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**BLS REGIONAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
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**CONFIDENTIALITY AND  
BURDEN STATEMENT**

**Confidentiality Statement:**  
The Bureau of Labor Statistics, its employees, agents and partner statistical agencies, will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only and will hold the information in confidence to the full extent permitted by law. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (Title 5 of Public Law 107-347) and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will not be disclosed in identifiable form without your informed consent.

**Voluntary Nature of the Program:** This report is authorized by law, 29 U.S.C.2. Your voluntary cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate and timely.

**Screening/Initiation Burden Statement:**  
We estimate that it will take an average of 7 minutes per respondent to determine eligibility. And then, if eligible, we estimate an average of 5 minutes per respondent to complete this survey.

**Initiation Burden Statement:**  
We estimate that it will take an average of 5 minutes per

respondent to complete this survey.

**Pricing Burden Statement:**

We estimate that it will take an average of 7 minutes per respondent to complete this survey.

*If you have any comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the survey-send them directly to the Division of Consumer Prices and Indexes (202-691-6991), Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212.*

OMB #1220-0163  
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THE CONSUMER  
PRICE INDEX:  
HOUSING SURVEY  
QUESTIONS AND  
ANSWERS

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US Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
October 2006 (Revised)



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**We need your help to measure inflation:**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Labor, is the principal statistical data gathering organization of the Federal Government in the areas of labor and economics. We are asking you to participate in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Housing Survey. The CPI Housing Survey is used to measure changes in the price of a major component of the CPI.

**The CPI is the Nation's chief indicator of inflation :**

The CPI measures changes in prices for a fixed market basket of goods and services purchased every day by consumers at the retail level. All categories of consumer goods and services purchased by households are represented in the CPI and they are weighted to reflect the percentage of income spent on the item and the frequency of purchase. Goods and services are divided into several categories including housing, food and beverages, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, education and communication, and other goods and services. Investment items such as stocks, bonds and purchases of houses are excluded from the CPI.

**Housing Accounts for more than 40 percent of the CPI:**

The index's housing component has three subcomponents: Shelter, fuel and other utilities, and household furnishings and operations. Together, they account for more than 40 percent of the CPI. Shelter is the major subcomponent and comprises approximately one fourth of the CPI. BLS measures the changes in shelter costs primarily from information collected in the CPI Housing Survey, in which you have been asked to participate.

**The CPI is important to you:**  
The CPI is used by business, labor and government to make policy decisions and to adjust payment under collective bargaining agreements. The Federal Government uses the CPI to adjust Social Security, other programs' payments, and personal income tax rates to reflect the effects of inflation.

**Your home was chosen at random:**

Approximately every 10 years, the CPI undergoes a revision in which a new sample of items is chosen to better reflect current consumption patterns. BLS chose your address, using scientific random sampling procedures, from 2000 Census information and recent data on new home construction. We chose this address, not you as an individual or as a household. If you move, we will interview the next

resident at this address next time. Your home was chosen to represent a large number of similar housing units in the CPI.

**All information is confidential:**  
All the information you give to BLS for this survey is confidential. BLS staff is sworn to maintain the confidentiality of all responses. **No one has access to your responses. All information is presented only in the form of statistical summaries. You will not be personally identified.**

**We will only ask for a little of your time:**

BLS collects information on the changes in housing costs by visiting selected homes on a predetermined schedule. We will contact you either by telephone or by personal visit once every 6 months. In addition, on rare occasions, other BLS employees may re-interview you as part of our Data Quality Assurance Program. An interview should take an average of 5 to 12 minutes.

**The CPI is released monthly:**  
CPI statistics are released between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month, and report the statistics for the previous month. The media (newspapers, television, etc.) report the information promptly. CPI information also is available on

the Internet at:

<http://stats.bls.gov> In addition, CPI information is available in two BLS periodicals, the *CPI Detail Report* and the *Monthly Labor Review*.

### **Thank You!**

By working with us on the **CPI Housing Survey**, you help make the CPI possible.

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### **BLS REGIONAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND INFORMATION OFFICES**

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