers & Mechanics	Operators, Fabricators & Laborers	Retired	Other
Number of Consumer Units (000)	7,503	79,434	32,080	19,421	17,349	3,392	7,191	26,761	16,303
Average Annual Expenditures	\$81,269	\$65,107	\$82,493	\$57,667	\$49,452	\$53,116	\$51,354	\$48,731	\$44,109
Food	12.4%	12.4%	11.7%	13.1%	13.4%	11.7%	13.7%	13.3%	15.4%
Food At-Home	53.7%	54.3%	51.8%	53.8%	60.6%	53.8%	58.3%	60.4%	64.8%
<i>Meats, Poultry, Fish and Eggs</i>	<i>21.2%</i>	<i>21.5%</i>	<i>20.2%</i>	<i>21.8%</i>	<i>23.3%</i>	<i>22.2%</i>	<i>23.0%</i>	<i>21.7%</i>	<i>22.6%</i>
Beef	25.8%	26.5%	25.5%	28.0%	27.2%	22.5%	27.3%	28.2%	27.0%
Pork	18.4%	19.0%	17.7%	20.2%	18.7%	22.1%	21.3%	20.2%	19.1%
Poultry	19.7%	20.2%	20.8%	18.5%	22.5%	18.3%	19.0%	15.4%	23.0%
Fish And Seafood	16.7%	14.7%	16.0%	13.6%	13.4%	16.4%	14.2%	16.2%	12.1%
Other Meat	12.4%	13.7%	14.2%	14.3%	12.0%	14.3%	12.9%	14.5%	12.5%
Eggs	6.8%	5.8%	5.8%	5.4%	6.3%	6.5%	5.4%	5.3%	6.3%
<i>Fruits and Vegetables</i>	<i>20.2%</i>	<i>19.1%</i>	<i>19.7%</i>	<i>18.1%</i>	<i>19.8%</i>	<i>18.8%</i>	<i>17.0%</i>	<i>19.4%</i>	<i>18.7%</i>
Fresh Fruits	38.1%	37.0%	38.8%	35.2%	36.0%	38.2%	33.9%	38.9%	37.6%
Fresh Vegetables	32.8%	33.1%	34.0%	33.0%	32.1%	32.6%	30.9%	32.2%	32.2%
Processed Fruits	14.3%	13.5%	12.5%	14.3%	14.0%	14.4%	14.1%	13.3%	12.7%
Processed Vegetables	14.7%	16.5%	14.5%	17.5%	18.0%	14.7%	21.1%	15.5%	17.5%
<i>Cereals and Bakery Products</i>	<i>13.1%</i>	<i>12.7%</i>	<i>12.9%</i>	<i>12.3%</i>	<i>12.6%</i>	<i>12.4%</i>	<i>12.8%</i>	<i>13.3%</i>	<i>13.4%</i>
Bakery Products	67.8%	67.6%	67.3%	68.3%	68.5%	68.0%	66.0%	73.4%	67.7%
Cereals and Cereal Products	32.2%	32.4%	32.9%	31.7%	31.5%	32.0%	34.0%	26.6%	32.1%
<i>Dairy Products</i>	<i>10.7%</i>	<i>10.3%</i>	<i>10.6%</i>	<i>10.4%</i>	<i>9.8%</i>	<i>10.1%</i>	<i>9.4%</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>10.0%</i>
Other Dairy Products	69.6%	67.3%	68.7%	66.7%	65.8%	69.9%	63.1%	68.7%	64.3%
Fresh Milk and Cream	30.6%	32.7%	31.3%	33.3%	34.2%	30.1%	36.9%	31.3%	35.9%
<i>Other Food At-Home</i>	<i>34.8%</i>	<i>36.5%</i>	<i>36.6%</i>	<i>37.4%</i>	<i>34.4%</i>	<i>36.7%</i>	<i>37.8%</i>	<i>35.0%</i>	<i>35.2%</i>
Miscellaneous Foods	49.5%	53.8%	55.2%	54.4%	51.5%	50.4%	50.3%	49.9%	51.7%
Nonalcoholic Beverages	27.5%	26.6%	24.5%	27.4%	28.2%	28.1%	30.9%	27.4%	27.8%
Sugar and Other Sweets	10.1%	9.0%	9.1%	8.8%	9.1%	9.7%	8.1%	11.0%	9.9%
Fats and Oils	7.6%	7.2%	6.9%	6.7%	8.3%	8.6%	7.5%	7.7%	8.3%
Food for Out-Of-Town Trips	5.3%	3.6%	4.3%	2.7%	2.8%	3.2%	3.3%	3.9%	2.3%
Food Away-From-Home	46.3%	45.7%	48.2%	46.2%	39.4%	46.2%	41.7%	39.6%	35.2%