

## Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2007

This article and the accompanying tables update articles previously published on response rates in the *CPI Detailed Report* for March 1991, and in the January issues of 1993 through 2007.

In an effort to measure the outcome of data collection for the CPI, the BLS calculates response rates. Response rates measure the proportion of completed surveys to those issued and help measure the accuracy of the CPI. Failure of a data unit to respond at either the data collection stage or estimation stage represents a loss of statistical information which dilutes the accuracy of the sample. The BLS publishes response rates annually to assist the data user in judging the accuracy of CPI data.

The BLS calculates response rates for the CPI-U at the data collection and data estimation phases for pricing. The response rate at the data collection phase is the number of responding sample units divided by the number of eligible sample units. A sample unit is eligible if it belongs to the defined target population and if it should provide information for one or more items. The response rate at estimation is defined as the number of sample units used in estimation divided by the number of eligible sample units.

Response rates for 2007 are presented in tables R-1 through R-17. Table R-1 shows response rates for all data included in the CPI-U, U.S. city average, by major group, for all of 2007. Tables R-2 through R-17 show rates for current data collection in selected areas for which indexes are published monthly and bimonthly.

The response rates in tables R-1 through R-17 are separated into commodities and services, and the shelter portion of housing. Commodities and services are further broken down into outlets and quotes. An "outlet" is a generic term that designates the place where prices are collected. A "quote" is a specific item to be priced in a specific outlet. There may be from 1 to more than 50 quotes priced in each outlet.

In table R-1, it is important to note the relatively low percentages of quotes reported, collected and used in estimation for apparel. Low rates for these items can be partially attributed to the design of the apparel sample. Because seasonal apparel items commonly are in stores only during certain times of the year, most of the apparel sample is doubled, with each half of the sample designated for pricing during part of the year. Thus, at any particular time of the year, a large number of apparel quotes, although eligible, are designated out of season and are not collected.

The response rates at the data collection phase for shelter are separated into three categories. If useable information is obtained, the unit is designated *data reported*. If the assigned unit is located but is unoccupied, the unit is designated *found vacant*. In instances where the unit is eligible but no data are available (for example, refusals or no one at home) the unit is designated *other*.

For additional information on response rates, write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Room 3615, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212-0001, or call Doris L. Johnson at (202) 691-7000, or email her at [Johnson.Doris@bls.gov](mailto:Johnson.Doris@bls.gov).



Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	16,774	51,130	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,030
Number	16,099	42,428	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	83.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,424	41,515	Number	1,197
Percent	92.0	81.2	Percent	59.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	240
			Percent	11.8
			Other	
			Number	593
			Percent	29.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,437
			Percent	70.8

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	25,106	77,492	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,229
Number	24,425	64,491	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.3	83.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	23,128	62,772	Number	2,934
Percent	92.1	81.0	Percent	69.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	167
			Percent	3.9
			Other	
			Number	1,128
			Percent	26.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,101
			Percent	73.3

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	34,793	117,673	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,914
Number	33,282	96,082	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.7	81.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	31,759	93,774	Number	3,245
Percent	91.3	79.7	Percent	66.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	277
			Percent	5.6
			Other	
			Number	1,392
			Percent	28.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,522
			Percent	71.7

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-KE-MD, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,318	25,922	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,477
Number	8,037	22,244	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	85.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,731	21,629	Number	1,016
Percent	92.9	83.4	Percent	68.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	166
			Percent	11.2
			Other	
			Number	295
			Percent	20.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,182
			Percent	80.0

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	6,508	23,800	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,877
Number	6,225	19,824	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.7	83.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,943	19,233	Number	2,100
Percent	91.3	80.8	Percent	73.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	165
			Percent	5.7
			Other	
			Number	612
			Percent	21.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,265
			Percent	78.7

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,009	27,731	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,744
Number	7,670	22,332	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.8	80.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,286	21,559	Number	1,363
Percent	91.0	77.7	Percent	78.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	121
			Percent	6.9
			Other	
			Number	260
			Percent	14.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,484
			Percent	85.1



Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,335	18,403	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,477
Number	5,060	14,763	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.8	80.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,770	14,215	Number	1,035
Percent	89.4	77.2	Percent	70.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	122
			Percent	8.3
			Other	
			Number	320
			Percent	21.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,157
			Percent	78.3

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,921	14,535	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,309
Number	3,703	11,666	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.4	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,533	11,260	Number	912
Percent	90.1	77.5	Percent	69.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	206
			Percent	15.7
			Other	
			Number	191
			Percent	14.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,118
			Percent	85.4

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,514	6,766	Eligible	
Collected			Number	881
Number	1,470	6,258	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.1	92.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,454	6,205	Number	685
Percent	96.0	91.7	Percent	77.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	80
			Percent	9.1
			Other	
			Number	116
			Percent	13.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	765
			Percent	86.8

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,348	5,829	Eligible	
Collected			Number	646
Number	1,320	5,354	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.9	91.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,289	5,264	Number	434
Percent	95.6	90.3	Percent	67.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	64
			Percent	9.9
			Other	
			Number	148
			Percent	22.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	498
			Percent	77.1

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,831	6,302	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,243
Number	1,787	5,777	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.6	91.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,768	5,707	Number	956
Percent	96.6	90.6	Percent	76.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	126
			Percent	10.1
			Other	
			Number	161
			Percent	13.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,082
			Percent	87.0

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,021	17,471	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,171
Number	4,650	13,929	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.6	79.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,421	13,420	Number	793
Percent	88.1	76.8	Percent	67.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	160
			Percent	13.7
			Other	
			Number	218
			Percent	18.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	953
			Percent	81.4

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,790	13,156	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,139
Number	3,616	11,112	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.4	84.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,412	10,725	Number	760
Percent	90.0	81.5	Percent	66.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	143
			Percent	12.6
			Other	
			Number	236
			Percent	20.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	903
			Percent	79.3

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Pittsburgh, PA, 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,570	12,745	Eligible	
Collected			Number	736
Number	3,409	10,347	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	81.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,262	10,040	Number	453
Percent	91.4	78.8	Percent	61.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	116
			Percent	15.8
			Other	
			Number	167
			Percent	22.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	569
			Percent	77.3



Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,380	12,898	Eligible	
Collected			Number	621
Number	3,279	11,042	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.0	85.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,150	10,646	Number	487
Percent	93.2	82.5	Percent	78.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	69
			Percent	11.1
			Other	
			Number	65
			Percent	10.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	556
			Percent	89.5

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Atlanta, GA., 2007

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,580	14,046	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,345
Number	4,397	11,575	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	82.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,173	11,194	Number	862
Percent	91.1	79.7	Percent	64.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	160
			Percent	11.9
			Other	
			Number	323
			Percent	24.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,022
			Percent	76.0