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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...

Very soon a field representative will visit you again to conduct the final interview for your household for the Consumer Expenditure Survey. In this interview, as in previous ones, we will ask about your household expenditures during the past three months.

The Consumer Price Index 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 requires 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 and voluntary participation in this important survey. We appreciate your help.



[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

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 online) 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.