

improvement to better meet our customer's needs. BLS last conducted a survey of PPI data users in late 1976 through early 1977. Since that time, numerous new time series data have been introduced with the goal of fulfilling the needs of data users. This survey will help us determine if we are meeting those goals, highlight areas for improvement to existing data series, and identify areas for future expansion.

**DATES:** The Producer Price Index (PPI) user survey will be accessible until April 30, 2013.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Joseph Kelley, Producer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3840, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC 20212 or by email to: [kelley.joseph@bls.gov](mailto:kelley.joseph@bls.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Joseph Kelley, Producer Price Index, Bureau of Labor Statistics, telephone number 202-691-7722 (this is not a toll-free number), or by email to: [kelley.joseph@bls.gov](mailto:kelley.joseph@bls.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The survey can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.research.net/s/PPIUserSurveyFederalRegister> or by going to the PPI homepage <http://www.bls.gov/ppi/> and using the link under 'Announcements'.

**I. Background**

The Producer Price Index (PPI), one of the Nation's leading economic indicators, is used as a measure of price movements, as an indicator of inflationary trends, for inventory valuation, and as a measure of purchasing power of the dollar at the primary-market level. It also is used for market and economic research and as a basis for escalation in long-term contracts and purchase agreements.

Producer Price Index data provide a description of the magnitude and composition of price change within the economy, and serve a wide range of governmental needs. This family of indexes are closely followed, monthly statistics that are viewed as sensitive indicators of the economic environment. Price data are vital in helping both the President and Congress set fiscal-spending targets. Producer prices are monitored by the Federal Reserve Board Open Market Committee to help decide

monetary policy. Federal policy-makers at the Department of Treasury and the Council of Economic Advisors utilize these statistics to help form and evaluate monetary and fiscal measures and to help interpret the general business environment. In addition, it is common to find one or more PPIs, alone or in combination with other measures, used to escalate the delivered price of goods for government purchases.

In addition to governmental uses, PPI data are regularly put to use by the private sector. Private industry uses PPI data for contract escalation. For one particular method of tax-related Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) inventory accounting, the Internal Revenue Service suggests that firms use PPI data for making calculations. Private businesses make extensive use of industrial-price data for planning and operations. Price trends are used to assess the condition of markets. Firms commonly compare the prices they pay for material inputs as well as prices they receive for products that they make and sell with changes in similar PPIs.

Economic researchers and forecasters also put the PPI to regular use. PPIs are widely used to probe and measure the interaction of market forces. Some examples of research topics that require extensive price data include: The identification of varying price elasticities and the degree of cost pass-through in the economy, the identification of potential lead and lag structures among price changes, and the identification of prices which exert major impacts throughout market structures.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 20th day of December 2012.

**Eric P. Molina,**  
*Acting Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-24-P**

**NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD**

**Appointments of Individuals To Serve as Members of Performance Review Boards**

5 U.S.C. 4314 (c) (4) requires that the appointments of individuals to serve as

members of performance review boards be published in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, in compliance with this requirement, notice is hereby given that the individuals whose names and position titles appear below have been appointed to serve as members of performance review boards in the National Labor Relations Board for the rating year beginning October 1, 2011 and ending September 30, 2012.

**Name and Title**

- William B. Cowen—Solicitor.
  - Kathleen A. Nixon—Deputy Chief Counsel to the Chairman.
  - Gary W. Shinnery—Deputy Executive Secretary.
  - Robert Schiff—Executive Assistant to the Chairman.
  - Barry J. Kearney—Associate General Counsel, Division of Advice.
  - Anne G. Purcell—Associate General Counsel, Division of Operations Management.
  - Linda Dreeben—Deputy Associate General Counsel, Division of Enforcement Litigation.
  - John H. Ferguson—Associate General Counsel, Division of Enforcement Litigation.
- Washington, DC By Direction of the Board.  
Dated: December 20, 2012.

**Lester A. Heltzer,**  
*Executive Secretary.*

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**BILLING CODE P**

**OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT**

**Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee; Open Committee Meetings**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee Meeting Dates in 2013

**SUMMARY:** According to the provisions of section 10 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), notice is hereby given that meetings of the Federal Prevailing Rate Advisory Committee will be held on—

Thursday, January 17, 2013 .....	Thursday, July 18, 2013.
Thursday, February 21, 2013 .....	Thursday, August 15, 2013.
Thursday, March 21, 2013 .....	Thursday, September 19, 2013.
Thursday, April 18, 2013 .....	Thursday October 17, 2013.
Thursday, May 16, 2013 .....	Thursday, November 21, 2013.
Thursday, June 20, 2013 .....	Thursday, December 19, 2013.