

## Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2010

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 2010 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 2010. 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 Andrew Mauro at (202) 691-7000, or email him at [mauro.andrew@bls.gov](mailto:mauro.andrew@bls.gov).



Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	17,388	52,357	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,841
Number	16,569	43,120	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.3	82.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,703	42,082	Number	1,113
Percent	90.3	80.4	Percent	60.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	234
			Percent	12.7
			Other	
			Number	494
			Percent	26.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,551
			Percent	84.2

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	25,129	76,841	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,184
Number	24,032	62,609	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.6	81.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	22,802	61,012	Number	3,191
Percent	90.7	79.4	Percent	76.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	243
			Percent	5.8
			Other	
			Number	750
			Percent	17.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,803
			Percent	90.9

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	36,646	118,379	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,779
Number	35,028	95,710	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.6	80.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	33,338	93,171	Number	3,549
Percent	91.0	78.7	Percent	74.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	313
			Percent	6.5
			Other	
			Number	917
			Percent	19.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	4,302
			Percent	90.0

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	6,057	18,040	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,387
Number	5,814	15,006	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	83.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,528	14,555	Number	1,007
Percent	91.3	80.7	Percent	72.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	141
			Percent	10.2
			Other	
			Number	239
			Percent	17.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,249
			Percent	90.1

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,232	16,161	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,900
Number	4,950	13,133	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.6	81.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,602	12,666	Number	2,284
Percent	88.0	78.4	Percent	78.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	130
			Percent	4.5
			Other	
			Number	486
			Percent	16.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,667
			Percent	92.0

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	7,910	26,936	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,702
Number	7,464	21,628	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.4	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,046	20,898	Number	1,401
Percent	89.1	77.6	Percent	82.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	132
			Percent	7.8
			Other	
			Number	169
			Percent	9.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,619
			Percent	95.1



Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,497	16,962	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,445
Number	5,250	13,981	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	82.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,953	13,471	Number	1,056
Percent	90.1	79.4	Percent	73.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	113
			Percent	7.8
			Other	
			Number	276
			Percent	19.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,307
			Percent	90.4

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,180	14,516	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,194
Number	4,012	12,257	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	84.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,800	11,869	Number	861
Percent	90.9	81.8	Percent	72.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	182
			Percent	15.2
			Other	
			Number	151
			Percent	12.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,112
			Percent	93.1

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,562	6,860	Eligible	
Collected			Number	855
Number	1,512	6,239	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.8	90.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,488	6,151	Number	701
Percent	95.3	89.7	Percent	82.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	88
			Percent	10.3
			Other	
			Number	66
			Percent	7.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	831
			Percent	97.2

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis,  
MO-IL, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,338	6,087	Eligible	
Collected			Number	628
Number	1,289	5,514	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.3	90.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,272	5,431	Number	419
Percent	95.1	89.2	Percent	66.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	84
			Percent	13.4
			Other	
			Number	125
			Percent	19.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	574
			Percent	91.4

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,942	6,869	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,209
Number	1,915	6,341	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.6	92.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,888	6,253	Number	894
Percent	97.2	91.0	Percent	73.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	106
			Percent	8.8
			Other	
			Number	209
			Percent	17.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,076
			Percent	89.0

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,071	16,659	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,127
Number	4,767	13,199	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.0	79.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,421	12,675	Number	760
Percent	87.2	76.1	Percent	67.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	182
			Percent	16.1
			Other	
			Number	185
			Percent	16.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,037
			Percent	92.0

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,977	13,573	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,095
Number	3,843	11,484	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	84.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,661	11,078	Number	787
Percent	92.1	81.6	Percent	71.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	166
			Percent	15.2
			Other	
			Number	142
			Percent	13.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,022
			Percent	93.3

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Pittsburgh, PA, 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,440	12,179	Eligible	
Collected			Number	667
Number	3,306	10,127	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.1	83.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,150	9,845	Number	430
Percent	91.6	80.8	Percent	64.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	105
			Percent	15.7
			Other	
			Number	132
			Percent	19.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	590
			Percent	88.5



Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,515	12,410	Eligible	
Collected			Number	670
Number	3,405	10,788	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.9	86.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,230	10,456	Number	528
Percent	91.9	84.3	Percent	78.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	95
			Percent	14.2
			Other	
			Number	47
			Percent	7.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	651
			Percent	97.2

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Atlanta, GA., 2010

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,722	14,337	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,203
Number	4,510	11,755	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	82.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,232	11,417	Number	840
Percent	89.6	79.6	Percent	69.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	181
			Percent	15.0
			Other	
			Number	182
			Percent	15.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,110
			Percent	92.3