

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2009

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 2009.

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 2009 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 2009. 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 Jonathan Church at (202) 691-7000, or email him at church.jonathan@bls.gov.

Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	17,140	52,807	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,910
Number	16,352	43,433	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.4	82.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,569	42,427	Number	1,082
Percent	90.8	80.3	Percent	56.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	266
			Percent	13.9
			Other	
			Number	562
			Percent	29.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,348
			Percent	70.6

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	25,497	78,552	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,048
Number	24,358	64,340	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	81.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	23,057	62,671	Number	3,065
Percent	90.4	79.8	Percent	75.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	234
			Percent	5.8
			Other	
			Number	749
			Percent	18.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,299
			Percent	81.5

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	36,366	121,603	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,766
Number	34,500	98,675	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.9	81.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	32,928	96,335	Number	3,289
Percent	90.5	79.2	Percent	69.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	310
			Percent	6.5
			Other	
			Number	1,167
			Percent	24.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,599
			Percent	75.5

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,933	17,669	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,419
Number	5,650	14,981	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.2	84.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,378	14,493	Number	951
Percent	90.6	82.0	Percent	67.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	151
			Percent	10.6
			Other	
			Number	317
			Percent	22.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,102
			Percent	77.7

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,987	16,138	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,762
Number	4,681	12,953	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.9	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,367	12,482	Number	2,125
Percent	87.6	77.3	Percent	76.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	138
			Percent	5.0
			Other	
			Number	499
			Percent	18.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,263
			Percent	81.9

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	7,965	27,411	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,669
Number	7,455	22,037	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.6	80.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,046	21,253	Number	1,360
Percent	88.5	77.5	Percent	81.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	128
			Percent	7.7
			Other	
			Number	181
			Percent	10.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,488
			Percent	89.2

Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,541	17,697	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,440
Number	5,291	14,467	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	81.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,020	13,994	Number	1,067
Percent	90.6	79.1	Percent	74.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	125
			Percent	8.7
			Other	
			Number	248
			Percent	17.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,192
			Percent	82.8

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,175	14,805	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,251
Number	4,012	12,335	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.1	83.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,807	11,948	Number	867
Percent	91.2	80.7	Percent	69.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	224
			Percent	17.9
			Other	
			Number	160
			Percent	12.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,091
			Percent	87.2

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,541	7,053	Eligible	
Collected			Number	836
Number	1,504	6,510	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.6	92.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,493	6,445	Number	690
Percent	96.9	91.4	Percent	82.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	89
			Percent	10.6
			Other	
			Number	57
			Percent	6.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	779
			Percent	93.2

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis,
MO-IL, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,342	6,063	Eligible	
Collected			Number	623
Number	1,296	5,475	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	90.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,270	5,386	Number	396
Percent	94.6	88.8	Percent	63.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	96
			Percent	15.4
			Other	
			Number	131
			Percent	21.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	492
			Percent	79.0

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,965	6,984	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,208
Number	1,919	6,339	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.7	90.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,890	6,243	Number	885
Percent	96.2	89.4	Percent	73.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	122
			Percent	10.1
			Other	
			Number	201
			Percent	16.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,007
			Percent	83.4

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,122	16,934	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,128
Number	4,774	13,432	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.2	79.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,454	12,932	Number	697
Percent	87.0	76.4	Percent	61.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	223
			Percent	19.8
			Other	
			Number	208
			Percent	18.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	920
			Percent	81.6

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,975	13,522	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,110
Number	3,811	11,513	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.9	85.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,616	11,131	Number	834
Percent	91.0	82.3	Percent	75.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	157
			Percent	14.1
			Other	
			Number	119
			Percent	10.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	991
			Percent	89.3

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,581	12,811	Eligible	
Collected			Number	705
Number	3,398	10,449	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.9	81.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,227	10,170	Number	446
Percent	90.1	79.4	Percent	63.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	94
			Percent	13.3
			Other	
			Number	165
			Percent	23.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	540
			Percent	76.6

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,554	12,811	Eligible	
Collected			Number	619
Number	3,397	10,953	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.6	85.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,232	10,604	Number	486
Percent	90.9	82.8	Percent	78.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	89
			Percent	14.4
			Other	
			Number	44
			Percent	7.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	575
			Percent	92.9

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Atlanta, GA., 2009

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,648	14,517	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,267
Number	4,461	12,180	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	83.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,238	11,772	Number	822
Percent	91.2	81.1	Percent	64.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	209
			Percent	16.5
			Other	
			Number	236
			Percent	18.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,031
			Percent	81.4