

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2014

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 2014.

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 2014 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 2014. 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

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.

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 Bradley Akin at (202) 691-7000, or email him at Akin.Bradley@bls.gov.

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, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	15,994	51,583	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,604
Number	15,059	41,507	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.2	80.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	14,480	40,609	Number	2,501
Percent	90.5	78.7	Percent	69.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	232
			Percent	6.4
			Other	
			Number	871
			Percent	24.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,604
			Percent	100.0

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	22,761	71,851	Eligible	
Collected			Number	6,600
Number	21,098	55,879	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.7	77.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	19,953	54,569	Number	4,637
Percent	87.7	75.9	Percent	70.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	227
			Percent	3.4
			Other	
			Number	1,736
			Percent	26.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	6,600
			Percent	100.0

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	32,697	111,702	Eligible	
Collected			Number	8,314
Number	30,266	90,353	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.6	80.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	29,006	88,137	Number	5,902
Percent	88.7	78.9	Percent	71.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	464
			Percent	5.6
			Other	
			Number	1,948
			Percent	23.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	8,314
			Percent	100.0

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-DE-MD, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,352	19,005	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,802
Number	5,080	15,598	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.9	82.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,851	15,103	Number	2,106
Percent	90.6	79.5	Percent	75.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	243
			Percent	8.7
			Other	
			Number	453
			Percent	16.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,802
			Percent	100.0

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,958	18,226	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,771
Number	4,434	13,896	Percent	100.0
Percent	89.4	76.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,152	13,414	Number	3,498
Percent	83.7	73.6	Percent	73.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	182
			Percent	3.8
			Other	
			Number	1,091
			Percent	22.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	4,771
			Percent	100.0

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	7,168	26,089	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,589
Number	6,790	21,080	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.7	80.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	6,402	20,267	Number	2,663
Percent	89.3	77.7	Percent	74.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	278
			Percent	7.7
			Other	
			Number	648
			Percent	18.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,589
			Percent	100.0

Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,977	17,266	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,812
Number	4,627	14,072	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.0	81.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,416	13,592	Number	2,100
Percent	88.7	78.7	Percent	74.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	136
			Percent	4.8
			Other	
			Number	576
			Percent	20.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,812
			Percent	100.0

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,825	14,296	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,138
Number	3,571	11,659	Percent	100.0
Percent	93.4	81.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,422	11,346	Number	843
Percent	89.5	79.4	Percent	74.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	130
			Percent	11.4
			Other	
			Number	165
			Percent	14.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,138
			Percent	100.0

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort
Lauderdale, FL, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,136	6,264	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,370
Number	1,097	5,806	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	92.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,082	5,750	Number	1,105
Percent	95.2	91.8	Percent	80.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	81
			Percent	5.9
			Other	
			Number	184
			Percent	13.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,370
			Percent	100.0

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis,
MO-IL, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,059	5,578	Eligible	
Collected			Number	713
Number	1,006	5,004	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.0	89.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	998	4,916	Number	493
Percent	94.2	88.1	Percent	69.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	60
			Percent	8.4
			Other	
			Number	160
			Percent	22.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	713
			Percent	100.0

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,419	6,154	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,685
Number	1,387	5,675	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.7	92.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,359	5,615	Number	1,249
Percent	95.8	91.2	Percent	74.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	103
			Percent	6.1
			Other	
			Number	333
			Percent	19.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,685
			Percent	100.0

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,407	15,848	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,127
Number	3,853	12,122	Percent	100.0
Percent	87.4	76.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,648	11,672	Number	1,354
Percent	82.8	73.6	Percent	63.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	189
			Percent	8.9
			Other	
			Number	584
			Percent	27.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,127
			Percent	100.0

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,943	13,347	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,327
Number	3,562	10,720	Percent	100.0
Percent	90.3	80.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,349	10,347	Number	908
Percent	84.9	77.5	Percent	68.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	93
			Percent	7.0
			Other	
			Number	326
			Percent	24.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,327
			Percent	100.0

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,193	11,749	Eligible	
Collected			Number	804
Number	3,035	9,951	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.1	84.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	2,912	9,559	Number	618
Percent	91.2	81.4	Percent	76.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	83
			Percent	10.3
			Other	
			Number	103
			Percent	12.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	804
			Percent	100.0

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,092	11,993	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,382
Number	2,851	9,408	Percent	100.0
Percent	92.2	78.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	2,713	9,132	Number	1,066
Percent	87.7	76.1	Percent	77.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	118
			Percent	8.5
			Other	
			Number	198
			Percent	14.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,382
			Percent	100.0

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Atlanta, GA., 2014

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,299	14,176	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,691
Number	4,040	11,556	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.0	81.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,843	11,232	Number	1,277
Percent	89.4	79.2	Percent	75.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	140
			Percent	8.3
			Other	
			Number	274
			Percent	16.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,691
			Percent	100.0