

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2004

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 2004.

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 2004 are presented in tables R-1 through R-16. Table R-1 shows response rates for all data included in the CPI-U, U.S. city average, by major group, for all of 2004. Tables R-2 through R-16 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-16 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 Doris L. Johnson at (202) 691-7000, or email her at Johnson.Doris@bls.gov

Table R-1. Response rates for the CPI-U, U.S. city average, by major group and shelter, 2004

Commodities and services	Outlets	Quotes								
		Total	Food	Housing (excluding shelter)	Apparel	Transportation	Medical care	Recreation	Education and communication	Other goods and services
Eligible	386,431	1,162,628	405,608	158,146	139,049	180,417	84,699	84,352	64,369	45,988
Collected										
Number	375,474	1,000,093	372,447	142,629	72,944	169,477	74,984	72,277	52,907	42,428
Percent	97.2	86.0	91.8	90.2	52.5	93.9	88.5	85.7	82.2	92.3
Used in estimation										
Number	360,626	977,865	366,846	138,973	68,627	166,355	73,782	69,692	51,766	41,824
Percent	93.3	84.1	90.4	87.9	49.4	92.2	87.1	82.6	80.4	90.9
Shelter	All Units									
Eligible										
Number	67,538									
Percent	100.0									
Collected										
Data reported										
Number	50,136									
Percent	74.2									
Found vacant										
Number	6,715									
Percent	9.9									
Other										
Number	10,687									
Percent	15.8									
Used in estimation										
Number	56,851									
Percent	84.2									

Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	16,772	46,571	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,171
Number	16,313	39,329	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.3	84.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,634	38,607	Number	1,338
Percent	93.2	82.9	Percent	61.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	226
			Percent	10.4
			Other	
			Number	607
			Percent	28.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,564
			Percent	72.0

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	27,627	75,758	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,522
Number	27,053	62,968	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.9	83.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	25,711	61,575	Number	3,603
Percent	93.1	81.3	Percent	79.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	194
			Percent	4.3
			Other	
			Number	725
			Percent	16.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,797
			Percent	84.0

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	37,449	107,462	Eligible	
Collected			Number	5,110
Number	36,195	89,844	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.7	83.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	34,792	87,929	Number	3,454
Percent	92.9	81.8	Percent	67.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	288
			Percent	5.6
			Other	
			Number	1,368
			Percent	26.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,742
			Percent	73.2

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-KE-MD, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	9,041	24,635	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,629
Number	8,732	20,570	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	83.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	8,350	20,002	Number	1,143
Percent	92.4	81.2	Percent	70.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	135
			Percent	8.3
			Other	
			Number	351
			Percent	21.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,278
			Percent	78.5

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,418	26,117	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,089
Number	8,241	22,593	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.9	86.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,896	21,989	Number	2,317
Percent	93.8	84.2	Percent	75.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	259
			Percent	8.4
			Other	
			Number	513
			Percent	16.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,576
			Percent	83.4

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	9,058	27,251	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,871
Number	8,753	23,063	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	84.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	8,397	22,408	Number	1,506
Percent	92.7	82.2	Percent	80.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	118
			Percent	6.3
			Other	
			Number	247
			Percent	13.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,624
			Percent	86.8

Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,780	17,529	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,603
Number	5,551	14,363	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.0	81.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,329	13,904	Number	1,123
Percent	92.2	79.3	Percent	70.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	125
			Percent	7.8
			Other	
			Number	355
			Percent	22.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,248
			Percent	77.9

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,458	13,134	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,378
Number	4,335	11,431	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.2	87.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,158	11,149	Number	1,052
Percent	93.3	84.9	Percent	76.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	160
			Percent	11.6
			Other	
			Number	166
			Percent	12.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,212
			Percent	88.0

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,807	5,266	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,065
Number	1,788	5,049	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.9	95.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,754	4,956	Number	828
Percent	97.1	94.1	Percent	77.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	91
			Percent	8.5
			Other	
			Number	146
			Percent	13.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	919
			Percent	86.3

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,863	5,487	Eligible	
Collected			Number	699
Number	1,831	5,121	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.3	93.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,793	5,040	Number	494
Percent	96.2	91.9	Percent	70.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	82
			Percent	11.7
			Other	
			Number	123
			Percent	17.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	576
			Percent	82.4

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,868	5,916	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,281
Number	1,851	5,647	Percent	100.0
Percent	99.1	95.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,828	5,588	Number	986
Percent	97.9	94.5	Percent	77.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	148
			Percent	11.6
			Other	
			Number	147
			Percent	11.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,134
			Percent	88.5

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,629	16,716	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,206
Number	5,487	14,244	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.5	85.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,287	13,823	Number	856
Percent	93.9	82.7	Percent	71.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	162
			Percent	13.4
			Other	
			Number	188
			Percent	15.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,018
			Percent	84.4

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,738	12,967	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,179
Number	4,577	11,208	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	86.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,408	10,854	Number	822
Percent	93.0	83.7	Percent	69.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	139
			Percent	11.8
			Other	
			Number	218
			Percent	18.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	961
			Percent	81.5

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,123	12,360	Eligible	
Collected			Number	781
Number	3,921	10,220	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.1	82.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,773	9,994	Number	504
Percent	91.5	80.9	Percent	64.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	104
			Percent	13.3
			Other	
			Number	173
			Percent	22.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	608
			Percent	77.8

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2004

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,643	12,433	Eligible	
Collected			Number	655
Number	3,583	10,830	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.4	87.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,433	10,445	Number	552
Percent	94.2	84.0	Percent	84.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	72
			Percent	11.0
			Other	
			Number	31
			Percent	4.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	624
			Percent	95.3