

EXPENDITURES OF THE FORT

Annual operating expenditures of the fort, excluding construction spending, total about \$70 million. Of this amount, approximately \$30 million is spent for procurement of supplies from commercial sources. The local impact of these procurement expenditures is modest, however, since less than 1 percent are made in Ayer with an additional 11 percent spent within a 15-mile radius of the fort. On the other hand, about 62 percent of these procurement expenditures are made within New England, with Boston alone receiving 31 percent. Thus, the absolute effect of the fort's procurement spending is felt more within certain of the region's wholesaling sectors though the total impact on the regional economy is relatively small.

On the other hand, the fort's annual \$10 million civilian and \$30 million military payrolls do have a significant effect on both Ayer and the surrounding area. In an attempt to determine where the military payroll was spent and to estimate its total effects, questionnaires were distributed to 1,000 soldiers on the post. About 400 usable replies were tabulated. The data reveal a general pattern of expenditures for military personnel, the important determinants of which are the marital status of the soldier and his place of residence.

As might be expected, food and housing account for nearly 60 percent of married budgets. Other necessities account for most of the remainder, with only 5 to 6 percent allotted to entertainment and recreation. On the other hand, bachelors spend about 55 percent of their income for nonnecessities such as entertainment, recreation, and transportation. They also save about 15 percent of their incomes, almost twice the amount that married couples save.

Military payroll spending

[Percent of income]

Location	Fort Devens			Pease Air Force Base		
	Average	Single	Married	Average	Single	Married
Post.....	41	40	41	38	37	38
Adjacent town.....	10	9	10	26	15	28
Within 15 miles but excluding adjacent town.....	20	8	24	18	11	20
Beyond 15 miles.....	29	43	25	18	37	14
Total.....	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Fort Devens survey questionnaire. Laben, Pease Air Force Base study.

Despite these significant differences in budget allocations, the survey reveals that both married and single soldiers spend about 40 percent of their income on the post and about 10 percent in Ayer. However, bachelors spend about 43 percent of their income outside a 15-mile radius of the post, compared to only 25 percent for married soldiers. This is, of course, due mainly to the greater mobility of bachelors. In addition, some married personnel live outside of Ayer but within 15 miles of the fort and thus spend the rental portion of their budgets within the 15-mile ring.