

International Comparison Program

[04.04]

Construction Price Survey



3rd Regional Coordinators Meeting
October 21-22, 2010

Washington DC

Notes for survey coordinators

The notes for respondents included in the survey forms set out the main requirements for completing the survey. It is important that these are discussed and understood by both the National Statistical Institution coordinator and the survey respondents. To improve reliability it is important that the survey is complete by as many respondents as possible.

Numbers of respondents

Ideally, the ICP would like a number of responses in each country, ideally five or more. If, however, there is only one respondent, their knowledge or contacts should cover all types of construction and the whole country. If there is more than one respondent, they can either have a similarly wide knowledge base or represent different and significant types of work or locations.

Characteristics of respondents

Survey respondents should be knowledgeable, or have access to knowledge, about construction costs and prices and have access to up-to-date construction cost and price information. They can come from a range of backgrounds – contracting, consulting, research, government, etc – and have different qualifications but their main responsibility should be related to construction cost estimating. They should have an interest in the survey and its results as well as appropriate knowledge and contacts. Examples of suitable respondents include estimators from major firms of contractors; cost consultants with architectural, engineering, project management or quantity surveying firms; cost or economic specialists in construction research establishments; and government officials responsible for construction cost advice or procurement. All of these should be senior and experienced people.

Basis of prices

There are extensive notes in the main survey about the basis of the prices being asked for. These should be brought to the attention of respondents; in essence, national average prices for the survey year, all regions in the country, and all types and sizes of construction work, are sought. It is particularly important that the average price for 2011 should be a genuine average for the construction year – if construction work is seasonal, for example - for climatic or other reasons - this should be taken into account.

Procedures and timescale

Survey forms will be issued in dd/mm/2011 and should be returned completed by dd/mm/2011. It is important that this timetable is adhered to by all participants since the processes of checking and validation depend on a high proportion of survey forms being returned and delays in responses will delay the process.

Respondents should be informed that they will be called upon to answer queries on their pricing as well as provide initial prices – there are likely to be two or three rounds of validation. A summary of results will be compiled and circulated to all respondents along with notes on the survey method and a commentary on survey results.