

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2005

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 2005.

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 2005 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 2005. 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, 2005

Commodities and services	Outlets	Quotes								
		Total	Food	Housing (excluding shelter)	Apparel	Transportation	Medical care	Recreation	Education and communication	Other goods and services
Eligible	317,852	1,080,730	409,106	166,777	139,693	128,205	47,067	81,059	62,845	45,978
Collected										
Number	306,625	921,081	375,990	149,976	75,220	118,282	38,607	69,514	51,176	42,316
Percent	96.5	85.2	91.9	89.9	53.8	92.3	82.0	85.8	81.4	92.0
Used in estimation										
Number	294,537	898,391	370,169	146,161	70,603	115,826	37,326	66,728	49,951	41,627
Percent	92.7	83.1	90.5	87.6	50.5	90.3	79.3	82.3	79.5	90.5
Shelter	All Units									
Eligible										
Number	65,986									
Percent	100.0									
Collected										
Data reported										
Number	48,443									
Percent	73.4									
Found vacant										
Number	6,689									
Percent	10.1									
Other										
Number	10,854									
Percent	16.4									
Used in estimation										
Number	55,132									
Percent	83.6									

Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	16,974	47,445	Eligible	
Collected			Number	2,151
Number	16,407	39,267	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.7	82.8	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	15,760	38,457	Number	1,312
Percent	92.8	81.1	Percent	61.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	241
			Percent	11.2
			Other	
			Number	598
			Percent	27.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,553
			Percent	72.2

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	25,458	74,497	Eligible	
Collected			Number	4,387
Number	24,750	61,201	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.2	82.2	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	23,400	59,559	Number	3,320
Percent	91.9	79.9	Percent	75.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	169
			Percent	3.9
			Other	
			Number	898
			Percent	20.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,489
			Percent	79.5

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	32,986	103,903	Eligible	
Collected			Number	5,088
Number	31,861	86,352	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.6	83.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	30,641	84,607	Number	3,551
Percent	92.9	81.4	Percent	69.8
			Found vacant	
			Number	269
			Percent	5.3
			Other	
			Number	1,268
			Percent	24.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	3,820
			Percent	75.1

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-KE-MD, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,268	23,178	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,571
Number	8,077	20,090	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.7	86.7	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,762	19,527	Number	1,196
Percent	93.9	84.2	Percent	76.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	154
			Percent	9.8
			Other	
			Number	221
			Percent	14.1
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,350
			Percent	85.9

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	7,212	24,192	Eligible	
Collected			Number	3,005
Number	7,046	20,819	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.7	86.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	6,759	20,255	Number	2,223
Percent	93.7	83.7	Percent	74.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	244
			Percent	8.1
			Other	
			Number	538
			Percent	17.9
			Used in estimation	
			Number	2,467
			Percent	82.1

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	8,019	26,635	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,815
Number	7,794	22,496	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.2	84.5	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	7,506	21,821	Number	1,434
Percent	93.6	81.9	Percent	79.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	148
			Percent	8.2
			Other	
			Number	233
			Percent	12.8
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,582
			Percent	87.2

Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	5,719	18,826	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,554
Number	5,513	15,414	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.4	81.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	5,262	14,898	Number	1,064
Percent	92.0	79.1	Percent	68.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	128
			Percent	8.2
			Other	
			Number	362
			Percent	23.3
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,192
			Percent	76.7

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,920	13,549	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,362
Number	3,769	11,284	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.1	83.3	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,616	10,910	Number	1,001
Percent	92.2	80.5	Percent	73.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	192
			Percent	14.1
			Other	
			Number	169
			Percent	12.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,193
			Percent	87.6

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,376	5,169	Eligible	
Collected			Number	993
Number	1,350	4,838	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.1	93.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,327	4,749	Number	804
Percent	96.4	91.9	Percent	81.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	70
			Percent	7.0
			Other	
			Number	119
			Percent	12.0
			Used in estimation	
			Number	874
			Percent	88.0

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,335	5,069	Eligible	
Collected			Number	683
Number	1,298	4,683	Percent	100.0
Percent	97.2	92.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,289	4,634	Number	458
Percent	96.6	91.4	Percent	67.1
			Found vacant	
			Number	86
			Percent	12.6
			Other	
			Number	139
			Percent	20.4
			Used in estimation	
			Number	544
			Percent	79.6

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	1,789	5,723	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,255
Number	1,765	5,400	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.7	94.4	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	1,744	5,316	Number	950
Percent	97.5	92.9	Percent	75.7
			Found vacant	
			Number	152
			Percent	12.1
			Other	
			Number	153
			Percent	12.2
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,102
			Percent	87.8

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,862	15,995	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,186
Number	4,645	13,261	Percent	100.0
Percent	95.5	82.9	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	4,436	12,825	Number	848
Percent	91.2	80.2	Percent	71.5
			Found vacant	
			Number	152
			Percent	12.8
			Other	
			Number	186
			Percent	15.7
			Used in estimation	
			Number	1,000
			Percent	84.3

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	4,092	12,305	Eligible	
Collected			Number	1,167
Number	3,871	10,350	Percent	100.0
Percent	94.6	84.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,725	10,056	Number	758
Percent	91.0	81.7	Percent	65.0
			Found vacant	
			Number	147
			Percent	12.6
			Other	
			Number	262
			Percent	22.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	905
			Percent	77.5

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,517	11,786	Eligible	
Collected			Number	771
Number	3,401	9,791	Percent	100.0
Percent	96.7	83.1	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,278	9,519	Number	495
Percent	93.2	80.8	Percent	64.2
			Found vacant	
			Number	141
			Percent	18.3
			Other	
			Number	135
			Percent	17.5
			Used in estimation	
			Number	636
			Percent	82.5

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2005

Commodities and services	Total		Shelter	All Units
	Outlets	Quotes		
Eligible	3,435	12,687	Eligible	
Collected			Number	645
Number	3,379	10,987	Percent	100.0
Percent	98.4	86.6	Collected	
Used in estimation			Data reported	
Number	3,261	10,536	Number	535
Percent	94.9	83.0	Percent	82.9
			Found vacant	
			Number	74
			Percent	11.5
			Other	
			Number	36
			Percent	5.6
			Used in estimation	
			Number	609
			Percent	94.4