

submission request toward Office of Management and Budget approval.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD)

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics data collection, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before November 24, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to [PRAcomments@doc.gov](mailto:PRAcomments@doc.gov). Please reference OMB Control Number 0607-1001 in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC-2020-0006, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in

Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Keith Bailey, Assistant Center Chief, (301) 763-2923, [keith.a.bailey@census.gov](mailto:keith.a.bailey@census.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

A 21st century statistical system must provide information about the dynamic economy quickly, using data assets efficiently while minimizing the burden of collecting and providing data and fully preserving confidentiality. The Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) data infrastructure has demonstrated the power and usefulness of linking multiple business and employee data sets with state-of-the-art confidentiality protections to build a longitudinal national frame of jobs.

LEHD supports the Department of Commerce plan to improve American competitiveness and measures of innovation. It provides federal, state, and local policymakers and planners, businesses, private sector decision makers, and Congress with comprehensive and timely national, state, and local information on the dynamic nature of employers and employees.

LEHD significantly reduces the overall effort for the generation of its quarterly data product by:

- Leveraging existing federal administrative and state data.
- Avoiding costs required to expand existing surveys to collect the information directly.
- Reducing respondent burden by limiting the number of required resources to just the owners of the required data.

LEHD is a result of the Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership. The LED Partnership is a partnership between the US Census Bureau and the Labor Market Information (LMI) agencies from 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This partnership supports the development, promotion, and distribution of the following public-use data products:

- Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI)—LEHD's flagship data product is the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) which provides 32 statistical indicators on employment, job creation and destruction, accessions (hires and recalls), and separations (e.g., exits and layoffs). These statistics are released for

the following by-groups for all quarters for which data are available for each partner state:

- County, metropolitan, and workforce development area.
- Age, sex, race, and ethnicity categories.
- Business characteristics (*i.e.*, detailed industry ownership type, firm age, firm size).

- LEHD Origin Destination Employment Statistics (LODES)—LODES data provide detailed spatial distributions of workers' employment and residential locations and the relation between the two at the Census Block level. LODES also provides characteristic detail on age, earnings, industry distributions, and other worker/business characteristics.

- Job-to-Job Flows (J2J)—Job-to-Job Flows (J2J) is a set of statistics on job mobility in the United States constructed by the LEHD program. J2J include statistics on: (1) The job-to-job transition rate, (2) hires and separations to and from employment, (3) earnings changes due to job change, and (4) characteristics of origin and destination jobs for job-to-job transitions. These statistics are available at the national, state, and metropolitan area levels and by worker and firm characteristics.

- Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO)—Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) is an experimental set of statistics on the earnings and employment outcomes of graduates of select post-secondary institutions in the United States, and is constructed using data from LEHD. Earnings Outcomes reports earnings by institution, degree field, degree level and graduation cohort for 1, 5 and 10 years after graduation. Employment Flows tabulations provide the destination industry and geography of employment for graduates of an institution by degree level, degree field, and graduation cohort, for one, five, and 10 years after graduation. A limited number of institutions are available as part of the pilot release, but future updates will include additional post-secondary institutions.

These data products highlight state and local labor market dynamics that cannot be learned from other statistical sources and are therefore used in many different arenas. For example, the QWI can be used as local-labor-market controls in regression analysis; to identify long-term trends; to provide local context in performance evaluations; and for a host of other applications.

## II. Method of Collection

The collection of data occurs in accordance with the rules established by interagency agreements with the participating state partners or data sharing agreements that have been established within the Census Bureau. For state partners, their data is submitted directly to the Census secure servers where Personally Identifiable Information (PII) goes through a process to replace it with Protected Identification Keys (PIK). This PVS (Person Identification Validation System) process also applies to all other administrative data that are used in the LEHD infrastructure. For all other required administration data, they are transferred or referenced by the LEHD production system. Data collection and processing also includes activities such as validation of data quality.

LEHD's data products are not generated by a traditional survey. Rather, all input data required is collected electronically as follows:

- State Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) are provided via encrypted File Transfer Protocol (FTP) through which each state LMI agency sends these data directly to the Census Bureau. This transfer of data is governed by Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with each state partner.
- Federal and Census Administrative data are acquired from other directorates or divisions within the Census Bureau with which an internal agreement has been established for the use of the data.
- Public Use data sets are acquired from publicly available websites or public File Transfer Protocol (FTP) servers.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0607–1001.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.

*Affected Public:* State government, specifically labor market information bureaus and unemployment insurance administrators.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* As defined in Table III–1.

*Estimated Time per Response:* No more than 8 hours required to identify and send/post required data sets.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 1728 hours.

*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:* The authority to develop LEHD is 13 U.S.C. Section 6. Of course, confidentiality is assured by 13 U.S.C. Section 9.

## IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Application Cover Sheet

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before November 24, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Maureen O'Reilly, Management Analyst, NIST at *PRAcomments@doc.gov*. Please reference OMB Control Number 0693–0072 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Mary Clague, NIST SBIR Program Office, 301–975–4188, *mary.clague@nist.gov*.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Abstract

The SBIR program was originally established in 1982 by the Small Business Innovation Development Act (Pub. L. 97–219), codified at 15 U.S.C. 638. It was then expanded and extended by the Small Business Research and Development (R&D) Enhancement Act of 1992 (Pub. L. 102–564) and received subsequent reauthorization and extensions that include Public Law 112–81, extending SBIR through September 30, 2022. The US Small Business Administration (SBA) serves as the coordinating agency for the SBIR program. It directs the agency implementation of SBIR, reviews progress, and reports annually to Congress on its operation.

The NIST SBIR Cover Sheet is the first page of each application that responds to the annual NIST SBIR Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO). The information collected in the Cover Sheet provides identifying information and demographic data for use in NIST's annual report to the SBA on the program.

### II. Method of Collection

The information will be collected as part of the application process and will be submitted through grants.gov.