

## **RCONHHM -- Real Personal Consumption Expenditures of Households (Monthly Observations)**

1. Expressed in billions of real dollars, chain-weight, seasonally adjusted, annual rate.
2. First Monthly Vintage: 2009:M8
3. First Observation: 1995:M1 (as of February 2010)
4. High-Frequency Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis's (BEA) *Survey of Current Business* (SCB). Note: All data were collected electronically in real time.
5. Deep-History Source: BEA's *Survey of Current Business* or Special Supplements to *Survey of Current Business* or *National Income & Product Accounts*. Note: All data were collected electronically in real time.
6. Monthly Vintage Names: RCONHHMyyMmm, where yy is the year of the vintage (two digits), M represents the word month, and mm is the month of the vintage, collected in the middle of the month (mm = 1, 2, 3, ..., 12).
7. Vintage Dates: Monthly vintages reflect the data available in the middle of the month. A note below describes the special dating of these monthly vintages.

### **Special notes.**

BEA released a benchmark revision to the national income and product accounts on July 31, 2009. In the revision, BEA introduced several new variables. These new variables include:

- Personal consumption expenditures on goods;
- A disaggregation of personal consumption expenditures on services into household consumption expenditures for services and final consumption expenditures of nonprofit institutions serving households (NPISH);
- Personal consumption expenditures disaggregated *by major function* into household consumption expenditures and final consumption expenditures of nonprofit institutions serving households (NPISH).

For each of these variables, BEA released nominal expenditures, real expenditures, and a price index. BEA released quarterly observations and monthly observations. The Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia has been tracking these variables since their initial release in July 2009. Prior vintages are not available.

The following identities for nominal variables relate the new variables to the ones with which many analysts are most familiar. (For variables in the Philadelphia Fed's real-time dataset, our mnemonics appear in parentheses.) The corresponding identities for real variables may not hold exactly due to the well known non-additivity of chain-weight components. The new variables, first introduced by BEA in its July 31, 2009 benchmark revision, appear in italics.

### **Identities: Product Side**

**Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures =**  
Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures on Services  
+ *Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures on Goods* (NCONGM).

***Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures on Goods* (NCONGM) =**  
Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures on Durable Goods  
+ Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures on Nondurable Goods.

**Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures on Services =**  
*Nominal Household Personal Consumption Expenditures for Services* (NCONSHHM)  
+ *Nominal Final Consumption Expenditures of NPISH* (NCONSNPM).

### **Identities: By Major Function**

**Nominal Personal Consumption Expenditures =**  
*Nominal Household Personal Consumption Expenditures* (NCONHHM)  
+ *Nominal Final Consumption Expenditures of NPISH* (NCONSNPM).

The table below shows the new variables introduced in BEA's July 2009 benchmark revision and their mnemonics in the Philadelphia Fed's real-time dataset.

*New Variables for Personal Consumption Expenditures in the Philadelphia Fed's Real-Time Data Set*

Description	Philadelphia Fed Mnemonic	
	Quarterly Obs	Monthly Obs
<b>1. Nominal Variables (Billions of Dollars)</b>		
Personal Consumption Expenditures, Goods	NconG	NconGm
Household Consumption Expenditures for Services	NconSHH	NconSHHm
Final Consumption Expenditures of NPISH	NconSNP	NconSNPm
Household Consumption Expenditures	NconHH	NconHHm
<b>2. Real Variables (Billions of Dollars, Chain-Weight)</b>		
Personal Consumption Expenditures, Goods	RconG	RconGm
Household Consumption Expenditures for Services	RconSHH	RconSHHm
Final Consumption Expenditures of NPISH	RconSNP	RconSNPm
Household Consumption Expenditures	RconHH	RconHHm
<b>3. Price Indexes (Base Year Value = 100)</b>		
Personal Consumption Expenditures, Goods	PconG	PconGm
Household Consumption Expenditures for Services	PconSHH	PconSHHm
Final Consumption Expenditures of NPISH	PconSNP	PconSNPm
Household Consumption Expenditures	PconHH	PconHHm

1. This series is households' real personal consumption expenditures, expressed in chain-weight billions of dollars. This series was first released by BEA in the benchmark revision of July 31, 2009. Previous vintages are not available. Observations prior to that of 1995:M1 may become available in the future.

2. **Special Dating of Vintages.** Monthly vintages reflect the data available around the middle of the month. At the end of each month, T (or the beginning of the following month, T+1), BEA releases the observation for month T – 1. We collect the data for vintage T before that release. Thus, the last observation in vintage T is that for month T – 2. This timing differs from that of other monthly variables in the Philadelphia Fed's real-time dataset, such as industrial production, nonfarm payroll employment, and housing starts. For these other variables, the last observation in the vintage of month T is that for T – 1.

3. **RCONHHM11M8 - Flexible Annual Revision.** On July 29, 2011, the BEA released a flexible annual revision to the national income and product accounts. Flexible annual revisions may affect more observations than those of the past three years. In addition, flexible annual revisions can incorporate methodological changes to the way in which the BEA constructs the data in the national accounts.

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