

U.S. Consumer Expenditure Records Study Informed Consent Form – Interview 1

Description and Purpose of the Consumer Expenditure Records Study: The U.S. Consumer Expenditure Quarterly Interview (CEQ) is an ongoing monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The survey provides current and continuous information on the buying habits of American consumers. The Census Bureau and BLS are conducting research to increase the quality of their surveys. The results of this study will be used to improve the way the CEQ is conducted. This interview is being conducted by RTI International, a research organization located in Research Triangle Park, NC. You are one of up to 100 people asked to participate in this study.

Interview Details: This study asks about your household expenses in a number of categories such as utilities, appliances, household furnishings, clothing, health insurance, subscriptions, etc. This study consists of two interviews that will be conducted on two different days. During this research you may be audio-taped or the interview may be observed by Census Bureau or BLS employees. The purpose of audio-taping and observation is to provide the Census Bureau and BLS with feedback on the interview process so it can be improved, if necessary. Another purpose of audio-taping is to verify that the information from the interview is entered into the computer correctly. All audio-tapes will be kept confidential and will be destroyed at the completion of the study. If you do not wish to be taped or observed, you still may participate in this research.

Length of Interview: We anticipate the interview will take about 90 minutes to complete on average. However, this is only an estimate, as it will vary depending on a household's purchases in the last three months.

Participation Requirements/Compensation: Participation in both interviews is voluntary, and there are no penalties for refusing to answer any questions. If you do agree to participate, and complete the first interview, you will receive \$40 as compensation for your time. At the end of the interview, the interviewer will schedule an appointment for the second interview to occur within one week.

Confidentiality: The Census Bureau, BLS, their 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. In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a), you are hereby notified that this study is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), under authority of 29 U.S.C. 2. Your voluntary participation is important to the success of this study and will enable BLS to better understand the accuracy of information BLS collects.

Possible Risks and Discomforts: Some questions in this first interview are of a personal nature and you may find them uncomfortable. If you are upset or uncomfortable you may skip any question, or you may stop the interview at any time.

Possible Benefits: There are no benefits to participating in this study, but your answers will help the Census Bureau and BLS better understand the buying habits of Americans.

Further Questions: If you have any questions about the Consumer Expenditure Records Study, please call the Project Manager, Ms. Emily Geisen at 919-541-6566. If you have questions about your rights as a study participant, call RTI's Office of Research Protection at 1-866-214-2043 (a toll-free number).

Persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. OMB control number is 1220-0050 and expires 03/31/2013.

I have read and understand the statements above. I consent to participate in this first interview.

Audio-taped: Check one.

- I **agree** to be audio-taped in the second interview.
- I **do not agree** to be audio-taped in the second interview.

Observed: Check one.

- I **agree** to be observed in the second interview.
- I **do not agree** to be observed in the second interview.

Participant's signature

Date

Participant's printed name

Researcher's signature

OMB Control Number: 1220-0050

Expiration Date: 03/31/2013