



1550 Crystal Drive, Suite 804
Arlington, VA 22202
T: 800-424-2869
T: 202-244-4700
F: 202-966-4824

An Open Letter to the Waste Collection Industry:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will soon be visiting a sample of firms within the solid waste collection industry to update the basket of transactions comprising the monthly Producer Price Index (PPI) for solid waste collection.

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 gradually expanded its coverage for the services sector of the economy, and eventually will encompass all marketed goods and services from U.S. businesses. The PPI for solid waste collection has been calculated and published monthly since January 2003. The data is available at www.bls.gov.

The continued success of the PPI for solid waste collection 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 waste collection transactions. With the cooperation of sampled firms, the PPI for solid waste collection will continue to be a useful measure of monthly price change for both public and private data users.

Thank you in advance for your assistance,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James T. Riley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "R" at the end.

James T. Riley, Esq.
Interim President & CEO