

Supporting Statement B Ferrous Metals Surveys

OMB Control Number 1028-0068

Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

The agency should be prepared to justify its decision not to use statistical methods in any case where such methods might reduce burden or improve accuracy of results. When the question "Does this ICR contain surveys, censuses, or employ statistical methods?" is checked "Yes," the following documentation should be included in Supporting Statement B to the extent that it applies to the methods proposed:

- 1. Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

All the canvasses in this information collection (Table 1 below) are conducted as a complete census. No sampling is performed. The total universe for this collection is approximately 990 respondents business or other for-profit institutions (Table 1 below). The sources used to create the sampling frame are trade periodicals (such as American Metal Market, Platt's Metal Week, Metal Bulletin, and Ryan's Notes), and USGS commodity specialists' direct contacts with industry specialists. Once a year, commodity specialists update the frame.

Table 1. Sample strata for this collection.

			Business or other for-profit institutions (PRIVATE SECTOR) -			
	Form No.	Frequenc y	Number of Respondents	Response s	Completi on Time	Burden Hours
1	9-4044-A	Annually	12	12	30 min	6
2	9-4045-M	Monthly	10	120	10 min	20
3	9-4047-MA	Annually	87	87	30 min	44
4	9-4047-MA	Monthly	27	324	30 min	162
5	9-4048-A	Annually	49	49	30 min	25

6	9-4050-A	Annually	20	20	30 min	10
7	9-4064-M	Monthly	10	120	1 hour	120
8	9-4071-MA	Annually	10	10	45 min	8
9	9-4071-MA	Monthly	10	120	45 min	90
10	9-4076-A	Annually	10	10	1 hour	10
11	9-4077-A	Annually	13	13	10 min	2
12	9-4078-M	Monthly	14	168	10 min	28
13	9-4079-M	Monthly	10	120	30 min	60
14	9-4092-A	Annually	24	24	30 min	12
15	9-4093-M	Monthly	10	120	1 hour	120
16	9-4106-M	Monthly	10	120	30 min	60
17	9-4116-MA	Annually	416	416	30 min	208
18	9-4116-MA	Monthly	100	1,200	30 min	600
19	9-4120-A	Annually	137	137	30 min	69
20	9-4140-A	Annually	11	11	30 min	6
	TOTALS		990	3,201		1,660

The expected response rate for this collection will be at least 76%. This is based on the number of establishments that have traditionally responded to this request for information.

The data collected on these forms are used to publish information on the mineral production for each State, including State rankings. Each State typically has only a limited number of producers for each mineral commodity. In order to have accurate State rankings, it is necessary to canvass all of the producers.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:

- * **Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
- * **Estimation procedure,**
- * **Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
- * **Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and**
- * **Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

These canvasses do not employ sampling techniques. In some cases, individual establishments, by mutual agreement, have converted to reporting on an annual, rather than a monthly basis to reduce their burden. For those establishments, a monthly response is imputed from their annual response. Data are imputed for all non-responses. The majority of published statistics are rounded to three significant digits. Estimation procedures for non-respondents are described in item 3 below.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.

Paper forms:

Two weeks after the initial request, establishments not responding will receive another copy of the paper form in a second request for information. For larger establishments that still have not responded, statistical assistants or mineral commodity specialists will phone an alternative company contact.

On-line electronic forms:

Two weeks after the initial request, statistical assistants will phone establishments that have not responded. For larger establishments that still have not responded, statistical assistants or mineral commodity specialists may phone an alternative company contact.

Non-response:

Data are imputed for non-responses for example; imputation of non-response data may use industry trend figures, measures of establishment size such as Mine Safety and Health Administration employee-hours data, or company annual reports.

For the large majority of the published statistics, the high response rate and good imputation methodology used justify a maximum expected error of no more than plus or minus 5%. Industry acceptance of these canvasses and response to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) publication of the data continue to be extremely positive.

- 4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.**

Many of the USGS' information customers are also businesses that respond to the canvasses in this information collection. The USGS mineral commodity specialists for iron ore and iron and steel are member representatives of iron ore and iron and steel organizations and are in frequent contact with companies by way of industry associations and conferences [for example, the International Lime Association, the National Lime Association, the Barytes Association, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Iron Ore Trust Fund), the American Iron and Steel Institute, the Cobalt Development Institute, the International Tungsten Industry Association, the International Manganese Institute, and the International Chromium Development Association].

Informal communications during periodic contacts with our customers allow us to determine if the published canvass data are meeting their needs. Any feedback concerning this information collection discussed during these communications or non-response follow-up telephone contacts are used as suggestions that might facilitate clarification or ease respondent burden. Respondents are also encouraged to submit comments via a feedback link on the Web site at <https://miforms.er.usgs.gov/General/FeedBackForm.asp>. An annual letter is sent to our voluntary canvass respondents thanking them for their support and encouraging them to view our data products. At present, no formal tests are in progress that would require clearance.

5. **Provide the names and telephone numbers of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

For further information concerning this information collection, please contact:

- Jeffrey P. Busse, Statistician, 703-648-4914, jbusse@usgs.gov,
- Scott F. Sibley, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section, 703-648-4976, ssibley@usgs.gov, or
- Carleen Kostick, Chief, Data Collection and Coordination Section, 703-648-7940, ckostick@usgs.gov.

List and Titles of Forms

Form Number	Frequency	Canvass Code	Title
9-4044-A	Annually	A02	Iron Ore (containing less than 5% manganese)
9-4045-M	Monthly	A03	Iron Ore (Usable ore)
9-4047-MA	Annually	A06	Nickel – Stocks, Purchases, and Consumption
9-4047-MA	Monthly	A06	Nickel – Stocks, Purchases, and Consumption
9-4048-A	Annually	A07	Rhenium
9-4050-A	Annually	A09	Finished (Natural and Synthetic) Iron Oxide Pigments
9-4064-M	Monthly	C18	Cobalt
9-4071-MA	Annually	C34	Manganese Ore and Products
9-4071-MA	Monthly	C34	Manganese Ore and Products
9-4076-A	Annually	C41	Columbium (Niobium) and Tantalum
9-4077-A	Annually	C43	Molybdenum Ore and Concentrate
9-4078-M	Monthly	C44	Molybdenum Concentrates
9-4079-M	Monthly	C45	Molybdenum Concentrate – Molybdenum Products
9-4092-A	Annually	C67	Tungsten Ore and Concentrate
9-4093-M	Monthly	C68	Tungsten Concentrate and Tungsten Product
9-4106-M	Monthly	D02	Silicon Alloys
9-4116-MA	Annually	G01	Iron and Steel Scrap and Pig Iron
9-4116-MA	Monthly	G01	Iron and Steel Scrap and Pig Iron
9-4120-A	Annually	G30	Slag – Iron and Steel – Sold or Used
9-4140-A	Annually	C48	Production, Shipments, and Stocks of Reclaimed Nickel