

SECTION BA: GOVERNMENT DATA

BA1. The next few questions are about the effectiveness of the mass media in communicating information from agencies of the federal government about the performance of the U.S. economy. If you do not have any information about one of these questions, please just say so, and I will go on to the next question. However, if you do not know the exact answer but just have a rough idea, it is important for you to tell me what you know.

First, the Bureau of Labor Statistics counts people as unemployed if they are not currently working but have been actively looking for work during the prior four weeks. What was the most recent rate of unemployment published by this government agency?

_____ PERCENT

98. DON'T KNOW

GO TO BA1b

BA1a. [IF BA1 10% OR MORE] I would like to verify that I recorded your answer properly. You said the unemployment rate was [BA1] percent. Is that correct?

1. YES

GO TO BA2

5. NO

GO BACK TO BA1

BA1b. [PROBE IF BA1=DK/NA] Have you ever heard an announcement of the unemployment rate by the Bureau of Labor Statistics?

1. YES, HAVE HEARD

5. NO, HAVE NOT HEARD

BA2. Another economic indicator published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics is the Consumer Price Index, or the CPI. Compared with a year ago, what was the percentage change in overall prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, published by this government agency?

_____ PERCENT

98. DON'T KNOW

GO TO BA2b

BA2a. [IF BA2 10% OR MORE] I would like to verify that I recorded your answer properly. You said the percentage change in prices was [BA2] percent. Is that correct?

1. YES

GO TO BA3

5. NO

GO BACK TO BA2

BA2b. [PROBE IF BA2=DK/NA] Have you ever heard an announcement of the Consumer Price Index, or CPI, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics?

1. YES, HAVE HEARD

5. NO, HAVE NOT HEARD

BA3. The Bureau of Economic Analysis regularly publishes data on the total amount of goods and services produced in the U.S. This figure is called the Gross Domestic Product and is often abbreviated as GDP. Compared to a year ago, what was the percentage change in the Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, published by this government agency?

_____ PERCENT

98. DON'T KNOW
GO TO BA3b

BA3a. [IF BA3 10% OR MORE] I would like to verify I recorded your answer properly. You said the percentage change was [BA3] percent. Is that correct?

1. YES
GO TO BA2

5. NO
GO BACK TO BA3

BA3b. [PROBE IF BA3=DK/NA] Have you ever heard an announcement of the Gross Domestic Product, or GDP, by the Bureau of Economic Analysis?

1. YES, HAVE HEARD

5. NO, HAVE NOT HEARD

BA4. How important is it for a person like you to have exact information about the rate of unemployment, the rate of changes in prices, and the rate of change in the Gross Domestic Product -- would you say it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all?

1. EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

2. VERY IMPORTANT

3. SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT

4. NOT VERY IMPORTANT

5. NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT

BA5. Would you like to be more informed about these topics or would you not want any more information about these topics?

1. YES, WANT TO BE MORE INFORMED

5. NO, DON'T WANT MORE INFORMATION

BA6. We are interested in how people get official government information about the rate of unemployment, the rate of changes in prices, and the rate of change in the Gross Domestic Product. Do you get most of this type of information from television, the radio, newspapers, magazines, the Internet, your family, friends, or co-workers, your own personal experiences, some other source, or do you never get any official government information on these topics?

1. TELEVISION	2. RADIO	3. NEWSPAPERS	4. MAGAZINES	5. INTERNET
6. FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS	7. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	97. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____		96. NEVER GET GOVT INFO

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BA7. What is your second most common source of official government information about these topics -- (television, the radio, newspapers, magazines, the Internet, family, friends, or co-workers, your own personal experiences, or some other source)?

1. TELEVISION	2. RADIO	3. NEWSPAPERS	4. MAGAZINES	5. INTERNET
6. FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS	7. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	97. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____		96. NO MORE SOURCES (IF VOL.)

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BA8. What is your third most common source of official government information about these topics -- (television, the radio, newspapers, magazines, the Internet, family, friends, or co-workers, your own personal experiences, or some other source)?

1. TELEVISION	2. RADIO	3. NEWSPAPERS	4. MAGAZINES	5. INTERNET
6. FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS	7. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE	97. OTHER (SPECIFY): _____		96. NO MORE SOURCES (IF VOL.)