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**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 the 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 "Report on Current Employment Statistics." 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 April 8, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room G225, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington,

DC 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by email to *BLS\_PRA\_Public@bls.gov*.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program provides current monthly statistics on employment, hours, and earnings, by industry and geography. CES estimates are among the most visible and widely-used Principal Federal Economic Indicators (PFEIs). CES data are also among the timeliest of the PFEIs, with their release each month by the BLS in the *Employment Situation*, typically on the first Friday of each month. The statistics are fundamental inputs in economic decision processes at all levels of government, private enterprise, and organized labor.

The CES monthly estimates of employment, hours, and earnings are based on a sample of U.S. nonagricultural establishments. Information is derived from approximately 349,000 reports (from a sample of 122,000 employers with State Unemployment Insurance (UI) accounts comprised of 666,000 individual worksites). Each month, firms report their employment, payroll, and hours on forms identified as the BLS-790. The sample is collected under a probability-based design. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands collect an additional 8,800 reports.

A list of all form types currently used appears in the table below. Respondents receive variations of the basic collection forms, depending on their industry.

The CES program is a voluntary program under Federal statute. Reporting to the State agencies is voluntary in all but four States (California, New Mexico, Oregon, and South Carolina), Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. To our knowledge, the States that do have mandatory reporting rarely exercise their authority. The collection form's confidentiality statement cites the Confidential

Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act and mentions the State mandatory reporting authority.

**II. Current Action**

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for the Report on Current Employment Statistics.

Automated data collection methods are now used for most of the CES sample. Approximately 124,000 reports are received through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI). Web data collection accounts for 26,000 reports. Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) is used to collect 66,000.

The balance of the sample is collected through other methods including submission of transcripts, emails, fax, and other special arrangements.

**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:* Report on Current Employment Statistics.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0011.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* State or local governments; businesses or other for profit; non-profit institutions.

Industry	Number of annual reports	Frequency	Total annual responses	Estimated average annual burden (hours)	Estimated total annual burden (hours)
Natural Resources & Mining .....	718	12	8,616	0.167	1,439
Construction .....	7,742	12	92,904	0.167	15,515
Manufacturing .....	6,223	12	74,676	0.167	12,471
Services .....	80,425	12	965,100	0.167	161,172
Public Administration .....	29,241	12	350,892	0.100	35,089
Education .....	13,786	12	165,432	0.100	16,543

Industry	Number of annual reports	Frequency	Total annual responses	Estimated average annual burden (hours)	Estimated total annual burden (hours)
EDI Firms .....	124,349	12	*1,044	1.000	1,044
All Industries .....	262,484		1,658,664		243,273

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 at Washington, DC, on January 29, 2024.

**Eric Molina,**

Chief, Division of Management Systems, Branch of Policy Analysis.

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**NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION**

[NARA-24-0002; NARA-2024-013]

**Records Schedules; Availability and Request for Comments**

**AGENCY:** National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of proposed records schedules; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) publishes notice of certain Federal agency requests for records disposition authority (records schedules). We publish notice in the **Federal Register** and on *regulations.gov* for records schedules in which agencies propose to dispose of records they no longer need to conduct agency business. We invite public comments on such records schedules.

**DATES:** We must receive responses on the schedules listed in this notice by March 25, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** To view a records schedule in this notice, or submit a comment on one, use the following address: *https://www.regulations.gov/docket/NARA-24-0002/document*. This is a direct link to the schedules posted in the docket for this notice on *regulations.gov*. You may submit comments by the following method:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* *https://www.regulations.gov*. On the website, enter either of the numbers cited at the top of this notice into the search field. This will bring you to the

docket for this notice, in which we have posted the records schedules open for comment. Each schedule has a ‘comment’ button so you can comment on that specific schedule. For more information on *regulations.gov* and on submitting comments, see their FAQs at *https://www.regulations.gov/faq*.

If you are unable to comment via *regulations.gov*, you may email us at *request.schedule@nara.gov* for instructions on submitting your comment. You must cite the control number of the schedule you wish to comment on. You can find the control number for each schedule in parentheses at the end of each schedule’s entry in the list at the end of this notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Eddie Germino, Strategy and Performance Division, by email at *regulation\_comments@nara.gov* or at 301-837-3758. For information about records schedules, contact Records Management Operations by email at *request.schedule@nara.gov* or by phone at 301-837-1799.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Public Comment Procedures**

We are publishing notice of records schedules in which agencies propose to dispose of records they no longer need to conduct agency business. We invite public comments on these records schedules, as required by 44 U.S.C. 3303a(a), and list the schedules at the end of this notice by agency and subdivision requesting disposition authority.

In addition, this notice lists the organizational unit(s) accumulating the records or states that the schedule has agency-wide applicability. It also provides the control number assigned to each schedule, which you will need if you submit comments on that schedule.

We have uploaded the records schedules and accompanying appraisal memoranda to the *regulations.gov* docket for this notice as “other” documents. Each records schedule contains a full description of the records at the file unit level as well as their proposed disposition. The appraisal memorandum for the schedule includes information about the records.

We will post comments, including any personal information and attachments, to the public docket, unchanged. Because comments are public, you are responsible for ensuring that you do not include any confidential or other information that you or a third party may not wish to be publicly posted. If you want to submit a comment with confidential information or cannot otherwise use the *regulations.gov* portal, you may contact *request.schedule@nara.gov* for instructions on submitting your comment.

We will consider all comments submitted by the posted deadline and consult as needed with the Federal agency seeking the disposition authority. After considering comments, we may or may not make changes to the proposed records schedule. The schedule is then sent for final approval by the Archivist of the United States. After the schedule is approved, we will post on *regulations.gov* a “Consolidated Reply” summarizing the comments, responding to them, and noting any changes we made to the proposed schedule. You may elect at *regulations.gov* to receive updates on the docket, including an alert when we post the Consolidated Reply, whether or not you submit a comment. If you have a question, you can submit it as a comment, and can also submit any concerns or comments you would have to a possible response to the question. We will address these items in consolidated replies along with any other comments submitted on that schedule.

We will post schedules on our website in the Records Control Schedule (RCS) Repository, at *https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/rcs*, after the Archivist approves them. The RCS contains all schedules approved since 1973.

**Background**

Each year, Federal agencies create billions of records. To control this accumulation, agency records managers prepare schedules proposing retention periods for records and submit these schedules for NARA’s approval. Once approved by NARA, records schedules