

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### National Institute of Food and Agriculture

[Docket No. NIFA-2018-002]

#### Notice of Intent To Revise a Currently Approved Information Collection

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, this notice announces the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's (NIFA's) intention to request approval for an extension of the currently approved information collection for the NIFA proposal review process.

**DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be received by July 2, 2018 to be assured of consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments concerning this notice and requests for copies of the information collection may be submitted by any of the following methods: Email: [rmartin.usda.gov](mailto:rmartin.usda.gov); Fax: 202-720-0857; Mail: Office of Information Technology (OIT), NIFA, USDA, STOP 2216, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-2216.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Robert Martin, eGovernment Program Leader; Email: [rmartin@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:rmartin@nifa.usda.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title of Collection:* NIFA Proposal Review Process.

*OMB Control Number:* 0524-0041.

*Expiration Date of Current Approval:* November 30, 2018.

*Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved information collection for three years.

*Abstract:* The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is responsible for performing a review of proposals submitted to NIFA competitive award programs in accordance with section 103(a) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, 7 U.S.C. 7613(a). Reviews are undertaken to ensure that projects supported by NIFA are of high quality, and are consistent with the goals and requirements of the funding program. Proposals submitted to NIFA undergo a programmatic evaluation to determine worthiness of Federal support. The evaluations consist of a peer panel review and may also entail an assessment by Federal employees and electronically submitted (ad-hoc) reviews in the Peer Review System.

*Need and Use of the Information:* As part of our panel process NIFA is required to "maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution", 7 CFR 3430.33. In addition, the information collected from the form is necessary to show compliance with nondiscrimination laws such as 7 CFR 15. Currently, we do not have a vehicle to collect this information for panelists, as the approved Research & Related Personal Data form, OMB number 4040-0001, is specific to applicants. Thus, we are seeking a revision of the currently approved Research & Related Personal Data form, OMB Number 4040-0001, tailoring it for panelists.

Once collected, the information would be stored in a secure data base and referenced when recruiting panelists to ensure panels meet diversity requirements as stated in 7 CFR 3430.33. The information would also be aggregated for use in an annual report on the demographics of NIFA's applicants and panelists to ensure compliance and referenced as needed in cases of a discrimination complaint. The data would remain strictly confidential and would only be available to NIFA staff.

*Estimate of Burden:* NIFA estimates that between one minute to ten minutes may be required to fill out the form. It is estimated that approximately five minutes are required to fill out the form on average. NIFA estimates it has 2,000 panelists each year. The total annual burden on panelists is 167 hours.

*Comments are invited on:* (a) 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; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to 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.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request to OMB for approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Done at Washington, DC, this 25th day of April, 2018.

**Sonny Ramaswamy,**

*Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture.*

[FR Doc. 2018-09296 Filed 5-1-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3410-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

#### National Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee charter renewal.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census Bureau) hereby gives notice that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce has determined that the charter renewal of the National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations (NAC) is necessary and in the public interest. The renewed charter can be found on the Census Advisory Committee website at the following URL link: <https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/nac-charter.pdf>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tara Dunlop Jackson, Chief, Advisory Committee Branch, U.S. Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Room 8H177, Washington, DC 20233, 301-763-5222, [tara.dunlop.jackson@census.gov](mailto:tara.dunlop.jackson@census.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NAC advises the Census Bureau's Director on the full range of Census Bureau programs and activities. The NAC provides expertise from the following disciplines: Economic, housing, demographic, socioeconomic, linguistic, technological, methodological, geographic, and behavioral and operational variables affecting the cost, accuracy, and implementation of Census Bureau programs and surveys, including the decennial census.

The NAC will function solely as an advisory body and in compliance with provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Pursuant to subsection 9(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App., as amended, copies of this charter were furnished to the Library of Congress and to the following committees of Congress:

- Senate Committee on Appropriations;
- Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation;
- Senate Committee on Finance;
- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs;
- House Committee on Appropriations; and,
- House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Dated: April 26, 2018.

**Ron S. Jarmin,**

*Associate Director for Economic Programs, Performing the Non-Exclusive Functions and Duties of the Director, Bureau of the Census.*

[FR Doc. 2018-09281 Filed 5-1-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-07-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

*Agency:* U.S. Census Bureau.

*Title:* Quarterly Survey of Plant Capacity Utilization.

*OMB Control Number:* 0607-0175.

*Form Number(s):* MQ-C2.

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

*Number of Respondents:* 7,500.

*Average Hours Per Response:* 2 hours and 5 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 62,500.

*Needs and Uses:* The U.S. Census Bureau, on behalf of the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), within the Department of Defense (DOD), requests an extension of

approval for the Quarterly Survey of Plant Capacity Utilization (QPC). The survey provides information on use of industrial capacity in manufacturing and publishing plants as defined by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The survey is the only governmental source of capacity utilization rates at industry levels. Changes in capacity utilization are considered important indicators of investment demand and inflationary pressure. For these reasons, the estimates of capacity utilization are closely monitored by government policy makers and private sector decision makers.

The survey collects the value of quarterly production, the value of production that could be achieved if operating under "full production" capability, and the value of production that could be achieved if operating under "emergency production" capability. The ratio of the actual to the full is the basis of the estimates for full capacity utilization rates and similarly, the actual to the emergency for the emergency capacity utilization rates. The survey also collects information by shift, on work patterns at the actual production level.

The FRB is the primary user of the current QPC data and expressed the need for these quarterly data. FRB publishes measures of industrial production (IP), capacity, and capacity utilization in its G.17 statistical release, which has been designated by the federal government as a Principal Federal Economic Indicator. Utilization rates from the QPC survey are a principle source for the measures of capacity and capacity utilization. The indexes of IP are either estimated from physical product data or estimated from monthly data on inputs to the production process, specifically production worker hours and an indicator of capital input. For many years, data on electric power use was used as the indicator of industry capital input. The deregulation of electricity markets led to the deterioration in the coverage and quality of the electricity data. As a result, in November 2005, the FRB discontinued its use of the industrial electric power data in the current estimates of IP. In order to maintain the quality of the IP index, the collection of these quarterly data, including the utilization rate data and the workweek of capital, is critical to the indicators of capital input use and industry output.

The FRB uses these data in several ways. First, the QPC data are the primary source of information for the capacity indexes and utilization rates

published by the FRB. Second, the QPC utilization rate data are used as indicators of output for some industries in the estimation of monthly IP. Third, the QPC utilization rate data and the workweek data are used to improve the projections of labor productivity that are used to align IP with comprehensive benchmark information from the Economic Census covering the Manufacturing sector and the Annual Survey of Manufactures. Finally, utilization rate data will assist in the assessment of recent changes in IP, as most of the high-frequency movement in utilization rates reflect production changes rather than capacity changes.

The DLA uses the data to assess industrial base readiness and ramp-up time to meet demand for goods under selected national emergency scenarios.

In addition to the FRB and DLA uses, these data are published on the Census Bureau's website, <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/qpc.html>.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit.

*Frequency:* Quarterly.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13, United States Code, Section 8(b) (Census authority); 50 U.S.C., Section 98, *et seq.* (FRB authority); and 12 U.S.C., Section 244 (DOD authority).

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [OIRA\\_Submission@omb.eop.gov](mailto:OIRA_Submission@omb.eop.gov) or fax to (202)395-5806.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2018-09275 Filed 5-1-18; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-07-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Bureau of the Census

#### Census Scientific Advisory Committee Charter Renewal

**AGENCY:** Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of Advisory Committee charter renewal.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of the Census (U.S. Census Bureau) hereby gives notice that the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce has