

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries Supporting Statement

This ICR seeks to obtain an extension for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The collection is unchanged since the last submission.

Part A. Justification

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) was delegated responsibility by the Secretary of Labor for implementing Section 24(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. This section states that "the Secretary shall compile accurate statistics on work injuries and illnesses which shall include all disabling, serious, or significant injuries and illnesses..."

Prior to the implementation of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), the BLS generated estimates of occupational fatalities for private sector employers from a sample survey of about 280,000 establishments. Studies showed that occupational fatalities were underreported in those estimates as well as in those compiled by regulatory, vital statistics, and workers' compensation systems. Estimates prior to CFOI varied widely, ranging from 3,000 to 10,000 fatal work injuries annually. In addition, information needed to develop prevention strategies was often missing from these earlier systems.

In the late 1980s, the National Academy of Sciences study, *Counting Injuries and Illnesses in the Workplace: Proposals for a Better System*,¹ and another report, *Keystone National Policy Dialogue on Work-Related Illness and Injury Recordkeeping*, emphasized the need for the BLS to compile a complete roster of work-related fatalities because of concern about using a sample survey to estimate the incidence of occupational fatalities. These studies also recommended the use of all available data sources to compile detailed information for fatality prevention efforts.

In 1989 and 1990, the BLS, in conjunction with the Texas and Colorado Departments of Health and the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission, tested the feasibility of collecting fatality data in this manner. These studies, which can be found in Appendix A: Development of the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries of BLS Report 845, April 1993, concluded that:

- Multiple sources are needed to yield a comprehensive count of fatal occupational injuries
- Collecting data from multiple sources is feasible
- Detailed information is commonly available from administrative sources

¹ See National Research Council. 1987. *Counting Injuries and Illnesses in the Workplace: Proposals for a Better System*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/18911>.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

The resulting CFOI was implemented in 32 states in 1991. National data—covering all 50 states, New York City, and the District of Columbia—have been compiled and published annually for years 1992 through 2023.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

The CFOI compiles comprehensive, accurate, and timely information on fatal work injuries needed to develop effective prevention strategies. The CFOI collects information about the worker, the employer, and the fatal incident. (Data elements collected are listed in Attachment 1A).

Various public and private safety and health organizations, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as well as many employers, worker advocates, and the public safety and health community use CFOI data to:

- Develop employee safety training programs
- Assess and improve workplace safety standards
- Develop safety equipment
- Prioritize safety efforts
- Conduct research for developing prevention strategies
- Compare fatal work injuries between states to evaluate safety program.

In addition, state partners use the data to publish state reports, to identify state-specific hazards, to allocate resources for promoting safety in the workplace, and to evaluate the quality of work life in the state.

CFOI data are also used by the Department of Health and Human Services to measure fatal workplace injuries in their Healthy People 2030 initiative. The National Safety Council and other organizations have adopted the CFOI as the primary source of a comprehensive count of fatal work injuries for the U.S. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) uses CFOI data for much of its fatal injury research. This official, systematic, verifiable count mutes controversy over the various counts from different sources. If this information were not collected, confusion over the number and patterns in fatal occupational injuries would hamper prevention efforts. In 2023, 5,283 workers lost their lives because of fatal work injuries.

During 2024, the BLS national office alone responded to 88 requests for CFOI data from various researchers and organizations, including manufacturers, insurance companies, engineering firms, security services, universities, business associations, trade unions, government organizations, and news services. (This figure excludes requests received by the BLS regional offices and states.) In addition, the CFOI page of the BLS website averaged about 8,084 users per month in 2024.

The CFOI research file, made available to researchers under letters of agreement to protect confidentiality, is currently being used by 4 organizations to conduct studies on specific topics. (Attachment 1B lists data elements included on the research file.) Study topics include: fatalities by worker demographic category (young workers, older workers, Hispanic workers); by occupation or industry (construction workers, workers in the transportation sector); by event

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

(heat-related fatalities, suicides, and falls from ladders); or other research such as safety and health program injury prevention, the impact of fatality risk on wages, and heterogeneity in the value of a statistical life.

A list of research articles and reports that include CFOI data can be found at

<https://www.bls.gov/iif/publications.htm>.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

Except for use of follow-back questionnaires described below, the CFOI does not solicit information directly from employers, rather the CFOI primarily uses existing administrative documents (e.g., death certificates, workers' compensation reports, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) investigation reports) and news reports to identify and compile information on fatal occupational injuries. States are encouraged to use as many existing data sources as are available and necessary to compile a complete count of fatal occupational injuries. Instead of the administrative form itself, some agencies provide computer files or listings of the fatal work injury information. In addition, participating state partners make use of various public websites and utilize the BLS CFOI Public Data Management System (C-PDMS) web scraper, to gather information on fatal work injuries. The lack of standardization in data among the various data sources and between states impedes additional automation.

State agencies use a follow-back questionnaire, BLS CFOI-1, where necessary to substantiate work relationship when only one source document is available as well as to obtain missing data as needed. This questionnaire is used for roughly 3 percent of total initiated fatal injury cases. The BLS CFOI questionnaire is designed so that respondents are only asked to complete parts of the questionnaire needed to obtain missing or more detailed data. Given the small number of respondents for which CFOI uses this form and the need to only complete one section of the questionnaire, developing an electronic form to replace the current paper questionnaire is not cost-efficient. Respondents submit the completed follow-back questionnaire electronically, by postal mail, or by fax.

Each of the participating state and territorial partners collect and process data for an average of about 104 fatal occupational injuries per year, or about 108 fatalities, including illnesses. States enter data into a web-based system provided by the BLS and code the variables using a uniform coding structure. The BLS validates the coding and publishes the results.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item A.2 above.

During the development of the CFOI, the BLS met with representatives from OSHA, NIOSH, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). The BLS keeps these and other agencies informed of CFOI data collection and availability.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

The BLS keeps abreast of developments in this area by reviewing current literature, and publishing articles. Multiple articles have been published in BLS publications over the last couple of years. The CFOI program also works closely with OSHA and NIOSH surveillance staff, and actively participates in national safety and health conferences and meetings. Staff members regularly make presentations at safety and health conferences. For example, in May 2022, the CFOI program participated in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) National Occupational Injury Research Symposium (NOIRS) Conference.

As mentioned previously, the CFOI has been adopted by virtually all organizations involved in occupational safety and health as the primary source of a comprehensive count of fatal work injuries for the U.S. The CFOI data is far more comprehensive and timelier than the previous national fatal work injury surveillance system.

The BLS receives and provides fatality reports to state partners from the following federal agencies: OSHA, the Division of Federal Employees, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation (DFELHWC), U.S. Coast Guard, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the Department of Transportation, specifically the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Fatality reports from other federal agencies, such as MSHA, NIOSH, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA), are accessed by the participating state partners from the federal agencies' websites. States also obtain source documents, such as death certificates, workers' compensation reports, medical examiner reports, and highway fatality reports within their states.

Employers are not required to report fatalities to both the relevant regulatory agency and to the state partners operating the CFOI. Thus, the CFOI system is based primarily on administrative records received from federal, state, and local governmental agencies as well as from some private sector organizations. Employers or individuals are contacted only to clarify data or to obtain missing information.

Using multiple data sources and follow-back techniques, the CFOI:

- Compiles the most complete count of work-related fatal injuries in the United States
- Substantiates work relationship using a consistent definition
- Includes fatal occupational injuries to workers of all ages
- Identifies the industry, occupation, demographic information (such as race, ethnicity, and gender), and circumstances related to the fatal injury
- Provides detailed information about these fatal incidents on a timely basis to assist with developing and implementing prevention strategies
- Allows policymakers, researchers, and other users to conduct research using a single database, which assists in identifying relationships in serious workplace hazards that may not have otherwise been recognized.

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The burden on small businesses is minimal because the CFOI relies on existing administrative and public data sources for most of the information used to identify, substantiate, and describe a fatal work injury. Employers are not the sole source used to substantiate work-relationship or to obtain required data elements missing from source documents. Follow-back questionnaires may also be sent to the certifying physician or coroner/medical examiner, or the informant named on the death certificate. An estimated 66 (66%) of the total (100) follow-back respondents for the 2023 CFOI were private sector employers. Data are not compiled to determine how many of these employers are small businesses.

Follow-back questionnaires to small employers are often necessary to ensure that fatal injuries occurring to workers in smaller establishments are included in the count of fatal work injuries and that information concerning these deaths is accurately reflected in the CFOI database.

6. Describe the consequence to federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Data collection occurs on an ongoing basis throughout the year so that the BLS can compile and publish CFOI data in a timely manner and on a consistent schedule. The program currently releases data 12 months after the end of the reference year. By providing timely fatal occupational injury data, the CFOI provides employers, workers, and safety and health professionals the information necessary to respond to emerging workplace hazards. Several organizations use CFOI data annually in their publications, in their research, and for strategic planning or performance measurement. The CFOI provides the only comprehensive national source of fatal work injury data. If the CFOI collection was not conducted or if it was conducted less frequently, this would adversely impact data users' and policy makers' ability to make informed decisions that directly impact worker safety and health.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;
- requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;
- requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;
- requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;
- in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;
- requiring the use of statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;
- that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

CFOI data are collected once annually. The BLS asks select respondents to complete the CFOI follow-back questionnaire in instances where details needed to substantiate fatal work injuries may be limited or unavailable from other data sources. The BLS asks these respondents to return the follow-back questionnaire as soon as possible to both reduce the number of nonrespondents due to relocation and to minimize recall problems for respondents. Survey studies have shown that one's retention of information about an event declines over time. (See M. Warner, et al., "The effects of recall on reporting injury and poisoning episodes in the National Health Interview Survey," *Injury Prevention*, 11, October 2005, pp. 282-7, for a discussion of recall of information in survey studies.²) Timely follow-back is, therefore, essential for collecting accurate fatal work injury data.

The CFOI provides valid and reliable statistics about the details of fatal work injuries. Incident information for fatal workplace injuries is classified by the BLS and participating state agencies using the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System (OIICS) which was submitted to OMB with the initial program redesign clearance in 1991. An updated version of this classification system (OIICS 2.0) was submitted to OMB in 2011, and a subsequent update (OIICS 3.0) was submitted in 2017 and recently implemented in CFOI collection and publication.

Per the 2024 OMB Statistical Policy Directive 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity (SPD-15), the BLS has assessed the work required to implement the 2024 SPD 15 updates to CFOI collection, tabulation, dissemination processes and IT systems and determined that work to implement these changes will commence following completion of current projects. The resources that must implement changes to CFOI must also implement changes for the BLS Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII). The BLS recently implemented major updates to both SOII and CFOI data collection processes and systems for the aforementioned OIICS coding taxonomy revisions and the 2022 revision for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). System updates utilizing available resources continues for OIICS and NAICS updates and cannot be delayed without adversely impacting BLS' ability to meet its regular publication schedule. After these IT systems changes are implemented, the BLS will commit those resources to implement SPD 15 in CFOI data collection, tabulation, and dissemination systems and processes.

In addition to timing constraints noted above, the BLS also considered how these data are collected, coded, and commonly used. Particularly, CFOI data are collected and coded by the same staff who collect and code SOII data. Using the same race and ethnicity coding will ensure consistent coding practices for both datasets. Further, CFOI data are often used in tandem with nonfatal workplace injury and illness data from the SOII, for which the BLS plans to implement the 2024 SPD 15 updates starting with RY 2027 collection. Implementing 2024 SPD 15 updates to both CFOI and SOII for RY 2027 will ensure consistent coding of race and ethnicity across these two data series to best support comparability for data users. Considering all of these factors, the BLS plans to implement the new race and ethnicity question and categories in CFOI collection, tabulation, and publications starting with reference year (RY) 2027 collection that will begin in January 2027. (See high-level timeline below.) RY 2027 CFOI data using the 2024 SPD 15 updates will be published for the first time in December 2028. In the meantime, the BLS will continue to publish statistics using existing race and ethnicity categories until SPD-15 updates are implemented starting with the RY 2027 CFOI. The BLS will submit a request for

² See <https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/injuryprev/11/5/282.full.pdf>.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

nonsubstantive changes to the CFOI related to SPD 15 updates prior to the start of the RY 2027 CFOI collection.

BLS timeline for implementing SPD-15 in the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI)

Date	Activity
January – October 2027	Implement SPD 15 changes to CFOI forms, processes, and IT systems
November 2027 – October 2028	Collect and process reference year (RY) 2027 data reflecting updated race/ethnicity
December 2028	Publish RY 2027 CFOI data for first time using updated race/ethnicity

The work involved to implement changes throughout CFOI collection, tabulation, and dissemination IT systems and processes is complex and therefore, resource intensive. Any change to the CFOI collection system has significant downstream impacts on tabulation and related outputs, both in terms of their availability in the online searchable BLS public database and in the layout and format of published tables. These systematic processes are carefully planned, developed, and extensively tested to ensure the highest quality data while mitigating the chance of errata.

The BLS also requests an exemption to implement minimum categories for race and ethnicity in the CFOI to align with Figure 3 in SPD 15, starting with RY 2027 as described above. Fatal workplace injury data collected by the CFOI from multiple administrative source documents, where race and ethnicity data for a decedent is based on proxy reporting or observation. Proxy reporting of race and ethnicity may differ from reporting of this characteristic by the worker.

BLS plans for implementation of SPD 15 in the CFOI will be documented in the Agency's SPD 15 Action Plan as well as in any interim Information Collection Requests for the CFOI. The following describes SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound) draft goals that the BLS will accomplish for the CFOI collection to comply with the 2024 SPD 15. Some goals have already been met. The BLS will develop an internal operation plan that will include specific, attainable, time-bound action items for each goal that will be used to accomplish this work. Note that specified dates are end dates for each goal but that work on action items related to goals will begin earlier. The BLS has posted a notice on its program webpage to provide information to stakeholders regarding planned updates on race and ethnicity data in the CFOI. (See <https://www.bls.gov/iif/notices/2025/cfoi-and-soii-race-and-ethnicity-planned-updates-for-collection-and-publication.htm>.) The BLS will continue to refine its CFOI action plan to include detailed action items for each goal in the plan. These detailed action items will serve as an internal operation plan for completing the necessary work to implement the 2024 SPD 15 updates. The CFOI action plan describing how BLS will comply with the 2024 SPD 15 will be posted online when it is finalized.

Goal 1: By July 31, 2024, inventory all items where race and ethnicity data are collected in the CFOI

Goal 2: By August 15, 2024, inventory all CFOI outputs that include race and ethnicity data

Goal 3: By August 15, 2024, inventory all CFOI documentation that includes race and ethnicity information or methodologies

Goal 4: By September 30, 2024, inventory all CFOI IT systems and processes that involving race and ethnicity that must be updated

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

Goal 5: By September 30, 2024, assess options for timing of implementation of race and ethnicity updates in CFOI IT systems and outputs

Goal 6: By May 1, 2025, prepare and submit the CFOI OMB clearance request including plan to comply with 2024 SPD 15 updates

Goal 7: By November 1, 2026, define requirements for implementation of race and ethnicity updates in CFOI collection, tabulation, dissemination IT systems and outputs

Goal 8: By October 31, 2027, implement race and ethnicity updates in CFOI data collection system and processes and begin to collect updated race and ethnicity data for reference year (RY) 2027

Goal 9: By November 1, 2028, implement race and ethnicity updates in CFOI tabulation system and processes for RY27

Goal 10: By December 1, 2028, implement race and ethnicity updates in CFOI dissemination systems and outputs (tables, charts, data series, publications)

Goal 11: By December 1, 2028, implement race and ethnicity updates in CFOI Profiles federal/state dissemination system and outputs (tables, charts, data series, publications)

Goal 12: By November 1, 2028, complete planned communications and stakeholder outreach regarding planned CFOI race and ethnicity updates

Goal 13: By December 1, 2028, implement race and ethnicity updates in BLS public databases, outputs, and related webpages (data series mapping files, external profiles, etc.)

Goal 14: By December 31, 2028, publish RY27 CFOI data with first use of updated race and ethnicity

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years -- even if the collection-of-information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

No comments were received from the federal register notice published in 90 FR 15376 on April 10, 2025.

BLS meets with or periodically consults with representatives from the following user groups:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and their advisory committees
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - o National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
 - o National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
- National Safety Council (NSC)
- Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR)
- Oil and gas extraction safety groups
- National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Service Sector Council
- NORA Contingent Worker Workgroup

In addition, BLS meets annually with the state partners receiving grants to conduct the fatality census.

During the past several years, BLS staff participated in numerous national conferences and presented CFOI data, including to the following major organizations and conferences: Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), NIOSH at the National Occupational Injury Research Symposium (NOIRS), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Department of Labor (DOL Workers' Memorial Day Expos and DOL Seminar Series), BLS Data User Conferences, and the Western Agriculture Safety and Health Conference. Additionally, BLS staff provide data and information on key concepts to major media and industry groups.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

The BLS does not pay follow-back respondents to complete the questionnaire. However, some source document providers, such as the state vital statistics agencies, require a nominal fee to cover copying costs.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

The Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (CIPSEA) safeguards the confidentiality of individually identifiable information acquired under a pledge of confidentiality for exclusively statistical purposes by controlling access to, and uses made of, such information. CIPSEA includes fines and penalties for any knowing and willful disclosure of individually identifiable information by an officer, employee, or agent of the BLS.

Based on this law, the BLS provides respondents to the follow-back questionnaire with the following confidentiality pledge/informed consent statement:

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, its employees, agents, and partner statistical agencies, will use the information you provide for statistical purposes only and will hold the information in confidence to the full extent permitted by law. In accordance with the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act (44 U.S.C. 3572) and other applicable Federal laws, your responses will not be disclosed in identifiable form without your informed consent. Per the Cybersecurity Act of 2015, Federal information systems are protected from malicious activities through cybersecurity screening of transmitted data.

BLS policy on the confidential nature of respondent identifiable information (RII) states that “RII acquired or maintained by the BLS for exclusively statistical purposes and under a pledge of confidentiality shall be treated in a manner that ensures the information will be used only for statistical purposes and will be accessible only to authorized individuals with a need-to-know.”

The partner state agencies adhere to this policy and with any confidentiality provisions that the source agencies such as the vital statistics agency, workers' compensation agency, and other organizations that supply information may require. Documents supplied by these agencies are maintained by state partners. The BLS does not have access to these documents.

Starting with the reference year 2019, CFOI modernized its disclosure methodology further strengthening its protection of confidential data. As a result of these necessary protections there are fewer publishable counts in CFOI. Disclosure protection is always an ongoing balance between protecting confidential data from disclosure and providing useful data to users. The BLS continues to research potential future improvements to disclosure protection methods to maximize the amount of publishable data while ensuring data confidentiality.

Those requesting access to confidential CFOI data either in person, at a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC), or via the Virtual Data Enclave (VDE) must complete BLS confidentiality training (annually) and sign a letter of agreement stating that they will comply with the BLS's confidentiality and computer security provisions. Some data elements on the research file are masked to further reduce the risk of identifying individual decedents or companies.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

No questions of a sensitive nature are asked on the CFOI follow-back form.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. General, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.**

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

The burden of providing information on fatal injuries falls on two primary groups: federal, state, local, and tribal government agencies that provide most source documents, and employers and individuals who states may request to fill out the follow-back questionnaires when additional information is required. Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies may also be requested to provide information in a follow-back questionnaire if the fatally injured person is a government employee. Because of the varying arrangements among the state, local, and tribal government agencies to provide fatality reports, the total number of source documents and follow-back questionnaires received is used for the number of responses. All burden hours and costs were calculated using five-year maximum values for reference year 2019-2023 data to best account for any possible fluctuation in the number of occupational fatalities.

The CFOI requires that two or more independent source documents be collected to substantiate work-relationship for each work-related fatality. When only one source document has been obtained for a fatality, the state agency may send a follow-back questionnaire (Attachment 2A) to a business or person named on one of the source documents. The follow-back questionnaire is used to substantiate work relationship or to obtain missing information.

Source agency burden

During the startup of the CFOI, the BLS provided a template (Attachment 2B) to state partners for use in setting up arrangements to obtain source documents from other agencies within the state. States occasionally use this template to confirm these arrangements—particularly during periods of staff turnover. Significant modifications to the letter are discussed with the BLS regional office beforehand. Some states use the fax form (Attachment 2C) to obtain a source document for a fatality that has been identified by another source.

From 2019 through 2023, an average of about 5,900 potentially work-related fatalities (injuries and illnesses combined) were identified by the state partners participating in the CFOI. Source agencies (including vital statistics agencies, workers' compensation agencies, and other state and federal regulatory agencies) provided on average about 15,000 source documents annually for reference years 2019-2023. This total excludes media reports and documents obtained from public websites, which the participating state partners collect themselves, and therefore do not result in public burden.

The burden to the government source agencies providing reports includes retrieving and reproducing the necessary documents. For state, local, and tribal agencies, we estimate an average of 10 minutes per document provided. For federal agencies providing electronic files, we estimate an average of 10 hours per year per agency or division providing these files. Note that some source agencies require a nominal fee to cover copying costs and some provide computerized files. The burden hours and associated costs shown should, therefore, be considered a maximum estimate.

Burden to follow-back respondents

The follow-back questionnaire (BLS CFOI-1) is used to determine whether fatalities identified by only one source document are work-related or to gather additional information about the

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

fatality. About 3 percent of work-related fatalities need a follow-back questionnaire. Some cases require that a follow-back questionnaire be sent to more than one respondent. Based on previous years' counts, the total number of questionnaires for all respondents combined is estimated to be about 205 annually.

The BLS CFOI-1 has been designed so that only those sections pertinent to the respondent will be completed. The respondent completes only those questions relating to data that the state is missing. Therefore, the respondent burden may vary between 10 and 30 minutes, depending upon the information requested. The burden average is 20 minutes.

a. Federal Government

Source document administrative data

Number of respondents: In response to the letter requesting source documents, seven federal agencies or divisions currently provide data files containing fatality reports to the CFOI for fatalities that occur under the agency's jurisdiction. (BLS and state agencies access reports from an additional six federal agencies through their websites.)

Number of responses: One federal agency provides a file each calendar quarter as well as one annual file (totaling five data files per year) while the other agencies each provide a single annual file (totaling six data files per year)—for a grand total of 11 data files (or federal responses) each year.

Time and cost burden: The federal agencies providing data files to the BLS do so by extracting the pertinent records from their administrative database and sending the information to BLS. We estimate that this takes on average 10 hours per agency or division per year—resulting in a total burden of 70 hours a year. We also estimate that the typical federal employee performing this work to be a GS 12/1 ([locality rate for Washington-Baltimore-NVA](#)), with a total compensation rate of \$62.31 per hour in 2024. Total compensation rate was calculated using the hourly wage rate of \$47.53 plus the all civilian workers total benefits of 31.1% ([National Compensation Survey, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation –September 2024, Table 2](#)) to account for employer-paid benefits. The total annual cost burden for all federal agencies submitting these files is estimated to be \$4,362 (70 hours x \$62.31).

BLS CFOI-1

Number of respondents: Each year, about 2 federal agencies respond to the CFOI follow-back questionnaire pertaining to a fatally injured employee of the agency.

Number of responses: Each agency typically responds to one questionnaire per year, for a total of 2 federal agency responses to the CFOI-1.

Time and cost burden: We estimate the federal agency burden to respond to the follow-back questionnaire to be approximately 40 minutes (2 x 20 minutes). We estimate that the typical federal employee performing this work to be a GS 12/1, with a total compensation rate of \$62.31 per hour. Total compensation rate was calculated using the hourly wage rate of \$47.53 plus

31.1% to account for employer-paid benefits. The cost burden is therefore \$41.54 (40 minutes x \$62.31).

b. Individuals or Households

Participating state partners are instructed to pursue other avenues for obtaining the necessary information before contacting individuals or households. If these attempts fail, the state sends a follow-back questionnaire to one of the individuals listed on the source document(s) that has been received. (Some states have policies against contacting the next-of-kin or other individuals and so do not conduct these follow-backs.) Individuals and households respond to an estimated 33 follow-back questionnaires annually. The burden hours for this response are estimated to be approximately 11 hours (33 x 20 minutes), and the cost burden is estimated to be \$515 annually. This estimate is based on a total compensation rate of \$46.84 per hour, which is the average hourly total compensation rate for all civilian workers ([National Compensation Survey, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation – September 2024, Table 1](#)).

c. Private Sector

Private sector employers (including businesses, nonprofit institutions, and farms) respond to an estimated 150 follow-back questionnaires annually. The burden hours for this response are estimated to be about 50 hours (150 x 20 minutes), and the cost burden is estimated to be \$3,419 annually. This estimate is based on a total compensation rate of \$68.37 per hour, which is the average hourly total compensation rate for all professional and related workers in private industry ([National Compensation Survey, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation – September 2024, Table 4](#)).

d. State, Local, or Tribal Governments

State, local, and tribal government agencies provide source documents for potentially work-related fatalities to the CFI. Some agencies require a nominal fee to cover copying costs and some provide electronic files. Because these arrangements vary from state to state, it is difficult to adjust the burden estimates for reports sent electronically as was done for reports submitted by the federal agencies. The burden hours and associated costs shown should, therefore, be considered a maximum estimate.

Source document administrative data

Number of respondents: There are approximately 220 state, local, and tribal government agencies providing the CFI with source documents (55 states/cities/territories x an average 4 source agencies per state).

Number of responses: State, local, and tribal government agencies provide an estimated 15,856 source documents.

Annual time and cost burden: A total of 220 state, local, and tribal government agencies actively provide an estimated 15,856 source documents to the CFI, resulting in a burden of 2,643 hours

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

a year (15,856 x 10 minutes), for which the cost burden is estimated to be \$117,006 annually. This estimate is based on a total compensation rate of \$44.27 per hour, which is the average hourly total compensation for all office and administrative workers in state and local government ([National Compensation Survey, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation – September 2024, Table 3](#)).

BLS CFOI-1

Number of respondents: We estimate 20 follow-back questionnaires completed by state, local, or tribal government agencies for fatally injured employees.

Number of responses: We estimate 20 responses to the follow-back questionnaires completed by state, local, or tribal government agencies for fatally injured employees.

Annual time and cost burden: State, local, and tribal government agencies undergo an estimated burden of roughly 7 hours (20 x 20 minutes) to respond to the follow-back questionnaires, for which the cost burden is estimated to be \$507 annually. This estimate is based on a total compensation rate of \$72.47 per hour, which is the average hourly total compensation rate for all professional and related workers in state and local government ([National Compensation Survey, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation – September 2024, Table 3](#)).

e. Information Collection Request (ICR) Summary of Burden

The following tables summarize the estimated annual burden for the various types of submission and types of respondents. Burden estimates may not sum exactly due to rounding.

Total burden by document type							
Type of document	No. of respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Average Burden (Hours)	Total Burden (Hours)	Hourly Wage Rate	Total Burden Cost
TOTAL Form BLS CFOI-1	205	1	205	20 minutes per document	69	Var.	\$ 4,458
TOTAL Source documents	227	70	15,867	10 minutes per document	2,713	Var.	\$ 121,353
TOTAL	432		16,072		2,782		\$ 125,811

Total burden by respondent type							
Type of respondent	No. of respondents	No. of Responses per Respondent	Total Responses	Average Burden (Hours)	Total Burden (Hours)	Hourly Wage Rate	Total Burden Cost
Federal government -Form BLS CFOI-	2	1	2	20 minutes per document	.66	\$62.31	\$ 41

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

1							
Federal government -Source documents	7	2	11	10 hours per agency per year	70	\$62.31	\$ 4,362
TOTAL Federal government	9		13		70.66		\$ 4,403
Individuals & households -Form BLS CFOI-1	33	1	33	20 minutes per document	11	\$46.84	\$ 515
TOTAL Individuals & households	33		33		11		\$ 515
Private sector -Form BLS CFOI-1	150	1	150	20 minutes per document	50	\$68.37	\$ 3,419
TOTAL Private Sector	150		150		50		\$ 3,419
State, local, and tribal governments -Form BLS CFOI-1	20	1	20	20 minutes per document	7	\$72.47	\$ 507
State, local, and tribal governments -Source documents	220	72	15,856	10 minutes per document	2,643	\$44.27	\$ 117,006
TOTAL State, local, and tribal governments	240		15,876		2,650		\$ 117,513
TOTAL	432		16,072		2,782		\$ 125,850

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of service component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries

OMB Control Number: 1220-0133

OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025

- If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.

- Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.

There are no additional costs to respondents or record keepers resulting from the information collection.

14. Provide estimates of the annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 into a single table.

Collection costs for the CFOI are funded on a 50/50 federal-state matching basis. The federal share of collection costs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 is \$2 million, an amount that is being matched by participating states. An additional \$3 million in FY 2025 non-collection expenses is being incurred by the BLS, for the purpose of providing and maintaining the computers, telecommunications capacity, and software needed to capture the data, as well as retaining the staff who refine the scope of the fatality census, maintain data quality standards, produce and distribute counts and rates to the states, and publish the national data.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Burden and cost estimates are based on the maximum value over the five-year period from 2019-2023 data to account for any additional increase in future years. The overall increase in burden hours from 2,760 to 2,782 reflects an overall increase in the number of fatal occupational injuries during this period, which resulted in more follow-back questionnaires received.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulations, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

Data collection for each reference year begins January 1 and continues through November of the following year. State partners enter and code the data, with exception of one state for which data are collected and coded by BLS national office staff. The BLS reviews the coding and data to validate the accuracy of state data collection. Approximately twelve months after the end of the reference period, the BLS combines data from all 50 states, New York City, and the District of Columbia, generates various tabulations, and publishes reference year data for the entire nation and individual states.

BLS products of the CFOI include:

- An annual news release and various related tables
- Research articles on special topics published in national publications
- The CFOI limited-access research file (updated annually).

State partners also publish CFOI data in various formats like those listed above. Published data are distributed to individuals attending various state and national safety conferences, those requesting a specific publication, and those included on the CFOI mailing list. News releases, charts, tabulations (both BLS- and user-generated), and research articles are available through the BLS website. An electronic data retrieval tool called Online Profiles is also available to users on the BLS website. This system generates national and state profiles and publication tables of fatal work-related injuries based on user selections.

In addition to published tables, the BLS and participating state partners produce various data aggregations to fulfill data requests. In 2024, the BLS national office alone responded to approximately 88 requests for published and unpublished CFOI data. This figure excludes requests received by the BLS regional offices and state partners.

Each year, the CFOI creates a complete file of all work-related fatal injuries and makes most of this file available, upon written request and for statistical use only, to universities and safety and health organizations that conduct research on workplace injury. Data are masked to the extent possible to protect confidentiality of data sources without losing the details needed for research. State codes and personal identifiers have been removed from the file so that individual cases cannot be matched to other data sources.

The NIOSH currently has approximately 4 staff members registered to use the CFOI Research File. NIOSH has requested continuous age variable in addition to those available on the regular Research File for their use in conducting state-specific research and developing prevention programs. BLS partners have agreed that the additional information could be provided to NIOSH for meeting NIOSH's education and research mission. To safeguard against unauthorized use of the file, each research organization, as well as all authorized researchers, requesting the file must complete BLS confidentiality training (annually) and agree in writing to adhere to the BLS confidentiality policy. (See Attachment 1B for a list of data elements made available to researchers.)

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

The CFOI requests permission to continue to not display the expiration date on the BLS CFOI-1. This will allow the forms to be used in subsequent years and save printing costs and personnel time.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries
OMB Control Number: 1220-0133
OMB Expiration Date: 12/31/2025