

Management Division, U.S. Census Bureau. Email: margaret.m.beckom@census.gov; Phone: 301-763-7522.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

County Business Patterns Program Background

The CBP is an annual series that provides subnational economic data by industry. This series includes estimates of the number of establishments, employment during the week of March 12, first quarter payroll, and annual payroll for subnational geographic areas. This data is useful for studying the economic activity of small areas; analyzing economic changes over time; and as a benchmark for other statistical series, surveys, and databases between economic censuses. Businesses use the data for analyzing market potential, measuring the effectiveness of sales and advertising programs, setting sales quotas, and developing budgets. Government agencies use the data for administration and planning.

Current Disclosure Avoidance Methodology

A noise infusion technique referred to as multiplicative noise has been the Census Bureau's disclosure avoidance methodology for CBP data since reference year 2007. This method of disclosure avoidance perturbs each establishment's data prior to table creation by applying a random noise multiplier to the magnitude data (*i.e.*, characteristics such as first-quarter payroll, annual payroll, and number of employees) for each establishment. Each published table's cell value has an associated noise flag indicating the relative amount of distortion in the cell value resulting from the perturbation of the data contributing to the cell. The flag for "low noise" (G) indicates the cell value was changed by less than 2 percent with the application of noise, the flag for "moderate noise" (H) indicates the value was changed by at least 2 percent but less than 5 percent, and the flag for "high noise" (J) indicates the value was changed 5 percent or more. Values for some cells in the table may be suppressed (denoted with an S) because of concerns about the quality of the data. Also, beginning with reference year 2017, a cell is only published if it is based on data from three or more establishments. In all other cases, the cell is not included in the release (*i.e.*, the corresponding table row is dropped from publication).

Differential Privacy Methodology

The proposed statistical disclosure limitation approach makes use of controlled, randomized noise added to

published statistics to limit the extent to which public data users can make inferences about establishments in the internal, private CBP database. The approach includes two components: (1) Per-Record Differential Privacy, which gives a formal, mathematically provable privacy guarantee against exact inferences about establishments in the private database; and (2) non-differentially private, second-stage noise. Second-stage noise does not confer a formal privacy guarantee, but it ensures that large establishments present in published CBP statistics have a level of relative protection that increases as the number of establishments contributing to a published statistic decreases.

Demonstration Tables for New Differential Privacy Methodology for Disclosure Avoidance

The Census Bureau has created demonstration tables to illustrate how the new differential privacy methodology for disclosure avoidance can be applied to produce CBP estimates and will discuss this application during the April 20th webinar. These tables can be viewed at <https://www.census.gov/topics/business-economy/disclosure/data/tables.html>. The tables show estimates of the number of establishments, number of employees, first-quarter payroll, and annual payroll across geographic, industry, legal form of organization, and employment size levels. The input data for the demonstration tables are a set of synthetic microdata created solely from previously published CBP results. This approach ensures that existing disclosure avoidance safeguards are not compromised by the publication of the demonstration tables. The demonstration tables also include summary statistics of the uncertainty introduced by the new differential privacy methodology and comparison with the uncertainty introduced by the current disclosure avoidance methodology. We invite comments on these demonstration tables, including use cases (examples of how CBP data are used) and whether the new methodology affects these use cases (including whether the amount of noise shown in the demonstration tables would prevent or change any analyses for those use cases).

Robert L. Santos, Director, Census Bureau, approved the publication of this Notice in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 2, 2023.

Shannon Wink,

Program Analyst, Policy Coordination Office, U.S. Census Bureau.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Data Collection Instrument

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before June 2, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments via email to Jacklyn Claxton, Management and Program Analyst, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, at jclaxton@eda.gov or PRAComments@doc.gov. Please reference Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Data Collection Instrument in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Jacklyn Claxton, Management and Program Analyst, Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce, at jclaxton@eda.gov or 202-236-8372).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) leads the Federal

economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. Guided by the basic principle that sustainable economic development should be driven locally, EDA works directly with communities and regions to help them build the capacity for economic development based on local business conditions and needs. The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA) (42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*) is EDA's organic authority and is the primary legal authority under which EDA awards financial assistance. Under PWEDA, EDA provides financial assistance to both rural and urban distressed communities by fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and productivity through investments in infrastructure development, workforce development, capacity building, and business development to attract private capital investments and new and better jobs to regions experiencing economic distress. Further information on EDA programs and financial assistance opportunities can be found at www.eda.gov.

To effectively administer and monitor its economic development assistance programs, EDA collects certain information from applications for, and recipients of, EDA investment assistance. The purpose of this notice is to seek comments from the public and other Federal agencies on a request for a new information collection for recipients of awards under the EDA American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation. This is aligned with ensuring that Federal travel, tourism and outdoor recreation investments are evidence-based and data-driven, and accountable to participants and the public.

The EDA research grantee will study the effectiveness of the ARPA Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Program, which aims to (1) expand the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation economy; (2) create equitable opportunities for underserved populations; (3) build diversified local recreation economies that are resilient to future economic shocks and climate change; and (4) foster higher-skilled, higher wage job opportunities. To that end, EDA will conduct an electronic data collection survey of ARPA Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation recipients. A subset of the recipients (30) will be engaged in phone interviews to narrow a selection of projects for the development of case studies.

EDA is particularly interested in public comment on how the proposed data collection will support the assessment of program effectiveness, or if alternative information should be considered.

II. Method of Collection

Data will be collected electronically and via phone interviews.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: New information collection.

Form Number(s): None: new information collection.

Type of Review: Regular submission: new information collection.

Affected Public: Recipients of ARPA Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation awards, which may include (i) District Organization of an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD); (ii) Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; (iii) State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; (iv) institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or (v) public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a general purpose political subdivision of a State.

Estimated Number of Respondents: A total of 332 respondents for the electronic survey and a subset of 30 for the phone interviews.

Estimated Time per Response: Two hours for the electronic survey and 0.75 hours for each phone interview.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 664 hours for the electronic survey and 22.5 hours for the phone interviews.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$42,590.46 (cost assumes application of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics third quarter 2022 mean hourly employer costs for employee compensation for professional and related occupations of \$62.04).

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121 *et seq.*)

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and

cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include or summarize each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Report of Requests for Restrictive Trade Practice or Boycott

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on November 22, 2022, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

Title: Report of Requests for Restrictive Trade Practice or Boycott.