

## Spending on Apparel, 2007

Americans are spending ever less on apparel. In 2007, the average household spent \$1,881 on clothes, shoes, and related items. This figure is 16 percent below the inflation-adjusted \$2,235 spent by the average household on apparel in 2000. The average household cut spending on all apparel categories during the time period. Spending on women's clothing fell 14 percent, and spending on footwear declined 21 percent. Overall, Americans devoted 3.8 percent of their spending to clothes, shoes, and related products and services in 2007, down from 4.9 percent in 2000.

Asian households are the biggest spenders on apparel. In 2007, they spent 44 percent more than the average household on this category and devoted \$2,709 to apparel. Hispanics also spend more than average on clothes, their apparel spending at 6 percent above average. Non-Hispanic whites spent an average amount on apparel, and blacks 7 percent less.

Asians, blacks, and Hispanics outspend the average household on a number of apparel categories. All three groups spend more than average on men's footwear and girls' clothes, for example. Blacks spend 71 percent more than average on girls' shoes, while Hispanics spend over twice the average amount on boys' shoes. Together, blacks and Hispanics control 29 percent of the footwear market. Hispanics spend 50 percent more than the average household on clothes for infants, and 21 percent more than average on men's clothes. Asians spend 72 percent more than average on women's clothes. Asians, blacks, and Hispanics dominate the market for coin-operated laundries and account for 57 percent of household spending on this service.

**Table 6. Apparel: Average spending by race and Hispanic origin, 2007**

*(average annual spending of consumer units on apparel, accessories, and related services, by race and Hispanic origin of consumer unit reference person, 2007)*

	total consumer units	Asian	black	Hispanic	non-Hispanic white and other
Number of consumer units (in 000s)	120,171	4,240	14,422	14,185	91,734
Average number of persons per consumer unit	2.5	2.8	2.6	3.2	2.3
Average before-tax income of consumer units	\$63,091.00	\$80,487.00	\$44,381.00	\$48,330.00	\$68,285.00
Average spending of consumer units, total	49,637.95	60,402.09	36,067.28	41,501.12	53,002.87
<b>Apparel, average spending</b>	<b>1,880.72</b>	<b>2,708.59</b>	<b>1,742.58</b>	<b>1,994.44</b>	<b>1,885.81</b>
<b>MEN'S APPAREL</b>	<b>351.05</b>	<b>511.55</b>	<b>236.18</b>	<b>425.39</b>	<b>358.42</b>
Suits	23.47	47.56	27.16	12.27	24.57
Sport coats and tailored jackets	10.94	22.47	12.10	7.86	11.23
Coats and jackets	30.11	33.21	16.10	34.81	31.57
Underwear	14.21	18.26	14.41	16.88	13.78
Hosiery	14.69	24.32	9.39	10.86	16.03
Nightwear	1.42	1.20	1.26	0.87	1.52
Accessories	28.84	31.91	15.06	29.24	30.87
Sweaters and vests	16.69	29.62	6.87	27.24	16.69
Active sportswear	19.54	22.84	7.60	23.70	20.78
Shirts	93.00	113.18	61.31	115.75	94.75
Pants and shorts	94.21	157.60	61.88	139.71	92.90
Uniforms	3.20	4.17	2.98	5.68	2.85
Costumes	0.75	–	0.06	0.52	0.89
<b>BOYS' (AGED 2 TO 15) APPAREL</b>	<b>84.32</b>	<b>90.56</b>	<b>108.01</b>	<b>113.27</b>	<b>76.51</b>
Coats and jackets	5.40	6.30	9.81	7.11	4.56
Sweaters	2.13	2.14	2.04	2.95	2.01
Shirts	24.44	35.41	27.50	39.48	21.79
Underwear	5.46	5.74	8.35	5.99	4.93
Nightwear	1.12	0.58	0.61	0.78	1.25
Hosiery	4.10	1.40	5.48	4.85	3.78
Accessories	5.65	7.68	6.36	3.50	5.83
Suits, sport coats, and vests	1.31	0.68	1.81	1.18	1.25
Pants and shorts	28.46	22.52	36.44	36.29	26.05
Uniforms	3.73	4.89	7.93	8.07	2.48
Active sportswear	1.68	2.29	1.01	2.38	1.67
Costumes	0.87	0.92	0.67	0.69	0.92
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL</b>	<b>627.31</b>	<b>1,079.71</b>	<b>512.88</b>	<b>504.98</b>	<b>662.53</b>
Coats and jackets	52.75	133.49	32.20	29.83	59.11
Dresses	60.41	99.54	75.41	60.05	58.06
Sport coats and tailored jackets	6.68	7.19	3.54	3.72	7.63
Sweaters and vests	48.94	51.13	18.24	39.67	55.26
Shirts, blouses, and tops	141.23	226.33	124.30	114.37	147.47
Skirts	17.10	13.00	9.98	5.48	19.83
Pants and shorts	112.31	212.54	88.01	102.65	117.39
Active sportswear	28.97	38.71	14.98	14.74	33.15
Nightwear	25.65	22.18	18.89	17.22	27.86
Undergarments	33.96	29.91	35.92	25.43	35.17
Hosiery	17.11	26.47	15.99	11.86	18.02
Suits	16.60	21.32	24.95	6.43	16.83
Accessories	58.19	–	41.00	67.38	59.47
Uniforms	4.83	4.14	7.47	4.62	4.44
Costumes	2.58	–	1.98	1.51	2.84

	total consumer units	Asian	black	Hispanic	non-Hispanic white and other
<b>GIRLS' (AGED 2 TO 15) APPAREL</b>	<b>\$121.62</b>	<b>\$154.53</b>	<b>\$157.63</b>	<b>\$130.85</b>	<b>\$114.96</b>
Coats and jackets	6.27	14.36	21.48	2.02	4.50
Dresses and suits	11.09	14.87	24.15	9.22	9.32
Shirts, blouses, and sweaters	39.01	62.71	42.71	53.08	36.56
Skirts, pants, and shorts	30.26	27.42	33.85	31.41	29.58
Active sportswear	11.05	1.74	8.79	13.18	11.09
Underwear and nightwear	8.14	9.71	8.82	4.67	8.64
Hosiery	4.41	2.74	6.30	4.32	4.13
Accessories	6.43	–	3.99	7.09	6.72
Uniforms	3.05	0.83	6.98	4.45	2.21
Costumes	1.92	0.56	0.54	1.41	2.21
<b>CHILDREN'S (UNDER AGE 2) APPAREL</b>	<b>93.36</b>	<b>106.77</b>	<b>103.40</b>	<b>140.34</b>	<b>84.96</b>
Coats, jackets, and snowsuits	2.44	3.77	3.43	2.20	2.31
Outerwear including dresses	25.16	18.15	25.00	29.06	24.57
Underwear	46.89	49.05	48.65	85.11	41.11
Nightwear and loungewear	4.45	5.17	5.61	5.54	4.09
Accessories	14.43	30.64	20.70	18.42	12.87
<b>FOOTWEAR</b>	<b>327.06</b>	<b>513.93</b>	<b>386.95</b>	<b>407.61</b>	<b>305.90</b>
Men's	102.60	150.19	118.66	149.48	93.31
Boys'	29.95	24.92	50.20	61.38	22.31
Women's	160.33	315.58	159.72	150.35	161.64
Girls'	34.18	23.24	58.37	46.40	28.65
<b>OTHER APPAREL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>275.99</b>	<b>251.54</b>	<b>237.53</b>	<b>272.00</b>	<b>282.54</b>
Material for making clothes	6.65	8.96	3.53	3.35	7.59
Sewing patterns and notions	6.77	1.13	3.26	6.24	7.40
Watches	20.55	38.23	23.77	25.68	19.29
Jewelry	125.79	84.05	63.71	77.02	142.87
Shoe repair and other shoe services	1.43	0.22	0.67	0.68	1.67
Coin-operated apparel laundry and dry cleaning	40.75	51.81	67.40	113.75	25.39
Apparel alteration, repair, and tailoring services	6.24	5.29	4.82	3.94	6.83
Clothing rental	2.15	0.57	0.95	2.08	2.34
Watch and jewelry repair	3.65	1.73	1.30	2.06	4.25
Professional laundry, dry cleaning	61.30	58.83	67.11	36.64	64.23
Clothing storage	0.70	0.73	1.01	0.56	0.67

Note: "Asian" and "black" include Hispanics and non-Hispanics who identify themselves as being of the respective race alone. "Hispanic" includes people of any race who identify themselves as Hispanic. "Other" includes people who identify themselves as non-Hispanic and as Alaska Native, American Indian, Asian (who are also included in the "Asian" column), Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, as well as non-Hispanics reporting more than one race. Subcategories may not add to total because some are not shown. "—" means sample is too small to make a reliable estimate.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, unpublished data from the 2007 Consumer Expenditure Survey