

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.

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Notice of Public Meeting of the Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

AGENCY: Commission on Civil Rights.

ACTION: Announcement of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission), and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a meeting of the Puerto Rico Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene by virtual web conference on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. Atlantic Time/Eastern Time. The purpose is to continue discussion on their project on the civil rights impacts of the Insular Cases in Puerto Rico.

DATES: April 23, 2025, Wednesday, at 3:30 p.m. Atlantic Time/Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: Meeting will be held via Zoom.

Registration Link (Audio/Visual):
<https://tinyurl.com/2uhwtknw>.

Join by Phone (Audio Only): 1-833 435 1820 USA Toll Free; Meeting ID: 161 590 3327 #.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Email Victoria Moreno, Designated Federal Officer at vmoreno@usccr.gov, or by phone at 434-515-0204.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This meeting will take place in Spanish with English interpretation. This committee meeting is available to the public through the registration link above. Any interested member of the public may listen to the meeting. An open comment period will be provided to allow members of the public to make a statement as time allows. Per the Federal Advisory Committee Act, public minutes of the meeting will include a list of persons who are present at the meeting. If joining via phone, callers can expect to incur regular charges for calls

they initiate over wireless lines, according to their wireless plan. The Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls they initiate over land-line connections to the toll-free telephone number. Closed captioning will be available for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who have certain cognitive or learning impairments. To request additional accommodations, please email ebohor@usccr.gov at least 10 business days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments; the comments must be received in the regional office within 30 days following the meeting. Written comments may be emailed to Victoria Moreno at vmoreno@usccr.gov. Persons who desire additional information may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at 1-312-353-8311.

Records generated from this meeting may be inspected and reproduced at the Regional Programs Coordination Unit Office, as they become available, both before and after the meeting. Records of the meetings will be available via www.facadatabase.gov under the Commission on Civil Rights, Puerto Rico Advisory Committee link. Persons interested in the work of this Committee are directed to the Commission's website, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or may contact the Regional Programs Coordination Unit at ebohor@usccr.gov.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Roll Call
2. Committee Discussion on Project Regarding the Civil Rights Impacts of the Insular Cases in Puerto Rico
3. Next Steps
4. Public Comment
5. Other Business
6. Adjourn

Dated: March 26, 2025

David Mussatt,

Supervisory Chief, Regional Programs Unit.

[FR Doc. 2025-05500 Filed 3-28-25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Business Trends and Outlook Survey

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 December 18, 2024, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

Title: Business Trends and Outlook Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0607-1022.

Form Number(s): This online survey has no form number.

Type of Request: Regular submission, Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

Number of Respondents: 795,000.

Average Hours per Response: 10 minutes.

Burden Hours: 132,500.

Needs and Uses: The mission of the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) is to serve as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy; to fulfill this mission, it is necessary to innovate to produce more detailed, more frequent, and more timely data products. The Coronavirus pandemic was an impetus for the creation of new data products by the Census Bureau to measure the pandemic's impact on the economy: the Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS) and the weekly Business Formation Statistics. Policymakers and other federal agency officials, media outlets, and academia commended the Census Bureau's rapid response to their data needs during the largest economic crisis

in recent American history. The Census Bureau capitalized on the successes that underlaid the high frequency data collection and near real time data dissemination engineered for the SBPS by creating the Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS).

BTOS uses ongoing data collection to produce high frequency, timely, and granular information about current economic conditions and trends. BTOS is the only biweekly business tendency survey produced by the federal statistical system, providing unique and detailed data during times of economic or other emergencies. The BTOS target population is all nonfarm employer businesses with receipts of \$1,000 or more in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The current sample consists of approximately 1.2 million businesses split into six panels. Data collection occurs every two weeks, and businesses in each panel are asked to report once every 12 weeks for one year. Current BTOS data are representative of all employer businesses (excluding farms) in the U.S. economy and are published every two weeks. The data are available at the national and state levels, in addition to the 25 most-populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sector, subsector, and state by sector are also published, as are employment size class, and sector by employment size class data, according to the same timeline.

Data from BTOS is currently used to provide timely data to understand the economic conditions being experienced by businesses; BTOS provides near real time data on key items such as revenue, paid employees, interest rates, and prices. A new sample collection is conducted each year.

BTOS also provides high level information on the changing share of businesses facing difficulties stemming from supply chain issues, interest rate changes, or weather events. Previously, there had been few data sources available to policymakers, media outlets, and academia that delivered near real-time insights into economic trends and outlooks. BTOS data has been used by the Small Business Administration to evaluate the impact of regulatory changes. The use of the BTOS data (or additional requirements) is still being determined by the Economic Development Agency (EDA) to understand the impact of natural disasters on U.S. businesses. The EDA will then guide the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and/or policymakers in assisting in economic recovery support missions.

In the approved OMB package for BTOS, the Census Bureau proposed an incremental path to reach the full scope of BTOS. The first scope expansion proposed adding multi-unit businesses (those with more than one location or establishment) to BTOS. BTOS was limited in scope to include only single-unit businesses. Despite comprising a relatively small share of the total number of businesses, multi-unit (MU) businesses are responsible for most of the employment, payroll, and revenue/sales in the United States and contribute disproportionately to economic activity. In addition, MU businesses are on average larger than single-unit businesses. Adding these businesses helped ensure BTOS results are representative of the full economy. The Census Bureau still proposes an incremental path to the final scope of BTOS to learn at each implemented stage and to allow for modifications based on lessons learned or internal/external stakeholder feedback in prior iterations.

For the first year of BTOS, the content remained unchanged at 26 questions. For the second year, the Census Bureau moved to a set of core questions and supplemental content. Core content includes measures of economic activity that are broadly applicable across non-farm sectors and are important across the business cycle and during economic or other emergencies. Core content is also complementary to key items found on other Economic surveys, such as revenues, employees, hours, and inventories. Core items may also include concepts that may become core topics, such as the artificial intelligence questions that started in the second year.

Supplemental content is added to the BTOS instrument as needed and on a periodic basis. It will be designed to provide urgently needed data on an emerging or current issue. The supplement will include a set of questions that performs a deeper dive into a focused topic that requires timely data. On average, the Census Bureau estimates the supplemental questions will impose an additional 10 minutes of burden.

Consideration for core and supplemental concepts will be based on data consistency, how the questions performed on the current BTOS, the results of cognitive testing, stakeholder feedback, and the ability to collect complementary items on monthly, quarterly, annual, or census programs to provide context and benchmarking.

For future changes, the Census Bureau will submit a request to OMB including 30 days of public comment announced

in the **Federal Register** to receive approval to make any substantive revisions to the content or methods of the proposed survey, including incremental scope changes. It is likely that new supplemental content will be chosen for each year, and an updated instrument will be submitted to OMB for review along with a 30-day **Federal Register** Notice.

This submission seeks OMB approval for several requests. First, the Census Bureau is requesting a three-year extension to continue the BTOS data collection operations. In addition, the BTOS survey instrument has been shortened to focus on a concise set of core questions, reducing the core instrument from 26 to 16 questions. After a few years of data collection, the Census Bureau recognizes that certain concepts are more useful than others. Through analysis, the agency identified and retained the most essential concepts. Going forward, the survey will remain adaptable to both the evolving economy and the needs of policy makers. Lastly, the Bureau requests approval to repeat the artificial intelligence (AI) supplement with content changes, once the cognitive testing OMB package is no longer on hold, and cognitive testing is completed. We are submitting with this request the proposed but untested AI supplemental questions. Once cognitive testing is complete, we will submit the final set of AI questions as a non-substantive change.

Based on cognitive testing results, the burden estimate for the core questions is no more than 10 minutes. The sample year 2 AI supplement added an additional 10 minutes of burden. The new AI supplement burden will be determined once cognitive testing is completed.

Frequency: Bi-weekly.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., sections 131 and 182.

This information collection request may be viewed at www.reginfo.gov. Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and

entering either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0607–1022.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2025–05461 Filed 3–28–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Annual Business Survey

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 September 22, 2023 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: U.S. Census Bureau, Commerce.

Title: Annual Business Survey.

OMB Control Number: 0607–1004.

Form Number(s): ABS–1.

Type of Request: Regular submission, Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

Number of Respondents: 230,000.

Average Hours per Response: 29 minutes.

Burden Hours: 112,367.

Needs and Uses: In an effort to improve the measurement of business dynamics in the United States, the Census Bureau is conducting the 2025 Annual Business Survey (ABS), covering reference year 2024. The ABS combines Census Bureau firm-level collections to reduce respondent burden, increase data quality, reduce operational costs, and operate more efficiently. The ABS measures research and development for microbusinesses, new business topics such as innovation and technology, as well as other business characteristics. Further, the ABS provides information on selected economic and demographic characteristics for businesses and

business owners by sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status. The 2025 ABS is co-sponsored by the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation (NSF) and conducted by the Census Bureau.

Estimates from the Research and Development section of the ABS are used as a part of the calculations for investment in quarterly GDP.

The ABS includes all nonfarm employer businesses filing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax forms as individual proprietorships, partnerships, or any other type of corporation, with receipts of \$1,000 or more. While the 2023 ABS sampled approximately 850,000 employer businesses to produce detailed statistics by owner demographics, last survey year 2024 ABS (reference year 2023), the sample was reduced to approximately 330,000 employer businesses and 8,000 nonprofits to reduce the burden on the respondents. For the 2025 ABS, we further reduced the sample to 222,000 employer businesses and 8,000 nonprofits. The reduced sample size will yield summary-level estimates by owner characteristics at the NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) sector level, U.S., state, metropolitan statistical area (MSA), and county levels. The Census Bureau uses administrative data to estimate the probability that a firm belongs in each owner characteristic category. The universe is then stratified by employment size, owner characteristic probability, and NAICS, with additional minor adjustments made to reduce the chance of respondents being selected into the sample every year thereby reducing respondent burden especially for smaller businesses. The sample is stratified by state, industry, and owner characteristics. The Census Bureau selects some companies with certainty based on volume of sales, payroll, and number of paid employees or NAICS. All certainty cases are sure to be selected and represent only themselves. The 2025 ABS (reference year 2024) will also sample approximately 8,000 nonprofit organizations to collect their research activities. Of note, nonprofit organizations will only see questions relating to research activities and will not be asked any questions relating to owner demographics.

A summary of the changes we are implementing in the 2025 ABS follows:

- Reduce sample size from 338,000 employer businesses and nonprofit organizations to 230,000.
- Introduce sampling changes that decrease the chances of respondents being selected into the survey year after

year. Further, mail out strategy changes to remove chronic nonresponders.

- Remove Telephone Follow-Up to reduce the type of contacts we have with respondents and increase cost savings.

- Streamline content—Content removed includes questions on work from home, sexual orientation, gender identity, business collaboration with other entities like universities, and management practices.

The ABS is designed to be adaptive. New content each survey year can be incorporated based on topics of relevance. Each year, new questions will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval. The ABS consists of a core set of questions that do not change, and a variable set of questions of topical relevance which change annually. The core questions, due to their stable nature, are cleared every three years along with 60- and 30-day notices published in the **Federal Register**. The core questions were last cleared in 2024. The variable topical questions are submitted to the Office of Management and Budget each year along with a 30-day notice.

Employer businesses will be asked questions about the sex, ethnicity, race, and veteran status for up to four persons owning the majority of rights, equity, or interest in the business. Organizations sampled as nonprofits and respondents with 1–9 employees will be asked about research and development (R&D) activities, R&D costs, and R&D capital expenditures. Further, employer businesses sampled will be asked about the following topics: Goods, Services, and Business Processes. These sections are also known as modules. The 2025 ABS (reference year 2024) will not contain any new or variable content. We do plan to add variable content on Management Practices next year to the 2026 ABS (reference year 2025).

The ABS is collected electronically using a web-based questionnaire. Respondents selected for the survey receive an initial letter informing them of their requirement to complete the survey as well as instructions on accessing the survey. The 2025 ABS initial mailing is scheduled for July 2025. Responses will be due approximately 30 days from initial mailing. Respondents will also receive a due date reminder approximately one week before responses are due. The Census Bureau plans to conduct two follow-up mailings and an optional third follow-up if deemed necessary based on quality of response data at that time. The Census Bureau may also plan to conduct an email follow-up to select