

program utilizes, to the greatest degree possible, existing Unemployment Insurance (UI) records and computerized data files, supplemented by direct employer contact. Its major features include:

- The identification of major layoffs and closings through initial UI claims filed against the identified employer;
- The use of existing files on claimants to obtain basic demographic and economic characteristics on the individual;
- The telephone contact of those employers meeting mass layoff criteria to obtain specific information on the nature of the layoff and characteristics of the establishment;
- The identification of the continuing impact of the mass layoff on individuals by matching affected initial claimants with persons in claims status; and,
- The measurement of the incidence of the exhaustion of regular state UI benefits by affected workers.

In the program, State Employment Security Agencies (SEAS) submit seven comprehensive reports each quarter, and a preliminary, summary report each month. These computerized reports contain information from State administrative files and information obtained from those employers meeting the program criteria of a mass layoff.

Congress has provided for the implementation of the MLS program by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) through the Fiscal Years 1984–1992 appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies. The program was not operational in Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994. Program operation resumed in Fiscal Year 1995 with funds provided by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

At the present time, all states (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) are participating in the program.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) Program.

In addition to the BLS uses of MLS data, such data are used by Congress, the Executive Branch, the business, labor, and academic communities, SEAS, and the U.S. Department of Labor for both macro- and microeconomic analysis, including specific labor market studies geared towards manpower assistance and development. Congress used these data in conjunction with the findings from a supplemental study of layoff actions in the development of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, which was enacted in August 1988. Furthermore, the ETA uses MLS microdata in the evaluation of dislocated worker programs to assess the effectiveness of those activities and services.

A Congressionally mandated use of mass layoff data includes the WIA, which replaces Title III of the JTPA. Section 133 of the WIA encourages the use of MLS data in substate allocations relating to dislocated worker employment and training activities.

State agencies use the MLS data in various ways, including the identification of geographic areas in need of special manpower services; ailing or troubled industries; specific employers needing assistance; outreach activities for the unemployed; and workers in need of temporary health care services.

There is no other comprehensive source of statistics on either establishments or workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closings; therefore, none of the aforementioned data requirements could be fulfilled if this data collection did not occur.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: Mass Layoff Statistics Program.

OMB Number: 1220–0090.

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

Total Respondents: 23,053.

Frequency: SEAS report quarterly and monthly. Affected employers report on occasion.

Total Responses: 23,848.

Average Time Per Response: 60 minutes for SEAS and 20 minutes for employers.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 81,547 hours.

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, DC, this 17th day of June, 2002.

Jesús Salinas,

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

[FR Doc. 02–16717 Filed 7–2–02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510–24–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed reinstatement of the “National Longitudinal Survey of Women.” A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the **ADDRESSES** section below on or before September 3, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Amy A. Hobby, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212, telephone number 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy A. Hobby, BLS Clearance Officer, telephone number 202-691-7628. (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The National Longitudinal Survey of Women (NLSW) has been conducted since the late 1960s. Historically, the NLSW was collected as two surveys, the Survey of Work Experience for Mature Women (which includes women born from April 1, 1922 to March 31, 1937) and the Survey of Work Experience for Young Women (which includes women born in the years 1943 to 1953). In 1995, the Bureau of the Census, which collects the data for the Bureau of Labor Statistics, combined the mature and young women's cohorts into a single survey, a change that has improved the efficiency of survey operations.

The data collected in the NLSW contribute to the knowledge about opportunities and services for women who are in the labor force, want to re-enter the labor force, or choose not to participate in the labor force. Survey data also contribute to the knowledge about women's ability to succeed in the job market and how their levels of success relate to educational attainment, vocational training, prior occupational experiences, general and job-specific experiences, and retirement decisions.

The mission of the Department of Labor (DOL) is to promote the development of the U.S. labor force and the efficiency of the U.S. labor market. The BLS contributes to this mission by gathering information about the labor force and labor market and disseminating it to policy makers and the public so that participants in those markets can make more informed, and

thus more efficient, choices. Research based on the NLSW contributes to the formation of national policy in the areas of education, training and employment programs, unemployment compensation, and retirement income from pensions and Social Security. In addition, members of the academic community publish articles and reports based on NLSW data for the Department of Labor (DOL) and other funding agencies. The DOL uses the measurement of changes in the labor market to design programs that would ease employment and unemployment problems. The survey design provides data gathered over time to form the only data set that contains this type of information for this important population group. Without the collection of these data, an accurate longitudinal data set could not be provided to researchers and policymakers, and the DOL could not perform its policy- and report-making activities, as described above.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

III. Current Actions

The Bureau of Labor Statistics seeks approval to conduct the 2003 NLSW. The 2003 NLSW will document work experience, labor force attachment, participation in educational or training programs, financial status, health, and health insurance coverage. The survey will continue to obtain detailed information on the work history and pension coverage of respondents and their husbands. In addition, the survey will obtain information on intergenerational transfers of time and money between respondents and their children or their spouses' children. Respondents living in long-term care institutions who are mentally competent to answer questions will be interviewed in the 2003 NLSW; institutionalized respondents were considered to be out of scope in prior rounds of the survey. The 2003 NLSW will include contacts with approximately 6,677 women (2,810 ages 66 to 80 and 3,867 ages 49 to 60). A subsample of 50 women will be selected for a pretest to be conducted in January 2003 to ensure that the survey instrument and all procedures are working properly before the main fielding begins in June. Assuming the pretest works successfully, these 50 women will not be interviewed a second time during the main fielding. As in previous administrations of the NLSW, 10 percent of the sample in 2003 will be asked to participate in a brief follow-up interview that will last approximately 5 minutes. This reinterview is a quality-control tool, in which managers at the Census Bureau ask respondents a few questions to verify that an interview took place.

Type of Review: Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: National Longitudinal Survey of Women.

OMB Number: 1220-0110.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (minutes)	Estimated total burden (hours)
2003 NLSW Pretest	50	Biennially	50	70	58
2003 NLSW Main Fielding	6,627	Biennially	6,627	70	7789
Reinterview	663	Biennially	663	5	55
Totals	6,677	7,340	7,902

Note: The difference between the total number of respondents and the total number of responses reflects the fact that 663 respondents will be interviewed twice, once in either the pretest or the main fielding and a second time in the quality-control reinterview. An additional 58 burden hours have been included for the main fielding to account for the possibility of having to interview the 50 women selected for the pretest again in the main fielding in the unlikely event that the pretest fails completely.

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, DC, this 24th day of June 2002.

Jesús Salinas,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

[Application No: D-10936]

Adoption of Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemption 96-62 (PTE 96-62) To Permit Certain Authorized Transactions Between Plans and Parties in Interest

AGENCY: Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Adoption of amendment to PTE 96-62.

SUMMARY: This document amends PTE 96-62 (61 FR 39988, July 31, 1996). PTE 96-62 permits certain prospective transactions between employee benefit plans and parties in interest where such transactions are specifically authorized by the Department and are subject to terms, conditions and representations which are substantially similar to two individual exemptions granted by the Department within the 60 month period ending on the date of filing of a written submission seeking authorization for the transaction. The amendment affects plans, participants and beneficiaries of such plans and certain persons engaging in such transactions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This amendment is effective July 3, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Padams Lavigne, Office of Exemption Determinations, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration at (202) 693-8540 (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 20, 2002, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (67 FR 13019) of the pendency before the Department of a proposed amendment to PTE 96-62. PTE 96-62 provides relief from a restriction described in sections 406(a)

and 406(b) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA or the Act) or a parallel restriction described in section 8477(c)(2) of the Federal Employees' Retirement Systems Act (FERSA), and from the taxes imposed by section 4975(a) and (b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), by reason of a parallel provision described in section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (F) of the Code. The amendment adopted by this notice was proposed by the Department on its own motion pursuant to section 408(a) of ERISA and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code and in accordance with the procedures set forth in 29 CFR part 2570, subpart B (55 FR 32836, August 10, 1990).¹

The notice gave interested persons an opportunity to comment or to request a hearing on the proposed amendment. No public comments or requests for a hearing were received.

For the sake of convenience, the entire text of PTE 96-62, as amended, has been reprinted with this notice.

Description of the Exemption

Section I of PTE 96-62 provides relief from certain of the restrictions described in section 406(a) of ERISA and from the taxes imposed by section 4975(a) and (b) of the Code, by reason of a parallel provision described in section 4975(c)(1)(A) through (D) of the Code, for a transaction between a plan and a party in interest with respect to such plan, provided the conditions of the exemption are met. Under section II, additional relief is provided from certain of the restrictions described in section 406(b) of ERISA and the parallel restrictions described in section 8477(c)(2) of FERSA, as well as from the taxes imposed by section 4975(a) and (b) of the Code, by reason of a parallel provision described in section 4975(c)(1)(E) and (F). Sections I(a) and II(a) require that the transaction be substantially similar (as defined in section IV(a) of PTE 96-62) to transactions described in at least two individual exemptions that were granted by the Department, and which provided relief from the same restrictions as requested by the party, within the 60-month period ending on the date of filing of the written submission.²

The amendment granted by this notice expands sections I(a) and II(a) to

permit parties to either base their submission on substantially similar transactions described in two individual exemptions granted within the past 60 months; or on one individual exemption granted within the past 120 months and one transaction which received final authorization by the Department under PTE 96-62 within the past 60 months (the Authorized Transaction). The Department believes that the alternate method for satisfying the requirements of sections I(a) and II(a) will continue to ensure that the transactions that the party compares to its proposed transaction reflect the current policies of the Department.³ The amendment also adds a definition for the term "Authorized Transaction" in section IV(g).

The Department notes that all other conditions contained in PTE 96-62 must continue to be satisfied with respect to those parties seeking to base their submissions on an Authorized Transaction rather than on two substantially similar individual exemptions. Accordingly, these parties should submit, among other things, a comparison of the proposed transaction with the Authorized Transaction and the transaction which was the subject of the individual exemption, including an explanation as to why any differences should not be considered material.

General Information

The attention of interested persons is directed to the following:

(1) The fact that a transaction is the subject of an exemption under section 408(a) of the Act and section 4975(c)(2) of the Code does not relieve a fiduciary or other party in interest or disqualified person from certain other provisions of ERISA and the Code to which the exemption does not expressly apply and the general fiduciary provisions of section 404 of ERISA. Section 404 requires, in part, that a fiduciary discharge his or her duties respecting the plan solely in the interest of participants and beneficiaries of the plan and in a prudent fashion in

¹ Section 102 of Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 1 (1996)) generally transferred the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to issue administrative exemptions under section 4975(c)(2) of the Code to the Secretary of Labor.

² Section IV(a) defines the term "substantially similar" to mean alike in all respects as determined by the Department, in its sole discretion.

³ The Department maintains, on its website (www.dol.gov/pwba) a list of Authorized Transactions. This list includes the following information: The final authorization numbers, the name of the applicants, a description of the transactions, and the grant numbers and **Federal Register** citations of the exemptions on which the submissions were based. Parties wishing to base their submissions on an Authorized Transaction will be able to refer to the submissions previously filed by parties under PTE 96-62 and to the two granted individual exemptions identified as substantially similar for additional information regarding the subject transactions.