

Request (Generic ICR): "Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery" to OMB for approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et. seq.*).

DATES: Comments must be submitted April 14, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov) or Nicholas Fraser, OMB Desk Officer, FAX number (202) 395-7285, or via the Internet at Nicholas_F_Fraser@omb.eop.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Gwellnar Banks, Department of Commerce, Office of the Chief Information Officer, (202) 482-3781 or via the Internet at gbanks@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Generic Clearance for the Collection of Qualitative Feedback on Agency Service Delivery.

Abstract: The information collection activity will garner qualitative customer and stakeholder feedback in an efficient, timely manner, in accordance with the Administration's commitment to improving service delivery. By qualitative feedback we mean information that provides useful insights on perceptions and opinions, but are not statistical surveys that yield quantitative results that can be generalized to the population of study. This feedback will provide insights into customer or stakeholder perceptions, experiences and expectations, provide an early warning of issues with service, or focus attention on areas where communication, training or changes in operations might improve delivery of products or services. These collections will allow for ongoing, collaborative and actionable communications between the Agency and its customers and stakeholders. It will also allow feedback to contribute directly to the improvement of program management.

Feedback collected under this generic clearance will provide useful information, but it will not yield data that can be generalized to the overall population. This type of generic clearance for qualitative information will not be used for quantitative information collections that are designed to yield reliably actionable results, such as monitoring trends over time or documenting program

performance. Such data uses require more rigorous designs that address: The target population to which generalizations will be made, the sampling frame, the sample design (including stratification and clustering), the precision requirements or power calculations that justify the proposed sample size, the expected response rate, methods for assessing potential non-response bias, the protocols for data collection, and any testing procedures that were or will be undertaken prior fielding the study. Depending on the degree of influence the results are likely to have, such collections may still be eligible for submission for other generic mechanisms that are designed to yield quantitative results.

The Agency received no comments in response to the 60-day notice published in the **Federal Register** of December 22, 2010 (75 FR 80542).

Below we provide Department of Commerce projected average estimates for the next three years: ¹

Current Actions: New collection of information.

Type of Review: New Collection.

Affected Public: Individuals and Households, Businesses and Organizations, State, Local or Tribal Government.

Average Expected Annual Number of Activities: 400.

Respondents: 153,140.

Annual responses: 153,140,

Frequency of Response: Once per request.

Average minutes per response: 30.

Burden hours: 28,840.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget control number.

Dated: March 10, 2011.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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¹ The 60-day notice included the following estimate of the aggregate burden hours for this generic clearance Federal-wide:

Average Expected Annual Number of activities: 25,000.

Average number of Respondents per Activity: 200.

Annual responses: 5,000,000.

Frequency of Response: Once per request.

Average minutes per response: 30.

Burden hours: 2,500,000.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Census Bureau

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; 2012 Economic Census Covering the Manufacturing Sector

AGENCY: U.S. Census Bureau.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted on or before May 16, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Julius Smith, Jr., U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing and Construction Division, Room 7K055, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233, telephone (301) 763-7662, (or via the Internet at julius.smith.jr@census.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau is the preeminent collector and provider of timely, relevant and quality data about the people and economy of the United States. Economic data are the Census Bureau's primary program commitment during non-decennial census years. The economic census, conducted under authority of Title 13 United States Code, is the primary source of facts about the structure and functioning of the Nation's economy and features unique industry and geographic detail. Economic census statistics serve as part of the framework for the national accounts and provide essential information for government, business and the general public. The 2012 Economic Census covering the Manufacturing Sector will measure the economic activity for more than 291,000 manufacturing establishments.

The information collected from companies in the manufacturing sector of the economic census will produce basic statistics by industry for number of establishments, payroll, employment, value of shipments, value added, capital expenditures, depreciation, materials consumed, selected purchased services, electric energy used and inventories held.

Primary strategies for reducing burden in Census Bureau economic data collections are to increase electronic reporting through broader use of computerized self-administered census questionnaires, electronic data interchange, and other electronic data collection methods.

II. Method of Collection

Establishments included in this collection will be selected from a frame given by the Census Bureau's Business Register. To be eligible for selection, an establishment will be required to satisfy the following conditions: (i) It must be classified in the manufacturing sector; (ii) it must be an active operating establishment of a multi-establishment company, or it must be an operating single-establishment company with payroll; and (iii) it must be located in one of the 50 states or the District of Columbia. Most establishments will be included in the mail portion of the collection. Forms tailored for the particular kind of business will be mailed to the establishment to be filled out and returned. Establishments not meeting certain cutoffs for payroll will be included in the non-mail portion of the collection. We will use administrative data in lieu of collecting data directly from these establishments.

Mail selection procedures will distinguish several groups of establishments. Establishment selection to a particular group is based on a number of factors. The more important considerations are the size of the company and whether it is included in the intercensal Annual Survey of Manufacturers (ASM) sample panel. The ASM panel is representative of both large and small establishments from the mail component of the manufacturing census. The ASM sample panel includes approximately 51,000 establishments. The various groups of establishments that will constitute the 2012 Economic Census are outlined below.

A. Establishments of Multi-Establishment Companies

Selection procedures will assign eligible establishments of multi-

establishment companies to the mail components of the universe.

We estimate that the census mail canvass for 2012 will include the following:

- 1. ASM sample establishments: 33,000.
- 2. Non-ASM: 25,000.

B. Single-Establishment Companies Engaged in Manufacturing Activity With Payroll

As an initial step in the selection process, we will analyze the potential universe for manufacturing. This analysis will produce a set of industry-specific payroll cutoffs that we will use to distinguish large versus small-establishment companies within each industry. This payroll size distinction will affect selection as follows:

1. Large Single-Establishment Companies

Single-establishment companies having annualized payroll (from Federal administrative records) that equals or exceeds the cutoff for their industry will be assigned to the mail component of the universe.

We estimate that the census mail canvass for 2012 will include the following:

- a. ASM sample establishments: 18,000.
- b. Non-ASM: 58,000.

2. Small Single-Establishment Companies

In selected industries, small single-establishment companies that satisfy a particular criteria (administrative record payroll cutoff) will receive a manufacturing short form, which will collect a reduced amount of basic statistics and other essential information that is not available from administrative records.

We estimate that the census mail canvass for 2012 will include approximately 34,000 companies in this category. This category does not contain ASM establishments.

3. All remaining single-establishment companies with payroll will be represented in the census by data estimated from Federal administrative records. Generally, we do not include these small employers in the census mail canvass.

We estimate that this category for 2012 will include approximately 123,000 manufacturing companies.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0938.

Form Number: The forms used to collect information from businesses in this sector of the economic census are tailored to specific business practices and are too numerous to list separately in this notice. You can obtain information on the proposed content at this Web site: <http://www.census.gov/mcd/clearance>.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit, not-for-profit institutions, and small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| ASM | 51,000 |
| Non-ASM (Long Form) | 83,000 |
| Non-ASM (Short Form) | 34,000 |
| Total | 168,000 |

Estimated Time per Response:

| | Hours |
|----------------------------|-------|
| ASM | 6.2 |
| Non-ASM (Long Form) | 4.0 |
| Non-ASM (Short Form) | 2.5 |

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 733,200.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$23,770,344.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 131 and 224.

IV. Request for 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 (including hours and cost) 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 collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

Dated: March 10, 2011.

Glenna Mickelson,
Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

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