

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2013

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 2013.

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.¹

Response rates for 2013 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 2013. 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 Malik Crawford at (202) 691-7000, or email him at Crawford.Malik@bls.gov.

¹ 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, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	16,699	52,839	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,378
Number	15,350	42,026	Percent	100.0
Percent	91.9	79.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	14,744	41,001	Number	2,305
Percent	88.3	77.6	Percent	68.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	197
			Percent	5.8
			Other	
			Number	876
			Percent	25.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,378
			Percent	100.0

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	23,123	73,484	Eligible	
Collected			Number	6,401
Number	20,940	55,944	Percent	100.0
Percent	90.6	76.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	19,935	54,563	Number	4,585
Percent	86.2	74.3	Percent	71.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	239
			Percent	3.7
			Other	
			Number	1,577
			Percent	24.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	6,401
			Percent	100.0

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	34,020	114,218	Eligible	
Collected			Number	8,298
Number	31,018	90,652	Percent	100.0
Percent	91.2	79.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	29,693	88,193	Number	6,128
Percent	87.3	77.2	Percent	73.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	414
			Percent	5.0
			Other	
			Number	1,756
			Percent	21.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	8,298
			Percent	100.0

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,679	19,281	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,755
Number	5,327	15,635	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.8	81.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,078	15,194	Number	2,062
Percent	89.4	78.8	Percent	74.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	243
			Percent	8.8
			Other	
			Number	450
			Percent	16.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,755
			Percent	100.0

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,261	17,488	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,825
Number	4,667	13,212	Percent	100.0
Percent	88.7	75.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,417	12,744	Number	3,352
Percent	84.0	72.9	Percent	69.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	192
			Percent	4.0
			Other	
			Number	1,281
			Percent	26.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	4,825
			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	7,402	26,065	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,510
Number	6,931	21,164	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.6	81.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	6,612	20,421	Number	2,587
Percent	89.3	78.3	Percent	73.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	233
			Percent	6.6
			Other	
			Number	690
			Percent	19.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,510
			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	4,975	16,931	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,691
Number	4,655	13,897	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.6	82.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,477	13,455	Number	2,093
Percent	90.0	79.5	Percent	77.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	119
			Percent	4.4
			Other	
			Number	479
			Percent	17.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,691
			Percent	100.0

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,956	14,624	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,196
Number	3,743	12,152	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.6	83.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,558	11,749	Number	891
Percent	89.9	80.3	Percent	74.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	136
			Percent	11.4
			Other	
			Number	169
			Percent	14.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,196
			Percent	100.0

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,274	6,318	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,333
Number	1,242	5,981	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.5	94.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,220	5,902	Number	1,090
Percent	95.8	93.4	Percent	81.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	87
			Percent	6.5
			Other	
			Number	156
			Percent	11.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,333
			Percent	100.0

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis,
MO-IL, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,142	5,971	Eligible	
Collected			Number	751
Number	1,106	5,483	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.8	91.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,091	5,428	Number	516
Percent	95.5	90.9	Percent	68.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	72
			Percent	9.6
			Other	
			Number	163
			Percent	21.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	751
			Percent	100.0

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,564	6,549	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,628
Number	1,484	5,900	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.9	90.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,457	5,771	Number	1,203
Percent	93.2	88.1	Percent	73.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	79
			Percent	4.9
			Other	
			Number	346
			Percent	21.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,628
			Percent	100.0

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,633	16,351	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,858
Number	4,025	12,331	Percent	100.0
Percent	86.9	75.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,842	11,965	Number	1,359
Percent	82.9	73.2	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, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,957	13,903	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,255
Number	3,416	10,661	Percent	100.0
Percent	86.3	76.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,216	10,309	Number	929
Percent	81.3	74.1	Percent	74.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	91
			Percent	7.3
			Other	
			Number	235
			Percent	18.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,255
			Percent	100.0

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,230	12,142	Eligible	
Collected			Number	790
Number	3,006	9,793	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.1	80.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	2,874	9,457	Number	611
Percent	89.0	77.9	Percent	77.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	66
			Percent	8.4
			Other	
			Number	113
			Percent	14.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	790
			Percent	100.0

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,083	12,045	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,312
Number	2,961	9,956	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	82.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	2,841	9,696	Number	1,058
Percent	92.2	80.5	Percent	80.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	132
			Percent	10.1
			Other	
			Number	122
			Percent	9.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,312
			Percent	100.0

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Atlanta, GA., 2013

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,497	14,092	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,528
Number	4,170	11,318	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.7	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,933	10,936	Number	1,191
Percent	87.5	77.6	Percent	77.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	156
			Percent	10.2
			Other	
			Number	181
			Percent	11.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,528
			Percent	100.0