

**TPOPS-NCL
(2-2017)**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Resident:

We're sorry we missed you!

Recently, the U.S. Census Bureau tried contacting you to participate in the Telephone Point of Purchase Survey (TPOPS).

I am writing to encourage you to participate. The survey asks questions about purchases you have made and takes an average of 10 to 20 minutes to complete. Your participation is voluntary and you can choose to skip any questions you do not want to answer.

All information you provide will be confidential and used for statistical purposes only.

The TPOPS is used to update the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is a leading indicator of how quickly prices are changing for goods and services in the United States. Information from you and people like you is critical for updating the index. The CPI affects millions of Americans and has a direct impact on:

- Cost-of-living increases for Social Security (COLI)
- Private wage contracts
- Pensions

The U.S. Census Bureau will try contacting you again over the next few weeks, and we hope that you will participate. If you have any questions or would like to participate in the survey at your convenience, **do not hesitate to call us directly** at the toll-free number: 1-800-681-3012. We are available to assist you seven days a week between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m. Eastern Time.

Answers to frequently asked questions are on the back, and more information can be found at the survey's website: www.bls.gov/tpops/.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

John H. Thompson
Director
U.S. Census Bureau



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the Census Bureau calling me? I thought they only operated every ten years.

In addition to the decennial census, we collect data on a monthly basis. We collect these data to provide up-to-date information on topics such as unemployment, spending, family income, housing, manufacturing, and business activities to track the country's economy.

What is this survey about?

The Telephone Point of Purchase Survey (TPOPS) provides information on the stores and businesses where people shop and on the products they buy. This information updates the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the "cost of living index."

How will the information be used?

In order for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to update the CPI, it is necessary to maintain an up-to-date list of the stores and businesses where people shop. The U.S. Census Bureau conducts TPOPS to provide statistical data needed to update this list. Your voluntary response is essential for ensuring that this survey's results are complete and accurate.

Why was I selected? Why not interview someone else?

Through a scientific sampling process, a phone number associated with your household was selected randomly from a list of phone numbers. We did not select you personally. Your household represents hundreds of other households in your region, so your participation in the survey is important.

What confidentiality protection do I have?

The confidentiality of the information you provide is assured to the full extent permitted by law in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, and the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (Title 5 of Public Law 107-347). The information you provide will only be used for statistical purposes.

What laws authorize you to conduct this survey?

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and assigned it Control Number 1220-0044. Title 29, Section 2 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) authorizes the BLS to conduct household studies. Title 13, Section 8 of the U.S.C. authorizes the Census Bureau to conduct surveys for other federal agencies.

How long does the interview take?

You will be interviewed once a quarter for eight quarters; the typical interview lasts between 10 and 20 minutes.

If you have any comments regarding the burden estimates or any other aspect of this survey, including suggestions for reducing this burden, please send them to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Price Index, Room 3615, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20212. Additional contact information can be found at www.bls.gov/tpops/.