

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Bureau of the Census**

[Docket Number 151221999–5999–01]

**Annual Retail Trade Survey****AGENCY:** Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.**ACTION:** Notice of determination.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) publishes this notice to announce that the Director of the Census Bureau has determined the need to conduct the 2015 Annual Retail Trade Survey (ARTS). ARTS covers employer firms with establishments located in the United States and classified in the Retail Trade and/or Accommodation and Food Services sectors as defined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Through this survey, the Census Bureau will collect data covering annual sales, annual e-commerce sales, year-end inventories held inside and outside the United States, total operating expenses, purchases, accounts receivables, and, for selected industries, merchandise line sales. These data are collected to provide a sound statistical basis for the formation of policy by various government agencies. Results will be available for use for a variety of public and business needs such as economic and market analysis, company performance, and forecasting future demand. The Census Bureau conducts the ARTS to provide continuing and timely national statistical data on retail trade, and accommodation and food services activity annually.

**ADDRESSES:** The Census Bureau will provide electronic worksheets to businesses included in the survey. Additional copies are available upon written request to the Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC 20233–0101.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Chris Savage, Economy-Wide Statistics Division, at (301) 763–4834 or by email at [john.c.savage@census.gov](mailto:john.c.savage@census.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Sections 182, 224, and 225 of Title 13 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) authorize the Census Bureau to take surveys that are necessary to produce current data on the subjects covered by the major censuses. As part of this authorization, the Census Bureau conducts the ARTS to provide continuing and timely national statistical data on retail trade, and accommodation and food services activity for the period between

economic censuses. ARTS is a continuation of similar retail trade surveys conducted each year since 1951 (except 1954). ARTS covers employer firms with establishments located in the United States and classified in the Retail Trade and/or Accommodation and Food Services sectors as defined by the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). ARTS provides, on a comparable classification basis, annual sales, annual e-commerce sales, year-end inventories held inside and outside the United States, total operating expenses, purchases, accounts receivables, and, for selected industries, merchandise line sales for 2015. The Census Bureau has determined that the conduct of this survey is necessary because these data are not available publicly on a timely basis from any other sources.

Firms are selected for the ARTS survey using a stratified random sample based on industry groupings and annual sales size. We will provide electronic worksheets to the firms covered by this survey in March 2016, and will require their responses within 40 days after receipt. Firms' responses to the ARTS survey are required by law (Title 13 U.S.C. Sections 182, 224, and 225). The sample of firms selected will provide, with measurable reliability, statistics on annual sales, annual e-commerce sales, year-end inventories held inside and outside the United States, total operating expenses, purchases, accounts receivables, and, for selected industries, merchandise line sales for 2015.

The data collected in this survey will be similar to that collected in the past and within the general scope and nature of those inquiries covered in the economic census. These data are collected to provide a sound statistical basis for the formation of policy by various government agencies. Results will be available for use for a variety of public and business needs including economic and market analysis, company performance, and forecasting future demand.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) unless that collection of information displays a current valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. In accordance with the PRA, 44 U.S.C. 3501–3521, OMB has approved the Annual Retail Trade Survey under OMB Control Number 0607–0013.

Based upon the foregoing, I have directed that an annual survey be

conducted for the purpose of collecting these data.

**John H. Thompson,**  
*Director, Bureau of the Census.*

[FR Doc. 2016–00507 Filed 1–12–16; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510–07–P****DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Bureau of Industry and Security****Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting**

The Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will meet on January 27 and 28, 2016, 9:00 a.m., in the Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 3884, 14th Street between Constitution and Pennsylvania Avenues NW., Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

**Wednesday, January 27***Open Session*

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Working Group Reports
3. Old Business
4. Industry Presentations
5. New Business

**Thursday, January 28***Closed Session*

6. Discussion of matters determined to be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in 5 U.S.C. app. 2 sections 10(a)(1) and 10(a)(3).

The open session will be accessible via teleconference to 20 participants on a first come, first serve basis. To join the conference, submit inquiries to Ms. Yvette Springer at [Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Yvette.Springer@bis.doc.gov), no later than January 20, 2016.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not accepted. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the Committee suggests that public presentation materials or comments be forwarded before the meeting to Ms. Springer.

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of