

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (minutes)	Estimated total burden (hours)
Totals *	5,220		5,325		1047.5

* The difference between the total number of respondents and the total number of responses reflects the fact that about 5,220 are expected to complete the main interview. In addition, about 105 respondents may be interviewed twice, once in the interim supplemental survey and a second time in the 2-minute validation interview.

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 July 2020.

Mark Staniorski,

Chief, Division of Management Systems.

[FR Doc. 2020-16653 Filed 7-30-20; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, provides 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. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the new information collection of the "U.S. Business Response Survey and Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey Supplement." A copy of the proposed information collection request 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 September 29, 2020.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Carol Rowan, 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 email to BLS_PRA_Public@bls.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer,

202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See **ADDRESSES** section.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On July 9, 2020, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) granted approval under the emergency approval provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to begin collecting the U.S. Business Response Survey (BRS) and Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) Supplement. The BRS and JOLTS Supplement capture information about changes to businesses since the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The same questionnaire will be conducted as a large, one-time survey as well as a one-time supplemental survey to March 2020 JOLTS sample members. The large sample will allow the BLS to quickly collect and disseminate information related to how businesses have changed since the onset of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The supplemental survey to March 2020 JOLTS sample members will allow for specific business changes related to the coronavirus pandemic to be directly linked to JOLTS data.

The BRS and JOLTS Supplement seeks to identify changes to business operations, employment and workforce flexibilities, and benefits that occurred from the onset of the coronavirus pandemic to when the survey is fielded. This collection will provide critical information that will complement the standard economic data BLS and the federal statistical system will publish for the same time period and provide policy makers and data users additional information that could help to inform decisions.

II. Method of Collection

The BRS will use the BLS business register, based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, maintained by BLS as its sampling frame. The register contains employment information on establishments in the U.S. subject to unemployment insurance taxes. This register covers 98 percent of U.S. jobs, available at the county, Metropolitan Statistical Area, State, and national levels by industry. The main

BRS will go to a nationally representative sample of the U.S. economy and be large enough to allow for state and industry estimates.

The supplemental JOLTS collection will offer valuable context to the responses about employment and hiring decisions made at the industry and state-level. The sample will allow an analysis of the BRS collected information with the longitudinal JOLTS establishment staffing patterns prior to and after completing the BRS. This is a unique analysis from the primary sample, and adds a valuable dimension to understanding business responses to the coronavirus pandemic. These data will be used separately from the BRS sample.

The collection is being conducted entirely on-line, using the existing data collection instrument of the Annual Refiling Survey as a platform for conducting the BRS. The use of existing information technology will minimize government costs and respondent burden.

Collection of the BRS and JOLTS Supplement will enable the BLS to facilitate a collection of information on how the coronavirus pandemic has changed American businesses and the U.S. economy. BLS expects to publish survey results nationally, by state, by sector, and where possible by state and sector.

The BRS, in combination with data collected by current BLS surveys, could help in understanding how businesses responded during the pandemic. Specifically, other BLS statistics could provide indications of changes in employment, wages, job openings and terminations, employer-provided benefits, and safety and health, but will not be able to determine if any changes in levels were related to the coronavirus pandemic. Only by asking employers directly what they experienced, and how they responded to the pandemic, can data users be able to draw meaningful conclusions.

The additional collection of the JOLTS Supplement will benefit the JOLTS program by offering valuable context to the responses about employment and hiring decisions made at the industry and state-level. These

data will be used separately from the BRS sample in analyzing and understanding the job openings and closings data reported in the JOLTS survey and will make it unnecessary for the JOLTS program to request emergency clearance to add questions to the existing survey.

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.

Title of Collection: U.S. Business Response Survey.

OMB Number: 1220-0197.

Type of Review: New collection.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for profits; Farms; Non-profit institutions.

Total Respondents: 152,698.

Frequency: One time.

Total Responses: 152,698.

Average Time per Response: 10 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 25,450 hours.

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, on July 28, 2020.

Mark Staniorski,

Division of Management Systems.

[FR Doc. 2020-16639 Filed 7-30-20; 8:45 am]

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Modification Issued Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of permit modifications issued.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish notice of permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. This is the required notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-292-8030; email: ACApermits@nsf.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 19, 2019 the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of a permit modification request received. The permit modification was issued on October 18, 2019 to:

Linnea Pearson, Permit No. 2018-013

On October 7, 2019 the National Science Foundation published a notice in the **Federal Register** of a permit modification request received. The permit modification was issued on November 20, 2019 to:

Ron Naveen, Oceanites Inc., Permit No. 2019-001

Erika N. Davis,

Program Specialist, Office of Polar Programs.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Notice of Permit Modification Received Under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Notice of Permit Modification Request Received and Permit Issued.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is required to publish a notice of requests to modify permits issued to conduct activities regulated and permits issued under the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978. NSF has published regulations under the Antarctic Conservation Act in the Code of Federal Regulations. This is the required notice of a requested permit modification and permit issued.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nature McGinn, ACA Permit Officer, Office of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower

Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314; 703-292-8224; email: ACApermits@nsf.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Science Foundation (NSF), as directed by the Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-541, 45 CFR 671), as amended by the Antarctic Science, Tourism and Conservation Act of 1996, has developed regulations for the establishment of a permit system for various activities in Antarctica and designation of certain animals and certain geographic areas requiring special protection.

1. NSF issued a permit (ACA 2018-025) to Bill Davis, VP Operations, Quark Expeditions Inc., on November 24, 2017. Under that permit, Quark Expeditions is permitted to conduct waste management associated with the operation and activities of multiple tour vessels in the Antarctic Peninsula region. Activities including shore excursions by Zodiac, kayaking, day paddling, stand-up paddle boarding, polar plunges, cross-country skiing, ice climbing and mountaineering, downhill skiing, and vessel-supported short overnight stays (camping) may be conducted on selected voyages. The permit holder may also operate a small, battery-operated remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) consisting, in part, of a quadcopter equipped with a camera to collect footage for commercial and educational purposes. The permit expires March 31, 2022.

On August 27, 2019 (revised November 3, 2019), Quark Expeditions provided NSF an update based on activities planned for the 2019-2020 field season. The activities are the same or similar as those detailed in the original permit. Allison Kean now holds the position of Operations Manager and is the primary contact for the permit holder. The Environmental Officer has reviewed the modification request and has determined that the amendment is not a material change to the permit, and it will have a less than a minor or transitory impact.

Dates of Permitted Activities:

November 4, 2019-March 31, 2022.

The permit modification was issued on November 4, 2019.

2. NSF issued a permit (ACA 2016-020) to Laura K.O. Smith, Owner, Operator Quixote Expeditions, on December 23, 2015. The issued permit allows the permit holder to conduct waste management activities associated with the operation of the "Ocean Tramp," a reinforced ketch rigged sailing yacht in the Antarctic Peninsula region. Activities to be conducted by Quixote include: passenger landings, hiking, photography, wildlife viewing, and possible station visits.