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

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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 Sample Areas
CPI Data Collection

Conducted Coronavirus Pandemic Tabletop Exercise to assess BLS’s readiness

- Ceased all personal-visit data collection on March 16th
- Maximized use of internet, telephone, and email
- Developed modified data collection procedures
C&S Survey Data Collection

Collection Mode: C&S Survey

- 2019 Personal visit
- 2019 Telephone
- 2019 Online
- 2020 Personal visit
- 2020 Telephone
- 2020 Online

March April May June July August
C&S Survey Data Collection

Response Rates: C&S Survey

Housing Survey Data Collection

Collection Mode: Housing Survey

- **2019 Personal visit**
- **2019 Telephone**
- **2020 Personal visit**
- **2020 Telephone**

March April May June July August

- **2019 Personal visit**
- **2019 Telephone**
- **2020 Personal visit**
- **2020 Telephone**
Housing Survey Data Collection

Response Rates: Housing Survey

- March 2019 Collected rents
- April 2019 Uncollected rents
- May 2020 Collected rents
- June 2019 Uncollected rents
- July 2020 Collected rents
- August 2020 Uncollected rents
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
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