



Survey of Environmental Protection Expenditure (EPE) - Useful Information

Your participation

Who is the Office for National Statistics?

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is the UK's single largest producer of official statistics such as the Retail Price Index and ten-yearly Census.

Why is your information important?

This is your opportunity to let us know how your business is operating in the current economic climate.

Small businesses perform differently to large businesses, so we need information from both to give balance and integrity to our results.

How was your business selected?

Your business was selected from the ONS Inter Departmental Business Register (IDBR), which is a comprehensive list of businesses in the UK who are registered for VAT or PAYE. Selection depends on several factors, for example the number of people you employ, how many other businesses are operating in the same industry and the size of those businesses.

Why was your business selected?

Your business was selected because data from businesses of all sizes, industries and locations are needed to gain an accurate understanding of the UK's economy.

How many times will you be asked to complete a questionnaire for EPE?

ONS cannot give a definitive time-frame for participation in any of its business surveys. Generally, large businesses will always be included in a survey alongside a selection of smaller businesses which are normally included on a rotational basis.

More about EPE

How will your information be used?

The data you provide for EPE will help create a more detailed picture of:

- environmental protection specific services produced across the economy
- how much companies spend on goods and services for environmental protection purposes.

The information that you provide will be used to analyse the extent of environmental protection activities, to assess which sectors spend on environmental protection and how it is financed. This information contributes directly to the government's policy priorities on environmental protection, resource management and green growth.

The long-term outcome of this will be a positive contribution to both the UK economy and the protection of the environment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to complete the questionnaire?

Yes. The survey is conducted under the Statistics of Trade Act 1947 so your organisation is required by law to provide the information requested.

Can I appeal against completing the survey?

No, there is no appeal process, nor can you be exempt from selection for ONS business surveys. However, if you think that there are circumstances that we need to be aware of, please contact us as soon as possible.

Will I be paid for completing this survey?

No, because your organisation is legally obliged to complete the survey ONS cannot pay a business for complying with a legal duty.

Will my data be kept confidential?

Yes. Your data will be treated in strict confidence in line with the provisions of section 39 of the Statistics and Registration Services Act 2007 and the National Statistics Code of Practice. It is an offence for ONS to disclose any details relating to a business or individual.

Any other FAQs?

Please go to our help pages: www.ons.gov.uk/surveys

Where can I find out more about the results of EPE?

You can find the results from EPE and ONS's other statistical surveys on the ONS website: www.ons.gov.uk.

If you require any additional assistance, please consult the ONS website or call the contact number on the front of your questionnaire.
Thank you for your cooperation.