

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2006

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 2006.

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 2006 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 2006. Tables R-2 through R-17 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-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 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, 2006

Commodities and services	Outlets	Quotes								
		Total	Food	Housing (excluding shelter)	Apparel	Transportation	Medical care	Recreation	Education and communication	Other goods and services
Eligible	318,461	1,109,172	422,311	174,780	142,341	132,282	48,183	79,261	64,475	45,539
Collected										
Number	306,540	942,255	387,205	156,881	75,618	122,137	38,623	67,622	51,974	42,195
Percent	96.3	85.0	91.7	89.8	53.1	92.3	80.2	85.3	80.6	92.7
Used in estimation										
Number	294,015	918,869	381,437	152,789	70,835	119,474	37,504	64,787	50,604	41,439
Percent	92.3	82.8	90.3	87.4	49.8	90.3	77.8	81.7	78.5	91.0
Shelter	All Units									
Eligible										
Number	64,370									
Percent	100.0									
Collected										
Data reported										
Number	46,985									
Percent	73.0									
Found vacant										
Number	6,463									
Percent	10.0									
Other										
Number	10,922									
Percent	17.0									
Used in estimation										
Number	53,448									
Percent	83.0									

Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	16,932	49,140	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,104
Number	16,309	40,773	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.3	83.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,664	39,995	Number	1,207
Percent	92.5	81.4	Percent	57.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	236
			Percent	11.2
			Other	
			Number	661
			Percent	31.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,443
			Percent	68.6

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	24,995	75,895	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,258
Number	24,362	62,250	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.5	82.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	23,055	60,841	Number	3,098
Percent	92.2	80.2	Percent	72.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	177
			Percent	4.2
			Other	
			Number	983
			Percent	23.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,275
			Percent	76.9

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	34,036	112,473	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,985
Number	32,681	92,216	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	82.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	31,350	90,207	Number	3,333
Percent	92.1	80.2	Percent	66.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	281
			Percent	5.6
			Other	
			Number	1,371
			Percent	27.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,614
			Percent	72.5

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-KE-MD, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,041	24,013	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,521
Number	7,791	20,396	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.9	84.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,490	19,723	Number	1,094
Percent	93.1	82.1	Percent	71.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	165
			Percent	10.8
			Other	
			Number	262
			Percent	17.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,259
			Percent	82.8

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	6,788	23,854	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,925
Number	6,531	19,883	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.2	83.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	6,252	19,375	Number	2,103
Percent	92.1	81.2	Percent	71.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	188
			Percent	6.4
			Other	
			Number	634
			Percent	21.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,291
			Percent	78.3

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,027	27,130	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,765
Number	7,782	22,531	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.9	83.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,455	21,879	Number	1,454
Percent	92.9	80.6	Percent	82.4
			Found vacant	
			Number	139
			Percent	7.9
			Other	
			Number	172
			Percent	9.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,593
			Percent	90.3

Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,432	18,504	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,511
Number	5,209	14,906	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.9	80.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,951	14,335	Number	1,017
Percent	91.1	77.5	Percent	67.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	134
			Percent	8.9
			Other	
			Number	360
			Percent	23.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,151
			Percent	76.2

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,881	14,327	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,346
Number	3,757	11,943	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.8	83.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,607	11,573	Number	972
Percent	92.9	80.8	Percent	72.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	210
			Percent	15.6
			Other	
			Number	164
			Percent	12.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,182
			Percent	87.8

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,418	5,684	Eligible	
Collected			Number	926
Number	1,379	5,261	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.2	92.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,364	5,188	Number	721
Percent	96.2	91.3	Percent	77.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	64
			Percent	6.9
			Other	
			Number	141
			Percent	15.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	785
			Percent	84.8

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,314	5,588	Eligible	
Collected			Number	661
Number	1,279	5,106	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.3	91.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,262	5,018	Number	434
Percent	96.0	89.8	Percent	65.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	75
			Percent	11.3
			Other	
			Number	152
			Percent	23.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	509
			Percent	77.0

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,805	6,095	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,248
Number	1,768	5,608	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.0	92.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,747	5,522	Number	952
Percent	96.8	90.6	Percent	76.3
			Found vacant	
			Number	149
			Percent	11.9
			Other	
			Number	147
			Percent	11.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,101
			Percent	88.2

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,976	16,993	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,174
Number	4,720	14,105	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.9	83.0	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,518	13,596	Number	841
Percent	90.8	80.0	Percent	71.6
			Found vacant	
			Number	176
			Percent	15.0
			Other	
			Number	157
			Percent	13.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,017
			Percent	86.6

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,928	12,759	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,133
Number	3,706	10,711	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.3	83.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,564	10,327	Number	754
Percent	90.7	80.9	Percent	66.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	141
			Percent	12.4
			Other	
			Number	238
			Percent	21.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	895
			Percent	79.0

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,519	12,614	Eligible	
Collected			Number	754
Number	3,398	10,281	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	81.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,251	9,994	Number	491
Percent	92.4	79.2	Percent	65.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	126
			Percent	16.7
			Other	
			Number	137
			Percent	18.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	617
			Percent	81.8

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,409	12,911	Eligible	
Collected			Number	634
Number	3,327	11,042	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.6	85.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,179	10,679	Number	500
Percent	93.3	82.7	Percent	78.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	78
			Percent	12.3
			Other	
			Number	56
			Percent	8.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	578
			Percent	91.2

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Atlanta, GA., 2006

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,474	13,307	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,377
Number	4,282	11,021	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.7	82.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,096	10,735	Number	924
Percent	91.6	80.7	Percent	67.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	170
			Percent	12.3
			Other	
			Number	283
			Percent	20.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,094
			Percent	79.4