

Introduction: The purpose of this written justification is to announce a revision of the following United States Census Bureau's Quarterly Services Survey (QSS) forms:

- QSS-1(A) QSS-1(E)
- QSS-2(A) QSS-2(E)
- QSS-3(A) QSS-3(E)
- QSS-4(A) QSS-4(E)
- QSS-5(A) QSS-5(E)
- QSS-1A-PEO QSS-1E-PEO

This process will consist of revising the “**Acquisition or Merger**” question of the QSS¹.

Summary: Since year 2003, the QSS has requested all *acquisition or merger* activity for the most recent quarter from respondents. However, based on the design and layout of the current question, responses have been difficult to interpret whether a company is stating they have been “acquired” or have “merged” with another company. Such a discrepancy has provided a lack of efficiency with analytical work of the QSS, primarily in terms of status changes and recent company organizational changes.

Action: To alleviate this discrepancy, the Services Indicators Branch will revise question 6 of all QSS survey forms. The revision will request the following:

- an indicator that an acquisition has occurred during the prior quarter
- an indicator that a merger has occurred during the prior quarter
- an indicator that a sale has occurred during the prior quarter

To supplement this information, the respondent will be asked to continue to provide the name and address of the company; the date of the change; and the employee identification number, (EIN) if applicable.

This question will be generic on all QSS survey form images.

QSS sample/mailout: The revision will not cause any adjustment to the current sample size.

Response Burden: The revision will not affect public reporting burden which is approximately 15 minutes per response.

Effective: June 29th, 2007²

¹The “Acquisition or Merger” question is question 6 located on page 3 of all forms

²Mailout date for the 2nd quarter of year 2007.