APPENDIX A

Survey Response Rate Graphs and Descriptions by Agency

This appendix for the report, "Survey Response Rates and the Health of Federal Statistics," presents response rate graphs for the federal surveys in the ASA Response Rates Online Resource, organized by statistical agency. Table A-1 lists each survey with its respondent unit and current sample size (may be original or interviewed), how often it is published, and when it began. Each agency section graphs one response rate series per survey where a time series is available—the metric closest to an unconditional unit response rate; rates for the remaining surveys appear in tables or in the Online Resource. See "Reading These Graphs" below.

Reading These Graphs

- All axes run 0–100%--nothing is truncated, so the visual size of a change matches its real size.
- Every survey is plotted on a single metric—the one closest to a true unconditional response rate (the base rate, not conditioned on an earlier stage having already succeeded). Where the Online Resource publishes several definitions for the same survey, that choice is noted in the relevant section.
- Six of BLS's establishment surveys are plotted on the "Overall Unit Response Rate." BLS's establishment surveys report monthly or quarterly; response rates shown are calendar-year averages, so single-month events are smoothed out.
- Dotted connectors mark documented gaps in a published series (ARMS Phase III 2007–2012, shown under ERS; Hogs and Pigs 2014–2015 and Cattle on Feed 2013–2017, shown under NASS), so they do not read as measured data. Surveys with intentionally sparse cadences (e.g., SPI's roughly decade-apart prisoner survey rounds, NPSAS's multiyear cycles, and the five-year CFS waves) are connected by solid lines between their observations.
- SSV (BJS) is a facility survey (individuals are not interviewed), so its response rate has a single stage. It reports six parallel facility-type response rates; the line shown is an unweighted average across all six.
- Two one-off releases are excluded from their lines as duplicates of a regular cycle: NHANES's COVID-interrupted "2017–2020" combined file and RECS's 2015 National Pilot test.
- Census Bureau business and construction surveys (MWTS, QFR, SOC, VIP) have only a single current-cycle value in the Online Resource and are shown in Table A-2 rather than graphed.
- The NPSAS (NCES) 2020 overall rate is derived from its two published stages, and the NCES PSS rates for 2005–2006 through 2015–2016 are calculated from unweighted interview and non-interview counts.
- The EIA petroleum and natural gas surveys are shown in Tables A-3 and A-4 rather than graphed.
- Full citations for every figure are recorded in the Online Resource and are not repeated here.

SOURCE: ASA Response Rates Online Resource.

Coverage differs across surveys and agencies—the Online Resource does not yet have the full history of most surveys, and agencies define and label response rates in different ways (see Box 2 in the report and the README sheet of the Online Resource), so comparisons across surveys are approximate. The Online Resource is a work in progress; readers with additional response rate series, corrections, or surveys to suggest are invited to contact Steve Pierson at ASA: spierson@amstat.org.

TABLE A-1. Surveys Included in the ASA Response Rates Online Resource, by Statistical Agency

Survey	Respondent Unit and Sample Size	Publication Frequency	Began
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)			
Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ)	Jail facilities (one-third sample; a census in census years)	Annual	1982-2024; an annual census as of 2025
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS)	State, county, and local law enforcement agencies (census of agencies with 100+ officers; sample of rest)	Periodic (latest 2020)	1987
National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)	Households (~150,000) and adults	Annual	1973
Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI)	Incarcerated persons 18 and older (~37,000) in state and federal prisons (facility first stage)	Periodic (latest 2016)	1974 (state); 1991 (federal)
Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV)	Juvenile and adult prison and jail facilities	Annual	2004
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)			
Consumer Expenditure Survey–Interview (CE-Interview)	Households (~20,000)	Every six months (households are interviewed quarterly)	1980 as a continuous survey (periodic back to 1917–1919)
Consumer Price Index–Commodities and Services (CPI-C&S)	Price quotes (~38,000)	Monthly	1913
Current Employment Statistics (CES)	Establishments (631,000)	Monthly	1915
Employment Cost Index (ECI)	Establishments (16,400)	Quarterly	1976
International Price Program–Exports (IPP-Exports)	Price quotes (5,400)	Monthly	1971
International Price Program–Imports (IPP-Imports)	Price quotes (9,175)	Monthly	1971
Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)	Establishments (21,000)	Monthly	2000
Producer Price Index (PPI)*	Establishments (25,000)	Monthly	1902
* The repricing/collection rate that is tracked for the PPI in the Online Resource is not comparable to the other surveys' response rates, so it is not graphed in this appendix.			

Survey	Respondent Unit and Sample Size	Publication Frequency	Began
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)			
Annual Tank Car Facility Survey (ATCFS)	Facilities (~140)	Annual	2018
Commodity Flow Survey (CFS, mandatory) (joint with Census Bureau)	Establishments (165,000)	Every 5 years	1993
National Census of Ferry Operators (NCFO)	Ferry operators (~260)	Every 2 years	2000
Census Bureau			
American Community Survey (ACS, mandatory)	Households (3.5 million addresses per year)	Annual (compilation of monthly samples)	2005 (predecessor national samples, 2000–2004)
Current Population Survey (CPS) (sponsored by BLS)	Households (60,000)	Monthly	1940
CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS-ASEC)	Households (70,000)	Annual	1945
Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS)	Wholesale firms (~4,200)	Monthly	1939
Quarterly Financial Report (QFR, mandatory)	Companies (~8,500)	Quarterly	1947
Survey of Construction (SOC)	Permits (sampled from ~1,000 permit-issuing jurisdictions)	Monthly	1959 for housing starts, 1963 for new home sales, 1968 for completions
Value of Construction Put in Place Survey (VIP)	Construction projects	Monthly	1964
Economic Research Service (ERS)			
Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) (joint with NASS, Phase III)	Farm and ranch operators (~30,000)	Annual	1975
CPS Food Security Supplement (CPS-FSS)	Households (~50,000)	Annual	1995 (discontinued 2025)
Energy Information Administration (EIA)*			
Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS)	Commercial buildings (~26,000)	Periodic (2018 most recent)	1979
Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS)	Households (~18,500)	Periodic (2024 most recent)	1978

* EIA also conducts mandatory censuses and surveys on petroleum, natural gas, and electricity. Response rates for the first two categories are included in the EIA section below and in the EIA tab of the ASA Online Resource.

Survey	Respondent Unit and Sample Size	Publication Frequency	Began
National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)			
Cattle on Feed Survey	Feedlot operators (~2,000 with 1,000+ head capacity)	Monthly	1949
December Agricultural Survey	Farm operators	Annual	1960s
Grain Stocks Survey	Off-farm grain handlers (~3,200)	Quarterly	1940s
Hogs and Pigs Survey	Hog producers (~7,500)	Quarterly	1940s
National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)			
National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)	Higher education institutions and students	Periodic	1987
National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS)	K-12 public, private, and charter schools, principals, and teachers (sampled within schools)	Periodic (latest 2020–2021)	2015–2016 (successor to the Schools and Staffing Survey, 1987–2011)
Private School Universe Survey (PSS)	Private K-12 schools	Every 2 years	1989
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)			
National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS)*	Physicians and other health care providers in office settings (~3,000 providers) and community health care centers (~100); records abstracted for 30 patient visits per provider	Annual 1973–1981; 1985; annual since 1989	1973
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)	Individuals in households	Every 2 years (continuous since 1999)	1971
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)	Households (67,000 sampled), one adult and one child (answers provided by an adult) per household	Annual (interviewing is continuous)	1957
National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS)–Emergency Departments*	Ambulatory care in hospital emergency departments (~450 hospitals sampled annually of which 80% have EDs; survey also covers outpatient departments and ambulatory surgery facilities, outpatient and free-standing)	Annual (data collected from electronic records for patient visits)	1992
National Hospital Discharge Survey*	Hospitals (~400 annually until 2007; then ~225 hospitals);	Annual	1965–2010 (discontinued and absorbed into new

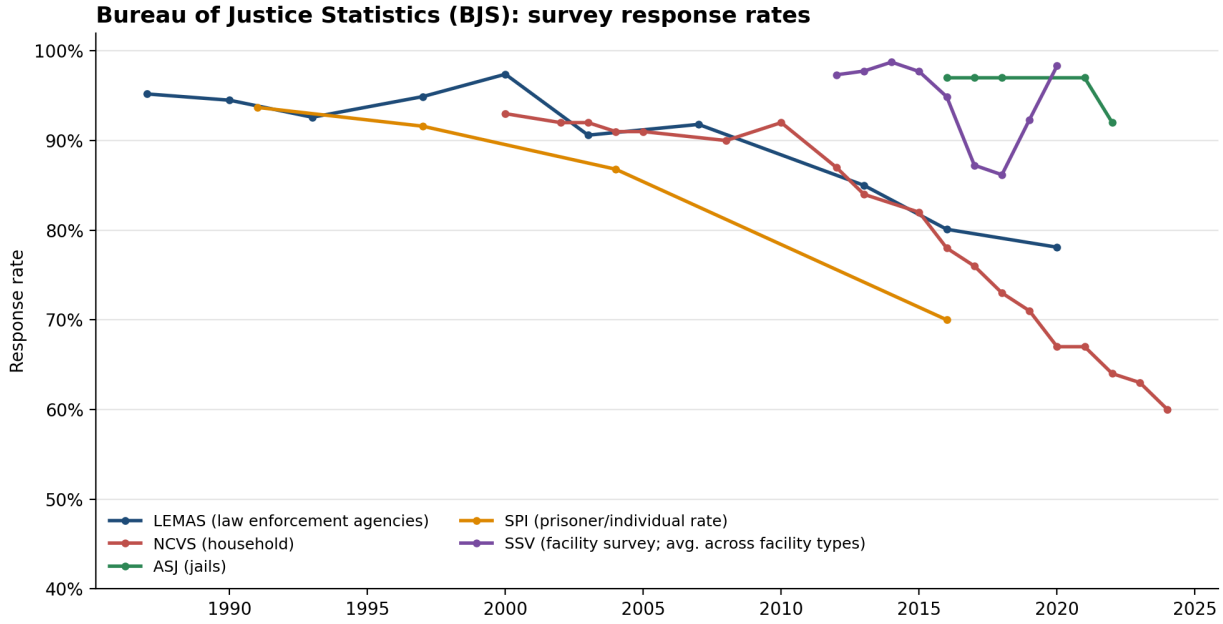
Survey	Respondent Unit and Sample Size	Publication Frequency	Began
	characteristics of discharged patients		National Hospital Care Survey)
National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)	Individuals (men and women ages 15–49; ~10,000)	Periodic through 2002; continuous interviewing since 2006, but two or more years are cumulated for estimates; latest cycle: 2022–2023	1973
* The response rates for these surveys were obtained during the late production stages of this Appendix and so are not graphed in the NCHS section below. They are included in the NCHS tab of the ASA Online Resource.			
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)			
Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey (BERD, mandatory) (joint with the Census Bureau)	Companies (46,000, including 21,000 with known R&D activity)	Annual	1953 (BERD is being combined with the Annual Business Survey, which is co-sponsored by NCSES and the Census Bureau)
Higher Education Research and Development Survey (HERD)	Academic institutions (925 reporting at least $150,000 in R&D expenditures in prior year)	Annual	2010 (replaced the Academic R&D Expenditures Survey, FY1972–FY2009)
National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG)	Individuals (161,000)	Periodic (every 2 years in recent cycles)	1993 (predecessors go back to the 1970s; NSCG is planned to be integrated, along with the Survey of Doctorate Recipients, into the National Training, Education, and Workforce Survey (NTEWS), co-sponsored by NCSES and NCES)
Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED)	Individuals (new doctorate recipients) (~59,000)	Annual	1957

NOTES: Frequency refers to how often estimates from the survey are published, which is not always the same as the frequency of data collection. "Began" includes predecessor surveys; the Online Resource does not yet have response rates for the full length of most surveys. The Census Bureau fields many of the surveys listed for other agencies.
SOURCE: ASA Response Rates Online Resource; agency web sites.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

Establishment Surveys (Prison and Jail Facilities and Law Enforcement Agencies):
Annual Survey of Jails (ASJ)
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS)
Survey of Sexual Victimization (SSV)

Household and Person Surveys:
National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
Survey of Prison Inmates (SPI)



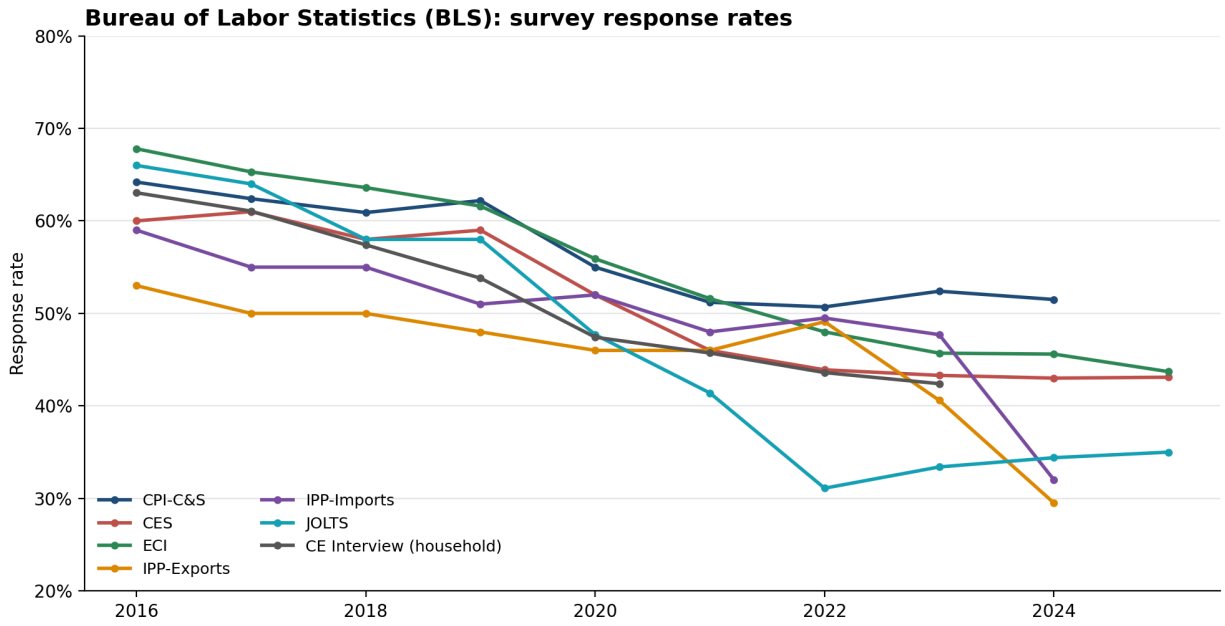
NOTES: The ASA Response Rates Online Resource does not have a full time series except for the NCVS. LEMAS covers law enforcement agencies, and ASJ covers jails. ASJ was discontinued as a survey in favor of an annual Census of Jails. For SPI, the graph shows the prisoner (individual) response rate; the first-stage facility rate is also in the Online Resource. SSV is a facility survey (single stage); the graphed response rates are the unweighted average across six facility types.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment and Price Surveys:
Consumer Price Index–Commodities and Services (CPI-C&S)
Current Employment Statistics (CES)
Employment Cost Index (ECI)
International Price Program–Exports (IPP-Exports)
International Price Program–Imports (IPP-Imports)
Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS)

*Household Survey:**
Consumer Expenditure Survey–Interview (CE-Interview)

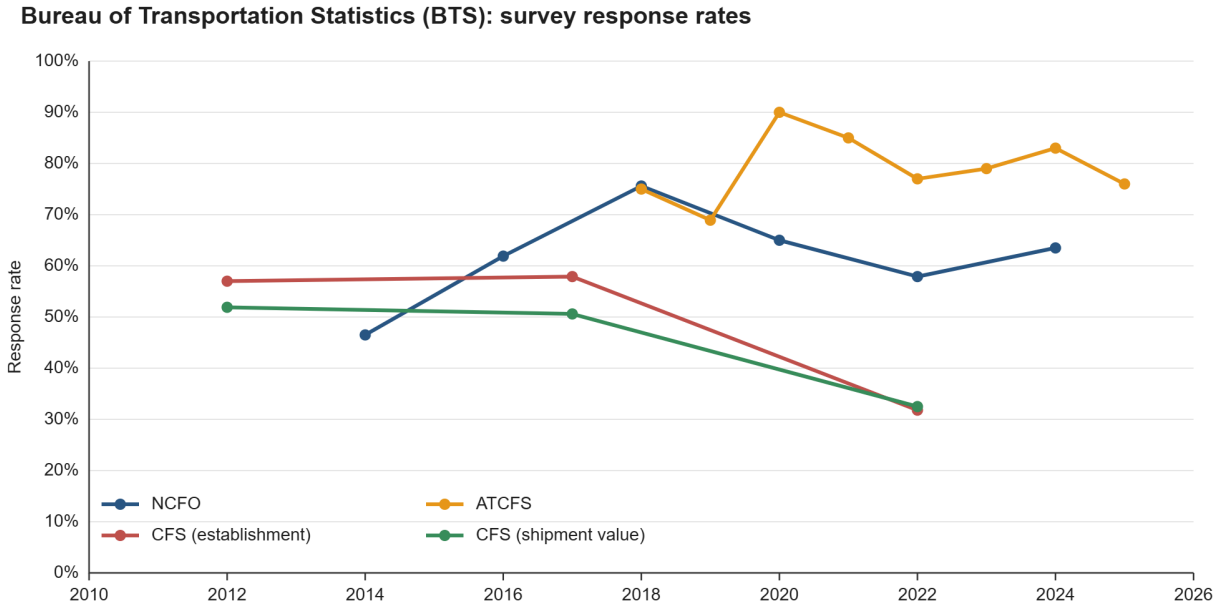
* The monthly Current Population Survey is a joint project of BLS and the Census Bureau; its response rates are shown in the Census Bureau section of this Appendix.



NOTES: Response rates shown are "overall unit response rates" for business and pricing surveys; household response rates are shown for the CE–Interview. The BLS Producer Price Index (PPI) is tracked in the Online Resource on a repricing/collection rate that is not comparable to the other surveys' response rates and so is not graphed here.

Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)

Establishment Surveys:
Annual Tank Car Facility Survey (ATCFS)
Commodity Flow Survey (CFS, mandatory) (joint with Census Bureau)
National Census of Ferry Operators (NCFO)

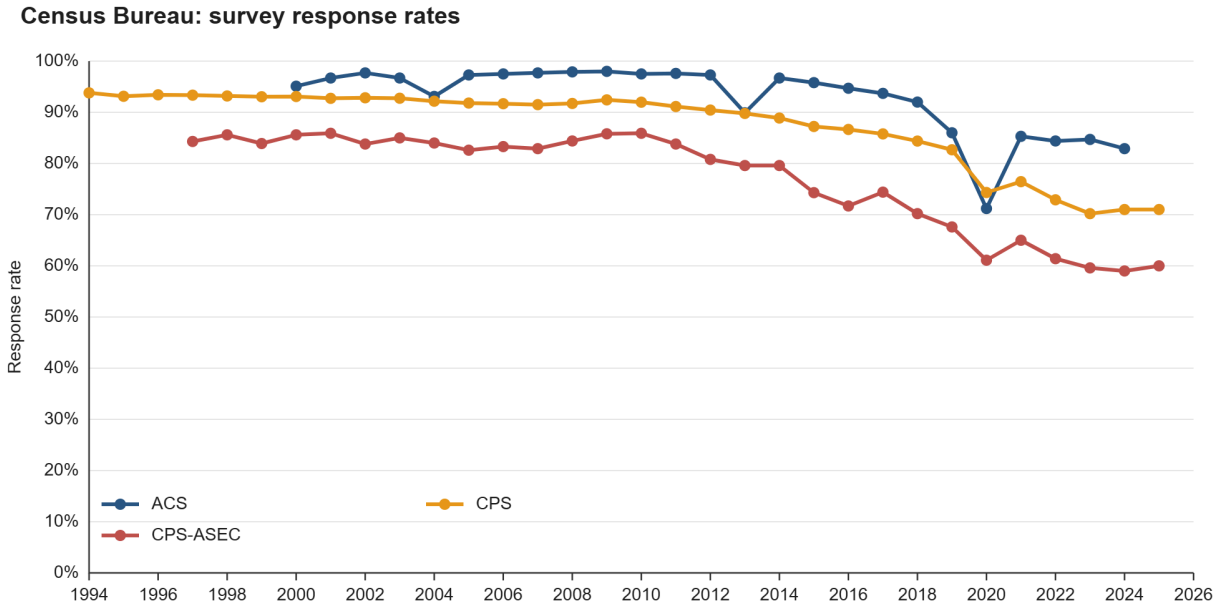


NOTES: NCFO is conducted every two years; CFS response rates are shown at the establishment level and the shipment-item (value-basis) level, for 2012, 2017, and 2022.

Census Bureau

Household Surveys:
American Community Survey (ACS, mandatory)
Current Population Survey (CPS) (sponsored by BLS)
CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS–ASEC)

Business Surveys (only snapshots of current response rates are available at present):
Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS)
Quarterly Financial Report (QFR, mandatory)
Survey of Construction (SOC)
Value of Construction Put in Place Survey (VIP)



NOTES: CPS response rates are annual averages of monthly rates; CPS–ASEC response rates are unweighted and unconditional. The Census business and construction surveys (MWTS, QFR, SOC, VIP) response rates are single-period snapshots and are not graphed. In the snapshot table below, a unit response rate is the share of eligible sampled units that responded, and a total quantity response rate is the share of the reported quantity (e.g., sales) covered by responding units. Some rates are shown at whole-percent precision, as published.

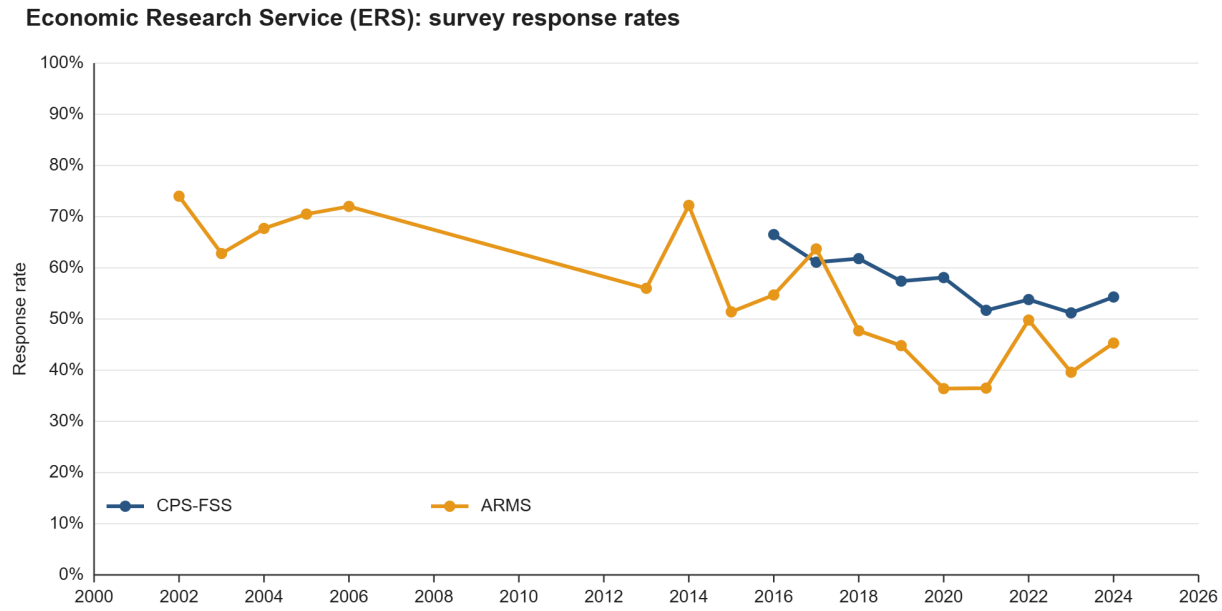
TABLE A-2. Census Business and Construction Surveys—Current-Cycle Snapshots

Survey (2026 Cycle)	Measure	Response Rate
MWTS	Unit response rate	54.8%
MWTS	Total quantity response rate (sales)	61.5%
QFR—Manufacturing	Unit response rate	56.4%
QFR—Manufacturing	Total quantity response rate (net sales)	87.5%
QFR—Mining	Unit response rate	64.4%
QFR—Mining	Total quantity response rate (net sales)	89.8%
QFR—Wholesale trade	Unit response rate	58.3%
QFR—Wholesale trade	Total quantity response rate (net sales)	85.5%
QFR—Retail trade	Unit response rate	49.7%
QFR—Retail trade	Total quantity response rate (net sales)	87.3%
VIP—Private nonresidential	Unit response rate	17.9%
VIP—State/local public	Unit response rate	56.2%
VIP—Private multifamily	Unit response rate	11.1%
VIP—Residential improvements	Unit response rate	58%
VIP—Federal	Unit response rate	52%
SOC—Most single-family characteristics	Item response rate (no unit rate published)	92%
SOC—Multifamily characteristics	Item response rate (no unit rate published)	91%
SOC—Sales price	Item response rate (no unit rate published)	65%
SOC—Contract price / financing / lot size	Item response rate (no unit rate published)	69%
SOC—Key dates (start, completion, sale)	Item response rate (no unit rate published)	94%

Economic Research Service (ERS)

Establishment Survey (Farms and Ranches):
Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS) (joint with NASS), Phase III

Household Survey:
CPS Food Security Supplement (CPS–FSS) (discontinued in 2025)



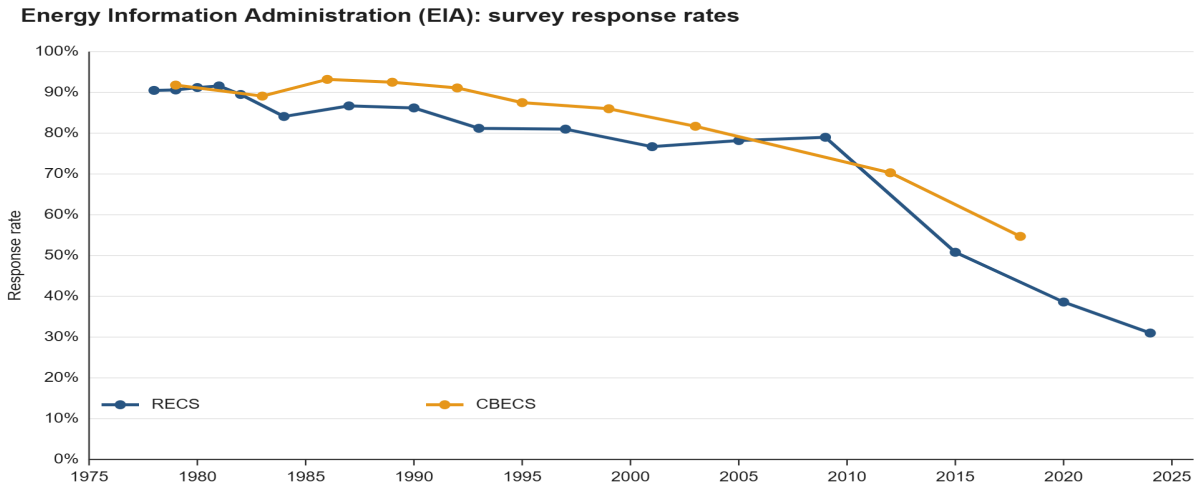
NOTES: CPS-FSS response rates shown are the unconditional rates (FSS completion rate x December CPS response rate). ARMS has a gap for 2007–2012, and a line joins the 2006 and 2013 observations.

Energy Information Administration (EIA)

Household Survey:
Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS)

Building Survey:
Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS)

Establishment Surveys:
During late production stages of this Appendix, we obtained response rates for a portfolio of mandatory censuses and surveys on petroleum and natural gas that are included here and in the EIA tab of the ASA Online Resource. EIA also conducts approximately 12 mandatory electricity censuses and surveys, covering hourly, daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual data collections. According to EIA, unweighted response rates for most of these collections are in the upper 90% range. For additional details, see Supporting Statement B for OMB No. 1905-0129.



NOTES: CBECS and RECS are periodic surveys; points are joined by lines. RECS moved from interviewer-administered to self-administered modes beginning in 2015.

TABLE A-3. Averaged Response Rates for EIA Weekly Petroleum Supply Surveys, Selected Years

Year	EIA-800 Weekly Refinery	EIA-802 Weekly Product Pipeline	EIA-803 Weekly Crude Oil Stocks	EIA-804 Weekly Imports	EIA-805 Weekly Bulk Terminal	EIA-809 Weekly Oxygenate
2009	>97%	>97%	>97%	>97%	>97%	>97%
2018	98%	100%	100%	98%	99%	100%
2021	99%	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%
2024	100%	98%	98%	100%	100%	100%

NOTES: These mandatory weekly surveys are samples drawn by the cut-off method from the corresponding monthly censuses (EIA-810, -812, -813, -814, -815, -819). Rates are average annual response rates. For 2009 (and 2010, 2012–2013, and 2016, not shown), EIA reported only that response to the weekly surveys averaged above 97%.
SOURCE: ASA Response Rates Online Resource, EIA tab.

TABLE A-4. Averaged Response Rates for EIA Natural Gas Censuses and Surveys, Selected Years

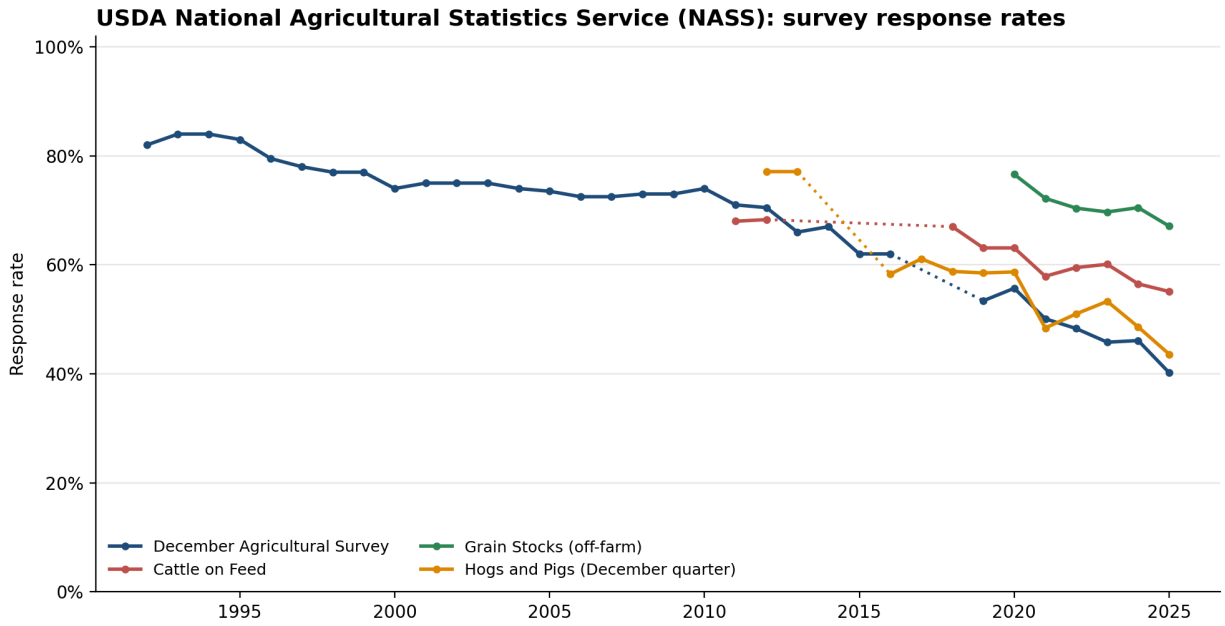
Year	EIA-912 Weekly Storage	EIA-857 Monthly Purchases and Deliveries	EIA-910 Monthly Marketer	EIA-191 Monthly Storage	EIA-176 Annual Supply and Disposition	EIA-757 Processing Plant (triennial)
2011	97–100%†	~98%†	—	—	—	—
2016	>99%	99%	100%	97%	98%	100%**
2018	>99%	>99%	>99%	>99%	96%	94%**
2022	>99%	98%	>99%	>99%	98%	—

NOTES: Rates are as reported by EIA in its OMB Paperwork Reduction Act supporting statements (Part B, Table 1, "Response rates for 2016" and "Response rates for 2018;" the text accompanying the 2018 table refers to 2019). All of these surveys and censuses are mandatory.
†The EIA report documentation (Supporting Statement Pt B.pdf) states, "Weekly response to the EIA-912 is generally 97 to 100%." For EIA-857 it states, "Initial response statistics on a monthly basis for recent months show that approximately 98% of responses are received and processed by the date the aggregate data tables for the *Natural Gas Monthly* are first released for publication."
**The EIA-757 rates shown refer to the collections last activated in 2015 and 2018. The 2022 rates are unweighted annual averages from ICR 202404-1905-001 (Part B, Table 1).
SOURCE: ASA Response Rates Online Resource, EIA tab.

National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)*

Establishment Surveys:
Cattle on Feed Survey
December Agricultural Survey
Grain Stocks Survey
Hogs and Pigs Survey

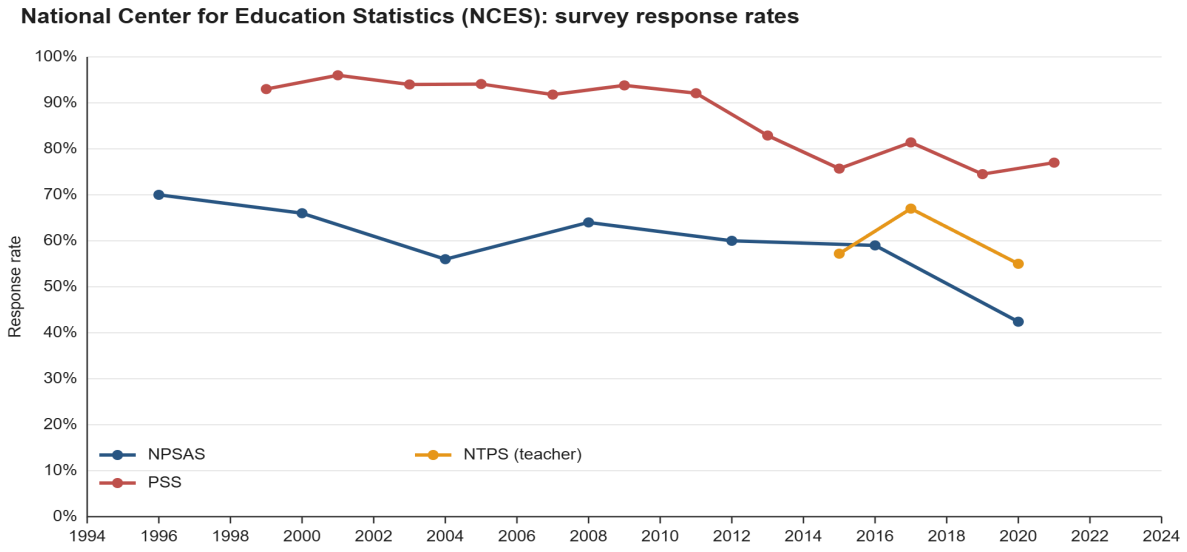
*See ERS for the response rates for the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), which NASS conducts jointly with ERS.



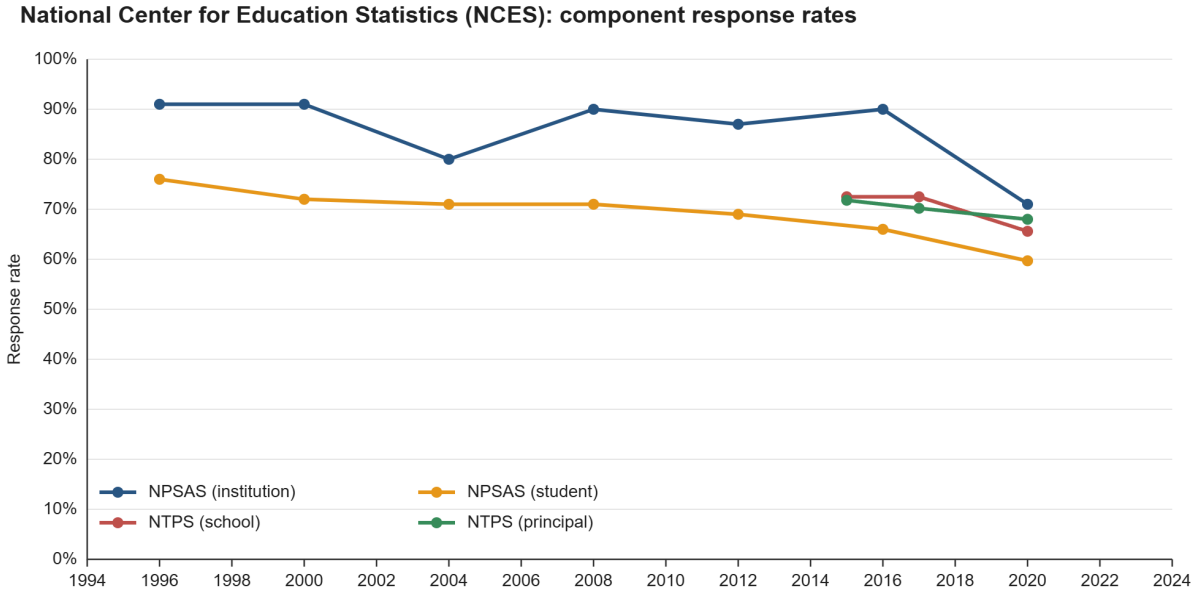
NOTES: Dotted connectors mark documented gaps in a published series (Hogs and Pigs 2014–2015; Cattle on Feed 2013–2017).

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Institution- and School-Based Surveys:
National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS)
National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS)
Private School Universe Survey (PSS)



NOTES: NPSAS response rates are overall unconditional rates for students (institution x student); NTPS response rates are overall unconditional rates for public school teachers; PSS response rates are unweighted unit rates.

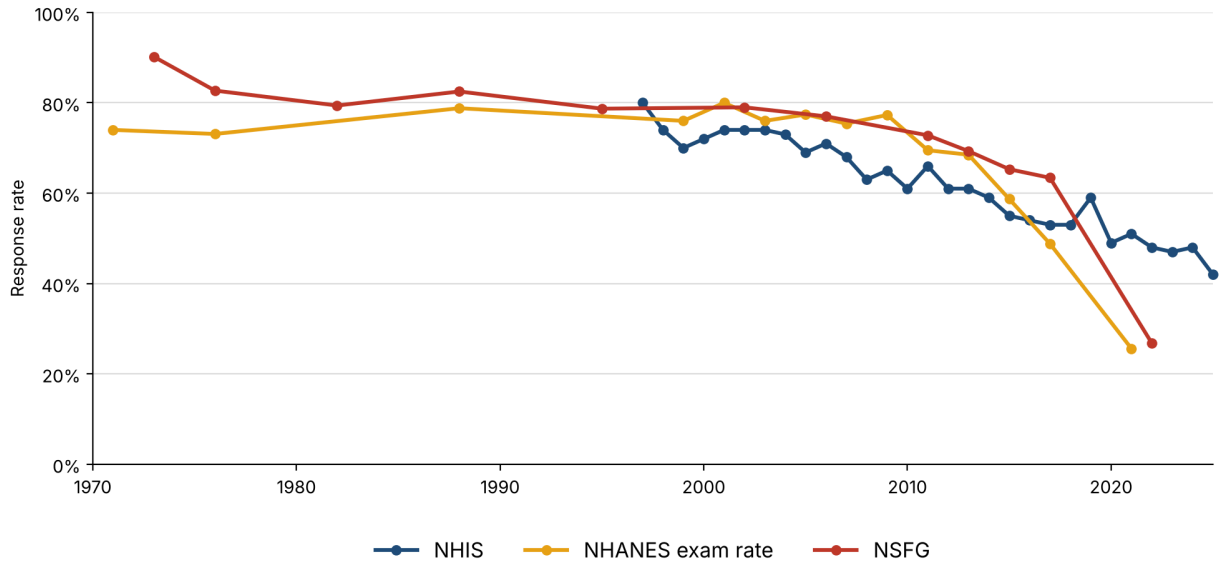


NOTES: Component response rates shown: NPSAS institution-level and student-interview rates; NTPS public school and principal rates.

National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)

Household Surveys:
National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES)
National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG)

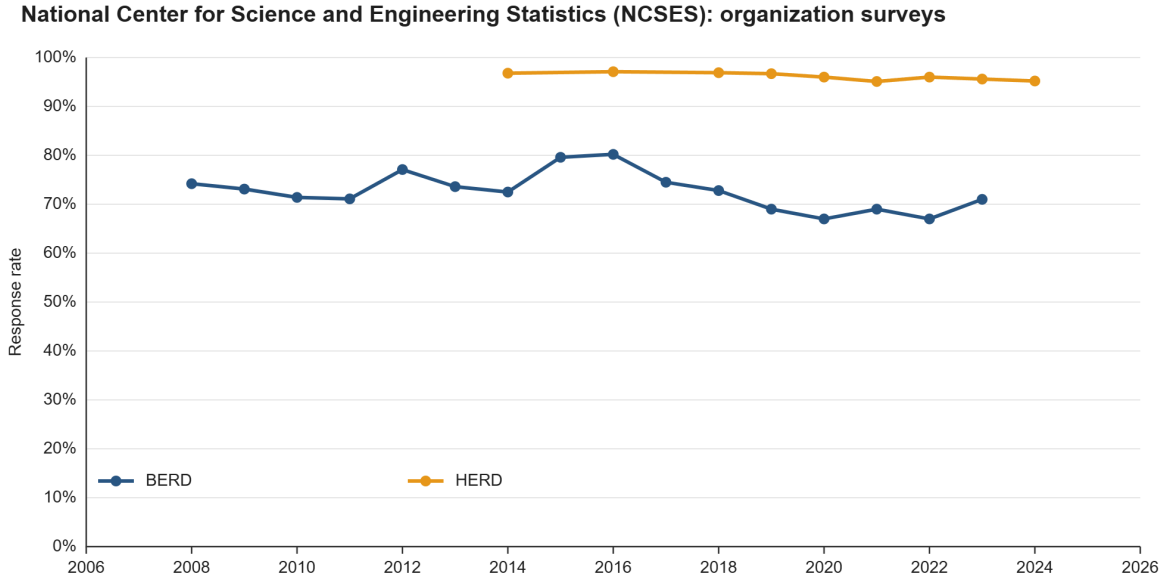
National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS): survey response rates



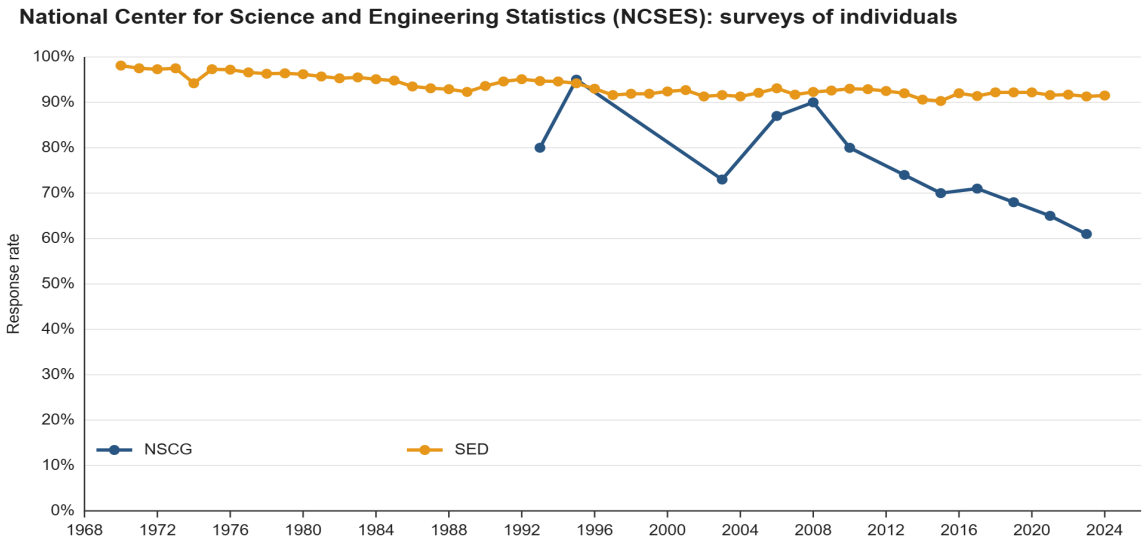
NOTES: NHIS response rates are unconditional rates for sample adults (different questionnaire designs were used in 1997–2018 and 2019–2025, and the calculation of the unconditional sample adult rate differs by design); NHANES response rates are unconditional rates for agreeing to be examined (accounting for the screener, interview, and exam response rates) (collected continuously since 1999 with data combined for 2- or 3-year cycles and response rates calculated for the combined period); NSFG response rates are plotted at cycle midpoints (collected continuously since 2006 with data combined for multiple years for release and response rates calculated for the combined period; NCHS attributes the low 2022–2023 rate in large part to a significant mode change).

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

Establishment and Institution Surveys:
Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey (BERD, mandatory)
Higher Education Research and Development Survey (HERD)
Person Surveys:
National Survey of College Graduates (NSCG)
Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED, census of new doctorate recipients)



NOTES: BERD was integrated into the Annual Business Survey in 2025.



NOTE: NSCG response rates are weighted.