

adversely affected the profitability of the Superior Milling.

Imports of flooring stock from Canada by the major customer is not "like or directly competitive" with articles produced by the firm and therefore is not a relevant factor in meeting the eligibility requirement of section 250 of the Trade Act.

Conclusion

After review of the application and investigative findings, I conclude that there has been no error or misinterpretation of the law or of the facts which would justify reconsideration of the Department of Labor's prior decision. Accordingly, the application is denied.

Signed at Washington, DC this 21st day of June 2002.

Edward A. Tomchick,
Director, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.

[FR Doc. 02-17149 Filed 7-8-02; 8:45 am]

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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 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. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below 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 9, 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 BLS has been charged by Congress (29 USC Chapters 1 and 2) with the responsibility of collecting and publishing monthly information on employment, the average wage received, and the hours worked by area and industry. The process for developing residency-based employment and unemployment estimates is a cooperative Federal-State program which uses employment and unemployment inputs available in State Employment Security Agencies (SEAs).

The labor force estimates developed and issued in this program are used for economic analysis and as a tool in the implementation of Federal economic policy in such areas as employment and economic development under the Workforce Investment Act and the Public Works and Economic Development Act, among others.

The estimates also are used in economic analysis by public agencies and private industry, and for State and area funding allocations and eligibility determinations according to legal and administrative requirements. Implementation of current policy and legislative authorities could not be accomplished without collection of the data.

The reports and manual covered by this request are integral parts of the LAUS program insofar as they insure and/or measure the timeliness, quality, consistency, and adherence to program directions of the LAUS estimates and related research.

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 Action

The BLS is revising the information collection request that makes up the LAUS program.

All aspects of the program are automated. All data are entered directly into BLS-provided systems.

The BLS, as part of its responsibility to develop concepts and methods by which SEAs prepare estimates under the LAUS program, developed a manual for use by the SEAs. The manual explains the conceptual framework for the State and area estimates of employment and unemployment, specifies the procedures to be used, provides input information, and discusses the theoretical and empirical basis for each procedure. This manual is updated on a regular schedule.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program.

OMB Number: 1220-0017.

Affected Public: State government.

Total Respondents: 52.

Frequency: Monthly and Annually.

Total Responses: 87,300.

Average Time Per Response: 1.60 hours.

Estimated Total Burden Hours:
139,680 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 28th day of June, 2002.

Jesús Salinas,

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

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