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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...

About three months ago, you completed an interview for the Consumer Expenditure Survey. We are contacting you again to request your ongoing help with this very important survey. Soon a field representative with official identification will contact you again for an interview.

Your responses help update the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI 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. Federal law authorizes the collection of this information (Titles 13 and 29 of the United States Code), and Sections 9 and 214 of Title 13 require us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential, and to use that information for statistical purposes only.

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

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 on-line) 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

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it  
Control Number 1220-0050.