

deflation of the U.S. Trade statistics and the Gross Domestic Product; the indexes are also used in formulating U.S. trade policy and in trade negotiations with other countries. In the private sector, uses of the Import Price Indexes include market analysis, inflation forecasting, contract escalation, and replacement cost accounting.

The IPP indexes are closely followed statistics which are viewed as sensitive indicators of the economic environment. The Department of Commerce uses the monthly statistics to produce monthly and quarterly estimates of inflation-adjusted trade flows. Without continuation of data collection, it would be extremely difficult to construct accurate estimates of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. In addition, Federal policy-makers in the Department of the

Treasury, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Federal Reserve Board utilize these statistics on a regular basis to improve these agencies' formulation and evaluation of monetary and fiscal policy, and evaluation of the general business environment.

Current Actions

The IPP continues to modernize data collection and processing to permit more timely release of its indexes and to reduce reporting burden. The IPP is using the telephone rather than personal visits for initiation in limited situations. We believe that initiation by telephone reduces reporting burden with no loss in response. Other potential initiation techniques to reduce burden being reviewed include less frequent sampling of more stable item areas, use of broader

item areas in certain cases, and retention of items initiated in previous samples which reporters still trade. To reduce the time required for processing new items, direct entry of initiation data from the field will be tested. Also, for repricing, the use of fax telephone lines to permit direct collection and entry into our database is being considered. In addition, use of the Internet for monthly repricing is being reviewed, contingent upon the resolution of questions relating to the security of the data.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: International Price Program—U.S. Import Price Indexes.

OMB Number: 1220-0026.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average time per response (hrs.)	Estimated total burden (hrs.)
3007B	1,725	Annually	1,725	1	1,725
3008	1,725	Annually	1,725	.334	576.15
3007D	3,235	Monthly/Quarterly	38,540	.56	21,582.4
Total	4,960	41,990	23,884

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 6th day of March, 1997.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

Acting Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[FR Doc. 97-6148 Filed 3-11-97; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Proposed Collection: Comment Request

Title of Collection: Public Understanding of and Attitudes Toward Science and Technology.

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3508(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Science Foundation (NSF) publishes periodic summaries of proposed projects. Such a notice was published at Federal Register 67350,

dated December 20, 1996. No comments were received.

The materials are now being sent to OMB for review. Send any written comments to Desk Officer, OMB, 3145-033, OIRA, OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503. OMB should receive comments within 30 days after the date of this notice.

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility, (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated data collection techniques and other forms of information.

Proposed Project: Study of the Public Understanding of and Attitudes Toward Science and Technology—New—A telephone survey of approximately 2,000 adults aged 18 and over.

The proposed survey continues a series of national surveys of public understanding of and attitudes toward science and technology that began in 1972. It is used in the preparation of a chapter in the Science and Engineering

Indicators reports by the National Science Board, as mandated by Section 4(j)(l) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The Science and Engineering Indicators report and the chapter on public understanding and attitudes are widely used by planners and program development staff in: federal and state agencies, universities, research centers, and similar institutions, and by journalists and other individuals seeking to communicate with the public concerning science and technology. The average burden per respondent is estimated to be 22 minutes, producing a total burden of 733 hours for the complete study.

Dated: March 6, 1997.

Gail A. McHenry,

NSF Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-6070 Filed 3-11-97; 8:45 am]

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Special Emphasis Panel in Networking and Communications Research and Infrastructure; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following meeting.

Name: Special Emphasis for Connections to the Internet Panel (#1207).