

November 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR Reviewer of 1220-0109

FROM Keenan Dworak-Fisher
 Director, Division of National Longitudinal Surveys (NLS)
 Bureau of Labor Statistics

SUBJECT Shortening the questionnaire and burden update for Round
 29 NLSY79

BLS requests OMB approval to remove several items from the NLSY79 Round 29 interview. This proposal for cuts is based on two criteria: (1) the length of the each question and (2) that the question is new to the NLSY79 and hence lacks a longitudinal record on the measure. Attachment A lists the items we propose to drop from the questionnaire and the time saved for each group of items.

In addition, BLS requests to update the respondent burden for the main questionnaire of the Round 29, NLSY79, as interview length has been running longer than originally estimated. As of November 16, 2020, with 1950 cases collected, the main questionnaire is running 82 minutes on average, as opposed to the 74 minutes approved by OMB. We propose to cut approximately 5 minutes of survey time, bringing the length of the survey to 77 minutes on average. This increases the total respondent burden of Round 29 of the Main NLSY79 from 8235 hours to 8663 hours, an increase of 338 hours.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Keenan Dworak-Fisher by telephone at 202-691-6308 or by email at dworak-fisher.keenan@bls.gov.

Attachment A – Proposed Cuts to NLSY79 Round 29