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: U.S. Census Bureau.

Title: Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey (M3).

Form Number(s): M–3(SD).

Agency Approval Number: 0607–0008.

Type of Request: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Burden: 16,800 hours.

Number of Respondents: 4,200.

Avg Hours Per Response: 20 minutes.

Needs and Uses: The U.S. Census Bureau is requesting an extension of the currently approved collection for the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) survey. This survey collects monthly data from domestic manufacturers on Form M–3 (SD), which is mailed at the end of each month. Data requested are shipments, new orders, unfilled orders, total inventory, materials and supplies, work-in-process, and finished goods. It is currently the only survey that provides broad-based monthly statistical data on the economic conditions in the domestic manufacturing sector. It is designed to measure current industrial activity and to provide an indication of future production commitments. The value of shipments measures the value of goods delivered during the month by domestic manufacturers. Estimates of new orders serve as an indicator of future production commitments and represent the current sales value of new orders received during the month, net of cancellations. Substantial accumulation or depletion of backlogs of unfilled orders measures excess (or deficient) demand for manufactured products. The level of inventories, especially in relation to shipments, is frequently used to monitor the business cycle.

This survey provides an essential component of the current economic indicators needed for assessing the evolving status of the economy and formulating economic policy. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has designated this survey as a principal Federal economic indicator. The shipments and inventory data are essential inputs to the gross domestic product (GDP), while the orders data are direct inputs to the leading economic indicator series. The GDP and the economic indicator series would be incomplete without these data. The survey also provides valuable and timely domestic manufacturing data for economic planning and analysis to business firms, trade associations, research and consulting agencies, and academia.

The data are used for analyzing short- and long-term trends, both in the manufacturing sector and as related to other sectors of the economy. The data on value of shipments, especially when adjusted for change in inventory, measure current levels of production. New orders figures serve as an indicator of future production commitments. Changes in the level of unfilled orders, because of excess or shortfall of new orders compared with shipments, are used to measure the excess (or deficiency) in the demand for manufactured products. Changes in the level of inventories and the relation of these to shipments are used to project future movements in manufacturing activity. These statistics are valuable for analysts of business cycle conditions including members of the Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Federal Reserve Board (FRB), the Department of the Treasury, business firms, trade associations, private research and consulting agencies, and the academic community.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: Monthly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

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

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395–5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482–0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dhynek@doc.gov*).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202–395–7245) or e-mail (*susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov*).

Dated: March 14, 2006.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–3946 Filed 3–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Quarterly Survey of Transactions Between U.S. and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons in Selected Services and in Intangible Assets

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 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 5 p.m. May 19, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diane Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, or via the Internet at *dhynek@doc.gov,* ((202) 482–0266).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional information or copies of the survey and instructions to Christopher Emond, Chief, Special Surveys Branch, International Investment Division, (BE–50), Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; phone: (202) 606–9826; fax: (202) 606–5318; or via the Internet at *christopher.emond@bea.gov,* ((202) 482–0266).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Form BE–25, Quarterly Survey of Transactions Between U.S. and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons in Selected Services and in Intangible Assets, obtains quarterly data from companies that have receipts from or payments to unaffiliated foreign persons in any of the types of transactions covered by the survey. The data are needed to monitor trade in services and in intangible assets, analyze its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, compile and improve the U.S. economic accounts, support U.S. commercial policy on services and intangible assets, conduct trade promotion, and improve the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate market opportunities.

The data from the survey are primarily intended as general purpose statistics. They are needed to answer any number of research and policy questions related to cross-border trade in services.

The form remains the same as in the past. No changes in the data collected or in exemption levels are proposed.

II. Method of Collection

Survey forms will be sent to U.S. companies each quarter; responses will be due within 45 days after the close of each fiscal quarter, except for the final quarter of the fiscal year, when the reports are due within 90 days after the close of the quarter. Potential respondents are U.S. business enterprises and not-for-profit institutions that have receipts from unaffiliated foreign persons in any of the types of transactions covered by the survey greater than $6 million for the prior calendar year or that are expected to be greater than $6 million in the current calendar year; or that have payments to unaffiliated foreign persons in any of the types of transactions covered by the survey greater than $4 million for the prior calendar year or that are expected to be greater than $4 million in the current calendar year. The data collected are cut-off sample data. In addition, estimates are developed based upon previously reported or estimated data for non-respondents, including those companies that fall below the reporting threshold for the survey.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0608–0067.

Form Number: BE–25.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: U.S. companies and not-for-profit institutions that transact with unaffiliated foreign persons in selected services or in intangible assets.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 550 per quarter; 2,200 annually.

Estimated Time Per Response: 16 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 35,200 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: $1,408,000 (based on an estimated reporting burden of 35,200 hours and an estimated hourly cost of $40).

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: The International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act, 22 U.S.C. 3101–3108, as amended.

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 will 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 14, 2006.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E6–3947 Filed 3–17–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–06–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Economic Analysis

Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons

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 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 5 p.m. May 19, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diane Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, or via the Internet at *dhynek@doc.gov,* ((202) 482–0266).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct requests for additional information or copies of the survey and instructions to Christopher Emond, Chief, Special Surveys Branch, International Investment Division, (BE–50), Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; phone: (202) 606–9826; fax: (202) 606–5318; or via the Internet at *christopher.emond@bea.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Form BE–85, Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Unaffiliated Foreign Persons, obtains quarterly data from financial services providers that have receipts from or payments to unaffiliated foreign persons in the financial services covered by the survey. The data are needed to monitor trade in financial services, analyze its impact on the U.S. and foreign economies, compile and improve the U.S. economic accounts, support U.S. commercial policy on financial services, conduct trade promotion, and improve the ability of U.S. businesses to identify and evaluate market opportunities.

The data from the survey are primarily intended as general purpose statistics. They are needed to answer any number of research and policy questions related to cross-border trade in services.

The form remains the same as in the past. No changes in the data collected or in exemption levels are proposed.

II. Method of Collection

Survey forms will be sent to U.S. companies each quarter; responses will be due within 45 days after the close of each fiscal quarter, except for the final quarter of the fiscal year, when the reports are due within 90 days after the close of the quarter. Potential respondents are U.S. financial services providers that have receipts from unaffiliated foreign persons in the financial services covered by the survey greater than $20 million for the prior calendar year or that are expected to be greater than $20 million in the current calendar year; or that have payments to unaffiliated foreign persons in the financial services covered by the survey greater than $15 million for the prior calendar year or that are expected to be greater than $15 million in the current calendar year . The data collected are cut-off sample data. In addition, estimates are developed based upon previously reported or estimated data for non-respondents, including those companies that fall below the reporting threshold for the survey.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0608–0065.

Form Number: BE–85.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: U.S. financial services companies that transact financial services with unaffiliated foreign persons.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 125 per quarter; 500 annually.