

## Industrial Minerals Surveys

### OMB Control Number 1028-0062

#### 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 canvasses except Construction sand and gravel and crushed and broken stone (USGS Form 9-4142-Q):*

The canvasses in this information collection are conducted as a complete census. No sampling is performed. The total universe is approximately 14,604 respondents that are business or other for-profit institutions (Table 1 below) and approximately 353 respondents that are State, local or tribal government institutions (Table 2 below). The sources used to develop the census are industry directories (such as the annual Skillings North American Mining Directory) and trade periodicals (such as North American Sulfur Services), and **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** commodity specialists’ direct contacts with industry specialists. Once a year, commodity specialists update the census.

Table 1. Consolidated estimates of annual burden (private sector) (excludes USGS Form 9-4142-Q) <sup>1</sup>

			PRIVATE SECTOR			
	Form No.	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Responses	Completion Time	Burden Hours
1	9-4001-A	Annually	92	92	90 min	138
2	9-4004-A	Annually	10	10	1 hour	10
3	9-4005-A	Annually	20	20	30 min	10
4	9-4006-A	Annually	60	60	30 min	30
5	9-4007-A	Annually	4,208	4,208	30 min	2,104

6	9-4008-A	Annually	7,968	7,968	45 min	5,976
7	9-4009-A	Annually	251	251	45 min	188
8	9-4010-A	Annually	297	297	90 min	446
9	9-4011-A	Annually	30	30	30 min	15
10	9-4012-A	Annually	29	29	90 min	44
11	9-4013-A	Annually	68	68	30 min	34
12	9-4014-A	Annually	11	11	30 min	6
13	9-4015-A	Annually	158	158	90 min	237
14	9-4016-A	Annually	47	47	90 min	71
15	9-4017-A	Annually	29	29	90 min	44
16	9-4018-A	Annually	11	11	45 min	8
17	9-4020-A	Annually	10	10	30 min	5
18	9-4021-A	Annually	19	19	30 min	10
19	9-4022-A	Annually	76	76	15 min	19
20	9-4023-A	Annually	20	20	30 min	10
21	9-4024-A	Annually	10	10	20 min	3
22	9-4025-A	Annually	65	65	1 hour	65
23	9-4026-A	Annually	42	42	30 min	21
24	9-4027-A	Annually	137	137	2 hours	274
25	9-4028-A	Annually	338	338	15 min	85
26	9-4029-M	Monthly	99	1,188	15 min	297
27	9-4030-M	Monthly	13	156	15 min	39
28	9-4031-S	Semiannually	21	42	45 min	32
29	9-4032-A	Annually	15	15	30 min	8
30	9-4033-Q	Quarterly	12	48	15 min	12
31	9-4035-S	Semiannually	17	34	1 hour	34
32	9-4036-A	Annually	14	14	15 min	4
33	9-4039-M	Monthly	92	1,104	30 min	552
34	9-4041-A	Annually	166	166	5 hours	830
35	9-4112-A	Annually	21	21	15 min	5
36	9-4115-A	Annually	12	12	30 min	6
37	9-4144-S	Semiannually	52	104	1 hour	104
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>14,540</b>	<b>16,910</b>		<b>11,775</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 100% response rate. Actual response rate is lower.

Table 2. Consolidated estimates of annual burden (State, local or tribal government sector) (excludes USGS Form 9-4142-Q) <sup>1</sup>

			STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR			
	Form No.	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Responses	Completion Time	Burden Hours
5	9-4007-A	Annually	151	151	30 min	76
6	9-4008-A	Annually	199	199	45 min	149

33	9-4039-M	Monthly	1	12	30 min	6
34	9-4041-A	Annually	1	1	5 hours	5
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>352</b>	<b>363</b>		<b>236</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 100% response rate. Actual response rate is lower.

The USGS Industrial Minerals information collection response rates over the past 3 years range from 48% to 100%. The mean response rate is 82%, the median is 95%, and the mode is 100%. This is expected to continue, 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. In order to have accurate state rankings, it is necessary to canvass all the establishments. For construction aggregates, crushed and broken stone, and construction sand and gravel, there are a larger number of producers; however, the USGS publishes data for aggregates showing a breakdown by end use. There is considerable variation among the aggregates producers in the end use of their output; consequently, it is necessary to canvass all the aggregates producers.

*Construction sand and gravel and crushed and broken stone canvass (USGS Form 9-4142-Q):*

Data are collected quarterly from approximately 65 leading companies with several operations in multiple states from among the approximately 6,000 eligible operations (Table 3 and Table 4 below). Over the last 3 years, the average 98% response rate has decreased to 95% and is expected to hold steady. Sample size was determined by the need to minimize respondent burden and to ensure the timely processing and publication of data. This is the only canvass that uses cut-off sampling, expressly because the 65 leading companies represent 40% of production.

The sample panel was selected in a fashion intended to produce the best possible estimates of total production of construction aggregates at the national and state levels. The use of a continuing panel also ensures good estimates of production trends.

Total production of construction aggregates for the current quarter is estimated for each level (national and state) by multiplying the approximate total production figure from the most recent available complete industry census by the trend ratio, which is developed from the sample for that level.

Table 3. Consolidated estimates of annual burden (private sector) (USGS Form 9-4142-Q only) <sup>1</sup>

			PRIVATE SECTOR			
	Form No.	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Responses	Completion Time	Burden Hours
1	9-4142-Q	Quarterly	64	256	10 min	43
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>64</b>	<b>256</b>		<b>43</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 100% response rate. Actual response rate is lower.

Table 4. Consolidated estimates of annual burden (State, local or tribal government sector) (USGS Form 9-4142-Q only) <sup>1</sup>

			STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR			
	Form No.	Frequency	Number of Respondents	Responses	Completion Time	Burden Hours
5	9-4142-Q	Quarterly	1	4	10 min	1
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>1</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 100% response rate. Actual response rate is lower.

**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.**

All canvasses except *Construction sand and gravel and crushed and broken stone (USGS Form 9-4142-Q)*:

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, quarterly, or semiannual basis to reduce their burden. For those establishments, a monthly, quarterly, or semiannual response is imputed from their annual response. Data are imputed for all nonrespondents. The majority of published statistics are rounded to three significant digits. Estimation procedures for nonrespondents are described in item (3) below.

*Construction sand and gravel and crushed and broken stone canvass (USGS Form 9-4142-Q)*:

- a) The USGS quarterly canvass of construction sand and gravel and crushed and broken stone is conducted on a sample basis. Tests have proved that this is the most effective and efficient means of collecting this data. This sample, however, is not a probability sample, but a cutoff-type sample of the largest companies producing construction sand and gravel and/or crushed and broken stone.
- b) Total production of construction aggregates for the current quarter is estimated for each by multiplying the approximate total production figure from the most recent available complete industry census by the trend ratio which is developed from the sample for that level.
- c) As stated above, for this sampling to be accurate, the total industry census must be known.
- d) There are no unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures.
- e) The complete industry census is conducted annually. The quarterly data collections are conducted via telephone, facsimile transmission, forms on the web site of the external component of the USGS **Minerals Information Data System** (MIDS) application, and electronic mail and do not reduce the overall burden.

**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.**

Mineral commodity specialists or statistical assistants call monthly nonrespondents or alternative company contacts within two weeks after the initial request for information and annual non-respondents or alternative company contacts on or before the data close-out date.

Nonresponse:

Several sources of information are used to impute data for nonrespondents. One important source of information is the data on the number of employees and employee hours that mining operations are required to submit to the **Mine Safety and Health Administration** (MSHA). These employment data are closely related to production. Ratios of employee hours to production can be computed for companies that respond, and those ratios can be used to estimate production for nonrespondents.

Forms 10-K or 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and company annual reports can also provide valuable sources of information. Publicly traded companies must file annual reports on Form 10-K (OMB Control Number 3235-0063) including comprehensive overviews of their business and financial conditions and audited financial statements. This form may also contain production and sales information. Publicly traded companies sometimes elect to send Form 10-K to shareholders in lieu of less detailed annual reports.

Publicly traded companies must also file Form 10-Q (OMB Control Number 3235-0070) quarterly. Firms include information for the final quarter of a firm's fiscal year in the annual Form 10-K; therefore only three Form 10-Q filings are made each year. Form 10-Q contains similar information to the annual Form 10-K; however, the information is generally less detailed, and the financial statements are generally unaudited.

The USGS also retrieves from company Web sites state-of-the-company annual shareholder reports containing financial data, results of continuing operations, market segment information, new product plans, subsidiary activities, and research and development activities on future programs.

The USGS believes that there is no significant nonresponse bias because of the suitable information on which to base imputations. This information Collection Request does not contain a canvass of opinion.

Industry acceptance of these canvasses and response to the USGS publication of the data continue to be extremely positive.

Bias investigations were performed for the following canvasses with low response rates: 9-4007-A, 9-4008-A, 9-4015-A, 9-4016-A, 9-4017-A, 9-4022-A, 9-4025-A, and 9-4112-A. USGS mineral commodity specialists for these canvasses drew random samples of respondents and nonrespondents. We rank ordered the sample by key statistic and conducted a Mann-Whitney U Test. No statistically significant difference was detected between respondents and nonrespondents.

A correlation study over varying time frames was conducted for an establishment representative of respondents for our clay canvasses to determine if the commonly used MSHA employee hours data set would be an appropriate surrogate to make estimates for nonrespondents. The following R-squared correlations were produced: 0.52 (2003 through 2011) and 0.99 (2009 through 2011). We believe this initial correlation study supports our conclusion that MSHA employee hours is an appropriate surrogate for making estimates for nonrespondents; our confidence is particularly supported in making estimates for post-recession years.

With the exception of the construction sand and gravel and crushed and broken stone canvass (USGS Form 9-4142-Q), the canvasses with the lowest response rates are in small and consolidating industries. Given that our R-squared correlation across the business cycle ranges from 0.52 and 0.99, and given that we find no statistically significant difference between respondents and nonrespondents, the USGS believes that cut-off sampling provides no benefit over conducting a census and using MSHA data to make estimates.

**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. USGS mineral commodity specialists are in frequent contact with companies by way of industry associations and conferences (for example, the Portland Cement Association, Inc., the National Lime Association, Inc., and the Gypsum Association, Inc.; the USGS attends The Fertilizer Institute's annual outlook meeting). The information exchanged with these industry associations and at conferences includes trade, consumption, and production statistics, as well as information on technology developments within the particular industry.

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 nonresponse follow-up telephone contacts is 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 at <https://mids.er.usgs.gov/Feedback>. 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:

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