

0031. The postcard will be date/time stamped and returned.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket ID Number DOT-OST-2014-0031 by any of the following methods:

*Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

*Mail:* Docket Services: U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001.

*Hand Delivery or Courier:* West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Fax:* 202-366-3383.

*Instructions:* Identify docket number, DOT-OST-2014-0031, at the beginning of your comments, and send two copies. To receive confirmation that DOT received your comments, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Internet users may access all comments received by DOT at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments are posted electronically without charge or edits, including any personal information provided.

*Privacy Act:* Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477-78) or you may visit <http://DocketInfo.dot.gov>.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> or the street address listed above. Follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets.

*Electronic Access:* You may access comments received for this notice at <http://www.regulations.gov>, by searching docket DOT-OST-2014-0031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*OMB Approval No.* 2138-0009.

*Title:* Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Small Aircraft Operators.

*Form No.:* BTS Form 298-C.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection for the financial data.

*Respondents:* Small certificated (29) and commuter air carriers (35).

**Schedule F1**

*Number of Respondents:* 64.

*Number of Annual responses:* 256.  
*Total Burden per Response:* 4 hours.  
*Total Annual Burden:* 1,024 hours.

**Schedule F2**

*Number of Respondents:* 29.  
*Number of Annual responses:* 116.  
*Total Burden per Response:* 12 hours.  
*Total Annual Burden:* 1,392 hours.  
*Needs and Uses:* Program uses for Form 298-C financial data are as follows:

**Mail Rates**

The Department of Transportation sets and updates the Intra-Alaska Bush mail rates based on carrier aircraft operating expense, traffic, and operational data. Form 298-C cost data, especially fuel costs, terminal expenses, and line haul expenses are used in arriving at rate levels. DOT revises the established rates based on the percentage of unit cost changes in the carriers' operations. These updating procedures have resulted in the carriers receiving rates of compensation that more closely parallel their costs of providing mail service and contribute to the carriers' economic well-being.

**Essential Air Service**

DOT often has to select a carrier to provide a community's essential air service. The selection criteria include historic presence in the community, reliability of service, financial stability and cost structure of the air carrier.

**Carrier Fitness**

Fitness determinations are made for both new entrants and established U.S. domestic carriers proposing a substantial change in operations. A portion of these applications consists of an operating plan for the first year (14 CFR part 204) and an associated projection of revenues and expenses. The carrier's operating costs, included in these projections, are compared against the cost data in Form 298-C for a carrier or carriers with the same aircraft type and similar operating characteristics. Such a review validates the reasonableness of the carrier's operating plan.

The quarterly financial submissions by commuter and small certificated air carriers are used in determining each carrier's continuing fitness to operate. Section 41738 of Title 49 of the United States Code requires DOT to find all commuter and small certificated air carriers fit, willing, and able to conduct passenger service as a prerequisite to providing such service to an eligible essential air service point. In making a fitness determination, DOT reviews three areas of a carrier's operation: (1)

The qualifications of its management team, (2) its disposition to comply with laws and regulations, and (3) its financial posture. DOT must determine whether or not a carrier has sufficient financial resources to conduct its operations without imposing undue risk on the traveling public. Moreover, once a carrier begins conducting flight operations, DOT is required to monitor its continuing fitness.

Senior DOT officials must be kept fully informed and advised of all current and developing economic issues affecting the airline industry. In preparing financial condition reports or status reports on a particular airline, financial and traffic data are analyzed. Briefing papers prepared for senior DOT officials may use the same information.

*The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002* (44 U.S.C. 3501 note), requires a statistical agency to clearly identify information it collects for non-statistical purposes. BTS hereby notifies the respondents and the public that BTS uses the information it collects under this OMB approval for non-statistical purposes including, but not limited to, publication of both Respondent's identity and its data, submission of the information to agencies outside BTS for review, analysis and possible use in regulatory and other administrative matters.

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 16, 2018.

**William Chadwick, Jr.,**

*Director, Office of Airline Information,  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 2018-01183 Filed 1-22-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

[OMB Control No. 2900-0772]

**Agency Information Collection Activity: VA Cooperative Studies Program**

**AGENCY:** Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, this notice announces that the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, will submit the collection of information abstracted below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and comment. The PRA submission describes the nature of the

information collection and its expected cost and burden and it includes the actual data collection instrument.

**DATES:** Comments must be submitted on or before February 22, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on the collection of information through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov), or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, Attn: VA Desk Officer, 725 17th St. NW, Washington, DC 20503 or sent through electronic mail to [oir\\_submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:oir_submission@omb.eop.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0772” in any correspondence.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Cynthia Harvey-Pryor, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk (OQPR), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–5870 or email [cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov](mailto:cynthia.harvey-pryor@va.gov). Please refer to “OMB Control No. 2900–0772” in any correspondence.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Authority:** 38 U.S.C. Part 1, Chapter 5, Section 527

**Title:** VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP):

VA Form 10–10074, CSP Customer Satisfaction Survey.

VA Form 10–10074a, Meeting Evaluation.

**OMB Control Number:** 2900–0772.

**Type of Review:** Reinstatement of a currently approved collection.

**Abstract:** The information collected will be used by VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP) leadership to evaluate their Coordinating Centers’ effectiveness in conducting meetings and interacting with participating study sites and other customers.

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 OMB control number. The **Federal Register** Notice with a 60-day comment period soliciting comments on this collection

of information was published at 82 FR 51482 on November 6, 2017, pages 51482–51483.

**Affected Public:** Individuals or Households.

**Estimated Annual Burden:**

VA Form 10–10074—83 hours.

VA Form 10–10074a—83 hours.

**Estimated Average Burden Per Respondent:**

VA Form 10–10074—10 minutes.

VA Form 10–10074a—10 minutes.

**Frequency of Response:** Annually.

**Estimated Number of Respondents:**

VA Form 10–10074—500.

VA Form 10–10074a—500.

By direction of the Secretary.

**Cynthia Harvey-Pryor,**

*Department Clearance Officer, Office of Quality, Privacy and Risk, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2018–01105 Filed 1–22–18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 8320–01–P**