

**CE-803(L)(CA)  
(1-2017)**



**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...

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

Your responses help 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 field representative will contact you for an interview and show you an official identification card. Please welcome him or her.

On the back of this letter are answers to questions you may have about this survey. If you would like more information, please contact the following:

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
15350 SHERMAN WAY STE 400  
VAN NUYS CA 91406-4203  
Telephone: 1 (800) 992-3530**

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

**CE-803(L)(CO)  
(1-2017)**



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**U.S. Census Bureau**  
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**REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
6950 W JEFFERSON AVE STE 250  
DENVER CO 80235-2377  
Telephone: 1 (800) 852-6159**

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

**CE-803(L)(GA)  
(1-2017)**



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**REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
101 MARIETTA ST NW STE 3200  
ATLANTA GA 30303-2711  
Telephone: 1 (800) 424-6974**

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

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**REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
1111 W 22ND ST STE 400  
OAK BROOK IL 60523-1918  
Telephone: 1 (800) 865-6384**

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

**CE-803(L)(NY)  
(1-2017)**



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**REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
32 OLD SLIP 9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
NEW YORK NY 10005-3500  
Telephone: 1 (800) 991-2520**

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

**CE-803(L)(PA)  
(1-2017)**



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**U.S. Census Bureau**  
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**REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
US CENSUS BUREAU  
100 S INDEPENDENCE MALL W #410  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19106-2320  
Telephone: 1 (800) 262-4236**

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

## **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 Consumer Expenditure Survey 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 wages, pensions, and the cost of goods and services. In addition, people in your community and throughout the country use the survey results 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 record in a diary information about all the purchases you make. We will also ask the people who live in your household to record their purchases.

### **Why me? Why not interview someone else?**

Your address was selected, not you personally, as part of a scientifically determined sample. Your household represents hundreds of other households in your region. We need to talk with you because 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?**

We expect that it will take about 15 minutes to record your expenditures daily; in addition, it will take about 20 minutes for each of our visits over this two-week period.

### **Where can I find out more about the survey?**

You can learn more about the 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 [www.bls.gov/respondents/cex](http://www.bls.gov/respondents/cex).

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