

# COLLECTION IN THE TIME OF CORONA

## Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19

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UNECE – Data Collection and the Impact, Challenges and Opportunities  
of the COVID-19 Pandemic

**October 6, 2020**



# Office of Field Operations

## Consumer Price Index

Two surveys

- Commodities and Services (C&S)
- Housing

Headquarters in  
Washington, DC

6  
Regional  
Offices

80  
Full Time  
Economists

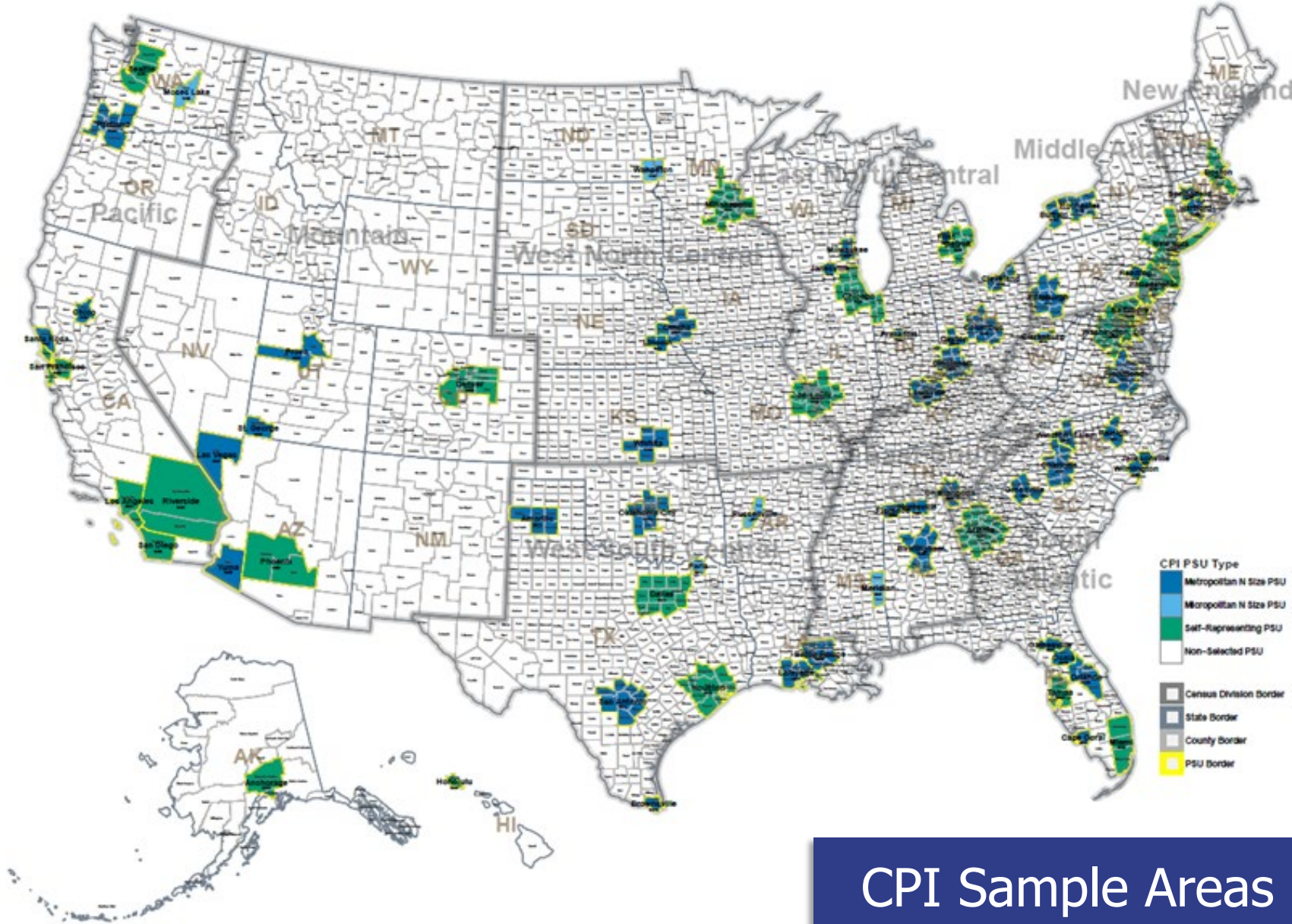
420  
Economic  
Assistants

# Office of Field Operations

## Consumer Price Index

### Equipment Used for Data Collection

- Surface Pro
- iPhone



# CPI Data Collection

Conducted Coronavirus Pandemic Tabletop Exercise to assess BLS's readiness



Ceased all personal-visit data collection on March 16<sup>th</sup>



Maximized use of internet, telephone, and email

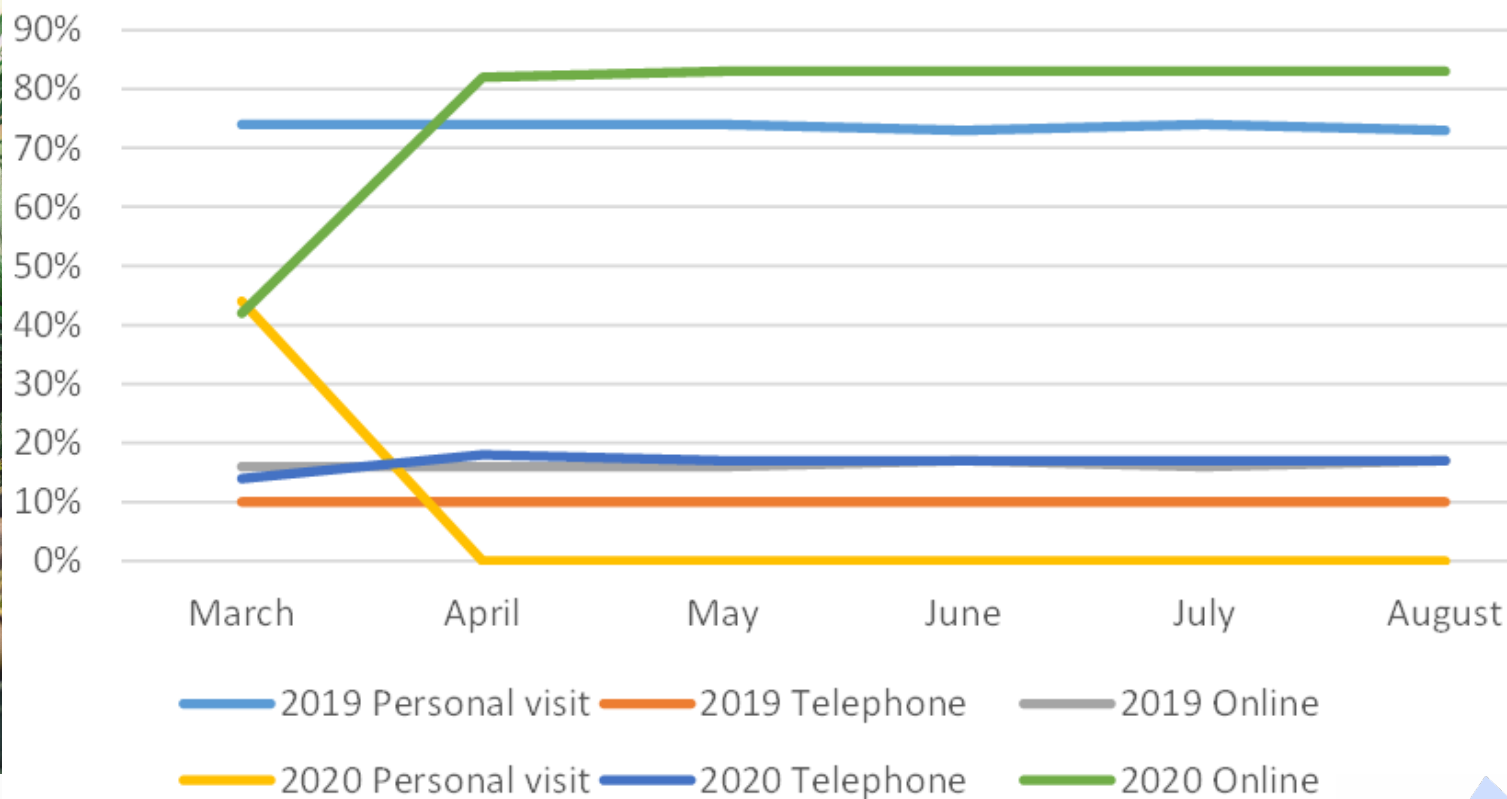


Developed modified data collection procedures



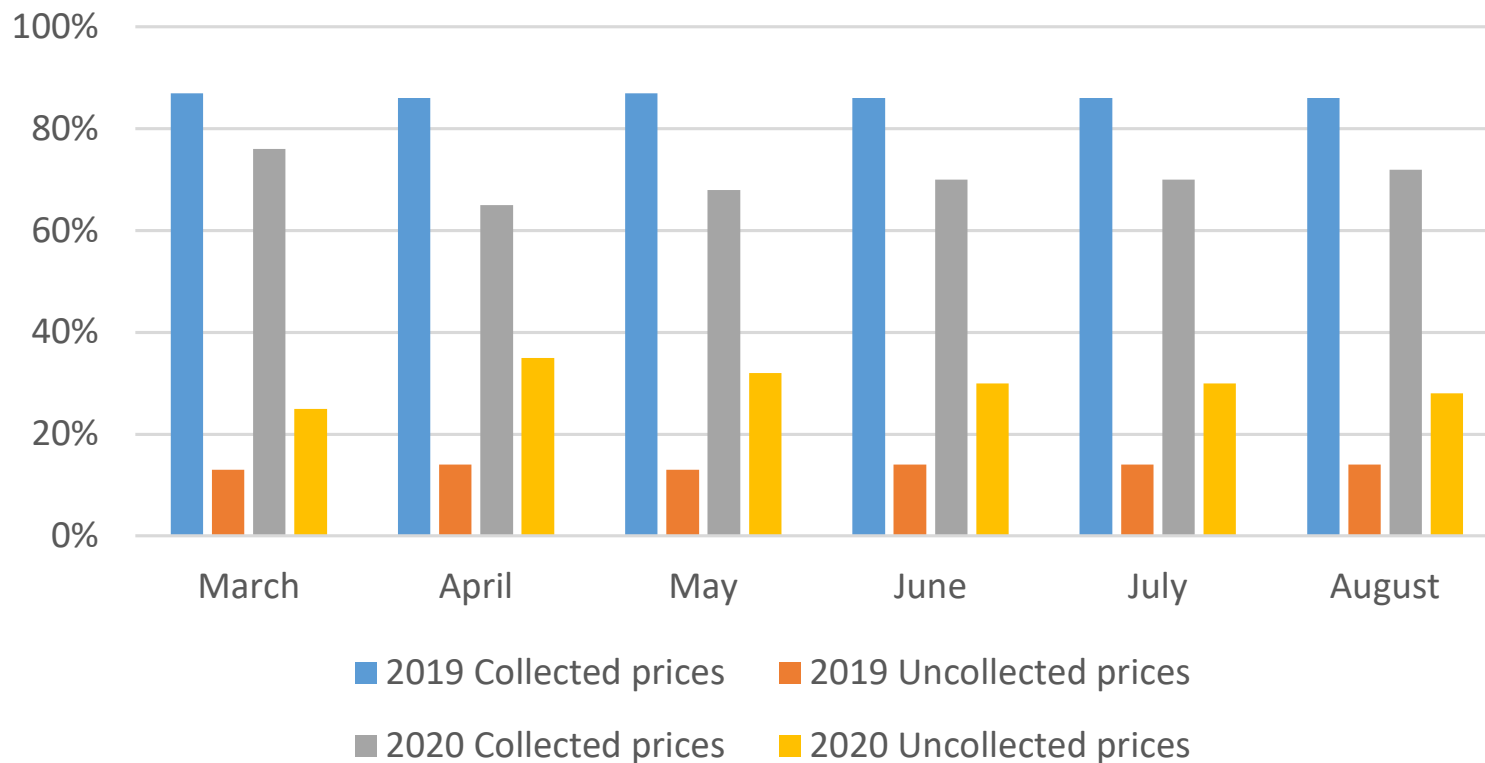
# C&S Survey Data Collection

## Collection Mode: C&S Survey



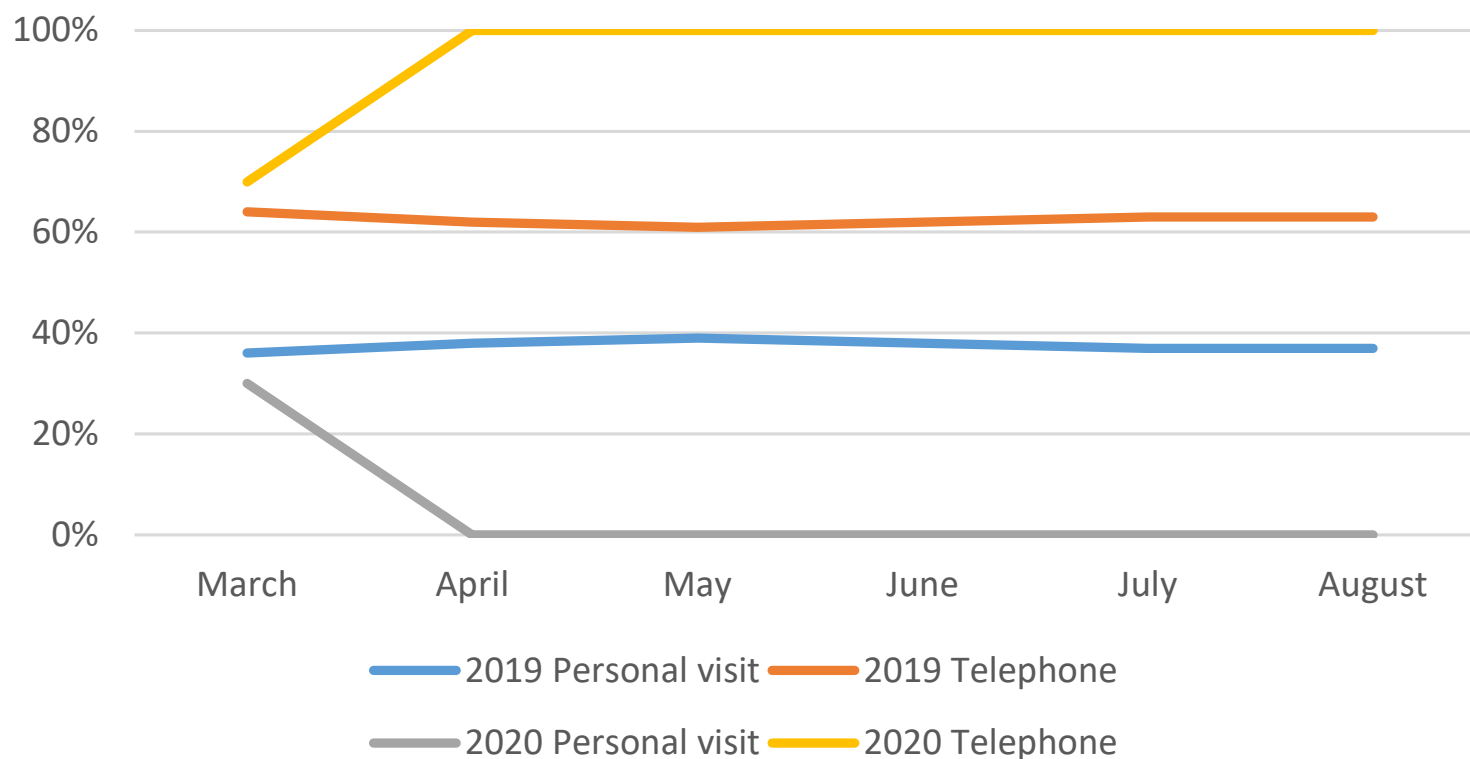
# C&S Survey Data Collection

## Response Rates: C&S Survey



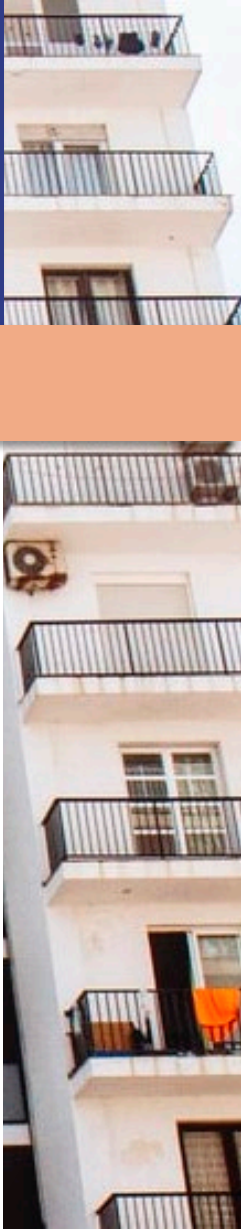
# Housing Survey Data Collection

## Collection Mode: Housing Survey

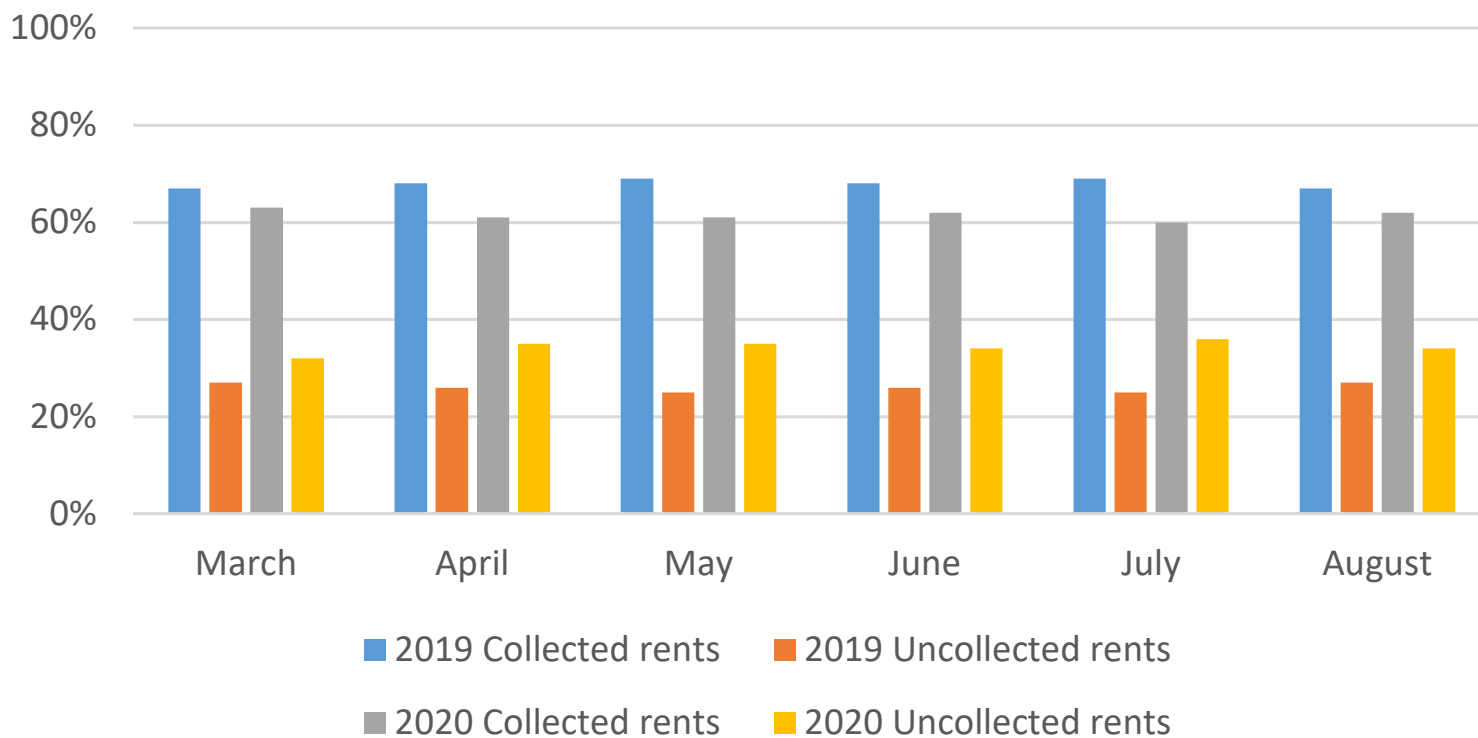




# Housing Survey Data Collection



## Response Rates: Housing Survey

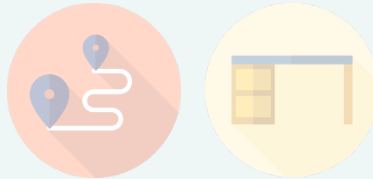


# Training CPI Data Collectors

Pre-Course Study  
Once



Classroom Training  
Once



On-The-Job  
Training Once



Independent  
Collection & Review



Modular Rounds of Integrated Remote Learning



Continued  
Independent  
Collection & Review



# New Training Approach: Benefits

New hires can start collecting for the C&S survey

Training scheduled on a more frequent and flexible basis

New hires progressively build skills over time

Cost savings

# Data Quality



Developed new productivity measures



Created a dashboard and ad hoc reports to monitor production



Instituted additional data quality activities to assess impact and compliance to new data collection procedures



Used video collaboration tools to conduct quality assurance activities

# Contact Information

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