compare business innovation in the United States to that of other countries.

The ABS would cover all domestic, nonfarm employer businesses with operations during the survey year. Nonemployer businesses would not be within the scope of the ABS. The Census Bureau will submit a separate request for approval to collect business and owner characteristics from nonemployer businesses if it is determined that a collection is needed to produce those estimates.

The ABS would collect the following information from employer businesses:

—Owner characteristics, including the gender, ethnicity, race, and veteran status of the principal owner(s) from all firms in the sample;
—Various business characteristics, including financing, from all firms in the sample;
—Research and development activity and costs from firms with less than 10 employees; and
—Innovation practices from all firms in the sample.

Additional owner topics include military service, owner acquisition, job functions, number of hours worked, primary income, prior business ownership, age of owner, education and field of degree, citizenship and place of birth, and reason for owning the business. Other business topics include number of owners and percent ownership, family owned and operated, business aspirations, funding sources, profitability, types of customers, types of workers, employee benefits, home operation, Web site use, and business activity. Starting with the 2018 survey, the ABS may include new module questions each year based on relevant business topics. Potential topics include technological advances, Internet usage, management and business practices, exporting practices, and globalization.

The draft content for the ABS will be cognitively tested with approximately 20 businesses. The questionnaire and interview protocol will be used to assess the feasibility and merit of suggested changes that arise from the testing.

The 2017 ABS will sample approximately 850,000 employer businesses to produce statistics that are more detailed. Annually from 2018–2021, the survey sample will be reduced to approximately 300,000 businesses to reduce respondent burden. Businesses which reported business activity on Internal Revenue Service tax forms 941, ''Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return;'' 944, ''Employer's Annual Federal Tax Return;'' or any one of the 1120 corporate tax forms will be eligible for selection.

The ABS will be collected using only electronic instruments. Respondents will receive a letter notifying them of their requirement to respond and how to access the survey. Responses will be due approximately 30 days from receipt. Select businesses will receive a due date reminder via a letter prior to the due date. Additionally, two mail follow-ups to nonrespondents will be conducted at approximately one-month intervals. Select nonrespondents will receive a certified mailing for the second follow-up if needed.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) unless that collection of information displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. In accordance with the PRA, 44 U.S.C., Chapter 45, the Census Bureau will submit a request for approval to the OMB for approval of the ABS. The Census Bureau previously published a notice in the **Federal Register** on August 7, 2017 (82 FR 36728) informing the public of this planned submission and inviting public comment.

Dated: October 18, 2017.

Ron S. Jarmin,

Associate Director for Economic Programs, Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the Director Bureau of the Census.

[FR Doc. 2017–23041 Filed 10–23–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Performance Review Board Membership

AGENCY: Economics and Statistics Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) announces the appointment of members who will serve on the ESA Performance Review Board (PRB). The purpose of the PRB is to provide fair and impartial review of senior executive service and scientific and professional performance appraisals, bonus recommendations, pay adjustments and Presidential Rank Award nominations. The term of each PRB member will expire on December 31, 2019.

DATES: The date of service of appointees to the ESA Performance Review Board is based upon publication of this notice.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4), the names and position titles of the members of the PRB are set forth below:

John M. Abowd, Associate Director for Research and Methodology, Census Bureau

Dina Beaumont, Senior Advisor for Trade Initiatives Implementation, International Trade Administration

Lisa M. Blumerman, Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs, Census Bureau

Eric Branstad, Senior White House Advisor, Office of the Secretary

Stephen B. Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, ESA

Joanne Buenzli Crane, Chief Financial Officer, Census Bureau

Gregory Capella, Deputy Director, National Technical Information Service

Paul Farello, Associate Director for International Economics, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Ron Jarmin, Associate Director for Economic Programs, Census Bureau

Enrique Lamas, Associate Director for Demographic Programs, Census Bureau

Brian C. Moyer, Director, BEA

Timothy Olson, Associate Director for Field Operations, Census Bureau

Joel D. Platt, Associate Director for Regional Economics, BEA

Kevin Smith, Associate Director for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer, Census Bureau

Erich Strassner, Associate Director for National Economic Accounts, BEA

Sarahelen Thompson, Deputy Director, BEA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Latasha Ellis, Program Manager, Executive Resources Office, Human Resources Division, Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Washington, DC 20233, 301–763–3727.

Dated: October 11, 2017.

Stephen B. Burke,

Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Chair, ESA Performance Review Board.

[FR Doc. 2017–22946 Filed 10–23–17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–BS–P