

Food Spending Increased for Black Households

Per-person total food spending in 1990 was 47 percent higher in White households than in Black households, but other races spent about as much as Whites (fig. 18). [Other races are American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo, and Asian/Pacific Islander.] By 1998, the differential between per person food expenditures of White and Black households had declined to 35 percent, while expenditures remained about the same between White households and those headed by other races. Per-person spending in 1998 by households headed by a White declined by about 7 percent from 1990 levels to \$2,107. Over this same timespan, total per-person food expenditures by Black households increased by 1 percent to \$1,556. Total per-person food expenditures by households headed by other races was \$2,073 in 1998.

At-home food spending per person declined from \$1,318 to \$1,244 (about 6 percent) in White households from 1990 to 1998, from \$1,038 to \$1,009 (about 3 percent) in Black households, and from \$1,382 to \$1,145 (17 percent) in households of other races (fig. 19). Annual per-person away-from-home food spending increased for Black households by about 9 percent, from \$501 in 1990 to \$547 in 1998 and increased by 4 percent for households headed by other races from \$895 to \$928. This change can be contrasted with a 9-percent decrease in per-person

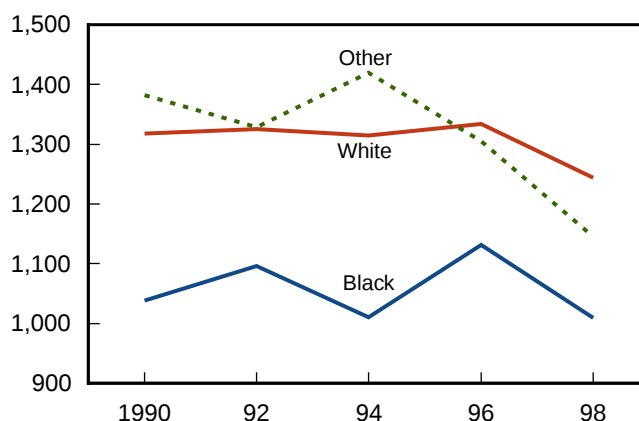
expenditures by White households, from \$951 to \$863, over the same time period.

Households headed by other races increased their share of the food dollar spent on away-from-home eating by 6 percentage points, while Blacks increased their share by 2 percentage points between 1990 and 1998 (fig. 20). Over this same time period, White households decreased their share of the food dollar spent away from home by 1 percentage point.

Figure 19

At-home food spending by race

Spending/person (dollars)



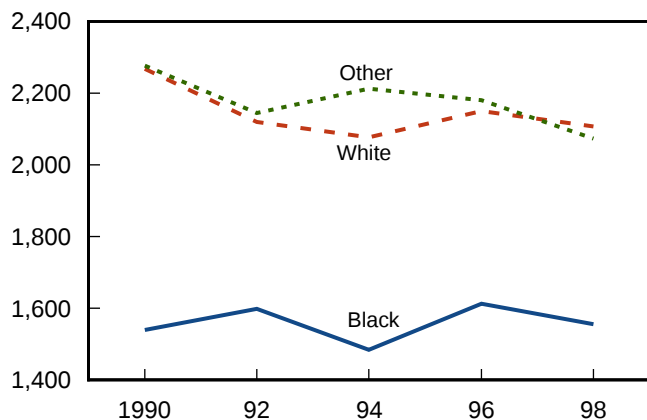
1998 prices.

Source: Economic Research Service from Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Figure 18

Total food spending by race

Spending/person (dollars)



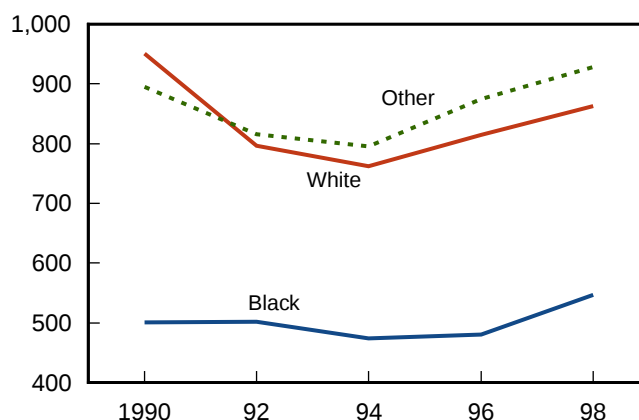
1998 prices.

Source: Economic Research Service from Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Figure 20

Away-from-home food spending by race

Spending/person (dollars)



1998 prices.

Source: Economic Research Service from Bureau of Labor Statistics data.