

Agency Contacts. Information collected under this clearance is used to support the administrative and programmatic needs of jointly conducted BLS/State Labor Market Information and Occupational Safety and Health Statistics cooperative statistical programs.

III. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

Title of Collection: General Inquiries to State Agency Contacts.

OMB Number: 1220–0168.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Total Respondents: 54.

Frequency: As needed.

Total Responses: 23,890.

Average Time per Response: 40 minutes.

Estimated Total Burden Hours: 15,927 hours.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, on January 21, 2021.

Mark Staniorski,

Chief, Division of Management Systems.

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MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board.

ACTION: Notice of a new system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (Privacy Act), the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB or Board) proposes to establish a new MSPB system of records titled “Surveys for Special Studies of the Civil Service.” This system of records contains information that MSPB collects, maintains, and uses in order to develop and administer the Merit Principles Survey (MPS) and other surveys for special studies of the civil service and to evaluate and distribute the results of such surveys. This system of records will be included in MSPB’s inventory of record systems.

DATES: Please submit comments on or before February 26, 2021. This new system is effective upon publication in today’s **Federal Register**, with the exception of the routine uses, which are effective February 26, 2021.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments to the Office of the Clerk of the Board by any of the following methods: By email to *privacy@mspb.gov* or by mail to Clerk of the Board, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, 1615 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20419. All comments must reference “MSPB—2, Surveys for Special Studies of the Civil Service.” Regardless of the method used for submitting comments or material, all submissions will be posted, without change, to MSPB’s website (*www.mspb.gov*) and will include any personal information you provide, such as your name, address, phone number, email address, or any other personally identifying information in your comment or materials. Therefore, any submissions will be made public and without change.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Fon Muttamara at (202) 653–7200. You may submit written questions to the Office of the Clerk of the Board by any of the following methods: By email to *privacy@mspb.gov* or by mail to Clerk of the Board, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, 1615 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20419. Please include “MSPB—2, Surveys for Special Studies of the Civil Service” with your question(s).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Privacy Act, 5

U.S.C. 552a, MSPB proposes to establish a new system of records titled “Surveys for Special Studies of the Civil Service.” This system of records is being established in order to develop and administer the Merit Principles Survey (MPS), along with other surveys for special studies of the civil service and to evaluate and distribute the results of such surveys. This system of records contains information that MSPB collects, maintains, and uses regarding individuals who are potential or actual survey respondents.

MSPB was instituted under the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 and administers surveys under its general authorities to conduct studies and research on matters relevant to the MSPs and Prohibited Personnel Practices (PPPs). The statute (5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3)) also authorizes a “special studies” function, under which MSPB has the authority to conduct studies when it deems appropriate on the topics it deems appropriate, so long as the studies relate to “the civil service and to other merit systems in the executive branch[.]” This function enables MSPB to independently conduct research and present the subsequent findings to the President, Congress, and other Federal human capital stakeholders so that they can have access to information to aid in their decision-making processes.

MSPB established the MPS in support of its statutory responsibility to assess the health of Federal merit systems. MSPB has conducted the MPS since 1983 as part of its statutory oversight responsibilities (5 U.S.C. 1204(a)(3) and 5 U.S.C. 1204(e)(3)). The survey tracks a variety of Federal workforce issues related to the MSPs and PPPs, with results reported to the President and Congress and shared with Federal policy-makers and decision-makers. This survey differs from the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey administered by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in several respects, such as: A focus on MSPs and PPPs and human resources policy and practice; administration every few years instead of annually; and a smaller sample, and use of non-recurring questions to delve into discrete topics of interest. MSPB conducted Government-wide MPS administrations as part of its program of survey research in 1983, 1986, 1989, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2005, 2007, 2010, and 2016. In addition, MSPB has administered and collected data from other surveys, such as the 2007 Career Advancement Survey, 2009 MSPB Federal Telework Survey, and the 2011 Fair and Open Competition Survey.

The MPS and other surveys conducted by MSPB are tools that