

<DATE>>

<<RESPNAME>>

<<ADDRESS>>

Dear <<RESPNAME>>:

Recently, one of our field representatives, <<FRNAME>>, visited you in connection with a survey on consumer expenditures, which the U.S. Census Bureau is conducting for the Bureau of Labor Statistics under the Authority of Title 29, Section 2, U.S. Code, and Title 13, Section 8b, U.S. Code. The following explanation of the Consumer Expenditure Survey is provided with the hope that a better understanding of the importance and benefits of the survey will gain your full cooperation.

Your participation in the Consumer Expenditure Survey is extremely important because:

- ✓ This survey is used for updating the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, an important indicator of the cost of living and a measure of inflation.
- ✓ Information from this survey helps employers develop adequate retirement and health care programs as well as determine wage scales for millions of workers.
- ✓ Increases in pensions are often linked directly to increases in the cost of living as measured by the CPI.
- ✓ Annual cost of living adjustments are the basis for many wage increases.

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.

All information provided in this survey will be kept confidential and will be seen only by sworn Census employees. Your help in giving this information will be a valuable contribution toward developing a Consumer Price Index for this geographical area.

Again, I hope this information has been helpful, and trust that you will agree to participate in this survey. Should you have any additional questions, you may contact field representative, <<FRNAME>>, at <<FRPHONE>>. If you prefer, you may call the Consumer Expenditure Survey at <<SURVEYPHONE>> extension **XX**, if you have any questions concerning this survey. We are grateful for your help.

Sincerely,

<<RD or RSM Name>>

U.S. Census Bureau

<http://www.bls.gov/cex/home.htm>

<http://www.census.gov/privacy/>