

each volume. Throughout the remainder of the year, regular weekly updates are distributed to subscribers.

Signed at Washington, D.C. this 29th day of March 1996.

Philip J. Gloss,  
Chief, Branch of Construction Wage Determinations.

[FR Doc. 96-8136 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-27-M

**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 extension of the "Manual for Developing Local Area Unemployment

Statistics." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section below on or before June 4, 1996. BLS is particularly interested in comments which help the agency to:

- 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**

The Department of Labor, through BLS, is responsible for the development and publication of local area labor force statistics. This program includes the issuance of monthly estimates of the labor force, employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate for each State and labor market area in the Nation.

**II. Current Actions**

The labor force estimates developed and issued in this program are used for economic analysis and as a tool in the implementation of Federal economic policy in such areas as employment and economic development under the Job Training and Partnership Act, the Public Works and Economic Development Act, among others.

The estimates are also used in economic analysis by public agencies and private industry, and for State and area allocations and eligibility determinations according to legal and administrative requirements. Implementation of policy and legislative prerogatives could not be accomplished as now written without collection of the data.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* Manual for Developing Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0017.

*Affected Public:* State government.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (hours)	Estimated total burden hours
LAUS 2 .....	6,700	Monthly .....	80,400	1.62	130,248
LAUS 3 .....	384	Monthly .....	4,608	.11	507
Totals .....			85,008		130,755

*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 2nd day of April, 1996.

Peter T. Spolarich,  
Chief, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[FR Doc. 96-8486 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

**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 "Hours at Work Survey."

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the

addresses section below on or before June 4, 1996. BLS is particularly interested in comments which help the agency to:

- 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 N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212. Ms. Kurz can be reached on 202-606-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

It has been long recognized by experts in the field of productivity measurement and analysis that the appropriate measure of labor input for productivity statistics is hours worked rather than hours paid. The importance of this distinction was further emphasized by recommendations of the Panel to Review Productivity Statistics of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. In the mid-1970s, BLS established a task force to review existing programs and surveys and to determine the most efficient procedure for measuring hours worked. Based on the findings and recommendations of that task force, BLS developed the Hours at Work Survey data collection program that has provided a unique data

series for assessing productivity since 1982.

The Hours at Work Survey (HWS) collects data for production and non-supervisory workers for each of the major industrial sectors of the nonagricultural economy (on a quarterly as well as on a yearly basis). Data are collected for the number of hours worked and hours paid in order to construct ratios of hours worked to hours paid, which are then used to convert hours paid data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program to hours at work in the development of productivity statistics. Hours at work exclude paid leave (holidays, vacations, sick and personal or administrative leave such as personal business, funeral leave, and jury duty) while hours paid do not. Productivity is better measured as the ratio of output to hours spent in production. The collection of information on hours at work must be done annually because of the cyclical sensitivity of productivity measures.

**II. Current Actions**

Ratios of hours at work to hours paid are needed to measure labor input for productivity statistics. The ratios of hours at work to hours paid provided by this survey are used to convert hours paid by employees, which are based on data from the CES Program, to hours at work. The resulting hours at work measures are then incorporated into the BLS labor and multifactor productivity statistics published annually and quarterly.

Based on results of a 1992 response analysis survey (RAS), we have identified some areas of concern that have led to changes in wording, content or format of instructions, and a new form layout of the HWS questionnaire. Preliminary tests and interviews with focus groups indicate that the new HWS form is both easier to understand and more likely to be correctly completed. However, any such changes should be thoroughly tested to ensure that they produce genuine improvements over the current situation. Therefore, we will phase in a new HWS questionnaire (BLS 2000P1 and BLS 2000N1) in the 1996

data collection year (January 1997) together with the old forms (BLS 2000P and BLS 2000N) as a split-sample test, with complete turnover to the new form for the 1997 survey (January 1998). The split will allow us to compare response rates with the old and new procedures as well as the content of the data. The controlled implementation is needed to ensure that any changes in the hours at work to hours paid ratios are real changes rather than artifacts of changes to the questionnaire or data collection procedures.

The redesigned HWS has several objectives:

- (1) To improve and ensure the quality of the data in the survey by reducing survey errors from questionnaires, respondents, and interviewers.
- (2) To increase the proportion of responses obtained by mail.
- (3) To improve the Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) follow-up data collection so that CATI data are more consistent with data obtained by mail.

Implicit in all of these goals is a further objective of reducing the survey's response burden. To that end we have:

- (a) Redesigned the mail questionnaire to make it respondent-friendly, with instructions close to questions, an uncluttered appearance, questions that better fit respondent data sources, and questions that result in higher-quality data.
- (b) Revised the CATI questionnaire and procedures to obtain data closer to the data we get by mail.

Moreover, BLS will add a RAS to the HWS as a quality-control measure in order to evaluate the quality of the data obtained from the survey, including the accuracy of the responses provided and the extent which respondents have the requested information readily available.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* Hours at Work Survey.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0076.

*Affected Public:* Business and other for profit.

Form	Total re-spond-ents	Fre-quency	Total re-sponses	Average time per re-sponse	Estimated total bur-den hours
BLS2000P .....	2,875	Annually	2,875	1 hour	2,875
BLS2000N .....	2,125	Annually	2,125	1 hour	2,125
BLS2000P1 .....	2,875	Annually	2,875	1 hour	2,875
BLS2000N1 .....	2,125	Annually	2,125	1 hour	2,125
RAS .....	1,000	Annually	1,000	15 min	250
Totals .....	11,000	Annually	11,000	56 min.	10,250

*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, DC, this 2nd day of April, 1996.

Peter T. Spolarich,

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

[FR Doc. 96-8487 Filed 4-4-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

### 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 "Report on Occupational Employment." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before June 4, 1996.

BLS is particularly interested in comments which help the agency to:

- 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;

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**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

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a Federal/State establishment survey of wage and salary workers designed to produce data on current occupational employment and wages. OES survey data assist in the development of employment and training programs established by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) of 1982 and the Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984. Planners are required to use OES data in justifying the need for training programs related to specific occupations.

The OES program operates a periodic mail survey of a sample of nonfarm establishments conducted by all fifty States, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. Over three-year periods, data on occupational employment are collected by industry classification. The past OES cycles surveyed manufacturing industries, agricultural services, and hospitals during the first year; mining, construction, finance, real estate, and services (except hospitals and education) during the second year; and trade, transportation, communications, public utilities, education, and government services during the third year.

The OES wage survey addresses a critical void in the Federal statistical effort in a manner that is both cost effective and responsive to data quality concerns. Until recently, wage information was not provided across all occupations, industries, and States. The OES program started collecting wage data with two pilot surveys in 1989 and 1990. Follow-up response analysis surveys (RAS's) were conducted for both test years to assess the quality of the data collected. Based upon the

positive results of the RAS's, BLS made the decision to offer a voluntary wage survey option to all States beginning in 1991. Fifteen States opted to collect OES wage data.

In 1995, a consortium comprised of officials from State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) proposed collection of OES wage data in each State as a means of creating a consistently-developed national wage data base and for use in the Alien Labor Certification process.

##### The Immigration Act of 1990

The Immigration Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-649—Nov. 29, 1990) and Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regulations require that aliens seeking to enter the U.S. permanently or temporarily for the purpose of employment be excluded from admission unless the Department of Labor (DOL) certifies to INS and the Department of State that qualified U.S. workers are not available, and that the aliens' employment will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. workers similarly employed.

This process is known as labor certification. In order to obtain a labor certification, the alien must have an employer who is willing to make an offer of employment and apply for a labor certification on behalf of the alien. Any employer applying for a labor certification on behalf of an alien is required to conduct a good faith test of the labor market for qualified U.S. workers, and must document all efforts made to recruit such workers. This good faith test must include offering wages which equal or exceed the prevailing wage applicable to similarly employed individuals in the same geographical area.

Therefore, the certification process relies heavily upon having accurate prevailing wage information readily available. Prevailing wage data currently are not collected in a systematic manner by the States. This has led to a process of determining prevailing wages that is both labor-intensive and cumbersome to the employer and the State agencies.

##### Difficulties of the Current System of Data Collection

Most States currently conduct occupational wage surveys. In many instances, State wage surveys have been administered on an ad hoc basis, meaning they conduct the survey only as the need arises.

Often this results in several surveys being done a year, each surveying different occupations for different