

atrevino@usccr.gov at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to make comments during the open period at the end of the meeting. Members of the public may also submit written comments; the comments must be received in the Regional Programs Unit within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Brooke Peery (DFO) at [bpeery@usccr.gov](mailto:bpeery@usccr.gov).

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via [www.facadatabase.gov](http://www.facadatabase.gov) under the Commission on Civil Rights, New Mexico Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at [atrevino@usccr.gov](mailto:atrevino@usccr.gov).

#### Agenda

- I. Welcoming Opening Remarks
- II. Panelist Remarks
- III. Committee Q&A
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Adjournment

Dated: December 13, 2024.

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

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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; Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS)

**AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Commerce.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, 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 revisions to the BTOS 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 February 18, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to [Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov](mailto:Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov). Please reference BTOS in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USCB-2024-0034, 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 Catherine Buffington, Chief, Economic Indicator Division, 301-763-1838, and [catherine.d.buffington@census.gov](mailto:catherine.d.buffington@census.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to request a 3-year extension with revisions from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS). The BTOS has produced data products on a bi-weekly basis since October 2022. This continuous near real time data collection and publication provides a baseline of the U.S. economy and measures change as a result of current and future economic shocks.

BTOS uses ongoing data collection to produce high frequency, timely, and granular information about current economic conditions and trends. BTOS is the only biweekly business tendency survey produced by the federal statistical system, providing unique and detailed data during times of economic or other emergencies. The BTOS target population is all nonfarm employer businesses with receipts of \$1,000 or more in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The current sample consists of approximately 1.2 million businesses

divided into six panels. A new sample collection is conducted each year. Data collection occurs every two weeks, and businesses in each panel are asked to report once every 12 weeks for one year. Data are released every 2 weeks and are available by 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sector, state, the 25 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas and employment size. Data are also available by subsector (3-digit NAICS) and sector by employment size.

Data from BTOS are currently used to provide timely data to understand the economic conditions being experienced by businesses; BTOS provides near real time data on key items such as revenue, paid employees, hours worked as well as inventories. BTOS also provides high level information on the changing share of businesses facing difficulties stemming from supply chain issues, interest rate changes, and/or weather-related events. Previously, there had been few data sources available to policymakers, media outlets, and academia that delivered near real time insights into economic trends and outlooks. BTOS data has consistently been used by the Small Business Administration to evaluate the impact of regulatory changes.

The BTOS collects the following high-level topics for the previous two weeks, and the items in bold have 6-month future projections:

- Overall performance
- Revenue
- Employment
- Hours worked
- Artificial Intelligence
- Operating status
- Inventories
- Delivery time
- Demand
- Output prices
- Input prices
- Interest Rates
- Loss—Weather Event

For the first year of BTOS, the content remained unchanged at 26 questions. For the second sample year, the BTOS moved to a set of core questions and supplemental content. Supplemental content is designed to provide urgently needed data on an emerging or current issue. For the first collection of supplemental content, the topic was on business use of artificial intelligence. Due to vast demand to continue this data series, the Census Bureau plans to request a revision to include the artificial intelligence supplement again for the fourth sample year of BTOS.

BTOS data is collected in near real time and disseminated as experimental products. BTOS data is experimental

with the goal of meeting Census Bureau quality standards for regularly occurring, non-experimental statistics.

## II. Method of Collection

The first time each biweekly panel is in sample, businesses are contacted either by email or letter with an invitation to respond to the survey. For each biweekly survey panel, initial letters are sent on the Friday before the 2-week period while initial emails are sent on the first Monday of the 2-week period. Starting with the second time each biweekly panel is in sample, businesses are contacted only by email with an invitation to respond to the survey. Both letter and email invitations describe the purpose of the survey collection, include the link to the online reporting tool, and contain the access code.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0607–1022.  
*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Regular submission, Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit organizations.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 795,000 responses collected annually.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 132,500.

*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 131 and 182.

## 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,**

*Departmental PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.*

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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; 2025 National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) Pilot Test**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite 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. This notice allows for 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

*Title:* 2025 National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) Pilot Test.

*Form Number(s):* None. All information will be collected electronically.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission.

*Number of Respondents:* 5,000.

*Average Hours per Response:* 49 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 4,092.

*Needs and Uses:* The National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS) fills a

critical data gap and supports research that informs policymaking on key national priorities, including health and obesity, hunger, and nutrition assistance policy. The survey captures unique and comprehensive data about household food purchases and acquisitions, along with factors that influence household food choices.

The Census Bureau plans to request Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to conduct the 2025 FoodAPS Pilot Test is to examine and gain knowledge about all areas of the survey life cycle for this study, with the goal of fielding a full scale, nationally representative FoodAPS survey starting in CY2027. Additionally, the 2025 FoodAPS Pilot Test will test the feasibility of using model-based estimates to identify populations of interests. Previous iterations used a mailing-based screener. Another purpose is to determine whether administering the 2025 FoodAPS Pilot Test via self-response only can achieve the desired response rate. Previous versions of the FoodAPS used field representatives to solicit respondent participation and collect data.

The target populations for the 2025 FoodAPS Pilot Test are Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants; Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) recipients; and low-income households. Respondent materials and survey instruments for the 2025 FoodAPS Pilot Test will be available in English and Spanish.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Frequency:* This is a pilot survey in preparation for a full survey in CY2027.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* The National Household Food Study is authorized under Title 7, Section 3171 and 2026 (a) (1) of the United States Code. The Census Bureau, conducting this study for the United States Department of Agriculture under 13 U.S.C. 8(b), is required by law to keep your information confidential and can use your responses for statistical purposes only (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). Responding to the survey is voluntary. You may stop participating at any time, and there are no penalties for nonparticipation. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. For more information on the Census Bureau's Data Protection and Privacy principles, please see our data protection website at <https://www.census.gov/privacy/>.