

CEQ-303-L1 (MS1)
(6-2010)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

We are contacting you to request your help with an important survey—the Consumer Expenditure Telephone Survey. The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting this survey for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Your responses will help to improve the quality of data used to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is the most important tool used to measure how fast prices are rising or declining. It directly affects wages, pensions, and the cost of goods and services. Your response is a service to your community and the country.

Your participation in this survey is essential; however, you may choose to decline to answer any particular question. Federal law authorizes the collection of this information (Titles 13 and 29 of the United States Code), and Sections 9 and 214 of Title 13 require us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

Soon a Census Bureau interviewer will call you for an interview. We would appreciate your cooperation.

On the back of this letter are answers to questions you may have about this survey. We have also enclosed a factsheet about this survey. If you would like more information, please call us toll-free at 1-888-595-1257

Thank you for your cooperation in this important survey. We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves

Enclosure

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Census Bureau doing? I thought they only operated every ten years.

In addition to the decennial census, we collect data on a monthly basis. We collect these data to provide up-to-date information on topics such as unemployment, spending, family income, housing, manufacturing, and business activities to track the country's economy.

What is this survey about?

The survey you are participating in aims to improve the quality of data collected for the Consumer Expenditure Survey, which measures how people in the United States spend their money on items such as housing, food, education, transportation, and healthcare.

Why is this survey important?

The information you provide will affect the quality of national statistics on the cost of goods and services. In addition, people in your community and throughout the country use the Consumer Expenditure Survey statistics for planning public services and addressing consumer needs. Your voluntary response is essential for ensuring that this survey's results are complete and accurate.

What kinds of questions will I be asked?

We will ask you to recall information about recent purchases you have made. We also will ask you questions about the people who live in your household, such as their ages, and questions about things you already own like cars or property. A partial list includes:

- How much money do you spend on clothing?
- How much money do you spend on vehicle maintenance and repairs expenses?
- How much money do you spend on medical expenses?
- How much money do you spend education?

Why me? Why not interview someone else?

Through a scientific sampling process, we selected your address, not you personally. Your household represents hundreds of other households in your region, so it is important that we talk to you. Only you can accurately report how you spent your money.

What if I am retired, ill, unemployed, or just don't spend much money?

We are interested in how all Americans spend their money. We can only have a complete picture if we talk to people with different situations.

It is very important to know the purchasing habits of people of all ages and of all levels of spending. This is especially true for medical spending and spending on entertainment.

How long will the interview take?

The average interview takes about 25 minutes.

Where can I find out more about the survey?

You can learn more about the Consumer Expenditure Survey by writing to the Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Room 3985, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC 20212. The Consumer Expenditure Survey Web site also has information about the survey. The address is <<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>>.

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it Control Number 1220-0050 [UPDATE].

CE-303-L2 (MS2)
(6-2010)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

About two weeks ago, we sent you a letter informing you that you were selected to participate in the Consumer Expenditure Telephone Survey. We are contacting you again to remind you of the interview for this very important survey.

Your responses will help to improve the quality of data used to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is the most important tool used to measure how fast prices are rising or declining. It directly affects wages, pensions, and the cost of goods and services. Your response is a service to your community and the country.

To help shorten the interview, you may want to have some records of expenses available for reference. On the back of this letter are examples of records that may reduce the interview time and improve the quality of survey results.

We have also enclosed an Information Booklet with this letter. This booklet contains examples and definitions that you will find helpful during the interview.

Your participation in this survey is essential; however, you may choose to decline to answer any particular question. Federal law authorizes the collection of this information (Titles 13 and 29 of the United States Code), and Sections 9 and 214 of Title 13 require us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

Soon a Census Bureau interviewer will call you for an interview. If you would prefer to schedule an appointment for your interview, please call us toll-free at 1-888-595-1257.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important survey. We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves

Enclosure

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The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting this voluntary survey
for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Records/Receipts Check List

**Collecting bills, receipts, or bank statements before the
interviewer contacts you may help reduce the interview time.
Examples of useful documents are shown below.**

Billing statements (paper or on-line) for:

- Medical expenses
- Education expenses
- Insurance payments

Receipts or bills of sales for:

- Appliances
- Clothing
- Travel or vacation expenses
- Gifts or charitable donations

Credit card statements for:

- Expenses charged automatically to your credit card
- Credit card membership fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

Bank statements or check books for:

- Expenses automatically deducted from your bank account
- ATM fees and other banking fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it
Control Number 1220-0050 [UPDATE].

CE-303-L2 (MS3)
(6-2010)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

About three months ago, you completed an interview for the Consumer Expenditure Telephone Survey. We are contacting you again to request your ongoing help with this very important survey.

Your responses will help to improve the quality of data used to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is the most important tool used to measure how fast prices are rising or declining. It directly affects wages, pensions, and the cost of goods and services. Your response is a service to your community and the country.

To help shorten the interview, you may want to have some records of expenses available for reference. On the back of this letter are examples of records that may reduce the interview time and improve the quality of survey results.

We have also enclosed an Information Booklet with this letter. This booklet contains examples and definitions that you will find helpful during the interview.

Your participation in this survey is essential; however, you may choose to decline to answer any particular question. Federal law authorizes the collection of this information (Titles 13 and 29 of the United States Code), and Sections 9 and 214 of Title 13 require us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

Soon a Census Bureau interviewer will call you again for an interview. If you would prefer to schedule an appointment for your interview, please call us toll-free at 1-888-595-1257.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important survey. We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves

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for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Records/Receipts Check List

**Collecting bills, receipts, or bank statements before the
interviewer contacts you may help reduce the interview time.
Examples of useful documents are shown below.**

Billing statements (paper or on-line) for:

- Medical expenses
- Education expenses
- Insurance payments

Receipts or bills of sales for:

- Appliances
- Clothing
- Travel or vacation expenses
- Gifts or charitable donations

Credit card statements for:

- Expenses charged automatically to your credit card
- Credit card membership fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

Bank statements or check books for:

- Expenses automatically deducted from your bank account
- ATM fees and other banking fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it
Control Number 1220-0050 [UPDATE].

CE-303-L2(MS4)
(6-2010)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

A month ago, you completed an interview for the Consumer Expenditure Telephone Survey. We are contacting you again to request your ongoing help with this very important survey.

Your responses will help to improve the quality of data used to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is the most important tool used to measure how fast prices are rising or declining. It directly affects wages, pensions, and the cost of goods and services. Your response is a service to your community and the country.

To help shorten the interview, you may want to have some records of expenses available for reference. On the back of this letter are examples of records that may reduce the interview time and improve the quality of survey results.

We have also enclosed an Information Booklet with this letter. This booklet contains examples and definitions that you will find helpful during the interview.

Your participation in this survey is essential; however, you may choose to decline to answer any particular question. Federal law authorizes the collection of this information (Titles 13 and 29 of the United States Code), and Sections 9 and 214 of Title 13 require us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

Soon a Census Bureau interviewer will call you again for an interview. If you would prefer to schedule an appointment for your interview, please call us toll-free at 1-888-595-1257.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important survey. We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves

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The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting this voluntary survey
for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Records/Receipts Check List

**Collecting bills, receipts, or bank statements before the
interviewer contacts you may help reduce the interview time.**

Examples of useful documents are shown below.

Billing statements (paper or on-line) for:

- Medical expenses
- Education expenses
- Insurance payments

Receipts or bills of sales for:

- Appliances
- Clothing
- Travel or vacation expenses
- Gifts or charitable donations

Credit card statements for:

- Expenses charged automatically to your credit card
- Credit card membership fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

Bank statements or check books for:

- Expenses automatically deducted from your bank account
- ATM fees and other banking fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it
Control Number 1220-0050 [UPDATE].

CE-303-L5(MS5)
(6-2010)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

FROM THE DIRECTOR
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Very soon a Census Bureau interviewer will call you again to conduct the final interview for your household for the Consumer Expenditure Telephone Survey. In this interview, as in previous ones, we will ask about your household expenditures.

The Consumer Price Index is the most important tool used to measure how fast prices are rising or declining and directly affects wages and pensions. Your response is a service to your community and the country.

To help shorten the interview, you may want to have some records of expenses available for reference. On the back of this letter are examples of records that may reduce the interview time and improve the quality of survey results.

We have also enclosed an Information Booklet with this letter. This booklet contains examples and definitions that you will find helpful during the interview.

Your participation in this survey is essential; however, you may choose to decline to answer any particular question. Federal law authorizes the collection of this information (Titles 13 and 29 of the United States Code), and Sections 9 and 214 of Title 13 require us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

If you would prefer to call to set up a specific time for your interview, we can be reached toll free at 1-888-595-1257.

Thank you for your cooperation and voluntary participation in this important survey. We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Groves

Enclosure

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The U.S. Census Bureau is conducting this voluntary survey
for the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Records/Receipts Check List

**Collecting bills, receipts, or bank statements before the
interviewer contacts you may help reduce the interview time.
Examples of useful documents are shown below.**

Billing statements (paper or on-line) for:

- Medical expenses
- Education expenses
- Insurance payments

Receipts or bills of sales for:

- Appliances
- Clothing
- Travel or vacation expenses
- Gifts or charitable donations

Credit card statements for:

- Expenses charged automatically to your credit card
- Credit card membership fees
- Any expenditures with no receipt or statement

Bank statements or check books for:

- Expenses automatically deducted from your bank account
- ATM fees and other banking fees
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The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it
Control Number 1220-0050 [UPDATE].