

Introduction

Thank you for helping the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collect critical feedback regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program.

The CPI program produces monthly data on changes in the prices paid by urban consumers for a representative basket of goods and services. Your responses to this survey will help us improve our existing services.

Even if you are not a frequent user of CPI products, any feedback you can provide would be appreciated. Your participation in this survey is voluntary. We estimate that it will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. We are collecting this information under OMB Number 1225-0059. Without this currently approved number, BLS could not conduct this survey (Expiration Date: November 30, 2020).

The survey questions are based on broad user experience and responses will be aggregated for analysis. Your responses will remain anonymous and confidential.

If you have any questions about this survey, please email cpi_info@bls.gov or call 202-691-7000.

Click **Next** below to begin the 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.

1. How do you use Consumer Price Index (CPI) data? (Check all that apply)

- Contract escalation (Escalate or increase a payment, for example, rent, salary, contractual amount)
- Deflate or adjust an economic time series
- Educational uses
- Economic research/analysis
- Financial research/analysis
- Forecasting/projections
- Legislative requirement
- Personal interest
- Policy research/analysis
- Price change for specific items or item categories
- Reporting
- Research
- School assignments
- Do **not** use CPI data
- Other (please specify)

2. How useful are CPI data to you?

- Extremely useful
- Very useful
- Moderately useful
- Slightly useful
- Not at all useful

Please feel free to explain your response above (optional)

3. How did you first learn about the CPI? (Check all that apply)

- Blog
- Conference
- Coworker or colleague
- Internet search
- Media or press
- Research paper
- Teacher or professor
- Do not recall
- Other (please specify)

4. How long have you used CPI data?

- Less than 1 year
- 1 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- More than 10 years
- Don't know

5. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the CPI.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I understand what the CPI measures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI data are of high quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand the difference between seasonally adjusted data and unadjusted data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I believe that the CPI methodology measures price change as accurately as possible	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I can find the data that I need	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know how to get help if I have questions about CPI data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Disagreed with statement

6. Statements from the preceding question that you either *disagreed* with or *strongly disagreed* with are listed below. Please explain the reason for your rating in the space provided. (You can leave an item blank if you do not care to explain your rating.)

I understand what the CPI measures

CPI data are of high quality

I understand the difference between seasonally adjusted data and unadjusted data

I believe that the CPI methodology measures price change as accurately as possible

I can find the data that I need

I know how to get help if I have questions about CPI data

7. Please indicate by checking *yes* or *no* in the table below, if you have used the following types of CPI data in the past 12 months.

	Yes	No	Not sure/ Not familiar with this
CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI for Older Americans (CPI-E)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonally adjusted historical data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Index value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1-month percent change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12-month percent change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional or local data (such as for the Northeast Region or Boston)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data for the all items index	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data for a specific item category (such as transportation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes, used CPI data in past 12 months

8. How often have you used each of the following types of CPI data in the past 12 months?

	More than 12 times	6-12 times	1-5 times	Never/ 0 Times
CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI for Older Americans (CPI-E)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI Research Series Using Current Methods (CPI-U-RS)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonally adjusted historical data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Index value	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1-month percent change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12-month percent change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional or local data (such as for the Northeast Region or Boston)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data for the all items index	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data for a specific item category (such as transportation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Usefulness

9. How useful are each of the following tools/sources for obtaining CPI data?

	Extremely useful	Very useful	Moderately useful	Slightly useful	Not at all useful	Do not use/ Not familiar with this
One-screen search (tool on BLS website that uses a pop-up data browser)	<input type="radio"/>					
Multi-screen search (tool on BLS website that uses multiple search screens)	<input type="radio"/>					
Text files from BLS website	<input type="radio"/>					
News release or tables	<input type="radio"/>					
Supplemental tables	<input type="radio"/>					
Regional websites	<input type="radio"/>					
BLS staff	<input type="radio"/>					

Timeliness

10. How timely are the following CPI data?

	Extremely timely	Very timely	Moderately timely	Slightly timely	Not at all timely	Not familiar with/ Do not use
CPI Data (including CPI-U, All Urban Consumers; CPI-W, Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers; and Average price data)	<input type="radio"/>					
Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U): Initial (preliminary) numbers	<input type="radio"/>					
Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U): Final numbers	<input type="radio"/>					
Annual seasonal adjustment revisions	<input type="radio"/>					
Relative importance data	<input type="radio"/>					
Response rates	<input type="radio"/>					
Variance estimates	<input type="radio"/>					

Other sources of Price data

11. There are other sources of price data. Have you ever used price data from any of the following sources?

	Yes	No
Producer Price Index (PPI)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), for example, Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) or Regional Price Parities (RPP)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MIT Billion prices project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other - Please describe in box below	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please list the other sources of Price data that you have used

Use of CPI Publications

12. Do you use any CPI publications such as technical information, factsheets, frequently asked questions, seasonal factors, relative importance tables, variance and response rate tables, etc.?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Use CPI Publications

13. Please indicate how satisfied you are with the following CPI publications.

	Extremely satisfied	Very satisfied	Moderately satisfied	Slightly satisfied	Not at all satisfied	No opinion
Technical information (for example, the CPI section of the Handbook of Methods)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Factsheets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Questions and Answers (FAQs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seasonal Factors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Relative Importance tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variances tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Response Rate tables	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other - please explain in box below	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

CPI News Release

14. Based on your experiences using CPI products, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the CPI news release.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The news release provides useful information	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The news release is easy to understand	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The news release contains the right amount of data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The news release contains the right amount of charts and table	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please feel free to provide an additional explanation for any of your previous responses (optional)

Visit Website

15. Have you ever visited the CPI website? (<https://www.bls.gov/cpi/>)

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Website

16. We recently redesigned the CPI website. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the CPI website.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not familiar with website
The CPI news release is easy to find	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CPI data are easy to find	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information on CPI Methodology is easy to find	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Contact information for CPI staff is easy to find	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I think the website was designed for people like me with my skills and background	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Recommend

17. How likely is it that you would recommend the CPI website to a friend or colleague?

Not at all likely

Extremely likely

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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Failed search

18. Have you looked for CPI information on the website but were unable to find it?

Yes – please describe what you were looking for in the space below

No

What information were you looking for?

19. Are you familiar with CPI notices placed on the CPI website?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Familiar with CPI Notices

20. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about the CPI notices.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Current notices are easy to find	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Archived notices are easy to find	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notices are published in a timely fashion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Notices provide the right amount of details	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments about Notices

21. Do you have any additional thoughts or comments about the notices?

Yes – please list them in the space below

No

Please enter comments below

22. Do you have any positive comments about the CPI website?

Yes - please list comments in the space below

No

Please enter comments below

23. Do you have any negative comments about the CPI website?

Yes - please list comments in the space below

No

Please enter comments below

24. Have you ever contacted BLS staff with questions about CPI data?

Yes

No

Have contacted BLS

25. How would you describe the service that you received?

- Excellent
- Good
- Average
- Fair
- Poor

26. We are interested in any comments, positive or negative, you might have about our service.

- I have no comments

Please enter your comments below

Potential changes

27. The CPI program is considering a variety of potential changes. How helpful would the following potential changes in the CPI be to you?

	Extremely helpful	Very helpful	Moderately helpful	Slightly helpful	Not at all helpful	Do not know/ No opinion
Create a CPI for specific demographic groups (such as full-time workers or social security recipient/contributor status)	<input type="radio"/>					
Create a CPI for specific income groups	<input type="radio"/>					
Create a CPI that includes owner-occupied housing and property taxes {as an alternative to <u>Owners' equivalent rent (OER)</u> }	<input type="radio"/>					
Use current year data for seasonal adjustment (concurrent adjustment)	<input type="radio"/>					
Shorten the length of the news release and tables	<input type="radio"/>					
Create CPIs at the State level	<input type="radio"/>					
Publish average offer price data, rather than average transaction price data	<input type="radio"/>					
Other - Please describe below	<input type="radio"/>					

What other changes would you like the CPI to consider? (Enter suggested changes below)

28. Please feel free to provide an additional explanation for any of your responses in the preceding table. (Optional)

I have no additional comments

Other (please specify)

Rebasing

29. The CPI is based on prices in the 1982-84 time period, called the “base period.” Prices are set to 100 for that base period. We are considering changing the base period to some other time, for example, December 2017. This process is known as *rebasing*. How helpful would the following changes be to you?

	Extremely helpful	Very helpful	Moderately helpful	Slightly helpful	Not at all helpful	Do not know/ No opinion
Rebase the CPI to a single month period	<input type="radio"/>					
Rebase the CPI all at once (items and areas)	<input type="radio"/>					
Rebase the CPI gradually	<input type="radio"/>					
Only rebase items that have extreme high or low values (for example, 1010.345 or 5.6)	<input type="radio"/>					
Other change - Please describe in the space below	<input type="radio"/>					

What other changes would you like the CPI to consider? (Enter suggested changes below)

30. Please feel free to provide additional comments about any of your responses from the preceding table.

I have no additional comments

Enter comments below

Changes to the Item Structure

31. We are considering changing the item structure of the CPI (the set of categories in the CPI and the way they are grouped and combined).

Some of the changes being considered are shown in the table below. How helpful would the following potential item structure changes be to you?

	Extremely helpful	Very helpful	Moderately helpful	Slightly helpful	Not at all helpful	Do not know/ No opinion
Change the item structure to be more comparable to international price index structures (HICP, COICOP)	<input type="radio"/>					
Streamline the structure so there are fewer item classification options	<input type="radio"/>					
Expand the structure so there are more options	<input type="radio"/>					
Leave the item structure as it currently exists	<input type="radio"/>					

Please feel free to provide additional explanations for any of your responses in the preceding table. (Optional)

Other Changes to Item Structure

32. Are there other changes to the item structure that you would like to see?

Yes – please enter your suggested changes in the space below

No

Enter your suggested changes below

Changes to Items

33. We are considering making changes to the items for which we calculate and publish average price data. How often have you accessed average price data in the past 12 months?

- 0 times
- 1-5 times
- 6-12 times
- More than 12 times

34. What changes, if any, should be made to the Average Price series? (Check all that apply)

- Add additional types of average prices or specific items (please provide specifics below)
- Reduce the set of average prices to only the most important (please describe the items you think we should continue to produce)
- Eliminate Average Prices entirely
- Keep the current set as is
- No opinion
- Other (please specify)

35. Please feel free to provide an additional explanation for any of your previous responses.

- I have no additional explanations to enter

Enter your explanation below

Affiliation

36. Which category best describes the primary organization at which you work or study?

- Industry or trade association
- Federal government
- State government
- Local government
- Student at School/University
- Education professional at School/University
- Research organization
- Financial institution
- News media
- Nongovernmental organization
- Consulting institution
- Blog
- Private citizen
- Other (please specify)

Do Not Use CPI Data

37. Why haven't you used CPI data? (Check all that apply):

- Not familiar to me
- Do not have the data I need
- Data are difficult to use
- Data are difficult to find on the website
- Not applicable to my needs
- Not timely enough
- Other BLS data available
- Similar to data available from a non-BLS source
- Other (please specify)

Other BLS Data

38. What other BLS data do you use? (Check all that apply)

- Consumer spending
- Employment
- Import/export prices
- Pay and benefits
- Producer prices
- Productivity
- Spending
- Time use
- Unemployment
- Workplace injuries
- Other (please specify)

Price Data Other than from BLS

39. Do you use price data other than from BLS?

Yes

No

Use Price Data from Other Sources

40. What other sources of price data do you use? (Check all that apply)

- Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), for example, Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE)
- MIT Billion prices project
- Other (please specify)

Wrap-up

41. Any other comments that you care to make about the CPI program, or suggestions for new products or improvements to the program, are welcome. Thank you for your time. We appreciate your input.

If you would like to learn more about BLS price data, please visit our [website](#).