

Notices

Federal Register

Vol. 82, No. 91

Friday, May 12, 2017

This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Nebraska Advisory Committee To Discuss Civil Rights Topics in the State

AGENCY: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act that the Nebraska Advisory Committee (Committee) will hold a meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. CDT for the purpose of Committee orientation and a discussion on civil rights topics affecting the state.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 1, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. CDT.

Public Call Information: Dial: 888-452-4023, Conference ID: 5195407.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Barreras, DFO, at dbarreras@usccr.gov or 312-353-8311.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Members of the public can listen to the discussion. This meeting is available to the public through the following toll-free call-in number: 888-452-4023, conference ID: 5195407. Any interested member of the public may call this number and listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. The conference call operator will ask callers to identify themselves, the organization they are affiliated with (if any), and an email address prior to placing callers into the conference room. Callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-

line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Persons with hearing impairments may also follow the proceedings by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-977-8339 and providing the Service with the conference call number and conference ID number.

Members of the public are also entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be mailed to the Midwestern Regional Office, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 55 W. Monroe St., Suite 410, Chicago, IL 60615. They may also be faxed to the Commission at (312) 353-8324, or emailed to Carolyn Allen at callen@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at (312) 353-8311.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Midwestern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meeting will be available via www.facadatabase.gov under the Commission on Civil Rights, Nebraska Advisory Committee link (<https://database.faca.gov/committee/committee.aspx?cid=260&aid=17>). Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Midwestern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

Agenda

Welcome and Roll Call
Orientation
Civil Rights Topics in Nebraska
Next Steps
Public Comment
Adjournment

Dated: May 9, 2017.

David Mussatt,
Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.
[FR Doc. 2017-09666 Filed 5-11-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

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 Retail Surveys (Formerly Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) and Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MARTS)).

OMB Control Number: 0607-0717.

Form Number(s): MRTS: SM-44(17) S, SM-44(17) SE, SM-44(17) SS, SM-44(17) B, SM-44(17) BE, SM-44(17) BS, SM-45(12) S, SM-45(12) SE, SM-45(12) SS, SM-45(12) B, SM-45(12) BE, SM-45(12) BS, SM-72(17) S, and SM-20(17) I. MARTS: SM-44(17) A, SM-44(17) AE, SM-44(17) AS, and SM-72(17) A.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Number of Respondents: 12,000.

Average Hours per Response: 7 minutes.

Burden Hours: 16,799.

Needs and Uses: The Census Bureau plans to request a revision of the current Office of Management and Budget clearance for the surveys known as the Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MRTS) and the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MARTS). The MRTS and MARTS are related collections sharing the same initial sampling frame and jointly collect data that are published in conjunction with each other. These two surveys, currently cleared separately under control numbers 0607-0717 and 0607-0104, respectively, will therefore be combined under one control number and will be collectively called the Monthly Retail Surveys (MRS).

The MRS are administered monthly to a sample of employer firms (*i.e.*, businesses with paid employees) with establishments located in the United States and classified in retail trade and/or food services sectors as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

The MRTS provides estimates of monthly retail sales, end-of-month merchandise inventories, and quarterly e-commerce sales of retailers in the United States. In addition, the survey also provides an estimate of monthly sales at food service establishments and drinking places.

Sales, inventories, and e-commerce data provide a current statistical picture of the retail portion of consumer activity. The sales and inventories

estimates in the MRTS measure current trends of economic activity that occur in the United States. The survey estimates provide valuable information for economic policy decisions and actions by the government and are widely used by private businesses, trade organizations, professional associations, and others for market research and analysis. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses these data in determining the consumption portion of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The MARTS, a subsample of MRTS, began in 1953 as a monthly survey for activity taking place during the previous month. MARTS was developed in response to requests by government, business, and other users to provide an early indication of current retail trade activity in the United States. Retail sales are one of the primary measures of consumer demand for both durable and non-durable goods. MARTS also provides an estimate of monthly sales at food service establishments and drinking places.

Retail and Food Services Sales during 2016 were estimated at \$5.5 trillion. The estimates produced in the MRS are critical to the accurate measurement of total economic activity. The estimates of retail sales represent all operating receipts, including receipts from wholesale sales made at retail locations and services rendered as part of the sale of the goods, by businesses that primarily sell at retail. 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. Also excluded is non-operating income from such services as investments and real estate.

The estimates of merchandise inventories owned by retailers represent all merchandise located in retail stores, warehouses, offices, or in transit for distribution to retail establishments. The estimates of merchandise inventories exclude fixtures and supplies not held for sale, as well as merchandise held on consignment owned by others. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses inventories data to determine the investment portion of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). We publish retail sales and inventories estimates based on the NAICS.

Retail e-commerce sales are estimated from the same sample used to estimate preliminary and final U.S. retail sales. For coverage of the universe of e-commerce retailers, research was conducted to ensure that retail firms selected in the MRTS sample engaged in e-commerce. Total e-commerce sales for 2016 were estimated at \$395 billion.

Sales data for select industries are released in the press release "Advance Monthly Sales for Retail Trade and Food Services," approximately 10 business days after the close of the reference month, which also includes more detailed estimates for the prior month. Advance inventory estimates for 3 aggregate levels are released in the "Advance Economic Indicator Report" approximately 19 business days after the close of the reference month and the preliminary estimates for inventories data are released in the "Manufacturing and Trade Inventories and Sales" approximately 43 days after the reference month. E-commerce sales estimates are released quarterly as part of the "Quarterly Retail Ecommerce Sales" report, approximately 45 days following the reference period.

Each MRS form has two versions; one with an "E" suffix and one with an "A" Suffix. The forms are identical, except that those with the "E" suffix are sent to smaller firms (which we refer to internally as "EINs"), while those with the "A" suffix are sent to larger firms, which we refer to internally as "alphas". Thus, there are a total of 36 variants of forms along with their fax counterparts. Forms can be found at https://www.census.gov/retail/get_forms.html.

Please note that with the start of mailing for our next business sample revision for the December 2017 statistical period, we will be removing the leased department forms: SM-45(17) S, SM-45(17) SE, SM-45(17) SS, SM-45(17) B, SM-45(17) BE, and SM-45(17) BS.

The U.S. Census Bureau tabulates the collected data to provide, with measured reliability, statistics on United States retail sales. These estimates are especially valued by data users because of their timeliness.

The sales estimates are used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), Federal Reserve Board (FRB), Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), and other government agencies, as well as business users in formulating economic decisions.

BEA is the primary Federal user of data collected in the Monthly Retail Surveys. BEA uses the information in its preparation of the National Income and Products Accounts (NIPA), and its benchmark and annual input-output tables. Data on retail sales are used to prepare monthly estimates of the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) component of gross domestic product for all PCE goods categories, except tobacco, prescription drugs, motor vehicles, and gasoline and other

motor fuel. These estimates are also published each month in the Personal Income and Outlays press release. If the survey were not conducted, BEA would lack comprehensive data from the retail sector. This would adversely affect the reliability of the NIPA and GDP. Production of the NIPA figures also require inventory figures in order to publish the monthly inventory to sales ratios. Additionally, they use MRS inventory figures to measure changes in inventories for estimates of gross output in the annual Input-Output Accounts tables, as well as for computing annual and quarterly GDP-by-industry statistics.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses the data as input to their Producer Price Indexes and in developing productivity measurements. The data are also used for gauging current economic trends of the economy. BLS uses the estimates to develop consumer price indexes used in inflation and cost of living calculations.

CEA, other government agencies, and businesses use the survey results to formulate and make decisions. CEA reports the retail data, one of the principal federal economic indicators, to the President each month for awareness on the current picture on the "state of the economy". In addition, CEA's Macroeconomic Forecaster uses the retail sales data, one of the key monthly data releases each month, to keep track of real economic growth in the current quarter.

Policymakers such as the FRB need to have the timeliest estimates in order to anticipate economic trends and act accordingly.

Private businesses use the retail sales and inventories data to compute business activity indexes. The private sector also uses retail sales as a reliable indicator of consumer activity. In addition, businesses use the estimates to measure how they are performing and predict future demand for their products.

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. 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 or fax to (202) 395-5806.

Sheleen Dumas,

PRA Departmental Lead, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2017-09685 Filed 5-11-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hydrographic Services Review Panel Meeting

AGENCY: National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of open public meeting via webinar.

SUMMARY: The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) will hold a public meeting to discuss the draft National Charting Plan and other related topics on navigation services such as: The draft External Source of Data for Nautical Charting; the draft OCS Autonomous Systems Strategy; and the draft Coast Survey Hydrographic Plan. Public comments are requested. The HSRP meeting agenda, webinar and background documents can be found online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

DATES: The meeting webinar is scheduled for June 9, 2017, 1-4 p.m. Eastern Time. The agenda and times are subject to change. For updates, please check online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

Webinar Information: This can be found online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynne Mersfelder-Lewis, HSRP program manager, National Ocean Service, Office of Coast Survey, NOAA (N/NSD), 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3 #6862, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910; telephone: 301-713-2750 ext. 166; email: Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The HSRP public meeting will be conducted via webinar and public comment is encouraged. A public comment period is scheduled during the webinar and will be noted in the agenda. Each individual or group making verbal comments will be limited to a total time of five (5) minutes and will be recorded. Individuals who would like to submit written statements in advance, during or after the meeting should email their comments to Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov.

noaa.gov. Pre-registration is required to access the webinar and to make public comments. Additional information on the webinar is available from Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov or online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/hsrp.htm>.

The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP) is a Federal Advisory Committee established to advise the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, the NOAA Administrator, on matters related to the responsibilities and authorities set forth in section 303 of the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act of 1998, as amended, and such other appropriate matters that the Under Secretary refers to the Panel for review and advice. The charter and other information are located online at: <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/CharterBylawsHSIAStatute.htm>. Past HSRP public meeting summary reports, presentations, transcripts, and other information is available online at: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/ocs/hsrp/meetings.htm>.

Matters To Be Considered: The panel is convening to discuss four draft documents relevant to NOAA's navigation services. Navigation services include the data, products, and services provided by the NOAA programs and activities that undertake geodetic observations, gravity modeling, coastal mapping, bathymetric mapping, hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, tide and water level observations, current observations, and marine modeling. This suite of NOAA products and services support safe and efficient navigation, resilient coasts and communities, and the nationwide positioning information infrastructure to support America's commerce. Other matters may be considered. The agenda is subject to change.

Special Accommodations: This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities. Please direct requests to Lynne.Mersfelder@noaa.gov by June 2, 2017.

Dated: May 3, 2017.

Shepard Smith,

Director, Office of Coast Survey, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2017-09642 Filed 5-11-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-JE-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XF341

Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental To Conducting Subsea Cable Operations and Maintenance Activities in the Arctic Ocean

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed incidental harassment authorization; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS has received a request from Quintillion Subsea Operations, LLC (Quintillion) for authorization to take marine mammals incidental to conducting subsea cable-laying and maintenance activities in the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi seas. Pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), NMFS is requesting comments on its proposal to issue an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to incidentally take marine mammals during the specified activities.

DATES: Comments and information must be received no later than June 12, 2017.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Jolie Harrison, Chief, Permits and Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. Physical comments should be sent to 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 and electronic comments should be sent to ITP.Guan@noaa.gov.

Instructions: NMFS is not responsible for comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period. Comments received electronically, including all attachments, must not exceed a 25-megabyte file size. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel or Adobe PDF file formats only. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted online at www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/incidental/research.htm without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Guan, Office of Protected