

Frequency: Annually in some establishments, and quarterly in others.
Total Responses: 71,607 (3-year average).

Average Time Per Response: 45 minutes (3-year average).

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 54,262 hours (3-year average).

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

All figures in the chart below are based on a 3-year average. The sum of total respondents and the sum of total responses are greater on the chart below than the figures listed above; many respondents are asked to provide information relating to more than one form.

Collection forms can have multiple purposes. The chart below shows the average collection time for the

predominant use of the form, and the weighted average time for all uses of the form. The benefit initiation forms, for example, are used both for initial collection of benefits from an establishment, and for technical review of the initial collection. The initial collection takes an average of 180 minutes, while the records check takes about eight minutes. The weighted average collection time in 156 minutes.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average minutes per response	Average time for the predominant form use	Total annual burden
Earnings Initiation (NCS 99-1)	5,640	Annual or Quarterly	6,204	76	82	7,821
Earnings Update (NCS 99-2)	24,106	Annual or Quarterly	54,368	19	20	17,477
Benefits Initiation (NCS 99-3) ¹ ...	2,240	Annual or Quarterly	2,593	156	180	6,748
Benefits Update (NCS 99-4)	10,686	Annual or Quarterly	37,807	20	20	12,464
Informed Consent (NCS 99-5)	(*)	Unknown	Unknown	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Collection Not Tied to a Specific Form.	10,370	Annual	10,370	56	82	9,752
Total	53,041		111,342			54,262

¹ Form 3038D will continue to be used until the NCS data capture system is completed at the end of FY 2000.

* Unknown; dependent upon number of respondents who elect to have third parties provide data.

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; the comments also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., this 23rd day of April 1999.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

*Chief, Division of Management Systems,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

[FR Doc. 99-10724 Filed 4-28-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

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 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that 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. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) Program Survey."

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) 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 below on or before June 28, 1999. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments which:

- 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; and

- 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.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Karin G. Kurz, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3255, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC 20212. Ms. Kurz can be reached on 202-606-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 309(2)(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) states that the Secretary of Labor shall oversee development, maintenance, and continuous improvements of the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings. Prior to the WIA, Section 462(e) of PL 97-300, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), provided that the Secretary of Labor develop and maintain statistical data relating to permanent mass layoffs and plant closings and issue an annual report. The report includes, at a minimum, the number of plant closings

and mass layoffs, and the number of workers affected. The data are summarized by geographic area and industry.

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program uses a standardized, automated approach to identify, describe, and track the impact of major job cutbacks. The program utilizes, to the greatest degree possible, existing Unemployment Insurance (UI) records and computerized data files, supplemented by direct employer contact. Its major features include:

- The identification of major layoffs and closings through initial UI claims filed against the identified employer;
- The use of existing files on claimants to obtain basic demographic and economic characteristics on the individual;
- The telephone contact of those employers meeting mass layoff criteria to obtain specific information on the nature of the layoff and characteristics of the establishment;
- The identification of the continuing impact of the mass layoff on individuals by matching affected initial claimants with persons in claims status; and,
- The measurement of the incidence of the exhaustion of regular state UI benefits by affected workers.

In the program, State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) submit seven comprehensive reports each quarter, and a preliminary, summary report each month. These computerized reports contain information from State administrative files and information obtained from those employers meeting the program criteria of a mass layoff.

Congress has provided for the implementation of the MLS program by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) through the Fiscal Years 1984–1992 appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies. The program was not operational in Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994. Program operation resumed in Fiscal Year 1995 with funds provided by the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

At the present time, all states (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) are participating in the program.

II. Current Actions

The information collected and compiled in the MLS program is used to satisfy legislative reporting requirements mandated by Section 309(2)(a)(1)(A)(iii) of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), enacted on August 7, 1998. That section requires the Secretary of Labor to oversee the development, maintenance, and

continuous improvement of a nationwide employment statistics systems that includes the incidence of, industrial and geographical location of, and number of workers displaced by, permanent layoffs and plant closings.

In addition to the BLS uses of MLS data, such data are used by Congress, the Executive Branch, the business, labor, and academic communities, SESAs, and the U.S. Department of Labor for both macro- and microeconomic analysis, including specific labor market studies geared towards manpower assistance and development. Congress used these data in conjunction with the findings from a supplemental study of layoff actions in the development of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act, which was enacted in August 1988. Furthermore, the ETA uses MLS microdata in the evaluation of dislocated worker programs to assess the effectiveness of those activities and services.

A Congressionally mandated use of mass layoff data includes the WIA, which replaces Title III of the JTPA. Section 133 of the WIA encourages the use of MLS data in substate allocations relating the dislocated worker employment and training activities.

State agencies use of the MLS data in various ways, including the identification of geographic areas in need of special manpower services; ailing or troubled industries; specific employers needing assistance; outreach activities for the unemployed; and workers in need of temporary health care services.

There is no other comprehensive source of statistics on either establishments or workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closings; therefore, none of the aforementioned data requirements could be fulfilled if this data collection did not occur.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: Mass Layoff Statistics Program.

OMB Number: 1220–0090.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Farms; Federal Government; State, Local or Tribal Government.

Total Respondents: 15,652.

Frequency: SESAs report quarterly and annually. Affected employers report on occasion.

Total Responses: 16,432.

Average Time Per Response: 60 minutes for SESAs and 30 minutes for employers.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 73,570 hours.

Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.

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, D.C., this 23rd day of April 1999.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

*Chief, Division of Management Systems,
Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Proposed Collection, Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

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 an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that 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. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed reinstatement, with change, of the “National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 79.” A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) 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 below on or before June 28, 1999. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments which:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
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