

SUPPORTING STATEMENT
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
Current Population Survey (CPS) Basic Demographic
OMB Control No. 0607-0049

B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS

1. Universe and Respondent Selection

The universe for the CPS is 118 million households. From this universe, we select a sample of approximately 72,000 households each month. Of these, approximately 59,000 households will be eligible for interview.

2. Procedures for Collecting Information

Attachment A gives an overview of the CPS sample design and weighting methodology. The CPS produces demographic data, labor force data, and data from various periodic supplemental inquiries. We designed the CPS sample to produce estimates of employment and unemployment characteristics with sufficient reliability to meet the BLS' requirements for monthly data and estimates of month-to-month, quarter-to-quarter, and year-to-year changes. The coefficient of variation on estimates of unemployment is 1.9 percent monthly at the national level. It is 8.0 percent annually at the state level. This degree of accuracy is sufficient to meet the needs mandated.

One of the primary goals for the CPS is to provide estimates of month-to-month change in the employment and unemployment statistics. The current rotation pattern for the CPS (4-8-4) was chosen because it provides such estimates reliably with a much smaller sample size than an annual rotation would.

3. Methods to Maximize Response

Response rates and data accuracy for the CPS are maintained at high levels through computer edits, interviewer instruction and training, and close monitoring of these data. (Refer to paragraph 5 of Attachment A for a discussion of the CPS nonresponse.)

4. Testing of Procedures

As described in paragraph 6 of Attachment A, the CPS has completed an

extensive program testing the survey's methods, procedures, and content.

5. **Contacts Statistical Aspects and Data Collection**

The following individuals may be contacted on the statistical data collection and analysis operations:

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Attachments

- A - Overview of the CPS Sample Design and Methodology
- B - CPS Demographic Items
- C - CPS Supplements for 2011 and 2012
- D-1 - CPS-263(MIS-1), CPS-263(SP)(MIS-1)
- D-2 - CPS-264(MIS-5), CPS-264(SP)(MIS-5)
- D-3 - CPS-266 Thank You Cards
- E-1 - BC-1433, BC-1433(SP) CPS Fact Sheet
- E-2 - CPS-692 CPS Monthly Flow of CPS Data
- E-3 - BC-1428, BC-1428(SP) Confidentiality Brochures