

International Price Program User Survey 2017

Thank you for helping the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collect critical feedback regarding the International Price Program (IPP). IPP produces Import and Export Price Indexes that track changes to prices of goods and some services traded between the United States and the rest of the world. The indexes provide the official measure of inflation on internationally traded items for the U.S. economy.

Your responses to this survey will provide feedback on IPP's products and help us make improvements in the future.

Any feedback you can share about IPP would be appreciated. Your participation in this survey is voluntary, and you have the right to stop at any time. We estimate that it will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Your responses will be aggregated with others for analysis. Your individual responses will remain anonymous and confidential.

If you have any questions about this survey, please contact the IPP User Survey team at IPPUUserSurvey@bls.gov.

We are collecting this information under OMB Number 1225-0088 (Expiration: August 31, 2017). Without this currently approved number, we could not conduct this survey. This survey is being administered by SurveyMonkey.com and resides on a server outside of the BLS domain. BLS cannot guarantee the protection of survey responses and advises against the inclusion of sensitive personal information in any response.

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1. Which categories best describe your organization? (check all that apply)

- Academia
- U.S. Government (Federal, State, or local)
- Foreign Government
- International organization (Multi-national or non-U.S.)
- News media
- Financial institution
- Industry or trade association
- Research, development, or consulting organization
- Non-governmental organization
- Other

If other, please specify.

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2. Each month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) International Price Program releases import and export price indexes. How did you first find out about the Import and Export Price Index data?

The BLS website

Educational course work

News media

Colleagues

Industry or trade association

Participation in IPP's monthly import/export price index survey

Conference

Other internet

This survey

Don't know

Other

If other, please specify.

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3. Have you ever used or reviewed U.S. Import and Export Price Index data or other products?

Yes

No

Don't recall

Skip patterns:

- Yes – Go to page 7
- No – Go to page 5, then page 6, then end at page 19
- Don't Recall – Go to Page 6, then end at page 19

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To help us improve our products, we would like to know more about why you have not used these IPP Import and Export Price data and products.

4. Why haven't you used these IPP products? (check all that apply)

	I didn't know about them.	I don't need them.	They are too hard to understand.	I get similar data from another source.	Other
News Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Database Query Tool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interactive Charts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variance Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IPP section of the BLS Handbook of Methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Why haven't you used these IPP data tables? (check all that apply)

	I didn't know about them.	I don't need them.	They are too hard to understand.	I get similar data from another source.	Other
Historical Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Index and Percent Change Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Percent Change Analysis Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Why haven't you used these IPP publications? (check all that apply)

	I didn't know about them.	I don't need them.	They are too hard to understand.	I get similar data from another source.	Other
Overview Pamphlet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contract Escalation Pamphlet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Pamphlets (e.g. Texas Export Highlights, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry Pamphlet (e.g. Chemical, Metal, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country of Import Pamphlets (e.g. China, Japan)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fact Sheets (e.g. Air Freight, Air Passenger Fares, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beyond the Numbers article	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monthly Labor Review article	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Please share any additional comments about why you haven't used IPP data or other products.

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8. Even if you haven't used IPP data or products, we would still like your ideas on how we can improve IPP data or products. Please share any suggestions you have.

All respondents who get to this page then skip to the end on page 19.

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4. How do you most commonly access IPP Import and Export Price Index data?

The BLS Website

BLS News Release Email

Federal Reserve Economic Data (FRED)

Haver Analytics

News Media

Other Internet

Don't recall

Other

If other, please specify.

5. IPP price index data can be used for many purposes. How do you use IPP price index data? (check all that apply)

- To analyze demand elasticity
- To analyze exchange rates
- To analyze fiscal or monetary policy
- To compare company price trends to industry price trends
- To compare US price trends to price trends in foreign countries
- For contract escalation
- To deflate foreign trade statistics
- To derive terms of trade indexes
- To track market trends
- To forecast future prices
- To measure inflation
- To negotiate trade agreements
- For general knowledge
- Other

If other, please specify.

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6. Which of the following IPP products have you used? (check all that apply)

- News Release
- Database Query Tool
- Interactive Charts
- Variance Statistics
- IPP section of the BLS Handbook of Methods
- FAQ
- None of these products

7. Which of the following IPP data tables have you used? (check all that apply)

- Historical Tables
- Index and Percent Change Tables
- Percent Change Analysis Tables
- None of these data tables

8. Which of the following IPP publications have you used? (check all that apply)

- Overview Pamphlet
- Contract Escalation Pamphlet
- Regional Pamphlets (e.g. Texas Export Highlights, etc.)
- Industry Pamphlets (e.g. Chemical, Metal, etc.)
- Country of Import Pamphlets (e.g. China, Japan)
- Fact Sheets (e.g. Air Freight, Air Passenger Fares, etc.)
- Beyond the Numbers Articles
- Monthly Labor Review Articles
- None of these publications

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Note: Responses to these questions will feed into subsequent questions as noted.

To help us improve our products, we would like to know more about why you have not used these IPP Import and Export Price data and products.

9. Why haven't you used these IPP products? (check all that apply)

	I didn't know about them.	I don't need them.	They are too hard to understand.	I get similar data from another source.	Other
News Release	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Database Query Tool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interactive Charts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variance Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IPP section of the BLS Handbook of Methods	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FAQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. Why haven't you used these IPP data tables? (check all that apply)

	I didn't know about them.	I don't need them.	They are too hard to understand.	I get similar data from another source.	Other
Historical Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Index and Percent Change Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Percent Change Analysis Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Why haven't you used these IPP publications? (check all that apply)

	I didn't know about them.	I don't need them.	They are too hard to understand.	I get similar data from another source.	Other
Overview Pamphlet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contract Escalation Pamphlet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional Pamphlets (e.g. Texas Export Highlights, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry Pamphlets (e.g. Chemical, Metal, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country of Import Pamphlets (e.g. China, Japan)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fact Sheets (e.g. Air Freight, Air Passenger Fares, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beyond the Numbers Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monthly Labor Review Articles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. For any IPP data or products you have NOT used, please share any feedback you may have about why not.

The items in questions 10, 11, and 12 are filled from the items NOT selected in questions 6, 7, and 8 from page 9, respectively. In the example above, the respondent would have picked “none of the above” for all three questions. If respondents pick all the items in either 6, 7, or 8, the question will not appear here.

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13. How often do you use or review these U.S. Import and Export Price Index products?

	At least once a month	A few times a year	Once a year or less	Never	Not sure
News Release	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Database Query Tool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

14. How often do you use or review these data tables?

	At least once a month	A few times a year	Once a year or less	Never	Not sure
Historical Tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Index and Percent Change Tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

15. How often do you use or review these publications?

	At least once a month	A few times a year	Once a year or less	Never	Not sure
Overview Pamphlet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contract Escalation Pamphlet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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The items in questions 13, 14, and 15 will fill from the items selected in question 6, 7, and 8 from page 9 respectively. In this example, the respondent chose two items in each question. “None of the above” does NOT display here even if respondents don’t select it on page 9.

16. How important is each classification system to you?

	Very Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not at All Important	Don't use	Don't know
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) End Use System	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harmonized (Product) System	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. How important is each data series to you?

	Very Important	Moderately Important	Slightly Important	Not at All Important	Don't use	Don't know
U.S. Export Price Indexes for goods (All Exports)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture Exports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-Agriculture Exports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Import Price Indexes for goods (All Imports)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fuel Imports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Non-Fuel Imports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Locality of Origin (Indexes of imports of goods by country of origin)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Air Services Air Freight	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
U.S. Air Services Air Passenger Fares	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you selected other, please specify which series.

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18. How satisfied are you with the overall quality of IPP data?

Very Satisfied
 Satisfied
 Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
 Dissatisfied
 Very Dissatisfied
 No Opinion

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19. How satisfied are you with the overall analyses and explanations in the following IPP products?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion
News Release	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Database Query Tool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. How satisfied are you with the format of the following IPP products?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No opinion
News Release	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Database Query Tool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Please share any feedback you may have about why you were satisfied or dissatisfied with IPP data or products.

Note: Questions 19 and 20 are filled with items selected in question 6. As in the example for page 11, the respondent has picked to items from question 6 on page 9.

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22. Have you contacted us for help within the last 5 years?

Yes

No

Don't recall

Skip patterns:

- Yes - Go to question 23 on page 16
- No or Don't recall - Go to question 25 on page 18

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23. What method(s) did you use to contact us? (check all that apply)

Phone

Email

Fax

Mail

Don't recall

Other

If other, please specify.

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24. How satisfied are you with the following?

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No opinion
Our response to your question, request or inquiry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The timeliness of our response	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The manner in which our staff treated you during the correspondence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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25. Please share any other comments you have to help us improve or expand our products and better serve you. We appreciate your feedback.

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Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback. Your input is important to us. We will use your comments to improve the data and other products that we provide.

If you have additional suggestions or questions, please contact us at mxp@bls.gov or (202) 691-7101.