

Survey of State Government Finances, the Annual Survey of Local Government Finances, the Annual Survey of State Tax Collections and the Annual Survey of Public Pensions. The Census of Governments—Employment and Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll collects state and local government data on full-time and part-time employment, part-time hours worked, full-time equivalent employment, and payroll statistics by governmental function. Data are collected for all agencies, departments, and institutions of the fifty state governments and for a sample of all local governments (counties, municipalities, townships, and special districts). Data for school districts are collected under a separate survey. In the census year, equivalent data are collected from all local governments. These separate data collections are necessary to create the comprehensive financial and employment picture for state and local governments. The combined data are released as part of the State and Local Government Finance and Public Employment & Payroll statistical series. The collections also produce individual data products that focus on state governments, local governments, public pensions and public employment in greater detail than the combined financial and employment series as a by-product of their collections for the combined data series. The Census Bureau provides these data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis to develop the public sector components of the National Income and Product Accounts and for constructing the functional payrolls in the public sector of the Gross Domestic Product, payroll being the single largest component of current operations, and to the Federal Reserve Board for use in the Flow of Funds Accounts. Other Federal agencies that make use of the data include the Council of Economic Advisers, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Government Accountability Office, and the Department of Justice. State and local governments and related organizations, public policy groups, public interest groups, private research organizations, and private sector businesses also use these data.

The program has collected comprehensive and comparable government financial and employment statistics since 1940.

Starting with the 2020 data collection for the Annual Survey of Public Pensions, the Census Bureau proposes modifying the existing questions concerning actuarial funding of public pension plans for state-administered

plans, adding these questions to the survey for locally-administered plans and differentiating between administrative costs and investment costs. These updates reflect changes in accounting standards and the needs of data users inside and outside the federal statistical system.

II. Method of Collection

These surveys use multiple modes for data collection including internet collection with a mailed invitation, telephone, and central collection. Other methods used to collect data and maximize response include collecting state and local government data through submitted financial audits, state financial reports, and comprehensive financial reports and via electronic or mailed files and/or records.

The Census Bureau developed central collection agreements with state and large local government officials to collect the data from their dependent agencies and report to the Census Bureau as a central respondent. These arrangements eliminate the need for a mail invitation for approximately 5,500 governmental units, approximately 3,716 state agencies and 158 school systems in a sample year and 36,000 during the year of the Census of Governments. The arrangements reduce burden by greatly reducing the number of respondents who have to complete an on-line form as the data are acquired from a centralized source instead of multiple sources. Currently, the Census Bureau has central collection arrangements to collect local government data with 27 states, four local school district governments and state government data from all 50 states. The Census Bureau continues to expand the conversion of paper submissions into electronic formats by collaborating with state and local governments regarding electronic reporting of central collection data, and encouraging electronic responses from individual governments.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0585.

Form Number(s): F–5, F–11, F–12, F–13, F–28, F–29, F–32, E–1, E–2, E–3, E–4, E–5, E–6, E–7, E–8, E–9, E–10.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: State and local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents:

For F-forms: 13,440, For E-forms: 16,872/sample year; For F-forms 59,259 For E-forms: 99,402/census year; Total: 30,312/sample year, 158,661/census year.

Estimated Time Per Response: For F-forms: 3.03, For E-forms: .84 hours/

sample year; For F-forms 3.00, For E-forms: .82 hours/census year; Total: 3.87 hours/sample year, 3.82 hours/census year.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: For F-forms: 40,755, For E-forms: 14,164 hours/sample year; For F-forms: 177,826 hours, For E-forms: 81,299 hours/census year; Total: 54,919/sample year, 258,585/census year.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to

Public: \$0. (This is not the cost of respondents' time, but the indirect costs respondents may incur for such things as purchases of specialized software or hardware needed to report, or expenditures for accounting or records maintenance services required specifically by the collection.)

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C.

Sections 161 and 182.

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.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Survey of Construction Questionnaire for Building Permit Official.

OMB Control Number: 0607–0125.

Form Number(s): SOC–QBPO.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 1,017.

Average Hours per Response: 15 minutes.

Burden Hours: 254.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting an extension of the currently approved collection for the Survey of Construction Questionnaire for the Building Permit Official (SOC–QBPO). The information collected on the SOC–QBPO is necessary to carry out the sampling for the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales and Completions (OMB number 0607–0110), also known as the Survey of Construction (SOC). Government agencies and private companies use statistics from the SOC to monitor and evaluate the large and dynamic housing construction industry.

The SOC–QBPO is an electronic questionnaire. Census Bureau field representatives (FRs) either call or visit permit offices to enter their survey responses into a laptop computer using the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) software formatted for the SOC–QBPO. The FRs use the SOC–QBPO to obtain information on the operating procedures of a permit office. This enables them to locate, classify, list, and sample building permits for residential construction. These permits are used as the basis for the sample selected for SOC. The Census Bureau also uses the information to verify and update the geographic coverage of permit offices. The questions asked during the interview and the size of the sample will not change.

Failure to collect this information would make it difficult, if not impossible, to accurately classify and sample building permits for the SOC. Data for two principal economic indicators are produced from the SOC: New Residential Construction (housing starts and housing completions) and New Residential Sales. Government agencies use these statistics to evaluate economic policy, measure progress towards the national housing goal, make policy decisions, and formulate legislation. For example, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System uses data from this survey to evaluate the effect of interest rates in this interest-rate sensitive area of the economy. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses the data in developing the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The private sector and other data users from Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) use the information for estimating the demand for housing, building materials and the many products used in new housing and to schedule production, distribution, and sales efforts. The financial community uses the data to estimate the demand for short-term (construction loans) and long-term (mortgages) borrowing.

Affected Public: State, local or Tribal government.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: The SOC and this collection are authorized under Title 13, United States Code, Sections 131 and 182.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov.

Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov or fax to (202)395–5806.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–54–2019]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 78—Nashville, Tennessee; Authorization of Production Activity; Lasko Products, LLC; (Small Consumer Appliances—Fans, Heaters, Humidifiers); Franklin, Tennessee

On August 21, 2019, Lasko Products, LLC (Lasko) submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board for its facility within FTZ 78, in Franklin, Tennessee.

The notification was processed in accordance with the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400), including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (84 FR 47240, September 9, 2019). On December 19, 2019, the applicant was notified of the FTZ Board's decision that no further review of the activity is warranted at this time. The production activity described in the notification was authorized, subject to the FTZ Act and the FTZ Board's regulations, including Section 400.14.

Dated: December 19, 2019.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2019–28035 Filed 12–27–19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–261–2019]

Foreign-Trade Zone 2—New Orleans, Louisiana; Application for Subzone; Packard Pipe Terminals, LLC. Belle Chasse, Louisiana

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, grantee of FTZ 2, requesting subzone status for the facility of Packard Pipe Terminals, LLC, located in Belle Chasse, Louisiana. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on December 19, 2019.

The proposed subzone (6 acres) is located at 806 Engineers Road, Belle Chasse (Plaquemines Parish), Louisiana. No authorization for production activity has been requested at this time. The proposed subzone would be subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 2.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, Camille Evans of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to review the application and make recommendations to the Executive Secretary.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary and sent to: ftz@trade.gov. The closing period for their receipt is February 10, 2020. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to February 24, 2020.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection in the "Reading Room" section of the Board's website, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

For further information, contact Camille Evans at Camille.Evans@trade.gov or (202) 482–2350.

Dated: December 19, 2019.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

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