

The Consumer Expenditure Survey program (CE) has embarked on a major survey redesign to improve the quality of the CE data. Understanding your data needs is a key input to this process. Information collected through this survey will assist the CE in evaluating alternative redesign options.

Please contact Steven Henderson at 202-691-5124 or Henderson\_S@BLS.gov if you have any questions.

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. We estimate that it will take you 15 minutes to complete this survey. We are collecting this information under OMB Number 1225-0059. Without this currently-approved number, we could not conduct this survey. (Expiration: November 30, 2012)

Please note that this survey is being administered by SurveyMonkey.com and resides on a server outside of the BLS domain. The BLS cannot guarantee the protection of survey responses and advises against the inclusion of sensitive personal information in any response. We will not be using your identifying information in our report.

Please answer each question:

- For questions where more than one option applies to your work, please mark all that apply.
- We understand that not all the questions may apply to your circumstances. Please mark "not applicable" for any question that doesn't apply to you.

Please complete your survey by July 13.

**1. For what topics do you use the CE data? For example, studying the impact of fiscal changes, inequality of expenditures, poverty analysis, consumer demand.**

  

**\* 2. What data do you use? (Mark all that apply)**

- Integrated aggregate tables published by the CE
- Weekly Diary Survey only
- Quarterly Interview Survey only
- Special tabulations prepared by the CE
- Selected microdata variables
- Other (please specify)

**3. Which microdata variables do you use?**

**4. What level of geographic detail do you use? (Mark all that apply)**

- National (urban and rural together)
- Urban only
- Rural only
- Regional
- State
- Metropolitan Statistical Area
- Other (please specify)

**5. What level of demographic detail do you use? (Mark all that apply)**

- National (All Consumer Units)
- Subset by age
- Subset by income
- Subset by race
- Other (please specify)

**6. What time period of data do you use? (Mark all that apply)**

- Annual
- Biannual
- Quarterly
- Weekly
- Other (please specify)

**7. If you use the Interview Survey microdata from more than one quarter, do you treat each consumer unit's quarterly information as if they are independent from other quarters of data?**

Yes

No

Not applicable

**8. Do you need a full year's worth (four quarters) of data for each consumer unit?**

Yes

No

**9. What level of detail do you need on expenditures?**

Not applicable

Total expenditures

Summary levels such as "food at home," "clothing," "vehicles"

More detailed levels such as "beef" or "poultry," "men's shirts," "tires" (please specify)

**\* 10. In your work, do you use alternative sources of data on consumer spending, either in addition to or instead of, CE data?**

Yes

No

**11. What other data sources do you use IN ADDITION to CE data?**

**(List data sources)**

	5
	6

**12. What other data sources do you use INSTEAD OF CE data? (List data sources)**

	5
	6

**13. Do you have concerns about the accuracy of the CE data?**

No

Yes. Please explain your concerns

**\* 14. Because of internal processing and publication requirements, CE currently publishes tables and produces public-use microdata for a calendar year during the following October. Does this timing meet your data needs?**

Yes

No

Not Applicable



**15. Please describe what timing would best meet your needs.**

  

**16. What timing would better meet your needs, if the best timing is not possible?**

**17. Apart from any issues of accuracy or timeliness, are there other ways in which the CE data do not meet your needs (e.g., topic coverage, demographic subgroups, sample size, data documentation)?**

No

Yes. Please describe the ways in which the data do not meet your needs

**18. Are there additional tables that you would like published, either in more detail or sorted by additional demographic variables?**

Not applicable

No

Yes, please describe

**19. Please list any changes you would like to see in CE data, or other recommendations below.**

## 20. What is your position or affiliation?

State/local government

Academia-faculty

Academia-student

Policy research/Think-tank

Market research

Other (please specify)

Thank you for completing the survey!

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## 20. What federal agency are you from?

- US Department of Defense
- Bureau of the Census
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Internal Revenue Service
- Congressional Research Service
- Congressional Budget Office
- National Health Statistics
- Federal Reserve Board
- US Department of Agriculture
- Other (please specify)

Thank you for completing the survey!