

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 1988–59, Residential Mortgage Financing Arrangements Involving Employee Benefit Plans**

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor (DOL) is submitting this Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA)-sponsored information collection request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). Public comments on the ICR are invited.

DATES: The OMB will consider all written comments that the agency receives on or before August 15, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Howell by telephone at 202–693–6782, or by email at DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption (PTE) 88–59, which amended and replaced PTE 82–87, allows employee benefit plans to participate in several different types of residential mortgage financing transactions, provided certain conditions are met. The five categories of transactions permitted under the exemption are: (1) issuance of commitments for the provision of mortgage financing to purchasers of residential dwelling units; (2) receipt by a plan of a fee for the issuance of the commitments; (3) the actual making or purchase of a mortgage loan or participation interest therein pursuant to the commitment; (4) the direct making or purchase of a mortgage loan or participation interest therein without the precondition of a commitment; and (5) the sale, exchange or transfer of a mortgage loan or participation interest therein prior to the maturity date of the instrument, provided that the ownership interest sold, exchanged, or transferred represents the plan’s entire interest in such investment.

Among other conditions, the exemption requires a plan to maintain for the duration of any loan made pursuant to this exemption all records necessary to determine whether conditions of the exemption have been met and to make such records available for examination on request by any trustee, investment manager, participant or beneficiary of the plan, or agents of the Department or the IRS. For additional substantive information about this ICR, see the related notice published in the **Federal Register** on January 6, 2025 (90 FR 671).

Comments are invited on: (1) whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of the agency’s estimates of the burden and cost of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information collection; and (4) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless the OMB approves it and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid OMB Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

DOL seeks PRA authorization for this information collection for three (3) years. OMB authorization for an ICR cannot be for more than three (3) years without renewal. The DOL notes that information collection requirements submitted to the OMB for existing ICRs receive a month-to-month extension while they undergo review.

Agency: DOL–EBSA.

Title of Collection: Prohibited Transaction Class Exemption 1988–59, Residential Mortgage Financing Arrangements Involving Employee Benefit Plans.

OMB Control Number: 1210–0095.

Affected Public: Private sector.

Total Estimated Number of Respondents: 529.

Total Estimated Number of Responses: 2,645.

Total Estimated Annual Time Burden: 1,543 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Costs Burden: \$2,804.

(Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3507(a)(1)(D).)

Michael Howell,

Senior Paperwork Reduction Act Analyst.

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BILLING CODE 4510–29–P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**Bureau of Labor Statistics****Information Collection Activities; Comment Request**

AGENCY: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the “National Compensation Survey.” A copy of the proposed information collection request can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the Addresses section of this notice.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section of this notice on or before September 15, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Nora Kincaid, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, by email to BLS_PRA_Public@bls.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nora Kincaid, BLS Clearance Officer, at 202–691–7628 (this is not a toll free number.) (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Background**

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) is a nation-wide survey of private industry establishments and state and local governments that provides comprehensive measures of (1) employer costs for employee

compensation, including wages and salaries, and benefits, (2) compensation trends, and (3) the incidence of employer-sponsored benefits among workers. The NCS also collects data and produces estimates on the provisions of selected employer-sponsored benefit plans. The NCS produces:

- Indexes measuring change over time in labor costs through the Employment Cost Index (ECI), a Principal Federal Economic Indicator (PFEI).
- The level of average costs per hour worked through the Employer Costs for Employee Compensation (ECEC).
- Estimates on the incidence of benefits by the percentage of workers with access to and participating in employer-sponsored benefit plans, as well as details of what those plans provide, in the publication of the Employee Benefits in the United States.
- Details of employer-provided health and retirement plan provisions in the Health and Retirement Plan Provision publications.
- Occupational wage data by work level for use by the President's Pay Agent, meeting the requirements of the Federal Employees Pay Comparability Act of 1990 (FEPCA). This data is produced in collaboration with the BLS' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program.

II. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for a revision of the NCS.

The NCS is designed to be a national representative survey of private industry and state and local government establishments from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The NCS private industry sample is on a three-year rotational cycle, with one frozen sample year approximately every ten years for the NCS private industry sample when a new NCS State and local government sample is under collection.

The NCS collects occupational information and wage and benefit data from a sample of employers. Using probability sampling, the NCS selects up to eight jobs at an establishment and collects job information, including job duties and work level characteristics, and wages and benefit information. Benefit information includes the incidence, costs, and provisions of the employer-provided benefits. The BLS updates the wage and benefit cost data quarterly. Updating this information allows for the publication of change in the cost of wages, benefits, and total compensation on a quarterly basis as a measure of labor market inflation.

The NCS employs various methods to collect data from establishments. NCS policy is to collect the data in whichever form is easiest for the respondents to provide. Respondents may choose to send the data on forms that the BLS provides. The respondents may respond through email, fax, mail, telephone, or a secure BLS website.

The BLS is planning to eliminate several NCS data elements to reduce the annual costs and burden of the survey. The data elements are not considered to be heavily used or in public demand based on metrics from public database hits and customer service inquiries. The collection and review of these elements are resource intensive. The elements planned for removal capture:

- The presence of and plan details for sick leave carry over.
- The presence of retiree life.
- The presence of third-party plan administration and stop loss protection for health insurance.
- Employee non-medical premiums.
- Employer non-medical premiums when expenditures are collected or costs are unknown.
- Plan details for Defined Benefit Frozen Plans.
- The presence of Other Benefits plans or provisions of plans.

The BLS is planning to discontinue the collection of Worker's

Compensation Insurance due to the BLS's inability to improve the currently low response rate for this benefit. Further response efforts could potentially lead to lower response rates for other benefits, which make up a larger proportion of total compensation.

The BLS is also planning a re-weight of the ECI to update employment counts as was done multiple times in the past.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

- The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:
- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
 - Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
 - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
 - Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Title of Collection: National Compensation Survey.
OMB Number: 1220–0164.
Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.
Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; and State, local, and tribal governments.
Annual Number of Respondents: 17,194
All figures are based on a three-year average.

	Annual number of respondents	Average number of responses per year	Total annual responses	Average annual burden (minutes)	Estimated total burden (hours)
Totals	17,194	3.1603	54,339	42.3917	38,392

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed on July 11, 2025.
Eric Molina,
*Chief, Division of Management Systems,
Branch of Policy Analysis.*
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POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. CP2024–406; MC2025–1570 and K2025–1563; MC2025–1572 and K2025–1565; MC2025–1573 and K2025–1566]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.