

think that consumers will assume other unlabeled components, such as soy sauce or pasta, do not contain allergens. Both the outer kit label and the meat or poultry component must be fully labeled in compliance with FSIS labeling regulations. Therefore, the outer kit label will bear a complete ingredients statement that declares all ingredients in each component within the kit. These labeling requirements were already explained in the previous version of the guideline; therefore, FSIS did not make any changes in response to this comment.

*Comment:* One individual asked FSIS to explain how the nutrition facts declaration should be displayed on a kit.

*Response:* A kit label bearing nutrition facts may present this information 1. centrally, based on the prepared, assembled product; 2. with separate panels for each component as packaged; or 3. as one panel with multiple columns for each component as packaged. The nutrition labeling requirements of 9 CFR 317.309 and 381.409 remain unchanged by this guideline. FSIS did not make any changes to the guideline based on this comment. Based on FSIS communications with these facilities, they understand nutrition labeling requirements.

#### Labeling Verification

*Comment:* One firm that prepares kits stated that the Agency should provide clear communication to FSIS inspectors to ensure the consistent application of kit labeling policies.

*Response:* FSIS will issue a directive to provide instructions to inspection program personal for conducting verification activities for kit products to ensure compliance with FSIS regulations.

#### Mandatory and Voluntary FSIS Inspection

*Comment:* An FSIS employee requested that FSIS clarify whether a kit may be assembled under voluntary FSIS inspection and, therefore, bear a USDA inspection legend.

*Response:* FSIS clarified in the guideline that the assembly of a kit product as described in this guideline is eligible for voluntary inspection as a food inspection service under 9 CFR 350.3(c). FSIS also announced that, going forward, it will no longer conduct mandatory inspection services for such kits, as the Agency determined that providing inspection for these products as a voluntary food inspection service is the best use of Agency resources. After publication of this notice, FSIS will

provide instructions for firms currently receiving mandatory inspection for such products regarding the procedures and timelines for withdrawing mandatory inspection and the option to seek voluntary inspection.

#### USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

#### Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication online through the FSIS web page located at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>. FSIS

also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS *Constituent Update*, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The *Constituent Update* is available on the FSIS web page. Through the web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Paul Kiecker,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2021-20403 Filed 9-20-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Emergency Economic Information Collections

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on February 8, 2021 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

*Agency:* U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

*Title:* Generic Clearance for Emergency Economic Information Collections.

*OMB Control Number:* 0607-XXXX.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Request:* Regular submission, New Information Collection.

*Number of Respondents:* We estimate the potential maximum number of respondents to all EEIC's in a given year is 300,000.

*Average Hours per Response:* 10 minutes.

*Burden Hours:* 50,000.

*Needs and Uses:* The U.S. Census Bureau requests Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval for a 3-year period, for a new generic clearance that provides the quick turn-around necessary for conducting emergency economic information collections (EEIC) in response to unanticipated international, national, or regional declared emergencies or events of national interest arising as a direct result of declared emergencies having a significant economic impact on U.S. businesses and/or state or local governments. The purpose of the collections will be to gauge and monitor the economic impact of such events on U.S. businesses or organizations and state or local governments.

The Coronavirus pandemic, in addition to having devastating effects on the health and wellbeing of the global population, has had a profound effect on the world economy. The Census Bureau, in carrying out its mission to serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy, has sought to measure the effect on U.S. businesses through supplemental questions added to several of its recurring business surveys and a new special-purpose survey meant to measure the effect of the pandemic on small, employer owned businesses—the Small Business Pulse Survey (OMB number 0607–1014). Due to the need to collect data on a timely basis, the Census Bureau submitted these requests to the Office of Management and Budget under the emergency processing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Although that process allowed us to implement the collections in a timely manner, restrictions on the use of the PRA emergency process to revise or extend these collections hampered our ability to remain agile and to collect data on an ongoing basis as the Pandemic continued throughout 2020 and beyond. We believe that a generic clearance will benefit the Census Bureau, the reporting public, and the many stakeholders who will have great need for information during times of future unanticipated events.

Emergencies, once declared by the authorized state or federal official or entity, that could trigger the need for an

EEIC may have global, national, or regional impact on U.S. businesses and governments, and include the following examples:

- Pandemic or other health emergency
- Natural or manmade disaster
- Acts of war or terrorism
- Civil unrest or insurrection

Other events of national interest arising as a direct result of declared emergencies may also have a significant impact on U.S. businesses or governments. An example of a recent such event is the computer chip shortage which has resulted from labor and resource shortages directly stemming from the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. The computer chip shortage has had a significant effect on industries ranging from computer manufacturing to automobile production. Another example is the need to monitor and track production and exports of personal protective equipment (PPE) and vaccines that arose during the Coronavirus pandemic. General categories of national interest events arising as a direct result of declared emergencies which could trigger the need for an EEIC are:

- Economic crises
- Financial crises
- International geo-political instabilities
- Resource shortages
- Cyberterrorism
- New legislation passed as a direct result of a declared emergency

A declared emergency or national interest event arising as a direct result of a declared emergency would need to have a perceived impact on U.S. businesses and/or state or local governments in order for the Census Bureau to collect EEIC information in response.

EEIC questions may be included as supplemental questions on existing Census Bureau surveys or conducted as new special-purpose surveys. The data will be collected by paper or electronic instruments, depending on the survey or program.

The questions will be chosen from a pretested Question Bank. For some subjects, the Question Bank includes specific questionnaire content. In other cases, the Question Bank includes topics which will then be addressed with questions designed to meet data needs that arise during a future unknown event. Some questions have been cognitively tested and should be considered final; some may require testing for final wording. Questions that may require testing and refinement are annotated in the Question Bank. As the Question Bank matures with new or revised content, the Census Bureau will resubmit the bank for review.

The Census Bureau will first obtain approval for the generic clearance under the regular processing provisions of the PRA (the subject of this clearance request). The clearance request defines the scope and overall burden of information collections to be conducted under the generic clearance. As future emergencies arise, the Census Bureau will use the process defined below to obtain approval for individual EEIC's.

Clearance process for an EEIC:

1. Based on an emergency or national interest event arising as a direct result of a declared emergency, the Census Bureau decides to conduct an EEIC.

2. The OMB–OIRA Desk officer is notified of the EEIC immediately via email, followed by receipt of the “Request for Emergency Economic Information Collection” describing the emergency or resulting national interest event and the planned information collection. The supplemental questions or collection instrument will be attached to the Request for EEIC.

3. The Request for EEIC will include a date by which OMB approval is required. The standard review time for requests under this generic clearance will be 10 days. However, a review time of as few as 3 days may be requested. Special justification for any review time of less than 10 days will be included in the Request for EEIC.

4. The OMB–OIRA desk officer responds with approval or comments on the proposed EEIC within the timeframe specified in the Request for EEIC. OMB may provide approval and comments orally (followed by email for written documentation) or by email directly to the Census Bureau. This may occur before the request is submitted and received by OMB through the official ICR tracking system. If no response is received within the specified timeframe, the information collection is considered approved.

5. The Census Bureau maintains a library of data collection instruments that includes all final data collection instruments conducted under this generic clearance. This library and the burden expended is submitted to OMB quarterly as a non-substantive change to the generic clearance.

6. EEICs will last a maximum of 9 months (this limit was stated as 6 months in the February 8, 2021 notice and has since been increased to 9 months).

7. A new Request for EEIC may be submitted under the generic clearance if the Census Bureau determines the need to revise an existing EEIC or to extend the collection past the initial 9 months.

As data collections will be tailored to the emergency, users of the data may

vary, but may include: Federal, state, or local officials charged with decision-making during the emergency; business leaders and policymakers wishing to develop plans to ameliorate the effects of the emergency; academics and members of the press wishing to study and disseminate information about the emergency; and the public. The data collected will help us understand how and why data we collect in our ongoing surveys may be affected by the emergency, as well as allow us to disseminate data as part of existing releases, new releases, or experimental releases.

**Affected Public:** Business or other for-profit organizations; State, Local, or Tribal government; Federal government.

**Frequency:** On occasion.

**Respondent's Obligation:** Determinations about whether EEIC questions will be mandatory or voluntary will be made in consultation with legal counsel. This information will be included the Request for EEIC submitted to OMB in advance of the collection.

**Legal Authority:** Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 131, 161, and 182.

This information collection request may be viewed at [www.reginfo.gov](http://www.reginfo.gov). Follow the instructions to view the Department of Commerce collections currently under review by OMB.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of the publication of this notice on the following website [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function and entering the title of the collection.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

[FR Doc. 2021-20422 Filed 9-20-21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-07-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Census Bureau

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Small Business Pulse Survey**

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for

review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on May 19, 2020 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

**Agency:** Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

**Title:** Small Business Pulse Survey.

**OMB Control Number:** 0607-1014.

**Form Number(s):** None.

**Type of Request:** Regular Submission, Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Collection.

**Number of Respondents:** 810,000 (22,500 responses per week for up to a maximum of 36 weeks of collection).

**Average Hours per Response:** 6 minutes.

**Burden Hours:** 81,000 + 3 hours for cognitive testing = 81,003.

**Needs and Uses:** Phase 1 of the Small Business Pulse Survey was launched on April 26, 2020 as an effort to produce and disseminate high-frequency, geographic- and industry-detailed experimental data about the economic conditions of small businesses as they experience the coronavirus pandemic. It is a rapid response endeavor that leverages the resources of the federal statistical system to address emergent data needs. Given the rapidly changing dynamics of this situation for American small businesses, the Small Business Pulse Survey has been successful in meeting an acute need for information on changes in revenues, business closings, employment and hours worked, disruptions to supply chains, and expectations for future operations. In addition, the Small Business Pulse Survey provided important estimates of federal program uptake to key survey stakeholders.

Due to the ongoing nature of the pandemic, the Census Bureau subsequently conducted Phases 2 through 6 of the Small Business Pulse Survey. The Office of Management and Budget authorized clearance of Phase 6 of the Small Business Pulse Survey on August 6, 2021. The Census Bureau now seeks approval to conduct Phase 7 of the Small Business Pulse Survey which will occur over 9 weeks starting November 15, 2021.

The continuation of the Small Business Pulse Survey is responsive to stakeholder requests for high frequency

data that measure the effect of changing business conditions during the Coronavirus pandemic on small businesses. While the ongoing monthly and quarterly economic indicator programs provide estimates of dollar volume outputs for employer businesses of all size, the Small Business Pulse Survey captures the effects of the pandemic on operations and finances of small, single location employer businesses. As the pandemic continues, the Census Bureau is best poised to collect this information from a large and diverse sample of small businesses.

It is hard to predict when a shock will result in economic activity changing at a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly frequency. Early in the pandemic, federal, state, and local policies were moving quickly so it made sense to have a weekly collection. The problem is that while we are in the moment, we cannot accurately forecast the likelihood of policy action. In addition, we are not able to forecast a change in the underlying cause of policy actions: The effect of the Coronavirus pandemic on the economy. We cannot predict changes in the severity of the pandemic (e.g., will it worsen in flu season?) nor future developments that will alleviate the pandemic (e.g., vaccines or treatments). In a period of such high uncertainty, the impossibility of forecasting these inflection points underscores the benefits of having a weekly survey. For these reasons, the Census Bureau will proceed with a weekly collection.

SBPS Phase 7 content includes the core concepts seen throughout the SBPS previous phases, such as overall impact, business closures/openings, revenue and employment changes, workplace vaccine and testing requirements, and business outlook. New business norms questions 14-16 were introduced for phase 6 and will continue to Phase 7. Based on feedback from the Department of Commerce's chief economist, another new business norm question was developed. Question 17 was developed to capture business changes not included in question 14-16. The responses to the new question are captured through a select all that apply. This question was cognitively tested with six businesses. Additionally, in anticipation of potential pandemic reoccurrence with economic impact on small businesses, we have included the previous cash on hand question. To balance out the questionnaire with these new additions, we removed the question inquiring about revenues from exports and the open-ended question with 1000 characters. The remarks field at the end of the survey will still be present.