

Our Commitment

The first CE Survey was conducted in 1888. From the beginning, the Census Bureau has made protecting the confidentiality of your information our top priority. Today, the CE Survey is a national survey conducted by the Census Bureau for the BLS, collecting information from households that is used to help calculate the CPI. The CPI is the most important measure of how fast prices of goods and services are changing, and it directly affects wages and pensions.

The Census Bureau and the BLS are committed to protecting the privacy of each and every survey participant. Our excellent track record and commitment to confidentiality are important reasons why so many people are willing to take part in the survey. In turn, the data allows the CE Survey to provide representative and accurate information about the nation's spending.

Thank you for your participation!

For More Information

- The CE Survey, press releases, reports, and analytical papers are available at www.bls.gov/cex.
- Details on the Census Bureau's data protection and privacy program are available at www.census.gov/privacy.
- To learn how your information is used to help measure the nation's people, places, and economy, visit www.census.gov.
- For more information on Census Bureau products and services, call the National Customer Services Center at 1-800-923-8282, or visit <https://ask.census.gov/>.
- For more information on Census Bureau activities in your region, including contact information and a complete listing of the states or counties covered by each regional office, visit www.census.gov/regions.



Confidentiality and the Consumer Expenditure Surveys

How We Keep Your Private Information Safe



It's Safe

All Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and U.S. Census Bureau employees working on the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Survey are bound by strict laws and a solemn commitment to protect the confidential information we collect.

Your Protections

Title 13 of the U.S. Code ensures that all information collected by the Census Bureau is confidential and can only be used for statistical purposes.

Our Pledge

All BLS and Census Bureau employees working on the CE Survey take a lifetime oath that legally binds them to protect the confidentiality of your data. As specified in this written pledge, any unauthorized disclosure of your private information is punishable by law.

Our Penalties

The penalty for unlawful disclosure of information protected by Title 13 of the U.S. Code is a fine of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

It's Confidential

We pledge to keep your answers confidential. This commitment means you can provide honest answers to the CE Survey, knowing your answers will only be used in combination with thousands of others to paint a portrait of our country.

- We protect your identity and your private information from the time we collect the data and for decades after we publish the statistics.
- No court of law can subpoena your responses.
- Your data cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.
- We apply advanced statistical safeguards to protect your data, and it is against the law for us to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.



It's Important

By participating in the CE Survey, you help shape the economic future for yourself, your community, and the country.

Our Economy

Information from you and others around the country provide data on the current buying habits of American consumers, which is an important component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The CPI is used to adjust Social Security payments, calculate important cost-of-living wage adjustments, determine the cost of school lunches, and adjust federal income tax brackets and more.

Your Community

The data that you provide will be used by policymakers, researchers, and federal and state governments to ensure that policies and programs consider the experiences of people like you.