

# Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Producer Price Index (PPI)

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## BLS Needs Your Help

Your company is being asked to provide a small amount of pricing information to one of the principal statistical agencies of the Federal Government. Your data will be used to construct the **Producer Price Index**.

### What is the Producer Price Index (PPI)?

The **PPI**, one of the Nation's Principal Federal Economic Indicators, is a family of indexes that measures the average change in selling prices received by domestic producers of goods and services in over 500 industries. More than 10,000 indexes for individual products and services are released each month, including over 600 indexes measuring price change for products sold to final demand and intermediate demand. Indexes are available for the products of virtually every industry in the mining and manufacturing sectors, as well as many industries in the service and construction sectors of the U.S. economy.

### How does the PPI impact and benefit you?

Producer price indexes are widely used by the government and businesses to make better-informed business decisions. Some valuable uses are:

**For contract adjustment** — The PPI can be used in purchase and sales contracts; for instance, a builder may use the index for steel in their construction contract to effectively hedge against input price changes.

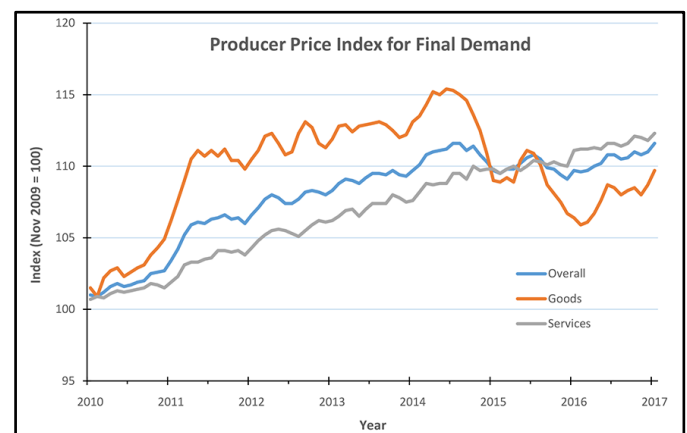
**To track specific products and industries** — Businesses use PPI data to compare price trends for their production to price trends in their industry.

**Forecasting** — Businesses use past price trends to forecast future price movement when creating business plans and to understand national economic conditions.

**To measure inflation** — Indexes can be used to measure price changes in inputs incurred by producers of goods and services. This information is useful for businesses in determining pricing strategy.

**As an economic indicator** — The Federal Reserve, Congress, and Federal agencies regularly monitor the PPI when formulating fiscal and monetary policies, such as setting interest rates for consumers and businesses. Also, indexes can be used to deflate other economic series to get inflation-free values.

**For inventory valuation** — The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has mandated that the PPI be used for “Last In, First Out” (LIFO) inventory valuation purposes.



## Why should you participate?

**You count!** The quality of data produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is a direct reflection of the number of businesses included. The PPI carefully constructs survey samples to keep the number of contacts to a minimum, making every business, large and small, critical to the accuracy of the data. The Nation depends upon BLS for accurate statistics, and BLS relies upon people like you to provide us with data.

## How do you provide data to the PPI?

A BLS economist will interview you to determine which products or services will be included in our indexes. You will then be asked to provide periodic updates for the selected products or services. BLS uses these updates as the basis for our PPI indexes. The update process is straightforward and will normally only take a few minutes to complete.

## Will your information be kept confidential and secure?

Yes. Your company's participation, including sampled products and prices, will be held in confidence to the full extent permitted by law. BLS will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only, in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (44 U.S.C. 3572). Your transmitted data is protected from malicious activities through cybersecurity screening of Federal information systems, in accordance with the Cybersecurity Act of 2015.



## For general information and analysis on the PPI, contact:

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Respondent site:  
[www.bls.gov/respondents/ppi](http://www.bls.gov/respondents/ppi)

## How can BLS data help you?

In addition to the PPI, BLS produces a wealth of useful information that is free of charge. This includes:

### Contract negotiations tools

During contract negotiations, BLS data may be used to ensure that prices reflect market costs over the term of the contract. Contract adjustment guides are available on the BLS website.

### Evaluating wage/benefits packages

Data from the BLS compensation programs show the average salaries for selected occupations, industries, and localities. Information on the types and costs of employee benefit packages is also available.

### Provide information on workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities

Worker compensation rates are partly determined by workplace injury rates. BLS data from the Occupational Safety and Health program report the number of accidents and fatalities by specific occupation and industry.

### Assessing growth industries, occupations, and career counseling tools

The BLS *Occupational Outlook Handbook* is a nationally recognized source of career information. This publication is used by high school and college guidance counselors across the country. It provides information on the training and education needed for specific career fields, and on earnings and job prospects for a variety of careers. It also provides job search tips and specific information about the job market in each state.

## To find out more:

Contact your regional BLS Economic Analysis and Information Office: [www.bls.gov/bls/regnhome.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/regnhome.htm)

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