

the Gross Domestic Product; the indexes are also used in formulating U.S. trade policy and in trade negotiations with other countries. In the private sector, uses of the Export Price Indexes include market analysis, inflation forecasting, contract escalation, and replacement cost accounting.

The IPP indexes are closely followed statistics which are viewed as sensitive indicators of the economic environment. The Department of Commerce uses the monthly statistics to produce monthly and quarterly estimates of inflation-adjusted trade flows. Without continuation of data collection, it would be extremely difficult to construct accurate estimates of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. In addition, Federal policy-makers in the Department of the Treasury, the Council of Economic

Advisors, and the Federal Reserve Board utilize these statistics on a regular basis to improve these agencies' formulation and evaluation of monetary and fiscal policy, and evaluation of the general business environment.

**Current Actions**

The IPP continues to modernize data collection and processing to permit more timely release of its indexes and to reduce reporting burden. The IPP is using the telephone rather than personal visits for initiation in limited situations. We believe that initiation by telephone reduces reporting burden with no loss in response. Other potential initiation techniques to reduce burden being reviewed include less frequent sampling of more stable item areas, use of broader item areas in certain cases, and

retention of items initiated in previous samples which reporters still trade. To reduce the time required for processing new items, direct entry of initiation data from the field will be tested. Also, for repricing, the use of fax telephone lines to permit direct collection and entry into our database is being considered. In addition, use of the Internet for monthly repricing is being reviewed, contingent upon the resolution of questions relating to the security of the data.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* International Price Program—U.S. Export Price Indexes.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0025.

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

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average time per response (hrs.)	Estimated total burden (hrs.)
2894B .....	1613	Annually .....	1613	.75	1210
3008 .....	1613	Annually .....	1613	.25	403.25
3007D .....	3235	Monthly .....	38540	.53	20426.2
		Quarterly .....			
Total .....	4848	.....	41766	.....	22039

*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, D.C., this 6th day of March, 1997.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

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

[FR Doc. 97-6147 Filed 3-11-97; 8:45 am]

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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. Currently, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "International Price Program—U.S. Import Price Indexes."

A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the addressee section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addressee section below on or before May 12, 1997.

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

- 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; and

—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.

**ADDRESSESS:** Send comments to Karin G. Kurz, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3255, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212. Ms. Kurz can be reached on 202-606-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

The U.S. Import Price Indexes, produced continuously by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' International Price Program (IPP) since 1971, measure price change over time for all categories of imported products, as well as many services. The Office of Management and Budget has listed the Import Price Indexes as a major economic indicator since 1982.

The indexes are widely used in both the public and private sectors. The primary public sector use is the

**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

deflation of the U.S. Trade statistics and the Gross Domestic Product; the indexes are also used in formulating U.S. trade policy and in trade negotiations with other countries. In the private sector, uses of the Import Price Indexes include market analysis, inflation forecasting, contract escalation, and replacement cost accounting.

The IPP indexes are closely followed statistics which are viewed as sensitive indicators of the economic environment. The Department of Commerce uses the monthly statistics to produce monthly and quarterly estimates of inflation-adjusted trade flows. Without continuation of data collection, it would be extremely difficult to construct accurate estimates of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. In addition, Federal policy-makers in the Department of the

Treasury, the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Federal Reserve Board utilize these statistics on a regular basis to improve these agencies' formulation and evaluation of monetary and fiscal policy, and evaluation of the general business environment.

#### Current Actions

The IPP continues to modernize data collection and processing to permit more timely release of its indexes and to reduce reporting burden. The IPP is using the telephone rather than personal visits for initiation in limited situations. We believe that initiation by telephone reduces reporting burden with no loss in response. Other potential initiation techniques to reduce burden being reviewed include less frequent sampling of more stable item areas, use of broader

item areas in certain cases, and retention of items initiated in previous samples which reporters still trade. To reduce the time required for processing new items, direct entry of initiation data from the field will be tested. Also, for repricing, the use of fax telephone lines to permit direct collection and entry into our database is being considered. In addition, use of the Internet for monthly repricing is being reviewed, contingent upon the resolution of questions relating to the security of the data.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* International Price Program—U.S. Import Price Indexes.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0026.

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

Form	Total respondents	Frequency	Total annual responses	Average time per response (hrs.)	Estimated total burden (hrs.)
3007B .....	1,725	Annually .....	1,725	1	1,725
3008 .....	1,725	Annually .....	1,725	.334	576.15
3007D .....	3,235	Monthly/Quarterly .....	38,540	.56	21,582.4
Total .....	4,960	.....	41,990	.....	23,884

*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, D.C., this 6th day of March, 1997.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

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

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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

### Proposed Collection: Comment Request

*Title of Collection:* Public Understanding of and Attitudes Toward Science and Technology.

In compliance with the requirement of Section 3508(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 for opportunity for public comment on proposed data collection projects, the National Science Foundation (NSF) publishes periodic summaries of proposed projects. Such a notice was published at Federal Register 67350,

dated December 20, 1996. No comments were received.

The materials are now being sent to OMB for review. Send any written comments to Desk Officer, OMB, 3145-033, OIRA, OMB, Washington, D.C. 20503. OMB should receive comments within 30 days after the date of this notice.

*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 shall 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 respondents, including through the use of automated data collection techniques and other forms of information.

*Proposed Project:* Study of the Public Understanding of and Attitudes Toward Science and Technology—New—A telephone survey of approximately 2,000 adults aged 18 and over.

The proposed survey continues a series of national surveys of public understanding of and attitudes toward science and technology that began in 1972. It is used in the preparation of a chapter in the Science and Engineering

Indicators reports by the National Science Board, as mandated by Section 4(j)(l) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The Science and Engineering Indicators report and the chapter on public understanding and attitudes are widely used by planners and program development staff in: federal and state agencies, universities, research centers, and similar institutions, and by journalists and other individuals seeking to communicate with the public concerning science and technology. The average burden per respondent is estimated to be 22 minutes, producing a total burden of 733 hours for the complete study.

Dated: March 6, 1997.

Gail A. McHenry,

*NSF Reports Clearance Officer.*

[FR Doc. 97-6070 Filed 3-11-97; 8:45 am]

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### Special Emphasis Panel in Networking and Communications Research and Infrastructure; Notice of Meeting

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

*Name:* Special Emphasis for Connections to the Internet Panel (#1207).