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Advocacy that fits.

An Open Letter to Apparel Wholesalers:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will soon be visiting a sample of apparel wholesalers to update data for compiling the monthly Producer Price Index (PPI) for apparel, piece goods, and notions merchant wholesalers.

The PPI measures the change over time in the prices received by domestic producers of goods and services. It is the nation's inflation indicator for the business sector of the economy. The PPI has expanded its coverage for the retail and services sector of the economy, and eventually will encompass all marketed good and services from U.S. businesses. The PPI for apparel, piece goods, and notions merchant wholesalers has been calculated and published monthly since 2009. The data is available at www.bls.gov.

The continued compilation of the PPI for apparel wholesalers depends on industry participation. If a company is selected for participation in the index, it need only contribute a few minutes per month to provide pricing information on a small selection of apparel transactions. No individual company data is released. With the cooperation of sampled firms, the PPI for apparel wholesalers will continue to be a useful measure of monthly price change for both public and private data users.

AAFA greatly relies on the monthly PPI as a key data source for the preparation for our annual Apparel Stats publication.

Thanks in advance for your assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Helfenbein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Helfenbein
President and CEO