

wide spectrum of retail establishments and government agencies is essential for the timely and accurate calculation of the Commodities and Services (C&S) component of the CPI.

The CPI is the only index compiled by the U.S. Government that is designed to measure changes in the purchasing power of the urban consumer's dollar. The CPI is a measure of the average change in prices paid by urban consumers for a fixed market basket of goods and services.

The CPI is used most widely as a measure of inflation, and serves as an indicator of the effectiveness of government economic policy. It also is used as a deflator of other economic series, that is, to adjust other series for price changes and to translate these series into inflation-free dollars. A third major use of the CPI is to adjust income payments. Over two million workers are covered by collective bargaining contracts which provide for increases in wage rates based on increases in the CPI.

The continuation of the collection of prices for the CPI is essential since the CPI is the nation's chief source of information on retail price changes. If the information on C&S prices were not collected, Federal fiscal and monetary

policies would be hampered due to the lack of information on price changes in a major sector of the U.S. economy, and estimates of the real value of the Gross National Product could not be made. The consequences to both the Federal and private sectors would be far-reaching and would have serious repercussions on Federal government policy and institutions.

II. Current Actions

A new item optimization model for outlet selection will yield larger samples for the 1998 revision over the samples selected for the 1987 revision. Through rotation, the smaller 1987 revision-based samples are being replaced by the larger 1998 revision-based samples. The BLS also plans to shift to a rotation model that results in rotating the full C&S sample in four years, rather than the five-year process currently followed. This change in rotation strategy effectively expands the rotation collection each year, by 25 percent. The impact of using a new item optimization model, constructed to reduce the variance of the CPI, combined with a new four-year rotation cycle, would yield approximately 2,700 additional outlets each year, and would stabilize once full rotation occurs. A limited

supplemental collection of prices for use in improving hedonic-based quality adjustments also is planned.

Currently, data for the CPI are recorded on collection schedules by CPI field staff in assigned retail outlets and are mailed to the National Office for processing. A key element for the future is the development of a process to convert all data collection and transmission to electronic systems. When in place, a fully implemented Computer-Assisted Data Collection (CADC) system for the CPI will result in significant advantages by increasing productivity and improving the overall quality of the CPI. Electronic data collection and transmission will provide long-term savings through a major reduction of mail, paper, and printing costs. Electronic systems will provide an opportunity to reduce data capture and review time, and to improve survey logistics management.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: Consumer Price Index Commodities and Services Survey.

OMB Number: 1220-0039.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; not-for profit institutions; and State, Local or Tribal Government.

Form No.	Total number of respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Minutes per response (average)	Estimated total burden hours
BLS 3400	11,831	Annual	11,831	4	789
BLS 3400A.2	11,831	Annual	11,831	36	7,099
BLS 3400B	11,831	Annual	11,831	23	4,535
BLS 3400C	3,076	Annual	3,076	6.9	354
BLS 3401	37,844	Monthly/Bimonthly	325,530	14.187	76,972
Totals	42,487	337,361	16	89,749

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 12th day of January 1999.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

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

[FR Doc. 99-948 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Intent To Seek Approval To Reinstate Without Revision an Information Collection

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to request reinstatement of this collection. In accordance with the requirement of Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13), we are providing an opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting that OMB approve clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by March 16, 1999 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the information collection and requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Rm. 295, Arlington, VA 22230, or by e-mail to splimpto@nsf.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 295, Arlington, Virginia 22230; telephone (703) 306-1125 x 2017; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf

(TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: National Science Foundation Science Honor Awards.
OMB Approval Number: 3145-0035.
Expiration Date of Approval: Not applicable.

Type of Request: Intent to seek approval to reinstate an information collection for three years.

Abstract: The National Science Foundation (NSF) administers several honorary awards, among them the President's National Medal of Science, the Alan T. Waterman Award, the NSB Vannevar Bush Award, and the NSB Public Service Award.

Use of the Information: The Foundation has the following honor award programs:

- President's National Medal of Science. Statutory authority for the President's National Medal of Science is contained in 42 U.S.C. 1881 (P.L. 86-209), which established the award and stated that "(t)he President shall * * * award the Medal on the recommendations received from the National Academy of Sciences or on the basis of such other information and evidence as * * * appropriate."

Subsequently, Executive Order 10961 specified procedures for the Award by establishing a National Medal of Science Committee which would "receive recommendations made by any other nationally representative scientific or engineering organization." On the basis of these recommendations, the Committee was directed to select its candidates and to forward its recommendations to the President.

In 1962, to comply with these directives, the Committee initiated a solicitation form letter to invite these nominations. In 1979, the Committee initiated a nomination form as an attachment to the solicitation letter. A slightly modified version of the nomination form was used in 1980. The Committee agreed that such a form standardized the nomination format, benefiting the nominator, making the Committee's review process more efficient and permitted better staff work in a shorter period of time. Form NSF-1122 will be used to further standardize the nomination procedures, thus continuing to allow for more effective committee review, and permitting better staff work in a shorter period of time.

The Committee has established the following guidelines for selection of candidates:

1. The total impact of an individual's work on the present state of physical,

biological, mathematical, engineering, or social and behavioral sciences is to be the principal criterion.

2. Achievements of an unusually significant nature in relation to the potential effects of such achievements on the development of scientific thought.

3. Unusually distinguished service in the general advancement of science and engineering, when accompanied by substantial contributions to the content of science at some time.

4. Recognition by peers within the scientific community.

5. Contributions to innovation and industry.

6. Influence on education through publications, students, etc.

7. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident who has applied for citizenship.

Nominations remain active for a period of four years, including the year of nomination. After that time, candidates must be renominated with a new nomination package for them to be considered by the Committee.

Nomination forms should be typewritten, single-spaced using a font no smaller than 12 characters per inch. Renominations may be submitted via an updated nomination form.

- Alan T. Waterman Award. Congress established the Alan T. Waterman Award in August 1975 (42 U.S.C. 1881a (P.L. 94-86) and authorized NSF to "establish the Alan T. Waterman Award for research or advanced study in any of the sciences or engineering" to mark the 25th anniversary of the National Science Foundation and to honor its first Director. The annual award recognizes an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering supported by NSF. In addition to a medal, the awardee receives a grant of \$500,000 over a three-year period for scientific research or advanced study in the mathematical, physical, medical, biological, engineering, social, or other sciences at the institution of the recipient's choice.

The Alan T. Waterman Award Committee was established by NSF to comply with the directive contained in P.L. 94-86. The Committee solicits nominations from members of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, scientific and technical organizations, and any other source, public or private, as appropriate.

In 1976, the Committee initiated a form letter to solicit these nominations. In 1980, a nomination form was used which standardized the nomination procedures, allowed for more effective Committee review, and permitted better staff work in a short period of time. On

the basis of its review, the Committee forwards its recommendations to the Director, NSF, and the National Science Board (NSB).

Candidates must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must be 35 years of age or younger or not more than five years beyond receipt of the Ph.D. degree by December 31 of the year in which they are nominated. Candidates should have demonstrated exceptional individual achievements in scientific or engineering research of sufficient quality to place them at the forefront of their peers. Criteria include originality, innovation, and significant impact on the field.

- Vannevar Bush Award. The NSB established the Vannevar Bush Award in 1980 to honor Dr. Bush's unique contributions to public service. The annual award recognizes an individual who, through public service activities in science and technology, has made an outstanding "contribution toward the welfare of mankind and the Nation."

The Vannevar Bush Award Committee is periodically established by the NSB to solicit nominations from selected scientific engineering and educational societies. Candidates must be a senior stateperson who is an American citizen and who meets two or more of the following criteria:

1. Who has distinguished him/herself through public service activities in science and technology.

2. Who has pioneered the exploration, charting and settlement of new frontiers in science, technology, education and public service.

3. Whose leadership and creativity have inspired others to distinguished careers in science and technology.

4. Who has contributed to the welfare of the Nation and mankind through activities in science and technology.

5. Whose leadership and creativity have helped mold the history of advancements in the Nation's science, technology, and education.

Nomination submissions should be in letter format, accompanied by a complete biography and a brief citation summarizing the nominee's scientific or technological contributions to our national welfare in promotion of the progress of science. Nominations remain active for three years, including the year of nomination.

- Public Service Award. The NSB established the Public Service Award in November 1996. This annual award recognizes people and organizations who have increased the public understanding of science or engineering. The award may be given to an individual and to a group (company,

corporation, or organization), but not to members of the U.S. Government.

Eligibility includes any individual or group (company, corporation or organization) that has increased the public understanding of science or engineering. Members of the U.S. Government are not eligible for consideration.

Candidates for the individual and group (company, corporation or organization) award must have made contributions to public service in areas other than research, and should meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Increased the public's understanding of the processes of science and engineering through scientific discovery, innovation and its communication to the public.
2. Encouraged others to help raise the public understanding of science and technology.
3. Promoted the engagement of scientists and engineers in public outreach and scientific literacy.
4. Contributed to the development of broad science and engineering policy and its support.
5. Influenced and encouraged the next generation of scientist and engineers.
6. Achieved broad recognition outside the nominee's area of specialization.
7. Fostered awareness of science and technology among broad segments of the population.

Nomination Procedures

1. Prepare a summary of the nominee's activities as they relate to the selection criteria. Include the nominator's name, address and telephone number, and the name, address, and telephone number of the nominee, as well as the nominee's vita, if appropriate (no more than three pages).

2. The selection committee recommends the most outstanding candidate(s) for each category to the NSB, which approves the awardees.

3. Nominations remain active for a period of three years, including the year of nomination. After that time, candidates must be renominated for them to be considered by the selection committee.

4. Nominations should be mailed or faxed to the NSB Public Service Award Advisory Committee. Electronic mail does not protect confidentiality and should not be used for this purpose. Facsimile copies should be followed up by the original, signed document in order for the nomination to be reviewed by the selection committee.

Estimate of Burden: These are annual award programs with application deadlines varying according to the

program. Public burden also may vary according to program; however, it is estimated that each submission is averaged to be 8 hours per respondent for each program. If the nominator is thoroughly familiar with the scientific background of the nominee, time spent to complete the nomination may be considerably reduced.

Respondents: Individuals, businesses or other for-profit organizations, universities, non-profit institutions, and Federal and State governments.

Estimated Number of Responses per Award: 137 responses, broken down as follows: For the President's National Medal of Science, 45; for the Alan T. Waterman Award, 60; for the Vannevar Bush Award, 12; for the Public Service Award, 20.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,242 hours, broken down by 450 hours for the President's National Medal of Science (10 hours per 45 respondents); 600 hours for the Alan T. Waterman Award (10 hours per 60 respondents); 72 hours for the Vannevar Bush Award (6 hours per 12 respondents); and 120 hours for the Public Service Award (6 hours per 20 respondents).

Frequency of Responses: Annually.

Comments: 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 on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Dated: January 11, 1999.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-931 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-U

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Computer & Computation Research; 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 Panel in Computer-Communications Research (1192).

Date: February 5, 1999.

Time: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Place: Room 330, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Dr. Robert B. Grafton, Program Director, Design Automation, CISE/C-CR, Room 1145, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, (703) 306-1936.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate research proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason For Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data such as salaries, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government Sunshine Act.

Dated: January 11, 1999.

Janet Siwa,

Acting Deputy Division Director, Division of Human Resources Management.

[FR Doc. 99-861 Filed 1-14-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Engineering Education and Centers; Notice of Meeting

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

Name: Special Emphasis Panel in Engineering Education and Centers (173).

Date/Time: February 2, 1999, 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, Room 310, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Joy Pauschke, Program Director, Engineering Education and Centers Division, National Science Foundation, Room 585, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and recommendations concerning proposals submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate Engineering Research Centers Proposals as part of the selection process for awards.

Reason For Closing: The proposals being reviewed include information of a proprietary or confidential nature, including technical information; financial data, such as salaries; and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals. These matters are exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) (4) and (6) of the Government in the Sunshine Act.