

General Wage Determination Publication

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Signed at Washington, D.C. this 19th day of April 1996.

Philip J. Gloss,

Chief, Branch of Construction Wage Determinations.

[FR Doc. 96-10066 Filed 4-25-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-22-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 preclearance 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 "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 25, 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 assumption 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

Section 462(e) of PL 97-300, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), provides 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 is to include, at a minimum, the number of plant closings and mass layoffs, and the number of workers affected. The data are summarized by geographical area and industry.

The 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 a comprehensive report 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 provided for the implementation of the MLS program by BLS through fiscal years 1984-1992 appropriations for the Departments 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 years 1995 and 1996 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 the reporting requirement legislatively mandated by Section 462(e) of PL 97-300 (JTPA). The BLS annual reports from this program meet that statutory mandate, as well as provide economic analyses of these data.

In addition to the BLS uses of MLS data, such data are required by Congress, the Executive branch, business, labor, and academic communities, SESAs, and the Department of Labor for both macro- and micro-economic analysis, including specific labor market studies geared towards manpower assistance and

development. Moreover, 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 that was enacted in August 1988. Furthermore, ETA uses MLS micro data in the evaluation of dislocated worker programs to assess the effectiveness of those activities and services.

A congressionally mandated use of mass layoff data is the Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act of 1988 (EDWAA), which amended Title III of JTPA. Section 302 of EDWAA provides for allocation of Title III funds to States on the basis of MLS data and encourages the use of MLS data in substate allocations.

State agencies use 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: Extension.

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: State Employment Security Agencies (SESAs) will report quarterly and monthly. Affected employers will report on occasion.

Total Responses: 16,432.

Average Time Per Response: 60 Minutes for SESAs. 30 Minutes for employers.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 73,320 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 22nd day of April, 1996.

Peter T. Spolarich,

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

[FR Doc. 96-10377 Filed 4-25-96; 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 preclearance 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 the collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the "Current Population Survey (CPS)."

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 25, 1996.

BLS is particularly interested in comments which help 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

The CPS has been the principal source of the official Government statistics on employment and unemployment for 50 years. BLS and the Census Bureau share the responsibility for this survey and are submitting two separate clearance requests that reflect the joint funding provided by the two agencies for this survey and the way in which the Census Bureau and BLS divide the responsibilities for the analysis and dissemination of the data from the survey. The Census Bureau is submitting a request for clearance of the collection of the basic demographic information on the population being sampled, and BLS is requesting clearance for the collection of the labor force information which it analyzes and publishes monthly. The labor force information gathered through the survey is of paramount importance in keeping track of the economic health of the Nation. The survey is the only source of data on total employment and unemployment, with the monthly unemployment rate obtained through this survey being regarded as one of the most important economic indicators. Moreover, the survey also yields data on the basic status and characteristics of the persons not in the labor force. The CPS data are used monthly, in conjunction with data from other sources, to analyze the extent to which the various components of the American population are participating in the economic life of the Nation and with what success.

The labor force data gathered through the CPS are provided to users in the greatest detail possible, consistent with the demographic information obtained in the survey. In brief, the labor force data can be broken down by sex, age, race and ethnic origin, marital status, family composition, educational level, and various other characteristics. Through such breakdowns, one can focus on the employment situation of specific population groups as well as on the general trends in employment and unemployment. Information of this type can be obtained only through