

Dear <<RESPNAME>>:

«FRNAME», a Census Bureau Field Representative, has contacted your household to conduct an interview for the Consumer Expenditure Survey. **«FRNAME»** has indicated that an interview was unable to be completed. I hope that additional information regarding this survey will answer the questions you may have.

The information requested on this survey provides the basis for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This significant and timely indicator measures changes in the cost of living and its impact on the Nation's economy as reflected in the rate of inflation. By recording your household's expenditures over a two-week period, you will aid many monetary decisions made by the government, which affect each of us. Some examples include interest rates on savings, mortgages, and other loans; cost of living increases in wages; and Social Security and pension payments. I have enclosed a list of frequently asked questions on the Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Your address was scientifically selected along with others in your community as a part of a sample designed to represent approximately 14,000 other households. Without your participation, we cannot obtain this information from another address.

Although there are no penalties for failing to answer any questions in this voluntary survey, each unanswered question reduces the accuracy of the final results; however, you may decline to answer any particular question. The information you provide will be held strictly confidential, protected under the authority of Title 13, Section 8.b and Title 29, Section 2, United States Code. Data collected from this survey can be utilized only to provide statistical totals and will not be divulged to any other government agency (including the IRS).

I have asked **«FRNAME»** to call on you again within the next few days. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and your contribution is important to the success of the Consumer Expenditure Survey. If you have any questions about this survey, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Survey Manager at the **<<NAMEOFRO>>** Regional Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, at **<<SURVEYPHONE>>** extension **XX**.

Sincerely,

<<RD or RSM Name>>
U.S. Census Bureau
http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm
http://www.census.gov/privacy/

Enclosure