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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. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you. We are conducting this survey under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, and Title 29, United States Code. Federal law protects your privacy and keeps your answers confidential (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 9 and 214). Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data.

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

Sincerely,

Steven D. Dillingham



[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

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

This survey could not be conducted without a valid OMB Control Number. The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it Control Number 1220-0050.