

Type of Request: To extend a currently approved information collection.

Abstract: The primary objective of the National Agricultural Statistics Service is to prepare and issue state and national estimates of crop and livestock production. The Mink Survey collects data on the number of mink pelts produced, the number of females bred, and the number of mink farms. Mink estimates are used by the federal government to calculate total value of sales and total cash receipts. Data are used by state governments to administer fur farm programs and health regulations. Universities use the data in research projects. The Mink Survey has approval from OMB for a 3-year period. NASS intends to request that the survey be approved for another 3 years.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response.

Respondents: Farmers.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 425.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 71 hours.

Copies of this information collection and related instructions can be obtained without charge from Larry Gambrell, the Agency OMB Clearance Officer, at (202) 720-5778.

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 will have practical utility; (b) 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; (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 those who are to respond, such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to:

Larry Gambrell, Agency OMB Clearance Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 4162 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250-2000. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., March 19, 1998.

Rich Allen,

Associate Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

[FR Doc. 98-8394 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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: Bureau of the Census.

Title: Current Population Survey—June 1998 Fertility and Birth Expectations Supplement.

Form Number(s): The automated survey instrument has no form number.

Agency Approval Number: 0607-0610.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection.

Burden: 795 hours.

Number of Respondents: 30,000.

Avg. Hours Per Response: 95 seconds (about one and one half minutes).

Needs and Uses: The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey conducted in approximately 48,000 households monthly throughout the United States. Data on demographic and labor force characteristics are collected from a sample of households which represent the U.S. population. The Bureau of the Census uses the data to compile monthly averages of household size and composition, age, education, ethnicity, marital status and various other characteristics at the U.S. level. The Bureau of Labor Statistics also uses the data in its monthly calculations of employment and unemployment.

The basic monthly questionnaire is periodically supplemented with additional questions which address specific needs. The Census Bureau is requesting clearance for the collection of data concerning the Fertility and Birth Expectations Supplement to be conducted in conjunction with the June 1998 CPS. The Census Bureau sponsors the supplement questions, which were previously collected in June 1992, and have been asked periodically since 1971. A supplement on Marital History and Fertility was collected in June 1995.

This survey provides information used mainly by government and private analysts to project future population growth, to analyze child spacing, and to

aid policy makers in their decisions affected by changes in family size and composition. Past studies have discovered noticeable changes in the patterns of fertility rates, family structures, premarital births, and the timing of the first birth. Potential needs for government assistance such as aid to families with dependent children, child care, and maternal health care for single parent households can be estimated using CPS characteristics matched with fertility data. The birth expectations data also assist researchers and analysts who explore issues such as postponement of childbirth because of education or employment responsibilities.

Affected Public: Individuals or households.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

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

OMB Desk Officer: Nancy Kirkendall, (202) 395-7313.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, DOC Forms Clearance Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent on or before April 30, 1998, to Nancy Kirkendall, OMB Desk Officer, room 10201, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Dated: March 25, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-8440 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of the Census

Generic Clearance for Questionnaire Pretesting Research

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 1, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Department Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instruction should be directed to Theresa J. DeMaio, U. S. Bureau of the Census, Room 3127, FOB 4, Washington, DC 20233-9150, (301) 457-4894.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This research program is used by the Census Bureau and survey sponsors to improve questionnaires and procedures, reduce respondent burden, and ultimately increase the quality of data collected in the Census Bureau censuses and surveys. The clearance is used to conduct pretesting of decennial, demographic, and economic census and survey questionnaires prior to fielding them. Pretesting activities are generally small-scale and involve one of the following methods for identifying measurement problems with the questionnaire or survey procedure: cognitive interviews (that is, intensive, one-on-one interviews in which the respondent is typically asked to think aloud as he or she answers survey questions), focus groups (that is, group sessions guided by a moderator that are focused on a particular issue), respondent debriefing (that is, standardized debriefing questionnaires administered to respondents who have participated in a field test), behavior coding of respondent/interviewer interaction (that is, systematic coding of of the question/answer exchange process to identify situations that reflect problems with the questionnaire), and split sample experiments (that is, testing alternative versions of questionnaires).

This clearance has been in existence since 1991, and many valuable pretesting activities have been conducted. For example, cognitive interviews and respondent debriefing questionnaires have been vital components of the development and pretesting of the Survey of Program

Dynamics; a split sample experiment was used to evaluate proposed questionnaire revisions for the Survey of Minority Owned Business Enterprises; focus groups have been used to gather important information as input to the Census Bureau's plans for enumerating American Indians and migrant workers in Census 2000; respondent debriefings have provided valuable data for understanding how respondents understand the concept of residence and interpret the residence rules for the decennial census; behavior coding provided useful information in revising the questionnaire for the Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

The clearance operates in the following manner: A block of hours is reserved at the beginning of each year, and the particular activities that will be conducted under the clearance are not specified in advance. The Census Bureau provides information to OMB about the specific pretesting activities on a flow basis throughout the year. OMB is notified of each pretesting activity in a letter that gives specific details about the activity, rather than by means of individual clearance packages. At the end of each year, a report is submitted to OMB that summarizes the number of hours used as well as the nature and results of the activities completed under the clearance.

Some modifications of the clearance from previous years are planned. The number of hours is expanded from 4,500 per year to 10,000 per year to allow for larger-scale questionnaire experiments with increased analytical power. In addition, incentives as a survey procedure may also be the subject of research under the clearance.

II. Method of Collection

Mail, telephone, face-to-face; paper-and-pencil, CATI, CAPI

III. Data

OMB Number: 0607-0725.

Form Number: Various.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, farms, business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 10,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: There is no cost to respondents, except for their time to complete the questionnaire.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 USC, Sections 131, 141, 142, 161, 181, 182, 193, and 301.

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.

Dated: March 25, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98-8438 Filed 3-30-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

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

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration (EDA).

ACTION: To give firms an opportunity to comment.

Petitions have been accepted for filing on the dates indicated from the firms listed below:

LIST OF PETITION ACTION BY TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PERIOD 02/16/98-03/25/98

Firm name	Address	Date petition accepted	Product
River Ltd.	115 Anawan Street, Fall River, MA 02721.	02/17/98	Women's Slacks and Shorts.