



To continue to produce high quality data, the BLS is looking to supplement traditional survey collection with modernized methods utilizing electronic data. We are looking at how the world is changing, and how our statistics must change to keep pace. The quality of BLS statistics is the direct result of the collected data. Our agency is seeking to integrate new technology and alternative data sources as part of a continuous process to increase data quality while reducing costs and respondent burden. While the CPI already includes prices for goods and services purchased in stores across the country, the BLS is exploring corporate data. This data can provide a much more robust and expansive perspective in understanding average price changes over time in the modern retail environment. Your voluntary cooperation is needed to make the results of this survey comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

What is Corporate Data?

Data that is based on sales and characteristic data which provides prices for items in specific categories for a specific period of time at specific store locations across the country. Item descriptions allow our analysts to match items to our CPI item structure.

Once the elements of the data submission are identified, this data can be generated using automated processes and transferred to BLS servers safely and securely.

What is the CPI?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of goods and services. The CPI is one of the most closely watched Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs) produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Some of the people who follow the CPI closely include landlords (to help them calculate changes in rental prices), Social Security recipients (to anticipate their next cost-of-living adjustment), and Wall Street financial institutions and traders (in order to determine potential moves of the stock and bond markets).

Example of Corporate Data

STORE NUMBER	DIVISION	CATEGORY	PRODUCT TYPE	ITEM TYPE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	ITEM NUMBER	TOTAL ITEMS SOLD	TRANSACTION PRICE	DATE
22	HOME LEISURE PRODUCTS	SPORTING GOODS	ELLIPTICALS & BIKES	EXERCISE BIKES	BRAND1 BLUETOOTH ENABLED RECUMBENT BIKE WITH HEARTRATE MONITOR	1234567	3	\$1,325.50	5/1/2020
237	WOMENS APPAREL	WOMEN'S ATHLETIC WEAR	JACKETS	RUNNING GEAR	BRAND2 MISSES COTTON PULLOVER HOODIE WITH NBA LOGO	1234568	1	\$1,011.15	5/1/2020
191	FOOTWEAR & HANDBAGS	HANDBAGS & WALLETS	JUNIORS HANDBAGS	TOTES	BRAND3 TRIPLE HANDLE 16"X40"X5" LEATHER TOTE	1234570	10	\$17.57	5/1/2020
467	WOMENS APPAREL	WOMEN'S CAREERWEAR	SWEATERS	SHRUG	BRAND4 OPEN ACRYLIC 3 QUARTER SLEEVE CARDIGAN	1234571	4	\$37.49	5/1/2020
87	HOME FURNISHINGS & HOUSEWARES	BATH	BATH TOWELS	HAND TOWELS	BRAND5 EGYPTIAN COTTON ZEBRA HAND TOWEL	1234572	10	\$37.03	5/1/2020

Timing of Data Transmission

The data can be sent once a month, or other agreed upon frequency. Data is needed by the 1st or 2nd of the following month in order to adhere to CPI production processing deadlines.

Back data transmitted as a one-time event greatly reduces the time spent on methodology research, and a minimum of two years of data is preferred. All data are carefully researched to ensure usability and maximum benefit.

Your Confidential Participation

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, its 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 (44 U.S.C. 3572) and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will not be disclosed in identifiable form without your informed consent. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, Federal information systems are protected from malicious activities through cybersecurity screening of transmitted data.

How Can I Get CPI Data?

Information is always available on the BLS-CPI homepage at www.bls.gov/cpi/home.htm. CPI data releases are generally issued between the 10th and 15th of the month, reporting the data for the previous month. Sign up for monthly news releases at <https://subscriptions.bls.gov/accounts/USDOLBLS/subscriber/new>





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Questions?

If you have any questions or comments regarding any aspect of the survey, you may contact:

Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes

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The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved this collection of information and has assigned 1220-0039 as the control number. Without OMB approval and this number, we would not be able to conduct this survey.

