

the United Kingdom: Investigations Nos. 701-TA-380-382 and 731-TA-797-804 (Preliminary)."

By order of the Commission.

Issued: July 29, 1998.

**Donna R. Koehnke,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-20887 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332-345]

### Shifts in U.S. Merchandise Trade in 1998

**AGENCY:** United States International Trade Commission.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 23, 1998.

**ACTION:** Opportunity to submit written statements in connection with the report issued in July 1999.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission has prepared and published annual reports on U.S. trade shifts in selected industries/commodity areas under investigation No. 332-345 since 1993. The Commission plans to publish the next report in July 1999, which will cover shifts in U.S. trade in 1998 compared with trade in 1997. The report structure and content is anticipated to be similar to the report issued in July 1998. Comments and suggestions regarding the July 1999 report are welcome in written submissions as specified below. The latest version of the report covering 1997 data (USITC Publication 3120, July 1998) may be obtained from the ITC's Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). A printed report may be requested by contacting the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000 or by fax at 202-205-2104.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the trade shifts report may be directed to the project leader, Cherly Badra Qassis, Office of Industries (202-205-3436) or the assistant project leader, Tracy Quilter, Office of Industries (202-205-3437). For information on the legal aspects, please contact Mr. William Gearhart, Office of General Counsel (202-205-3091). The media should contact Ms. Margaret O'Laughlin, Public Affairs Officer (202-205-1819). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202)-205-1810.

### Background

The initial notice of institution of this investigation was published in the

**Federal Register** of September 8, 1993 (58 FR 47287). The Commission expanded the scope of this investigation to cover service trade in a separate report, which it announced in a notice published in the **Federal Register** of December 28, 1994 (59 FR 66974). The merchandise trade report has been published in the current series under investigation No. 332-345 annually since September 1993. As in past years, each report will summarize and provide analyses of the major trade developments that occurred in the preceding year, and is expected to be published in July of each year. The reports will also provide summary trade information and basic statistical profiles of nearly 300 industry/commodity groups.

### Written Submissions

No public hearing is planned. However, interested persons are invited to submit written comments or suggestions concerning the July 1999 report. Commercial or financial information which a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be provided on separate sheets of paper, each clearly marked "Confidential Business Information" at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's Rules and Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary of the Commission for inspection by interested persons. To be assured of consideration by the Commission, written statements relating to the Commission's report should be submitted to the Commission at the earliest practical date and should be received no later than the close of business on December 30, 1998. All submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436.

Issued: July 31, 1998.

By order of the Commission.

**Donna R. Koehnke,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-20885 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

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## JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

### Hearings of the Judicial Conference Advisory Committees on Rules of Bankruptcy and Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence

**AGENCY:** Judicial Conference of the United States; Advisory Committee on Rules of Bankruptcy and Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence.

**ACTION:** Notice of open hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Advisory Committees on Rules of Bankruptcy and Civil Procedure and Rules of Evidence have proposed the following rules:

Bankruptcy Rules: *Litigation Package:* 1006, 1007, 1014, 1017, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2014, 2016, 3001, 3006, 3007, 3012, 3013, 3015, 3019, 3020, 4001, 6004, 6006, 6007, 9006, 9013, 9014, 9017, 9021, and 9034; *Other Amendments:* 1007, 1017, 2002, 4003, 4004, and 5003; and *Official Forms:* 1 and 7.

Civil Rules: 4, 5, 12, 26, 30, 34, and 37; and Admiralty Rules B, C, and E.

Evidence Rules: 103, 404, 701, 702, 703, 803, and 902.

Public hearings will be held on the amendments to: the Bankruptcy Rules in Washington, D.C. on January 28, 1999; the Civil Rules in Baltimore, Maryland on December 7, 1998; in San Francisco, California on January 22, 1999; and in Chicago, Illinois on January 29, 1999; and the Evidence Rules in Washington, D.C. on October 22, 1998; in Dallas, Texas on December 4, 1998; and in San Francisco, California on January 25, 1999.

The Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure submits these rules for public comment. All comments and suggestions with respect to them must be placed in the hands of the Secretary as soon as convenient and, in any event, no later than January 1, 1999 for the Bankruptcy Rules, and no later than February 1, 1999 for the Civil and Evidence Rules.

Anyone interested in testifying should write to Mr. Peter G. McCabe, Secretary, Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C. 20544, at least 30 days before the hearing.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

John K. Rabiej, Chief, Rules Committee Support Office, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, Washington, D.C. 20544, telephone (202) 273-1820.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

**John K. Rabiej,**

Chief, Rules Committees Support Office.

[FR Doc. 98-20917 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Civil Rights Division

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: Extension of a Currently Approved Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection under review; Extension of a currently approved collection; Procedures for the administration of section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, has submitted the following information collection request utilizing emergency review procedures, to OMB for review and clearance in accordance with the 5 CFR 1320.13(a)(1)(ii) and (a)(2)(iii) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The Civil Rights Division has determined that it cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance procedures under this part of the Act because normal clearance procedures are reasonable likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information.

The information collection is now published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. OMB approval has been requested by July 31, 1998. If granted, the emergency approval is only valid for 180 days.

Comments and questions about the emergency information collection request listed below should be forwarded to OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of Justice Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20530.

During the first 60 days of this same period a regular review of this information collection is also being undertaken. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until October 5, 1998. Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information should address one or more of the following four points:

1. Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
2. Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

3. Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

4. 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 submission of responses.

Additionally, comments may also be submitted to the Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Management Division, Information Management and Security Staff, Attention: Department Clearance Officer, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Overview of this information collection:

1. *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

2. *Title of the Form/Collection:* Procedures for the Administration of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

3. Agency form number and applicable component. Form Number = None. Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

4. Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract. *Primary:* State, Local, and Trial Government. *Other:* None. Jurisdictions covered under the Voting Rights Act are required to obtain preclearance from the Attorney General (AG) before instituting changes affecting voting. They must convince the AG that voting changes are not racially discriminatory. The procedures facilitate that provision of information that will enable the AG to make the required determination.

5. *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for the average respondent to respond:* 10,103 respondents with the average response at 10.021 hours.

6. *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 47,365 annual burden hours.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Department Clearance Officer, Department of Justice (DOJ), Justice Management Division, Information Management and Security Staff, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Public comment on this proposed information collection is strongly encouraged.

Dated: July 30, 1998.

**Robert B. Briggs,**

Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. 98-20940 Filed 8-4-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### National Institute of Justice

[OJP(NIJ)-1189]

RIN 1121-ZB26

#### Announcement of the Availability of the National Institute of Justice Solicitation for "Forensic Document Examination Validation Studies"

**AGENCY:** Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, Justice.

**ACTION:** Notice of solicitation.

**SUMMARY:** Announcement of the availability of the National Institute of Justice solicitation for "Forensic Document Examination Validation Studies."

**DATES:** Due date for receipt of proposals is close of business August 14, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** National Institute of Justice, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For a copy of the solicitation, please call NCJRS 1-800-851-3420. For general information about application procedures for solicitations, please call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center 1-800-421-6770.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Authority

This action is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, §§ 201-03, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 3721-23 (1994).

##### Background

The National Institute of Justice calls for proposals to determine the scientific validity of handwriting identification. Two major areas of research will be required for each proposal:

(A) Statistical validation of individuality in handwriting—application should include projected data set, measurement tools, statistical analysis;

(B) statistical validation of standard operating procedures for handwriting comparison—application should include projected data set, Standard Operating Procedures, experimental designs, and statistical analysis.

Interested organizations should call the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) at 1-800-851-3420 to