

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Research and Innovative Technology Administration****Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics; Notice of Meeting**

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces, pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (Pub. L. 72-363; 5 U.S.C. app. 2), a meeting of the Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics (ACTS). The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 24th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. E.S.T. at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Room E37-302, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC. Section 52011 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) directs the U.S. Department of Transportation to establish an Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., App. 2) to advise the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on the quality, reliability, consistency, objectivity, and relevance of transportation statistics and analyses collected, supported, or disseminated by the Bureau and the Department. The following is a summary of the draft meeting agenda: (1) USDOT welcome and introduction of Council Members; (2) Discussion about the BTS Strategic Plan; (3) Discussion about a proposed Management Order concerning statistical integrity; (4) Program office Updates; (5) Public Comments and Closing Remarks. Participation is open to the public.

Members of the public who wish to participate must notify Courtney Freiberg at Courtney.Freiberg@dot.gov, not later than April 7, 2014. Members of the public may present oral statements at the meeting with the approval of Patricia Hu, Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Noncommittee members wishing to present oral statements or obtain information should contact Courtney Freiberg via email no later than April 7, 2014.

Questions about the agenda or written comments may be emailed (Courtney.Freiberg@dot.gov) or submitted by U.S. Mail to: U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Attention: Courtney Freiberg, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room #

E34-429, Washington, DC 20590, or faxed to (202) 366-3383. BTS requests that written comments be received by April 7, 2014. Access to the DOT Headquarters building is controlled therefore all persons who plan to attend the meeting must notify Courtney Freiberg at 202-366-1270 prior to April 7, 2014. Individuals attending the meeting must report to the main DOT entrance on New Jersey Avenue SE., for admission to the building. Attendance is open to the public, but limited space is available. Persons with a disability requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Courtney Freiberg at 202-366-1270 at least seven calendar days prior to the meeting.

Notice of this meeting is provided in accordance with the FACA and the General Services Administration regulations (41 CFR part 102-3) covering management of Federal advisory committees.

Issued in Washington, DC, on the 20th day of March, 2014.

Rolf Schmitt,

Deputy Director, Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

[FR Doc. 2014-06581 Filed 3-25-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-HY-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Surface Transportation Board**

[Docket No. EP 290 (Sub-No. 5) (2014-2)]

Quarterly Rail Cost Adjustment Factor

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

ACTION: Approval of rail cost adjustment factor.

SUMMARY: The Board has approved the second quarter 2014 Rail Cost Adjustment Factor (RCAF) and cost index filed by the Association of American Railroads. The second quarter 2014 RCAF (Unadjusted) is 0.975. The second quarter 2014 RCAF (Adjusted) is 0.421. The second quarter 2014 RCAF-5 is 0.397.

DATES: *Effective Date:* April 1, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pedro Ramirez, (202) 245-0333. Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) for the hearing impaired: (800) 877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision, which is available on our Web site, <http://www.stb.dot.gov>. Copies of the decision may be purchased by contacting the Office of Public Assistance, Governmental Affairs, and Compliance at (202) 245-

0238. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or energy conservation.

Decided: March 20, 2014.

By the Board, Chairman Elliott and Vice Chairman Begeman.

Jeffrey Herzog,
Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2014-06568 Filed 3-25-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Forms 1065, 1065-B, 1066, 1120, 1120-C, 1120-F, 1120-H, 1120-ND, 1120-S, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-PC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-POL and Related Attachments**

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Internal Revenue Service, 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 continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This notice requests comments on all forms used by business entity taxpayers: Forms 1065, 1065-B, 1066, 1120, 1120-C, 1120-F, 1120-H, 1120-ND, 1120-S, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-PC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-POL; and all attachments to these forms (see the Appendix to this notice). With this notice, the IRS is also announcing significant changes to (1) the manner in which tax forms used by business taxpayers will be approved under the PRA and (2) its method of estimating the paperwork burden imposed on all business taxpayers.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before April 25, 2014 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Send comments regarding the burden estimate, or any other aspect of the information collection, including suggestion for reducing the burden, to (1) Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attention: Desk Officer for Treasury, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503, or email at OIRA_Submission@

OMB.EOP.GOV and (2) Treasury PRA Clearance Officer, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Suite 8140, Washington, DC 20220, or email at PRA@treasury.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Copies of the submission(s) may be obtained by calling (202) 927-5331, email at PRA@treasury.gov, or the entire information collection request may be found at www.reginfo.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Change in PRA Approval of Forms Used by Business Taxpayers

Under the PRA, OMB assigns a control number to each “collection of information” that it reviews and approves for use by an agency. A single information collection may consist of one or more forms, recordkeeping requirements, and/or third-party disclosure requirements. Under the PRA and OMB regulations, agencies have the discretion to seek separate OMB approvals for business forms, recordkeeping requirements, and third-party reporting requirements or to combine any number of forms, recordkeeping requirements, and/or third-party disclosure requirements (usually related in subject matter) under one OMB Control Number. Agency decisions on whether to group individual requirements under a single OMB Control Number or to disaggregate them and request separate OMB Control Numbers are based largely on considerations of administrative practicality.

The PRA also requires agencies to estimate the burden for each collection of information. Accordingly, each OMB Control Number has an associated burden estimate. The burden estimates for each control number are displayed in (1) the PRA notices that accompany collections of information, (2) **Federal Register** notices such as this one, and (3) in OMB’s database of approved information collections. If more than one form, recordkeeping requirement, and/or third-party disclosure requirement is approved under a single control number, then the burden estimate for that control number reflects the burden associated with all of the approved forms, recordkeeping requirements, and/or third-party disclosure requirements.

As described below under the heading “New Burden Model,” the IRS’s new Business Taxpayer Burden Model (BTBM) estimates of taxpayer burden are based on taxpayer characteristics and activities, taking into account, among other things, the forms and schedules generally used by those groups of business taxpayers and the

recordkeeping and other activities needed to complete those forms. The BTBM represents the second phase of a long-term effort to improve the ability of IRS to measure the burden imposed on various groups of taxpayers by the federal tax system. While the new methodology provides a more accurate and comprehensive description of business taxpayer burden, it will not provide burden estimates on a form-by-form basis, as has been done under the previous methodology. When the prior model was developed in the mid-1980s, almost all tax returns were prepared manually, either by the taxpayer or a paid provider. In this context, it was determined that estimating burden on a form-by-form basis was an appropriate methodology. Today, over 90 percent of all business entity tax returns are prepared using software or with preparer assistance. In this environment, in which many taxpayers’ activities are no longer as directly associated with particular forms, estimating burden on a form-by-form basis is not an appropriate measurement of taxpayer burden. The new model, which takes into account broader and more comprehensive taxpayer characteristics and activities, provides a much more accurate and useful estimate of taxpayer burden.

Currently, there are 206 forms used by business taxpayers. These include Forms 1065, 1065-B, 1066, 1120, 1120-C, 1120-F, 1120-H, 1120-ND, 1120-S, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-PC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-POL, and their schedules and all the forms business entity taxpayers attach to their tax returns (see the Appendix to this notice). For most of these forms, IRS has in the past obtained separate OMB approvals under unique OMB Control Numbers and separate burden estimates.

The BTBM estimates the aggregate burden imposed on business taxpayers, based upon their tax-related characteristics and activities. IRS therefore will seek OMB approval of all 206 business-related tax forms as a single “collection of information.” The aggregate burden of these tax forms will be accounted for under OMB Control Number 1545-0123, which is currently assigned to Form 1120 and its schedules. OMB Control Number 1545-0123 will be displayed on all business tax forms and other information collections. As a result of this change, burden estimates for business taxpayers will now be displayed differently in PRA Notices on tax forms and other information collections, and in **Federal Register** notices.

This new way of displaying burden is presented below under the heading

“Proposed PRA Submission to OMB.” Because 44 of the 206 forms used by business taxpayers are also used by tax-exempt organizations, trusts and estates and other kinds of taxpayers, there will be a transition period during which IRS will report different burden estimates for individual taxpayers (OMB Control Number 1545-0074), business taxpayers (OMB Control Number 1545-0123), and another OMB Control Number for other taxpayers using the same forms. For those forms covered under OMB Control Numbers 1545-0074 and/or 1545-0123 and also used by other taxpayers, IRS will display the OMB Control Number related to the other filers on the form and provide the burden estimate for those taxpayers in the form instructions. The form instructions will refer readers to the burden estimates for individual and/or business taxpayers, as applicable. The burden estimates for business taxpayers will be reported and accounted for as described in this notice. The burden estimates for individual taxpayers will continue to be reported and accounted for under OMB Control Number 1545-0074 using a method similar to the method described in this notice. The burden estimates for other users of these forms will be determined under prior methodology based on form length and complexity.

New Burden Model

Data from the new BTBM revise the estimates of the levels of burden experienced by business taxpayers when complying with the federal tax laws. It replaces the earlier burden measurement developed in the mid-1980s. Since that time, improved technology and modeling sophistication have enabled the IRS to improve the burden estimates. The new model provides taxpayers and the IRS with a more comprehensive understanding of the current levels of taxpayer burden. It reflects major changes over the past two decades in the way taxpayers prepare and file their returns. The new BTBM also represents a substantial step forward in the IRS’s ability to assess likely impacts of administrative and legislative changes on business taxpayers.

The BTBM’s approach to measuring burden focuses on the characteristics and activities of business taxpayers rather than the forms they use. Key determinants of taxpayer burden in the model are the type of entity, total assets, total receipts, and activities reported on the tax return (income, deductions, credits, etc). In contrast, the previous estimates primarily focused on the length and complexity of each tax form. The changes between the old and new

burden estimates are due to the improved ability of the new methodology to measure burden and the expanded scope of what is measured. These changes create a one-time shift in the estimate of burden levels that reflects the better measurement of the new model. The differences in estimates between the models do not reflect any change in the actual burden experienced by taxpayers. Comparisons should not be made between these and the earlier published estimates, because the models measure burden in different ways.

Methodology

Burden is defined as the time and out-of-pocket costs incurred by taxpayers to comply with the federal tax system. As has been done for individual taxpayer burden since 2005, both the time expended and the out-of-pocket costs for business taxpayers are estimated. The burden estimation methodology relies on surveys that measure time and out-of-pocket costs that taxpayers spend on pre-filing and filing activities. The methodology establishes econometric relationships between tax return characteristics and reported compliance costs. The methodology controls for the substitution of time and money by monetizing time and reporting total compliance costs in dollars. This methodology better reflects taxpayer compliance burden, because in a world of electronic tax preparation, time and out-of-pocket costs are governed by the information required rather than the form on which it is ultimately reported.

Importantly, even where various businesses complete the same tax form lines, the new methodology differentiates the cost incurred to complete those forms based on characteristics of those businesses. Key business characteristics that serve as coefficients in the BTBM are:

- Entity type
- Total assets
- Total receipts
- Return complexity

The new model uses the following classifications of business taxpayers:

- Partnerships (Forms 1065, 1065-B, 1066)
- Taxable corporations (Forms 1120, 1120-C, 1120-F, 1120-H, 1120-ND, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-PC, 1120-POL)
- Pass-through corporations (Forms 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-S)

Each classification is further refined to separate large and small businesses, where a large business is generally defined as one having end of year assets totaling more than \$10 million.

Taxpayer Burden Estimates

Tables 1, 2, and 3 below show the burden model estimates for each of the three classifications of business taxpayers. The data shown are the best estimates for 2013 business entity income tax returns available as of September 2013. The estimates are subject to change as new forms and data become available.

Proposed PRA Submission to OMB

Title: U.S. Business Income Tax Return.

OMB Number: 1545-0123.

Form Numbers: Forms 1065, 1065-B, 1066, 1120, 1120-C, 1120-F, 1120-H, 1120-ND, 1120-S, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-PC, 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-POL and all attachments to these forms (see the Appendix to this notice).

Abstract: These forms are used by businesses to report their income tax liability. The data is used to verify that the items reported on the forms are correct, and also for general statistics use.

Current Actions: Changes are being made to the forms and the method of burden computation.

Type of Review: Extension of currently approved collections.

Affected Public: Businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,300,000.

Total Estimated Time: 2.8 billion hours.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 275 hours.

Total Estimated Out-of-Pocket Costs: \$48.5 billion.

Estimated Out-of-Pocket Cost Per Respondent: \$4,700.

Note: Amounts below are for FY2014. Reported time and cost burdens are national averages and do not necessarily reflect a “typical” case. Most taxpayers experience lower than average burden, with taxpayer burden varying considerably by taxpayer type. Detail may not add due to rounding.

TABLE 1

Primary form filed or type of taxpayer	Number of returns (millions)	Burden	
		Average time	Average cost
All Partnerships	3.6	290	5,600
Small	3.4	270	4,400
Large*	0.2	605	29,000

Forms 1065, 1065-B, 1066 and all attachments.

TABLE 2

Primary form filed or type of taxpayer	Number of returns (millions)	Burden	
		Average time	Average cost
All Taxable Corporations	2.1	305	5,800
Small	2.1	280	4,000
Large*	0.1	1,245	68,900

Forms 1120, 1120-C, 1120-F, 1120-H, 1120-ND, 1120-SF, 1120-FSC, 1120-L, 1120-PC, 1120-POL and all attachments.

TABLE 3

Primary form filed or type of taxpayer	Number of returns (millions)	Burden	
		Average time	Average cost
All Pass-Through Corporations	4.5	245	3,500

TABLE 3—Continued

Primary form filed or type of taxpayer	Number of returns (millions)	Burden	
		Average time	Average cost
Small	4.4	240	3,100
Large**	0.1	605	30,800

Forms 1120-REIT, 1120-RIC, 1120-S and all attachments.

*A large business is defined as one having end of year assets greater than \$10 million.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB Control Number.

Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal revenue law. Generally, tax returns and tax return information are confidential, as required by 26 U.S.C. 6103.

Request for Comments

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (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; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Approved: March 21, 2014.

Robert Dahl,

Treasury Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 2014-06657 Filed 3-25-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Notices and Correspondence Project Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas, and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 16, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy Shepard at 1-888-912-1227 or 206-220-6095.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that a meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Notices and Correspondence Project Committee will be held Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 12 p.m. Eastern Time via teleconference. The public is invited to make oral comments or submit written statements for consideration. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate must be made with Timothy Shepard. For more information please contact Mr. Shepard at 1-888-912-1227 or 206-220-6095, or write TAP Office, 915 2nd Avenue, MS W-406, Seattle, WA 98174, or contact us at the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The agenda will include a discussion on various letters, and other issues related to written communications from the IRS.

Dated: March 21, 2014.

Otis Simpson,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2014-06703 Filed 3-25-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Tax Forms and Publications Project Committee will be conducted. The Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is soliciting public comments, ideas and suggestions on improving customer service at the Internal Revenue Service.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 9, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trena Derricott at 1-888-912-1227 or 801-620-3035.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Tax Forms and Publications Project Committee will be held Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time via teleconference. The public is invited to make oral comments or submit written statements for consideration. Due to limited conference lines, notification of intent to participate must be made with Ms. Derricott. For more information please contact Ms. Derricott at 1-888-912-1227 or 801-620-3035, or write TAP Office, Arka Monterey Park Building, 1973 North Rulon White Blvd., Ogden, UT 84404-5402 or contact us at the Web site: <http://www.improveirs.org>.

The committee will be discussing various issues related to Tax Forms and Publications and public input is welcomed.

Dated: March 21, 2014.

Otis Simpson,

Acting Director, Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

[FR Doc. 2014-06667 Filed 3-25-14; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Notices and Correspondence Project Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Tax Forms and Publications Project Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open meeting of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel Taxpayer Assistance Center Improvements Project Committee

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.