

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Census Bureau****Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

DOC has submitted 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 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Quarterly Services Survey.

Form Number(s): QSS-1(A), QSS-1(E), QSS-2(A), QSS-2(E), QSS-3(A), QSS-3(E).

Agency Approval Number: None.

Type of Request: New collection.

Burden: 5,000 hours.

Number of Respondents: 5,000.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 15 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau seeks approval for a new quarterly survey of service industry activity called the Quarterly Services Survey (QSS). The QSS will begin a new economic indicator series that will provide, for selected service industries, quarterly estimates of total operating revenue and the percentage of revenue by class of customer. In addition, we will collect total operating expenses from tax-exempt firms in industries that have a large not-for-profit component. For 2004, we will include information; professional, scientific and technical services; and administrative and support and waste management and remediation services industries for employer businesses. In 2005, we plan to expand the QSS to include coverage of hospitals and nursing and residential care facilities from employer businesses.

The Census Bureau presently conducts 13 principal economic indicator surveys. Monthly series cover manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and merchandise trade; quarterly series include corporate profits and housing vacancies. These indicator series track current economic activity, are closely followed and widely used by policy makers in the public and private sectors, and move financial markets. No principal economic indicator currently exists, however, for the service sector despite the service industries' importance and increasing share of total U.S. economic activity. Measures of service industry output are available only quinquennially in the Economic Census and on an annual basis in the Service Annual Survey (SAS).

Service data are far less available in terms of industry and geographic detail, and frequency of collection than are those for the goods-producing sector of

the economy. This imbalance has its origins from a period when goods production was the larger and more rapidly growing part of the non-farm economy.

The last fifty years, however, have witnessed profound changes in the U.S. economy. Following World War II, manufacturing accounted for about 27 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Today that number is about 16 percent. Services, including retail and wholesale trade, were approximately 40 percent of GDP and are now about 66 percent. Financial, business, scientific, and professional services have more than doubled in the last 50 years while computer related services nearly doubled between 1994 and 2000. When one adds Government services to the total, almost 80 percent of GDP and employment are in services.

Reliable measures of economic activity are essential to an objective assessment of the need for, and impact of, a wide range of public policy decisions. More up-to-date estimates of service industry output will improve these measures. The new QSS will provide timely data on the services industries that will allow the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to make significant improvements in the national accounts. In the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA), the quarterly data will allow more accurate estimates of both Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) and private fixed investment. For example, recently published revisions to the quarterly NIPA estimates resulted from the incorporation of new source data from our SAS. These data affected both services PCE and software investment. GDP for 2000 was revised downward by nearly \$60 billion as a result of overstating equipment and software, with the bulk of the revision resulting from a faster than estimated deceleration in sales of custom and packaged software. Revenue will also be used to produce estimates of gross output by industry that will allow BEA to produce a much earlier version of its gross domestic product by industry estimates. Also, the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) will use the QSS information to better assess current economic performance.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions.

Frequency: Quarterly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Section 182.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: November 14, 2003.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-28934 Filed 11-18-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Census Bureau****Submission for OMB Review;
Comment Request**

DOC has submitted 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 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Annual Trade Survey.

Form Number(s): SA-42, SA-42A, SA-42 (MSBO), SA-42A (MSBO).

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0195.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 3,260 hours.

Number of Respondents: 8,100.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 24 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting a revision to the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance for the Annual Trade Survey (ATS). The ATS currently covers only merchant wholesale establishments, and will be expanded to include manufacturers' sales branches and offices (MSBOs). The survey is an official source of annual sales, inventory, and value added measures for wholesale establishments located in the United States. The ATS provides annual data needed to improve the accuracy of the sales estimates and inventory adjustments in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and for benchmarking results of the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS) [OMB No. 0607-0190]. Data on MSBOs will address a longstanding Bureau of

Economic Analysis (BEA) priority to obtain annual measures of MSBO inventories to improve BEA's estimates of business inventory change, a key component of the GDP estimate. The estimates compiled from this survey provide valuable information for economic policy decisions by the government and will be widely used by private businesses, trade organizations, professional associations, and other business research and analysis organizations.

This request is for the clearance of two existing report forms, the SA-42 and SA-42A, and two new forms, SA-42 (MSBO) and SA-42A (MSBO), which will be used to collect data for MSBOs. The forms request similar but unique sets of data items to accommodate both merchant wholesalers and manufacturers sales branches and offices as well as both large and small firms. The survey report forms are used to collect total sales, e-commerce sales, year-end inventory, and inventory valuation methods. In addition purchases are collected for merchant wholesalers and operating expenses for MSBOs. Cognitive research on the proposed MSBO forms is being conducted and will continue in October and November 2003. Results will be used to suggest revisions to clarify questions and instructions that convey definitions, in order to ensure data quality and reduce respondent burden. Revisions to the basic content of the form are not expected.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 182, 224, and 225.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: November 14, 2003.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-28935 Filed 11-18-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

State and Local Construction Coverage Study

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Thuy Trang Nguyen, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 2136-4, Washington, DC 20233-6900 (or via telephone at (301) 763-4640).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau collects monthly Value in Place (VIP) data on State and local government construction in the Construction Progress Reporting Surveys (CPRS) (OMB # 0607-0153). We also collect fiscal year data on similar construction in the Annual Survey of Government Finance (ASGF) (OMB # 0607-0585). It is expected that these estimates should be comparable on a fiscal basis; nevertheless, they have continued to differ significantly during the past decades. One major source of the differences is the undercoverage of the desired universe by the sampling frame used in the CPRS. The F.W. Dodge Division of McGraw-Hill Information Systems Company identifies and lists projects started by State and local governments nationwide. We select a sample of

projects from this list for the VIP survey. Due to the differences in the level of coverage by value and geographical area, various projects have no chance of being selected for the VIP survey.

The most recent evaluation of this coverage was done in 1988, producing an undercoverage estimate of 18 percent. The continuing difference on the fiscal year basis between the CPRS and the ASGF indicates the need for a reevaluation of the sampling frame coverage.

We will conduct this study on a one time basis. The Census Bureau will use the information collected for evaluation purposes and survey improvement through the correction of the State and local construction VIP estimate by the estimated coverage rate. The consequence for not conducting an undercoverage evaluation will be that the Census Bureau will produce less accurate estimates for the State and local government construction VIP. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the Construction Progress Reporting Survey estimates to develop the construction components for input to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) accounts. Other government agencies such as the Council of Economics Advisers, the Federal Reserve Bank Board, and the Department of Treasury use these estimates in making policy decisions.

II. Method of Collection

We selected our respondents from the sample of State and local governments in the ASGF. We sampled 4,026 agencies from the sample of 16,986 agencies with construction expenditures.

We will utilize a mailout/mailback strategy to collect the data. Questionnaires will be mailed out in two waves (wave 1 to half of the sampled agencies and wave 2 to the other half) three months apart. Nonresponse followup will be conducted by telephone beginning 30 days after the initial mailout.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: SLUE-007(SS).

Type of Review: New collection.

Affected Public: State or local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,026.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,026.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: \$67,000.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 161 and 182.