

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Rural Utilities Service****Municipal Interest Rates for the Second Quarter of 1999**

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of municipal interest rates on advances from insured electric loans for the second quarter of 1999.

**SUMMARY:** The Rural Utilities Service hereby announces the interest rates for advances on municipal rate loans with interest rate terms beginning during the second calendar quarter of 1999.

**DATES:** These interest rates are effective for interest rate terms that commence during the period beginning April 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Carolyn Dotson, Loan Funds Control Assistant, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service, Room 0227-S, Stop 1524, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1500. Telephone: 202-720-1928. FAX: 202-690-2268. E-mail: CDotson@rus.usda.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) hereby announces the interest rates on advances made during the second calendar quarter of 1999 for municipal rate electric loans. RUS regulations at § 1714.4 state that each advance of funds on a municipal rate loan shall bear interest at a single rate for each interest rate term. Pursuant to § 1714.5, the interest rates on these advances are based on indexes published in the "Bond Buyer" for the four weeks prior to the third Friday of the last month before the beginning of the quarter. The rate for interest rate terms of 20 years or longer is the average of the 20 year rates published in the Bond Buyer in the four weeks specified in § 1714.5(d). The rate for terms of less than 20 years is the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer for the same four weeks in the table of "Municipal Market Data—General Obligation Yields" or the successor to this table. No interest rate may exceed the interest rate for Water and Waste Disposal loans.

The table of Municipal Market Data includes only rates for securities maturing in 1999 and at 5 year intervals thereafter. The rates published by RUS reflect the average rates for the years shown in the Municipal Market Data table. Rates for interest rate terms ending in intervening years are a linear interpolation based on the average of the rates published in the Bond Buyer. All rates are adjusted to the nearest one

eighth of one percent (0.125 percent) as required under § 1714.5(a). The market interest rate on Water and Waste Disposal loans for this quarter is 5.000 percent.

In accordance with § 1714.5, the interest rates are established as shown in the following table for all interest rate terms that begin at any time during the second calendar quarter of 1999.

| Interest rate term ends in (year) | RUS rate (0.000 percent) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2020 or later .....               | 5.000                    |
| 2019 .....                        | 5.000                    |
| 2018 .....                        | 5.000                    |
| 2017 .....                        | 4.875                    |
| 2016 .....                        | 4.875                    |
| 2015 .....                        | 4.875                    |
| 2014 .....                        | 4.750                    |
| 2013 .....                        | 4.625                    |
| 2012 .....                        | 4.625                    |
| 2011 .....                        | 4.500                    |
| 2010 .....                        | 4.375                    |
| 2009 .....                        | 4.250                    |
| 2008 .....                        | 4.250                    |
| 2007 .....                        | 4.125                    |
| 2006 .....                        | 4.000                    |
| 2005 .....                        | 3.875                    |
| 2004 .....                        | 3.875                    |
| 2003 .....                        | 3.625                    |
| 2002 .....                        | 3.375                    |
| 2001 .....                        | 3.250                    |
| 2000 .....                        | 3.000                    |

Dated: March 12, 1999.

**Wally Beyer,**

*Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-6718 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Bureau of the Census****Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey; Proposed Collection; Comment Request**

**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 May 18, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Ronald Pienckoski, Bureau of the Census, Room 2626-FOB3, Washington, DC 20223-6500, at (301) 457-2779.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

The Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey provides the only continuous measure of monthly sales, end-of-month inventories, method of inventory valuation, and inventory/sales ratios in the United States by selected kinds of business for merchant wholesalers. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) uses this information to improve the inventory valuation adjustments applied to estimates of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses the data as input to their Producer Price Indexes and in developing productivity measurements.

Estimates produced from the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey are based on a probability sample. The sample design consists of one fixed panel where all cases are requested to report sales and inventories each month. We currently publish wholesale sales and inventory estimates on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) basis. Starting in the spring of 2001, we will publish on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis. The SIC definition of wholesale trade and the NAICS definition of wholesale trade are substantially different. The SIC defines wholesalers as establishments engaged in selling merchandise to other businesses. NAICS distinguishes wholesalers from retailers based on what the establishment does rather than to whom the establishment sells.

Wholesalers are defined as those establishments that sell from offices or warehouses, usually in large quantities, advertise to businesses rather than to the general public, and generally have no walk-in traffic or formal displays. Businesses, formerly classified in wholesale trade, that sell to the general public are now classified as retail.

NAICS provides a better way to classify individual businesses, and will be widely adopted throughout both the public and private sectors. NAICS will change the information that is currently available with reclassifications, definitional changes, and movement of activities in or out of wholesale trade. NAICS is more relevant as it identifies more industries that contribute to today's growing economy. NAICS was developed by the United States, Canada,

and Mexico to produce comparable data among the NAFTA partners.

In addition to converting from the SIC to NAICS, the Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey will convert its monthly report form to a print-on demand system. This new system allows us to tailor the survey instrument to a specific industry. For example, it will print an additional instruction for a particular NAICS code. This system also reduces the time and cost of preparing mailout packages that contain unique variable data, while improving the look and quality of the products being produced.

## II. Method of Collection

We collect this information by mail, fax, and telephone follow-up.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0607-0190.

*Form Number:* B-310 (97).

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Wholesale firms in the United States.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 3,800.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 7 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 5,320.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost:* The cost to the respondents for fiscal year 1999 is estimated to be \$103,687 based on the mean hourly salary of \$19.49 for accountants and auditors. ("Occupational Employment Statistics—Bureau of Labor Statistics 1997 National Occupational Employment and Wage Data Professional, Paraprofessional, and Technical Occupations," \$19.49 represents the median hourly wage of the full-time wage and salary earnings of accountants and auditors). Information on mean wages and salaries can also be found at Internet site [http://stats.bls.gov/oes/national/oes\\_prof.htm](http://stats.bls.gov/oes/national/oes_prof.htm).

*Respondent's Obligation:* The collection of information is voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13, United States Code, Section 182.

## IV. Request for Comments

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 (including hours and cost) 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 the use of

automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-6741 Filed 3-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

#### Participation Agreement and Trade Mission Application; Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

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

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 18, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230. Phone number: (202) 482-3272.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Request for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: John Klingelhut, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, Export Promotion Services, Room 2810, 14th & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; Phone number: (202) 482-4403, and fax number: (202) 482-2526.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

The Participation Agreement and Trade Mission Application forms are the vehicles by which individual firms agree to participate in the Department of Commerce's (DOC) trade promotion program, identify the products or services they intend to sell or promote, and record their required participation fees. The DOC is revising questions on the current Form ITA-4008P-1, "Trade

Mission Application," to clarify and refine the information it seeks to ensure the best possible selection of participants for trade missions.

## II. Method of Collection

Form ITA-4008P-1 is sent by request to potential U.S. firms.

## III. Data

*OMB Number:* 0625-0147.

*Form Number:* ITA-4008P-1.

*Type of Review:* Revision-Regular Submission.

*Affected Public:* Companies seeking to apply to participate in overseas Commerce Department trade missions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 7,800.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* 45 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,738 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Costs:* The estimated annual cost for this collection is \$148,417.00 (\$98,369.00 for respondents and \$50,048.00 for federal government).

## IV. Request for Comments

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 (including hours and costs) 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 collection techniques or forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 15, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

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