

Response Rates for the Consumer Price Indexes, 2008

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 2008.

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 2008 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 2008. 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 Sanjeev Katz at (202) 691-7000, or email him at katz.sanjeev@bls.gov.

Table R-2. Response rates for the CPI-U, Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 16,890 | 52,465 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,947 |
| Number | 16,236 | 43,429 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 96.1 | 82.8 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 15,487 | 42,450 | Number | 1,191 |
| Percent | 91.7 | 80.9 | Percent | 61.2 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 227 |
| | | | Percent | 11.7 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 529 |
| | | | Percent | 27.2 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,418 |
| | | | Percent | 72.8 |

Table R-3. Response rates for the CPI-U, Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 25,345 | 77,764 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 4,119 |
| Number | 24,657 | 65,026 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 97.3 | 83.6 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 23,344 | 63,427 | Number | 2,983 |
| Percent | 92.1 | 81.6 | Percent | 72.4 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 174 |
| | | | Percent | 4.2 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 962 |
| | | | Percent | 23.4 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 3,157 |
| | | | Percent | 76.6 |

Table R-4. Response rates for the CPI-U, NY-Northern NJ-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 36,119 | 121,110 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 4,837 |
| Number | 34,198 | 97,997 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 94.7 | 80.9 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 32,612 | 95,616 | Number | 3,204 |
| Percent | 90.3 | 78.9 | Percent | 66.2 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 248 |
| | | | Percent | 5.1 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 1,385 |
| | | | Percent | 28.6 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 3,452 |
| | | | Percent | 71.4 |

Table R-5. Response rates for the CPI-U, Phil.-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-NJ-KE-MD, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 8,362 | 25,739 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,434 |
| Number | 8,062 | 22,462 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 96.4 | 87.3 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 7,742 | 21,807 | Number | 1,036 |
| Percent | 92.6 | 84.7 | Percent | 72.2 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 145 |
| | | | Percent | 10.1 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 253 |
| | | | Percent | 17.6 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,181 |
| | | | Percent | 82.4 |

Table R-6. Response rates for the CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 6,662 | 23,521 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 2,799 |
| Number | 6,370 | 19,709 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 95.6 | 83.8 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 6,053 | 19,174 | Number | 2,140 |
| Percent | 90.9 | 81.5 | Percent | 76.5 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 131 |
| | | | Percent | 4.7 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 528 |
| | | | Percent | 18.9 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 2,271 |
| | | | Percent | 81.1 |

Table R-7. Response rates for the CPI-U, Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 7,949 | 27,795 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,709 |
| Number | 7,505 | 22,341 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 94.4 | 80.4 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 7,040 | 21,428 | Number | 1,343 |
| Percent | 88.6 | 77.1 | Percent | 78.6 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 115 |
| | | | Percent | 6.7 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 251 |
| | | | Percent | 14.7 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,458 |
| | | | Percent | 85.3 |

Table R-8. Response rates for the CPI-U, Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 5,445 | 18,241 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,448 |
| Number | 5,195 | 14,974 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 95.4 | 82.1 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 4,911 | 14,419 | Number | 1,057 |
| Percent | 90.2 | 79.0 | Percent | 73.0 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 112 |
| | | | Percent | 7.7 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 279 |
| | | | Percent | 19.3 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,169 |
| | | | Percent | 80.7 |

Table R-9. Response rates for the CPI-U, Cleveland-Akron, OH, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 4,091 | 14,559 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,273 |
| Number | 3,960 | 12,276 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 96.8 | 84.3 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 3,755 | 11,881 | Number | 865 |
| Percent | 91.8 | 81.6 | Percent | 67.9 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 195 |
| | | | Percent | 15.3 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 213 |
| | | | Percent | 16.7 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,060 |
| | | | Percent | 83.3 |

Table R-10. Response rates for the CPI-U, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 1,558 | 7,014 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 854 |
| Number | 1,515 | 6,437 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 97.2 | 91.8 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 1,482 | 6,336 | Number | 696 |
| Percent | 95.1 | 90.3 | Percent | 81.5 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 63 |
| | | | Percent | 7.4 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 95 |
| | | | Percent | 11.1 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 759 |
| | | | Percent | 88.9 |

Table R-11. Response rates for the CPI-U, St. Louis, MO-IL, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 1,337 | 6,050 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 631 |
| Number | 1,309 | 5,452 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 97.9 | 90.1 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 1,287 | 5,378 | Number | 458 |
| Percent | 96.3 | 88.9 | Percent | 72.6 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 116 |
| | | | Percent | 18.4 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 57 |
| | | | Percent | 9.0 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 574 |
| | | | Percent | 91.0 |

Table R-12. Response rates for the CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 1,895 | 6,611 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,236 |
| Number | 1,862 | 6,098 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 98.3 | 92.2 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 1,830 | 6,006 | Number | 972 |
| Percent | 96.6 | 90.8 | Percent | 78.6 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 140 |
| | | | Percent | 11.3 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 124 |
| | | | Percent | 10.0 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,112 |
| | | | Percent | 90.0 |

Table R-13. Response rates for the CPI-U, Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 5,016 | 17,048 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,157 |
| Number | 4,720 | 13,838 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 94.1 | 81.2 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 4,473 | 13,320 | Number | 775 |
| Percent | 89.2 | 78.1 | Percent | 67.0 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 160 |
| | | | Percent | 13.8 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 222 |
| | | | Percent | 19.2 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 935 |
| | | | Percent | 80.8 |

Table R-14. Response rates for the CPI-U, Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 3,864 | 13,348 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,163 |
| Number | 3,730 | 11,390 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 96.5 | 85.3 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 3,521 | 10,956 | Number | 875 |
| Percent | 91.1 | 82.1 | Percent | 75.2 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 142 |
| | | | Percent | 12.2 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 146 |
| | | | Percent | 12.6 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 1,017 |
| | | | Percent | 87.4 |

Table R-15. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Pittsburgh, PA, 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 3,664 | 13,031 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 711 |
| Number | 3,482 | 10,599 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 95.0 | 81.3 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 3,324 | 10,271 | Number | 450 |
| Percent | 90.7 | 78.8 | Percent | 63.3 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 105 |
| | | | Percent | 14.8 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 156 |
| | | | Percent | 21.9 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 555 |
| | | | Percent | 78.1 |

Table R-16. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ., 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 3,524 | 12,968 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 617 |
| Number | 3,406 | 11,055 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 96.7 | 85.2 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 3,269 | 10,709 | Number | 492 |
| Percent | 92.8 | 82.6 | Percent | 79.7 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 73 |
| | | | Percent | 11.8 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 52 |
| | | | Percent | 8.4 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 565 |
| | | | Percent | 91.6 |

Table R-17. Response rates for the CPI-U,
Atlanta, GA., 2008

| Commodities and services | Total | | Shelter | All Units |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Outlets | Quotes | | |
| Eligible | 4,670 | 14,697 | Eligible | |
| Collected | | | Number | 1,320 |
| Number | 4,502 | 12,238 | Percent | 100.0 |
| Percent | 96.4 | 83.3 | Collected | |
| Used in estimation | | | Data reported | |
| Number | 4,280 | 11,868 | Number | 803 |
| Percent | 91.6 | 80.8 | Percent | 60.8 |
| | | | Found vacant | |
| | | | Number | 159 |
| | | | Percent | 12.0 |
| | | | Other | |
| | | | Number | 358 |
| | | | Percent | 27.1 |
| | | | Used in estimation | |
| | | | Number | 962 |
| | | | Percent | 72.9 |