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**BLS REGIONAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
AND INFORMATION OFFICES**

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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.*

**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 Price Indexes (202-691-6991), Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212.*

*OMB #1220-0163  
Approval Expires XX/XX/2009*

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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 for your voluntary participation in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) Housing Survey. The CPI Housing Survey is used to measure changes for the housing component of the CPI. Thank you for your cooperation in this important program.

## **What is the CPI?**

The CPI is the Nation's chief measure of inflation at the retail level. It measures changes over time in the cost of buying a fixed market basket of goods and services needed for day-to-day living. Calculated and published by BLS, the CPI is used by business, labor, and government for making informed economic decisions. It is widely used to adjust payments under collective bargaining agreements; and the Federal Government uses the CPI to adjust Social Security payments, Personal Income Taxes, and other program payments for the effects of inflation.

## **Housing accounts for more than 40% of the CPI:**

The housing component of the CPI 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 payments, Personal Income Tax rates, and other program payments to reflect the effects of inflation.

## **Your home was chosen at random:**

Approximately every six years, the CPI undergoes a revision in which a new sample of homes is chosen to better reflect the changes in shelter costs. BLS chose your address, using scientific random sampling procedures, from the 2000 Census information. We chose this address, not you as an individual or your household. If you move, we will interview the new 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 the BLS

data collector for this survey is confidential. BLS staff are 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:**

The CPI is available on the BLS-CPI homepage at:

<http://stats.bls.gov/cpi> shortly after release of the data around the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Additionally, CPI information is

available in two BLS periodicals:  
the *CPI Detailed 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  
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