

**Request for Approval under the “DOL Departmental Generic Clearance for  
the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback”  
(OMB Control Number: 1225-0088)**

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**TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:** Obtaining Customer Feedback on a Proposed Change in Release Date for Data Contained in the LAUS *Regional and State Unemployment (Annual)* News Release

**PURPOSE:** The BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is considering dropping the *Regional and State Unemployment (Annual)* news release, and issuing the data contained in that release in conjunction with the usual January LAUS data.

The *Regional and State Unemployment (Annual)* news release presents state annual employment and unemployment averages for the previous year and revisions to state estimates for the previous five years. The release is now published 2-3 weeks before January LAUS data are released for a given year.

Because of time and cost efficiencies, the LAUS program office is considering dropping the *Regional and State Unemployment (Annual)* News Release, while still providing the same data 2-3 weeks later in the regular January data release. Therefore, the purpose of this survey is to find out what impact, if any, this delayed release will have on LAUS data users.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** External respondents are current subscribers to LAUS news releases.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** (Check one)

Customer Comment Card/Complaint Form  
 Usability Testing (e.g., Website or Software)  
 Focus Group

Customer Satisfaction Survey  
 Small Discussion Group  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION:**

I certify the following to be true:

1. The collection is voluntary.
2. The collection is low-burden for respondents and low-cost for the Federal Government.
3. The collection is non-controversial and does not raise issues of concern to other federal agencies.
4. The results are not intended to be disseminated to the public.
5. Information gathered will not be used for the purpose of substantially informing influential policy decisions.
6. The collection is targeted to the solicitation of opinions from respondents who have experience with the program or may have experience with the program in the future.

Name: William Mockovak

To assist review, please provide answers to the following questions:

**Personally Identifiable Information:**

1. Is personally identifiable information (PII) collected?  Yes  No
2. If Yes, is the information that will be collected included in records that are subject to the Privacy Act of 1974?  Yes  No
3. If Applicable, has a System or Records Notice been published?  Yes  No

**Gifts or Payments:**

Is an incentive (e.g., money or reimbursement of expenses, token of appreciation) provided to participants?  Yes  No

**BURDEN HOURS**

It is estimated that 350 subscribers will respond to this survey. The survey completion time is estimated to be three minutes, which results in 17.5 burden hours (3 min x 350, divided by 60 min = 17.5 hours).

**FEDERAL COST:** The estimated annual cost to the Federal government is \$800 (an estimated 20 hours of work based on a GS-13/5, which is roughly \$39.84 per hour, rounded to \$40 per hour).\_

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

**The selection of your targeted respondents**

1. Do you have a customer list or something similar that defines the universe of potential respondents and do you have a sampling plan for selecting from this universe?  
 Yes  No

If the answer is yes, please provide a description of both below (or attach the sampling plan)? If the answer is no, please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them?

We have a list of current subscribers to the LAUS *Regional and State Unemployment (Annual) News Release*. However, this list does not represent the universe of users of the newsletters, which are also available on the BLS.gov website. We plan to send survey invitations to everyone on the subscriber list.

**Administration of the Instrument**

1. How will you collect the information? (Check all that apply)  
 Web-based or other forms of Social Media  
 Telephone  
 In-person  
 Mail  
 Other, Explain
2. Will interviewers or facilitators be used?  Yes  No

Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.

## **Instructions for completing Request for Approval under the “Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback”**

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**TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION:** Provide the name of the collection that is the subject of the request. (e.g. Comment card for soliciting feedback on xxxx)

**PURPOSE:** Provide a brief description of the purpose of this collection and how it will be used. If this is part of a larger study or effort, please include this in your explanation.

**DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS:** Provide a brief description of the targeted group or groups for this collection of information. These groups must have experience with the program.

**TYPE OF COLLECTION:** Check one box. If you are requesting approval of other instruments under the generic, you must complete a form for each instrument.

**CERTIFICATION:** Please read the certification carefully. If you incorrectly certify, the collection will be returned as improperly submitted or it will be disapproved.

**Personally Identifiable Information:** Provide answers to the questions.

**Gifts or Payments:** If you answer yes to the question, please describe the incentive and provide a justification for the amount.

### **BURDEN HOURS:**

**Category of Respondents:** Identify who you expect the respondents to be in terms of the following categories: (1) Individuals or Households; (2) Private Sector; (3) State, local, or tribal governments; or (4) Federal Government. Only one type of respondent can be selected.

**No. of Respondents:** Provide an estimate of the Number of respondents.

**Participation Time:** Provide an estimate of the amount of time required for a respondent to participate (e.g. fill out a survey or participate in a focus group)

**Burden:** Provide the Annual burden hours: Multiply the Number of responses and the participation time and divide by 60.

**FEDERAL COST:** Provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Federal government.

**If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:**

**The selection of your targeted respondents.** Please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them. If the answer is yes, to the first question, you may provide the sampling plan in an attachment.

**Administration of the Instrument:** Identify how the information will be collected. More than one box may be checked. Indicate whether there will be interviewers (e.g. for surveys) or facilitators (e.g., for focus groups) used.

**Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.**