

Economic Analysis (BEA) priority to obtain annual measures of MSBO inventories to improve BEA's estimates of business inventory change, a key component of the GDP estimate. The estimates compiled from this survey provide valuable information for economic policy decisions by the government and will be widely used by private businesses, trade organizations, professional associations, and other business research and analysis organizations.

This request is for the clearance of two existing report forms, the SA-42 and SA-42A, and two new forms, SA-42 (MSBO) and SA-42A (MSBO), which will be used to collect data for MSBOs. The forms request similar but unique sets of data items to accommodate both merchant wholesalers and manufacturers sales branches and offices as well as both large and small firms. The survey report forms are used to collect total sales, e-commerce sales, year-end inventory, and inventory valuation methods. In addition purchases are collected for merchant wholesalers and operating expenses for MSBOs. Cognitive research on the proposed MSBO forms is being conducted and will continue in October and November 2003. Results will be used to suggest revisions to clarify questions and instructions that convey definitions, in order to ensure data quality and reduce respondent burden. Revisions to the basic content of the form are not expected.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Frequency: Annually.

Respondent's Obligation: Mandatory.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 182, 224, and 225.

OMB Desk Officer: Susan Schechter, (202) 395-5103.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, (202) 482-0266, Department of Commerce, room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to Susan Schechter, OMB Desk Officer either by fax (202-395-7245) or e-mail (susan_schechter@omb.eop.gov).

Dated: November 14, 2003.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-28935 Filed 11-18-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

State and Local Construction Coverage Study

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before January 20, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dhynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Thuy Trang Nguyen, U.S. Census Bureau, Room 2136-4, Washington, DC 20233-6900 (or via telephone at (301) 763-4640).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau collects monthly Value in Place (VIP) data on State and local government construction in the Construction Progress Reporting Surveys (CPRS) (OMB # 0607-0153). We also collect fiscal year data on similar construction in the Annual Survey of Government Finance (ASGF) (OMB # 0607-0585). It is expected that these estimates should be comparable on a fiscal basis; nevertheless, they have continued to differ significantly during the past decades. One major source of the differences is the undercoverage of the desired universe by the sampling frame used in the CPRS. The F.W. Dodge Division of McGraw-Hill Information Systems Company identifies and lists projects started by State and local governments nationwide. We select a sample of

projects from this list for the VIP survey. Due to the differences in the level of coverage by value and geographical area, various projects have no chance of being selected for the VIP survey.

The most recent evaluation of this coverage was done in 1988, producing an undercoverage estimate of 18 percent. The continuing difference on the fiscal year basis between the CPRS and the ASGF indicates the need for a reevaluation of the sampling frame coverage.

We will conduct this study on a one time basis. The Census Bureau will use the information collected for evaluation purposes and survey improvement through the correction of the State and local construction VIP estimate by the estimated coverage rate. The consequence for not conducting an undercoverage evaluation will be that the Census Bureau will produce less accurate estimates for the State and local government construction VIP. The Bureau of Economic Analysis uses the Construction Progress Reporting Survey estimates to develop the construction components for input to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) accounts. Other government agencies such as the Council of Economics Advisers, the Federal Reserve Bank Board, and the Department of Treasury use these estimates in making policy decisions.

II. Method of Collection

We selected our respondents from the sample of State and local governments in the ASGF. We sampled 4,026 agencies from the sample of 16,986 agencies with construction expenditures.

We will utilize a mailout/mailback strategy to collect the data. Questionnaires will be mailed out in two waves (wave 1 to half of the sampled agencies and wave 2 to the other half) three months apart. Nonresponse followup will be conducted by telephone beginning 30 days after the initial mailout.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: SLUE-007(SS).

Type of Review: New collection.

Affected Public: State or local governments.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,026.

Estimated Time Per Response: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden

Hours: 4,026.

Estimated Total Annual Cost:

\$67,000.

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 161 and 182.