

Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, Policy and Planning Staff, Two Constitution Square, 145 N Street NE., Suite 2E-508, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: August 30, 2012.

Jerri Murray,

Department Clearance Officer, PRA, U.S. Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. 2012-21803 Filed 9-4-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-18-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the revision of the "The Consumer Expenditure Surveys: The Quarterly Interview and the Diary." 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 of this notice on or before November 5, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Nora Kincaid, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by fax to 202-691-5111 (this is not a toll free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nora Kincaid, BLS Clearance Officer, at 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Consumer Expenditure (CE) Surveys collect data on consumer expenditures, demographic information, and related data needed by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and other public and private data users. The continuing surveys provide a constant measurement of changes in consumer expenditure patterns for economic analysis and to obtain data for future CPI revisions. The CE Surveys have been ongoing since 1979.

The data from the CE Surveys are used (1) for CPI revisions, (2) to provide a continuous flow of data on income and expenditure patterns for use in economic analysis and policy formulation, and (3) to provide a flexible consumer survey vehicle that is available for use by other Federal Government agencies. Public and private users of price statistics, including Congress and the economic policymaking agencies of the Executive branch, rely on data collected in the CPI in their day-to-day activities. Hence, data users and policymakers widely accept the need to improve the process used for revising the CPI. If the CE Surveys were not conducted on a continuing basis, current information necessary for more timely, as well as more accurate, updating of the CPI would not be available. In addition, data would not be available to respond to the continuing demand from the public and private sectors for current information on consumer spending.

In the Quarterly Interview Survey, each consumer unit (CU) in the sample is interviewed every three months over five calendar quarters. The sample for each quarter is divided into three panels, with CUs being interviewed every three months in the same panel of every quarter. The Quarterly Interview Survey is designed to collect data on the types of expenditures that respondents can be expected to recall for a period of three months or longer. In general the expenses reported in the Interview Survey are either relatively large, such as property, automobiles, or major appliances, or are expenses which occur on a fairly regular basis, such as rent, utility bills, or insurance premiums.

The Diary (or recordkeeping) Survey is completed at home by the respondent family for two consecutive one-week periods. The primary objective of the Diary Survey is to obtain expenditure data on small, frequently purchased items which normally are difficult to recall over longer periods of time.

II. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for the proposed revision of the Consumer Expenditure Surveys: The Quarterly Interview and the Diary.

The continuing CE Surveys provide a constant measurement of changes in consumer expenditure patterns for economic analysis and obtain data for future CPI revisions.

The Consumer Expenditure Quarterly Interview Survey has recently undergone a thorough review. The proposed changes from this review fall into two major categories: Streamlining the current questions in several sections and updating several questions and sections to reflect the current marketplace. In the streamlining category, the BLS deleted or collapsed obsolete questions. For example, previously clothing purchases were asked separately for those over and under two years old. These questions were combined into one section for all clothing purchases. Sewing products were moved to 'Miscellaneous Expenditures' after 'arts and crafts.'

To keep the survey current and to fulfill the requirements of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), question wording changed and new items were added. For example, the questions on who is a member of the CU were collapsed from several questions down to one; the number of educational categories were reduced; the residential telephone service category was collapsed with voice over IP; cell phone service was collapsed with prepaid cell phone service; vehicle repair categories were collapsed; sewing item expenditures were collapsed from four questions into one; some appliance categories (e.g. washer and dryer will now be collected together) were collapsed; service contracts were combined with the repair and maintenance of items; clothing items were combined. Lastly, many questions in the income section were collapsed and reworded.

There are no changes to the Diary CAPI instrument since clearance was last received.

A full list of the proposed changes to the Quarterly Interview Survey and Diary Survey are available upon request.

In addition, the Consumer Expenditure program is planning several tests over the next several years in an effort to improve the CE surveys in the areas of both data quality and respondent burden.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- 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.
- 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.

Type of Review: Revision.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: The Consumer Expenditure Surveys: The Quarterly Interview and the Diary.

OMB Number: 1220-0050.

Affected Public: Individuals or Households.

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (minutes)	Estimated total burden
CEQ—Interview	8,825	4	35,300	55	32,358
CEQ—Reinterview	3,800	1	3,800	10	633
CED—Diary (recordkeeping)	7,050	2	14,100	105	24,675
CED—Diary (Interview)	7,050	3	21,150	24	8,460
CED—Diary (Reinterview)	1,400	1	1,400	10	233
Totals	75,750	66,359

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 28th day of August 2012.

Kimberley Hill,

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

[FR Doc. 2012-21804 Filed 9-4-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-P

to 2015 with a balance of investments in new and existing grants programs, facilities, and other activities. The briefing will provide the AAAC with information that will assist it in the future in providing its advice to NSF, NASA, and DOE on issues within the field of astronomy and astrophysics that are of mutual interest and concern to the agencies.

Agenda: Brief the AAAC on the Portfolio Review report process and recommendations.

Dated: August 29, 2012.

Susanne Bolton,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-21741 Filed 9-4-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Strategic Management Program; Fiscal Year 2013-2016 Strategic Plan

AGENCY: National Transportation Safety Board.

ACTION: Notice: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: This notice is in accordance with OMB Circular A-11, Section 210.3(b), Consultation and Outreach, which requires that the NTSB solicits comments on the proposed strategic plan to be published by October 2012. All interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding this proposed strategic plan.

As background, the NTSB's 2010-2015 strategic plan was published in January 2010. This document updates that plan, incorporating a revised mission statement, expanded core values including diversity and inclusion in the workplace, streamlined strategic goals and objectives, and updated key priority performance indicators to

measure overall success of agency objectives.

You can view a copy of the draft strategic plan on the NTSB Web site at http://www.nts.gov/doclib/agency_reports/Strategic-Plan_2013-2016.pdf.

DATES: Parties should submit comments on or before September 19, 2012.

ADDRESSES: Submit electronic comments to strategicplan@ntsb.gov or at <http://regulations.gov>. Submit written comments by regular mail to the National Transportation Safety Board, 490 L'Enfant Plaza SW., Washington, DC 20594. Attn: MD-1, Strategic Management Program.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Agency contact, Shamicka Fulson, Program Manager, Strategic Management Program; National Transportation Safety Board, 490 L'Enfant Plaza SW., MD-1, Washington, DC 20594, 202-314-6082.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: * * *

Candi R. Bing,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 2012-21820 Filed 9-4-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7533-01-P

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. NRC-2012-0176]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice of pending NRC action to submit an information collection

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee #13883; Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), the National Science Foundation announces the following Astronomy and Astrophysics Advisory Committee (#13883) meeting:

Date and Time: September 25, 2012, 1 p.m.-2 p.m.

Place: National Science Foundation, Room 1020, Stafford I Building, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA, 22230.

Type of Meeting: Open.

Contact Person: Dr. Jim Ulvestad, Division Director, Division of Astronomical Sciences, Suite 1045, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. Telephone: 703-292-7165.

Purpose of Meeting: To brief the AAAC on the Portfolio Review report recommendations. The AST portfolio review committee was charged with recommending critical capabilities over the period of 2015