

**SOC-QBPO(L)
(8-2011)**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

"The Census Bureau's economic surveys are indispensable to understanding America's economy. They ensure the accuracy of the statistics we rely on for economic policy and for successful business planning. Participating in the monthly survey helps us all."
– Ben Bernanke, Chairman,
Board of Governors of the
Federal Reserve System

Visit our web site at:
www.census.gov/mcd

The Office of Management and Budget has approved this survey and given it an 8-digit control number, which is shown in the upper righthand corner of the enclosed form. If this number was not displayed, we could not request your participation. We estimate that it will take from 12 to 18 minutes to complete an interview, with 15 minutes being the average time. Send comments regarding this estimate or any aspect of the collection of this information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Paperwork Project 0607-0125, U.S. Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, AMSD – 3K138, Washington, DC 20233. You may also email comments to paperwork@census.gov; use "Paperwork Project 0607-0125" as the subject.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Your permit office is part of the Survey of Construction (SOC), an important monthly survey on new residential construction. The permit information from your office and others around the country is used to measure housing starts and new housing sales. These statistics are used to monitor the construction industry and the economy. Please see Ben Bernanke's quote to the left. Data collection for SOC is authorized by law (Title 13, Section 182, United States Code) to furnish monthly reports on new residential construction and sales.

A Census Bureau Representative will visit you to further explain the survey and to gather information.

Please note that the SOC is different from the Census Bureau's Building Permits Survey for which you may currently receive Form C-404.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this voluntary survey.

Sincerely,

Mendel D. Gayle, Chief
Manufacturing and Construction Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Your Census Representative

Attach your business card here.