

## Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2012

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 2012.

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 2012 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 2012. 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, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	17,359	52,646	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,986
Number	16,399	42,754	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.5	81.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,762	41,898	Number	2,058
Percent	90.8	79.6	Percent	68.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	214
			Percent	7.2
			Other	
			Number	714
			Percent	23.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,986
			Percent	100.0

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	23,875	75,897	Eligible	
Collected			Number	5,921
Number	22,389	59,804	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.8	78.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	21,378	58,475	Number	4,407
Percent	89.5	77.0	Percent	74.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	252
			Percent	4.3
			Other	
			Number	1,262
			Percent	21.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	5,921
			Percent	100.0

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	35,127	117,267	Eligible	
Collected			Number	7,575
Number	33,030	94,135	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.0	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	31,619	91,914	Number	5,835
Percent	90.0	78.4	Percent	77.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	394
			Percent	5.2
			Other	
			Number	1,346
			Percent	17.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	7,575
			Percent	100.0

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,851	18,342	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,509
Number	5,591	15,256	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.6	83.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,370	14,802	Number	1,942
Percent	91.8	80.7	Percent	77.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	225
			Percent	9.0
			Other	
			Number	342
			Percent	13.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,509
			Percent	100.0

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,248	16,887	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,597
Number	4,873	13,341	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.9	79.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,616	12,901	Number	3,438
Percent	88.0	76.4	Percent	74.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	170
			Percent	3.7
			Other	
			Number	989
			Percent	21.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	4,597
			Percent	100.0

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	7,623	26,445	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,041
Number	7,175	21,685	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.1	82.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	6,823	20,880	Number	2,419
Percent	89.5	79.0	Percent	79.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	195
			Percent	6.4
			Other	
			Number	427
			Percent	14.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,041
			Percent	100.0



Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,214	16,771	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,318
Number	4,882	13,622	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.6	81.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,654	13,161	Number	1,784
Percent	89.3	78.5	Percent	77.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	119
			Percent	5.1
			Other	
			Number	415
			Percent	17.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,318
			Percent	100.0

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,029	14,654	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,185
Number	3,806	12,291	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.5	83.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,630	11,930	Number	853
Percent	90.1	81.4	Percent	72.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	178
			Percent	15.0
			Other	
			Number	154
			Percent	13.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,185
			Percent	100.0

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,465	6,662	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,154
Number	1,418	6,184	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.8	92.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,394	6,094	Number	938
Percent	95.2	91.5	Percent	81.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	75
			Percent	6.5
			Other	
			Number	141
			Percent	12.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,154
			Percent	100.0

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis,  
MO-IL, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,171	5,999	Eligible	
Collected			Number	779
Number	1,137	5,537	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.1	92.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,123	5,487	Number	554
Percent	95.9	91.5	Percent	71.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	68
			Percent	8.7
			Other	
			Number	157
			Percent	20.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	779
			Percent	100.0

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,639	6,817	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,551
Number	1,624	6,283	Percent	100.0
Percent	99.1	92.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,591	6,213	Number	1,170
Percent	97.1	91.1	Percent	75.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	91
			Percent	5.9
			Other	
			Number	290
			Percent	18.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,551
			Percent	100.0

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,812	16,431	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,858
Number	4,438	12,718	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.2	77.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,230	12,305	Number	1,359
Percent	87.9	74.9	Percent	73.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	186
			Percent	10.0
			Other	
			Number	313
			Percent	16.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,858
			Percent	100.0

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,926	13,830	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,194
Number	3,682	11,238	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.8	81.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,508	10,913	Number	892
Percent	89.4	78.9	Percent	74.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	138
			Percent	11.6
			Other	
			Number	164
			Percent	13.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,194
			Percent	100.0

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Pittsburgh, PA, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,101	11,958	Eligible	
Collected			Number	727
Number	2,939	9,794	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.8	81.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	2,814	9,506	Number	557
Percent	90.7	79.5	Percent	76.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	71
			Percent	9.8
			Other	
			Number	99
			Percent	13.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	727
			Percent	100.0



Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ, 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,179	12,089	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,189
Number	3,062	10,162	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.3	84.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	2,951	9,839	Number	958
Percent	92.8	81.4	Percent	80.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	123
			Percent	10.3
			Other	
			Number	108
			Percent	9.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,189
			Percent	100.0

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,  
Atlanta, GA., 2012

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,567	14,037	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,364
Number	4,312	11,317	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.4	80.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,074	11,012	Number	1,026
Percent	89.2	78.4	Percent	75.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	166
			Percent	12.2
			Other	
			Number	172
			Percent	12.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,364
			Percent	100.0