

database. In particular, the COS supplies critical information on the composition, organizational structure, and operating characteristics of multi-location companies.

The BR serves two fundamental purposes:

- First and most important, it provides sampling populations and enumeration lists for the Census Bureau's economic surveys and censuses, and it serves as an integral part of the statistical foundation underlying those programs. Essential for this purpose is the BR's ability to identify all known United States business establishments and their parent companies. Further, the BR must accurately record basic business attributes needed to control sampling and enumeration. These attributes include industrial and geographic classifications, and name and address information.
- Second, it provides establishment data that serve as the basis for the annual County Business Patterns (CBP) statistical series. The CBP publications present data on number of establishments, first quarter payroll, annual payroll, and mid-March employment summarized by industry and employment size class for the United States, the District of Columbia, island areas, counties, and country-equivalents. No other annual or more frequent series of industry statistics provides comparable detail, particularly for small geographic areas.

## II. Method of Collection

The 2017–2019 COS collection strategy will focus on electronic reporting as the standard collection option. The Census Bureau will conduct the 2017 COS in conjunction with the 2017 Economic Census and will coordinate these collections to minimize response burden. The consolidated COS/census mail canvass will direct inquiries to the entire universe of multi-location enterprises that comprises roughly 164,000 parent companies and more than 1.6 million establishments. Additional COS inquiries will apply to the 15,000 multi-unit establishments classified in industries that are out-of-scope of the economic census.

The 2018–2019 COS will request company-level information from a selection of multi-establishment enterprises, which comprise roughly 42,000 parent companies and more than 1.4 million establishments. Additionally, the panel will include approximately 5,000 large single-location companies that may have added locations during the year.

Electronic reporting will be available to all 2017–2019 COS respondents. Companies will receive and return responses by secure Internet transmission. The instrument will include inquiries on ownership or control by domestic or foreign parent, ownership of foreign affiliates, leased employment and cooperative organization. Further, the instrument will list an inventory of establishments belonging to the company and its subsidiaries, and request updates to these inventories, including additions, deletions and changes to information on EIN, name and address, industrial classification, end-of-year operating status, mid-March employment, first quarter payroll and annual payroll. Beginning with the 2017 collection, a new question regarding cooperative organization status will be included in the instrument but respondents will no longer receive inquiries pertaining to the Enterprise Statistics Program as the program has been suspended.

## III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0607–0444.

*Form Number(s):* NC–99001 (for multi-establishment enterprises during 2017–2019) and NC–99007 (for single-location companies during 2018–2019).

*Type of Review:* Regular submission.

*Affected Public:* Businesses and not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 164,000 for 2017 and 47,000 per year for 2018–2019.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 0.44 hours for 2017 and 3.4 hours for 2018–2019.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 72,160 hours for 2017 and 159,800 hours for 2018–2019.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Mandatory.  
*Legal Authority:* Title 13 U.S.C. Sections 131 and 182.

## IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

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

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*PRA Departmental Lead, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit 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:* Monthly Wholesale Trade

Survey.

*OMB Control Number:* 0607–0190.

*Form Number(s):* SM4217–A, SM4217–E.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Number of Respondents:* 4,200.

*Average Hours per Response:* 7 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 5,880.

*Needs and Uses:* The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey (MWTS) canvasses firms primarily engaged in merchant wholesale trade that are located in the United States, excluding manufacturers' sales branches and offices (MSBOs). This survey provides the only continuous measure of monthly wholesale sales, end-of-month inventories, and inventories-to-sales ratios. The sales and inventories estimates produced from the MWTS provide current trends of economic activity by kind of business for the United States. Also, the estimates compiled from this survey provide valuable information for economic policy decisions by the government and are widely used by private businesses, trade organizations, professional associations, and other business research and analysis organizations.

Estimates from the MWTS are released in three different reports each month. High level aggregate estimates for end-of-month inventories are first released as part of the Advance Economic Indicators Report. Second, the full Monthly Wholesale Trade Report containing both sales and

inventories estimates is released. Lastly, high level sales and inventories estimates from the MWTS are also released as part of the Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales (MTIS) report. The Advance Economic Indicators Report is a new report first released on July 28, 2016, and will be released monthly on an ongoing basis.

As one of the U.S. Census Bureau's principal economic indicators, the estimates produced by the MWTS are critical to the accurate measurement of total economic activity of the United States. The estimates of sales made by wholesale locations represent only merchant wholesalers, excluding MSBOs, who typically take title to goods bought for resale and sell to other businesses. The sales estimates include sales made on credit as well as on a cash basis, but exclude receipts from sales taxes and interest charges from credit sales.

The estimates of inventories represent all merchandise held in wholesale locations, warehouses, and offices, as well as goods held by others for sale on consignment or in transit for distribution to wholesale establishments. The estimates of inventories exclude fixtures and supplies not for resale, as well as merchandise held on consignment, which are owned by others. Inventories are an important component in the Bureau of Economic Analysis' (BEA) calculation of the investment portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The U.S. Census Bureau publishes wholesale sales and inventories estimates based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has been widely adopted throughout both the public and private sectors.

The Census Bureau tabulates the collected data to provide, with

measurable reliability, statistics on sales, end-of-month inventories, and inventories-to-sales ratios for merchant wholesalers, excluding MSBOs.

The BEA is the primary Federal user of data collected in the MWTS. The BEA uses estimates from this survey to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPA), input-output accounts (I-O), and gross domestic product (GDP) by industry. End-of-month inventories are used to prepare the change in private inventories component of GDP. The BEA also uses the Advance Economic Indicators Report to improve the inventory valuation adjustments applied to estimates of the Advance Gross Domestic Product. Sales are used to prepare estimates of real inventories-to-sales ratios in the NIPAs, extrapolate proprietors' income for wholesalers (until tax return data become available) in the NIPAs, and extrapolate annual current-dollar gross output for the most recent year in annual I-O tables, GDP-by-industry, and advance GDP-by-industry estimates.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics uses the data as input to its Producer Price Indexes and in developing productivity measurements. Private businesses use the wholesale sales and inventories data in computing business activity indexes. Other government agencies and businesses use this information for market research, product development, and business planning to gauge the current trends of the economy.

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

*Frequency:* Monthly.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 131 and 182.

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view

Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202) 395-5806.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*PRA Departmental Lead, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Economic Development Administration**

**Notice of Petitions by Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance**

**AGENCY:** Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice and opportunity for public comment.

Pursuant to Section 251 of the Trade Act 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2341 *et seq.*), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received petitions for certification of eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance from the firms listed below. Accordingly, EDA has initiated investigations to determine whether increased imports into the United States of articles like or directly competitive with those produced by each of these firms contributed importantly to the total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

**LIST OF PETITIONS RECEIVED BY EDA FOR CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE [4/3/2017 through 4/10/2017]**

Firm name	Firm address	Date accepted for investigation	Product(s)
Cortland Machine & Tool Company, Inc.	60-62 Grant Street; Post Office Box 27, Cortland, NY 13045.	4/3/2017	The firm manufactures CNC machined parts of steel, iron, aluminum, cooper and plastics.
Sims Vibration Laboratory, Inc. d/b/a Limbsaver.	50 W Rose Nye Way, Shelton, WA 98584.	4/6/2017	The firm manufactures vibration dampening accessories for firearms and archery as well as minor sales of vibration dampening for home hardware and lawn and garden industries.

Any party having a substantial interest in these proceedings may request a public hearing on the matter. A written request for a hearing must be submitted to the Trade Adjustment

Assistance for Firms Division, Room 71030, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, no

later than ten (10) calendar days following publication of this notice. Please follow the requirements set forth in EDA's regulations at 13 CFR 315.9 for procedures to request a public