

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-13, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35). OMB approval has been requested by April 1, 1999. A copy of this ICR, with applicable supporting documentation, may be obtained by calling the Department of Labor Acting Departmental Clearance Officer, Pauline Perrow ((202) 219-5095, x. 165). Comments and questions about the ICR listed below should be forwarded to Office Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attn: OMB Desk Officer for the Employment and Training Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Room 10235, Washington, DC 20503 ((202) 395-7316).

The Office of Management and Budget 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 response.

Agency: U.S. Department of Labor/ Employment and Training Administration.

Title: O*NET data Collection Program Survey Pretest.

OMB Number: 1205-0NEW.

Frequency: The pretest is one time only; the full data collection effort will be ongoing and renew information for each occupation every five years.

Affected Public: Employers (includes private and not for profit businesses and government); and individuals (employees).

Number of Respondents: Total: 10,257.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: Employer response time ranges from 1/4 an hour to approximately 3 and 1/2 hours. Individual worker response time averages 1/2 hour.

Total Burden Hours: 5,522.

Total Burden Costs (capital/startup): \$92,165.

Total Burden Cost (operating/maintaining): 0.

Description: The goal of the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Data Collection Program Pretest is to identify the specific features which will ultimately increase the response rate for the full data collection effort contained in the O*NET Data Collection Program. The O*NET Data Collection Program will be a continuing activity to develop and maintain a current database on the detailed characteristics of workers and jobs. The resulting O*NET database will be the most comprehensive standard source of occupational information in the United States and will be a valuable tool for all members in the employment and training communities. O*NET will be at the center of an extensive network of occupational information used by a wide range of audiences, from individuals making career decisions, to public agencies and schools making training investment decisions, to employers making job structure and hiring decisions.

Information for this data collection activity will be collected using a two-stage design, including a statistical sample of businesses expected to employ workers in the specific occupations being surveyed, and a sample of workers in the occupations within the sampled businesses. Using this design, the Pretest will test the use of alternative sample sizes per establishment and the use of incentives for their impact on business response rates. It will also test the impact of alternative outreach methods and monetary incentives on improving response rates. The total average burden for businesses is not expected to exceed 3 hours and 25 minutes. The total average burden for employee respondent is 30 minutes. The findings of this pretest will be incorporated into the final "O*NET Data Collection Program" that will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for approval.

The O*NET, Occupational Information Network, is a complex database. Our research has shown that no single system currently exists that will accommodate all of the needs of the O*NET database. Therefore, given the magnitude and pressing importance of filing the O*NET database, ETA will continue to examine alternative methods to populating the database.

ETA's current approach, to go forward with the survey methodology while remaining open to parallel approaches, is based on the recommendations of the Advisory for the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (APDOT). The APDOT concluded that a variety of data collection methodologies may have to

be employed to populate the database. The survey methodology is one way; some information may be more appropriately determined through other forms of data collection.

Therefore, ETA continues to investigate other data collection strategies to populate the O*NET database, including collaborating with employer association groups, skill standard efforts, expert panels, and ETA initiatives and grantees using transactional data from a variety of sources.

By using a multiple source data collection strategy to populate O*NET, ETA will avoid duplication of effort thus maximizing the government resources while maintaining high validity and reliability of O*NET data.

Pauline D. Perrow,

Acting Departmental Clearance Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-7325 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-30-M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Bureau of Labor Statistics

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 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 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 new collection of "General Inquiries to State Agency Contacts."

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

DATES: Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the ADDRESSES section below on or before May 24, 1999. 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.

ADDRESSEES: 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, DC 20212. Ms. Kurz can be reached on 202-606-7628 (this is not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) awards funds to State agencies in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa (hereinafter referred to as the "States") in order to jointly conduct BLS/State Labor Market Information and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics cooperative statistical programs, which themselves have been approved by OMB separately, as follows:

Current Employment Statistics	1220-0011
Local Area Unemployment Statistics	1220-0043
Occupational Employment Statistics	1220-0042
Employment and Wages Report	1220-0012
Annual Refile Survey	1220-0032
Multiple Worksite Report	1220-0134
Mass Layoff Statistics	1220-0090
Annual Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses	1220-0045
Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries	1220-0133
(This list of BLS/State cooperative statistical programs may change over time.)	

To ensure the timely flow of data and to be able to evaluate and improve the programs, it is necessary to conduct ongoing communications between BLS and its State partners. Whether information requests deal with program deliverables, program enhancements, or administrative issues, questions and dialogue are crucial.

II. Current Actions

Information collected under this clearance is used to support the administrative and programmatic needs of these jointly conducted BLS/State programs.

Type of Review: New Collection.

Agency: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Title: General Inquiries to State

Agency Contacts.

OMB Number: 1220-New.

Affected Public: State, Local or Tribal Government.

Total Respondents: 53.

Frequency: As needed.

Total Responses: 22,618.

Average Time Per Response: 42 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 15,639 hours.

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, DC, this 19th day of March 1999.

W. Stuart Rust, Jr.,

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

[FR Doc. 99-7326 Filed 3-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-24-M

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Panel Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463 as amended) notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Panel of the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities will be held at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506, in Room 714, from 9:00 to 5:30 p.m., on Friday, April 30, 1999.

The purpose of the meeting is to review applications for Certificates of Indemnity submitted to the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities for exhibitions beginning after July 1, 1999.

Because the proposed meeting will consider financial and commercial data and because it is important to keep values of objects, methods of transportation and security measures

confidential, pursuant to the authority granted me by the Chairman's Delegation of Authority to Close Advisory Committee Meetings, dated July 19, 1993, I have determined that the meeting would fall within exemptions (4) and (9) of 5 U.S.C. 552(b) and that it is essential to close the meeting to protect the free exchange of views and to avoid interference with the operations of the Committee.

It is suggested that those desiring more specific information contact the Advisory Committee Management Officer, Nancy E. Weiss, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506, or call 202/606-8322.

Nancy E. Weiss,

Advisory Committee Management Officer.

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NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Meetings of Humanities Panel

AGENCY: The National Endowment for the Humanities.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, as amended), notice is hereby given that the following meetings of the Humanities Panel will be held at the Old Post Office, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20506.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy E. Weiss, Advisory Committee Management Officer, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506; telephone (202) 606-8322. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on this matter may be obtained by contacting the Endowment's TDD terminal on (202) 606-8282.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed meetings are for the purpose of panel review, discussion, evaluation and recommendation on applications for financial assistance under the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, including discussion of information given in confidence to the agency by the grant applicants. Because the proposed meetings will consider information that is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential and/or information of a personal nature the disclosure of which