

## Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2011

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 2011.

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 percent of the sample used at estimation is defined as the number of sample units used in estimation divided by the number of eligible sample units.<sup>1</sup>

Response rates for 2011 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 2011. Tables R-2 through R-17 show rates for current data collection in selected areas for which indexes are published monthly, bimonthly, or semiannually.

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 Darren Rippy at (202) 691-7000, or email him at [Rippy.Darren@bls.gov](mailto:Rippy.Darren@bls.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> Imputed prices, when used in estimation, are counted in this estimate. Beginning in July 2010, the BLS began using rent prices imputed by a non-interview adjustment technique in estimation. Therefore, nearly all eligible sample units have prices, collected or imputed, that are used in estimation.



Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	17,577	52,123	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,235
Number	16,647	42,747	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.7	82.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,866	41,714	Number	1,478
Percent	90.3	80.0	Percent	66.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	214
			Percent	9.6
			Other	
			Number	543
			Percent	24.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,235
			Percent	100.0

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	24,209	75,478	Eligible	
Collected			Number	5,009
Number	23,074	60,581	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.3	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	21,999	58,955	Number	3,846
Percent	90.9	78.1	Percent	76.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	235
			Percent	4.7
			Other	
			Number	928
			Percent	18.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	5,008
			Percent	100.0

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	36,606	117,223	Eligible	
Collected			Number	6,032
Number	34,909	94,806	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.4	80.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	33,258	92,151	Number	4,467
Percent	90.9	78.6	Percent	74.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	371
			Percent	6.2
			Other	
			Number	1,194
			Percent	19.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	6,031
			Percent	100.0

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	6,044	17,959	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,831
Number	5,791	15,028	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.8	83.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,519	14,444	Number	1,435
Percent	91.3	80.4	Percent	78.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	176
			Percent	9.6
			Other	
			Number	220
			Percent	12.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,831
			Percent	100.0

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,263	16,550	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,608
Number	4,960	13,335	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.2	80.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,650	12,900	Number	2,895
Percent	88.4	77.9	Percent	80.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	147
			Percent	4.1
			Other	
			Number	566
			Percent	15.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,608
			Percent	100.0

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	7,739	26,645	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,231
Number	7,386	21,791	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.4	81.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	6,981	21,007	Number	1,843
Percent	90.2	78.8	Percent	82.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	141
			Percent	6.3
			Other	
			Number	247
			Percent	11.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,228
			Percent	99.9



Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,447	16,485	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,836
Number	5,143	13,605	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.4	82.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,855	13,164	Number	1,379
Percent	89.1	79.9	Percent	75.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	115
			Percent	6.3
			Other	
			Number	342
			Percent	18.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,836
			Percent	100.0

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,125	14,464	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,167
Number	3,966	12,286	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.1	84.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,766	11,962	Number	851
Percent	91.3	82.7	Percent	72.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	167
			Percent	14.3
			Other	
			Number	149
			Percent	12.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,167
			Percent	100.0

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,504	6,703	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,013
Number	1,478	6,277	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.3	93.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,464	6,191	Number	802
Percent	97.3	92.4	Percent	79.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	72
			Percent	7.1
			Other	
			Number	139
			Percent	13.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,013
			Percent	100.0

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis,  
MO-IL, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,316	6,084	Eligible	
Collected			Number	687
Number	1,287	5,652	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.8	92.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,266	5,595	Number	504
Percent	96.2	92.0	Percent	73.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	71
			Percent	10.3
			Other	
			Number	112
			Percent	16.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	680
			Percent	99.0

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,783	6,854	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,339
Number	1,766	6,295	Percent	100.0
Percent	99.0	91.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,736	6,200	Number	1,054
Percent	97.4	90.5	Percent	78.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	95
			Percent	7.1
			Other	
			Number	190
			Percent	14.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,338
			Percent	99.9

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,013	16,513	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,496
Number	4,660	12,812	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.0	77.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,375	12,351	Number	1,107
Percent	87.3	74.8	Percent	74.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	170
			Percent	11.4
			Other	
			Number	219
			Percent	14.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,496
			Percent	100.0

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,061	13,807	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,135
Number	3,877	11,535	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	83.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,673	11,192	Number	826
Percent	90.4	81.1	Percent	72.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	141
			Percent	12.4
			Other	
			Number	168
			Percent	14.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,135
			Percent	100.0

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Pittsburgh, PA, 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,272	11,883	Eligible	
Collected			Number	679
Number	3,161	9,970	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	83.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,018	9,719	Number	477
Percent	92.2	81.8	Percent	70.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	78
			Percent	11.5
			Other	
			Number	124
			Percent	18.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	679
			Percent	100.0



Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,415	12,139	Eligible	
Collected			Number	937
Number	3,317	10,513	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.1	86.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,145	10,206	Number	757
Percent	92.1	84.1	Percent	80.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	104
			Percent	11.1
			Other	
			Number	76
			Percent	8.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	937
			Percent	100.0

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Atlanta, GA., 2011

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,694	14,413	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,260
Number	4,481	11,665	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	80.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,231	11,347	Number	894
Percent	90.1	78.7	Percent	71.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	157
			Percent	12.5
			Other	
			Number	209
			Percent	16.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,260
			Percent	100.0