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

A message from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau...

Very soon a field representative will visit you again to conduct the final interview for your household for the Consumer Expenditure Survey. In this interview, as in previous ones, we will ask about your household expenditures during the past three months.

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.

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 requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

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

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

Collecting bills, receipts, or bank statements before the field representative arrives may help reduce the interview time. Examples of useful documents are shown below.

Billing statements (paper or online) for:
Utilities, such as electricity or natural gas
Residential and cellular telephone service
Insurance payments
Medical expenses
Education expenses
Home repair and improvement expenses
Cable or satellite television or satellite radio
Internet services

Receipts, bill of sales, or contracts for:
Vehicle purchases
Vehicle leases
Furniture purchases
Appliance purchases
Service contracts, such as for pest control or appliance maintenance

Pay stubs showing:
Insurance premiums
Retirement deductions, including 401Ks
Social security deductions
Federal taxes deducted
State and local taxes deducted
Other deductions, such as union dues or charitable contributions

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.