



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
U.S. Census Bureau  
Washington, DC 20233-0001

Dominic Mancini  
Deputy Director  
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs  
Office of Management and Budget  
Washington, DC

Subject: Request for Emergency Review and Clearance

Dear Mr. Mancini:

Pursuant to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) procedures established at 5 CFR Part 1320, Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public, I request that the proposed information collection project, "Supplemental Questions related to the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on businesses" be processed as an Emergency Revision Request in accordance with section 1320.13, Emergency Processing.

I have determined that this information must be collected prior to the expiration of time periods established under Part 1320, and that this information is essential to the U.S. Census Bureau's emergency response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We plan to immediately add questions to measure the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic upon businesses to the following surveys designated as Primary Economic Indicators:

- Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories & Orders (M3) Survey
- Building Permits Survey
- Monthly Wholesale Trade Survey
- Monthly Retail Surveys
- Quarterly Services Survey

As Primary Economic Indicators, each of these surveys produce timely and closely-watched statistics about the health of the U.S economy. Given the importance of these indicator surveys and of the statistics they produce, it is imperative we measure to what extent businesses have been impacted in terms of their ability to maintain operations during this turbulent period.

The Census Bureau cannot reasonably comply with the normal clearance given the urgent necessity to collect these data. Therefore, the Census Bureau requests a 180-day emergency clearance to launch collection of data. Please provide an approval/disapproval determination of

this request to collect information under an emergency clearance by close of business on April 8, 2020.

Respectfully,

Ron Jarmin  
Deputy Director,  
U.S. Census Bureau