Initialization in the Swedish SPPI
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About the sample process
The sample is updated annually. Around 20 to 25 % of the sample is rotated every year. A lot of effort is put into the initialization process. Lack of resources constrains us from visiting new enterprises. Visits are limited to development phases and when problems occur with large enterprises.

Combinations of enterprise and product group are sampled. I.e. one enterprise can be sampled in multiple product groups, if they report that to SBS.

The sample is drawn in September, using SBS data from 2 years ago, i.e. in 2016, SBS data for 2014 is used. Last year around 1600 questionnaires were sent out.

The response rate is usually around 80 % in the initialization process. A little more than half of these turn into new price observations. The rest has stopped producing the requested service, gone bankrupt or the price of the service can not be measured accurately.

Tailored instructions
The written instructions are very important to make sure we get a good specification right away. The instructions are tailored for each specific product group.

The respondents can call us if they have questions. We call them if it appears to be errors in the questionnaire or if the specification is not detailed enough.

We ask about exports but currently do not use the information. We plan to use it in the future.

Why not use an electronic questionnaire?
Since several products can be sampled, the questionnaires might have to be distributed on more than one respondent.

It is also easier for the enterprise to find the right respondent if they do not have to log in to see what information we ask for.

Scanning is used
Boxes marked with yellow and tickable boxes are scanned at Statistics Sweden in Örebro and then entered into a database. Some data transformation is then done in SAS software before loading into the PPI database.

Prior to 3 years ago, when we started to scan the questionnaires, everything had to be entered manually, causing typing errors, besides taking a lot of time.

The comments section is not scanned. It has to be checked and read manually before scanning.

Questionnaires are sent out early October, asking for prices for the 3th quarter. Prices for the 4th quarter are then reported online.

The unique ID number for each questionnaire is used to connect the questionnaire with the enterprise information.

What the questionnaire looks like today