

## **Chinese Urban Regional Differences in Patterns of Food Consumption**

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Using the 2003 Chinese Survey of Prices and Urban Household Income and Expenditure, cluster analysis was used to classify cities according to their food consumption patterns. The first cluster namely prosperous cities including Zhejiang, Shanghai, and Guangdong had the highest average annual income and devoted about a third of their budget to food. They devoted relatively less of their food expenditures to grain, oil, starch, bean and vegetables and relatively more on food away from home. The second cluster namely “challenged cities”, included only Tibet which had the lowest average annual income, with nearly half of expenditures spent on food. Proportion of food budget spent on food away from home was relatively low, whereas allocations for sugar, vegetables, milk, and tobacco were relatively higher. Food budget allocation patterns of the third cluster namely “average cities” cluster were between these two extremes.

### Endnotes

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