

## Production Estimate

### OMB Control Number 1028-0065 (2 forms)

#### Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

The agency should be prepared to justify its decision not to use statistical methods in any case where such methods might reduce burden or improve accuracy of results. When the question “Does this ICR contain surveys, censuses, or employ statistical methods?” is checked "Yes," the following documentation should be included in Supporting Statement B to the extent that it applies to the methods proposed:

- Describe (including a numerical estimate) the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection method to be used. Data on the number of entities (e.g., establishments, State and local government units, households, or persons) in the universe covered by the collection and in the corresponding sample are to be provided in tabular form for the universe as a whole and for each of the strata in the proposed sample. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.**

The two canvass forms in this **Information Collection Request** (ICR) are conducted as a complete census. No sampling is performed. The total universe is approximately 1,100 respondents that are business or other for-profit institutions (Table 1 below). The sources used to develop the census are industry directories (such as the annual Skillings North American Mining Directory) and trade periodicals (such as American Metal Market, Platt’s Metal Week, Metal Bulletin, North American Sulfur Services, and Ryan’s Notes), and **U.S. Geological Survey** (USGS) minerals commodity specialists’ direct contacts with industry specialists. Once a year, minerals commodity specialists update the census.

Table 1. Consolidated estimates of annual burden (private sector) <sup>1</sup>

			PRIVATE SECTOR			
	Form No.	Frequency	Number of Potential Respondents	Potential Responses	Completion Time	Burden Hours
1	9-4042-A	Annually	357	357	15 min	89
2	9-4124-A	Annually	743	743	15 min	186
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>1,100</b>	<b>275</b>		<b>1,069</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 100% response rate. Actual response rate is lower.

An estimate of the response rate is irrelevant to these canvasses because they are solicitations of

opinion that requests a “best-guess” opinion about the “state of the establishment.” These canvasses are one-page annual forms that ask for an establishment’s estimate of a commodity’s annual production, quantity, value, sales, and volume.

**2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information including:**

- \* **Statistical methodology for stratification and sample selection,**
- \* **Estimation procedure,**
- \* **Degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification,**
- \* **Unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and**
- \* **Any use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.**

These canvasses do not employ sampling techniques. An annual canvass form is sent to each establishment in the sampling frame requesting a “state of the establishment” estimate of a commodity’s annual production, quantity, value, sales, and volume. If an establishment does not respond to the canvass, there is no estimate for non-response. No calls are made by minerals commodity specialists or statistical assistants to increase response rates.

**3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and to deal with issues of non-response. The accuracy and reliability of information collected must be shown to be adequate for intended uses. For collections based on sampling, a special justification must be provided for any collection that will not yield "reliable" data that can be generalized to the universe studied.**

These canvasses are solicitations of opinion that request a “state of the establishment” estimate of a commodity’s annual production, quantity, value, sales, and volume. If an establishment does not respond to the canvass, there is no estimate for non-response. No calls are made by minerals commodity specialists or statistical assistants to increase response rates.

**4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken. Testing is encouraged as an effective means of refining collections of information to minimize burden and improve utility. Tests must be approved if they call for answers to identical questions from 10 or more respondents. A proposed test or set of tests may be submitted for approval separately or in combination with the main collection of information.**

Many of the USGS’ information customers are also businesses that respond to the canvasses in this ICR. USGS minerals commodity specialists are in frequent contact with companies by way of industry associations and conferences (for example, the National Mining Association, the National Lime Association, Inc., the Gypsum Association, Inc., the Aluminum Association, Inc., the Portland Cement Association, Inc., the **International Copper Study Group (ICSG)**, and the **International Lead and Zinc Study Group (ILZSG)**; the USGS copper commodity specialist serves as the ICSG’s statistical chair, and USGS specialists participate in ILZSG’s Fall and Spring meetings; the USGS attends The Fertilizer Institute’s annual outlook meeting and the USGS participates in The Sulfur Institute’s market study group). The information exchanged with these industry associations and at conferences includes trade, consumption, and production statistics, as well as information on technology developments within the particular industry.

Informal communications during periodic contacts with our customers allow us to determine if the published canvass data are meeting their needs. Any feedback concerning this **Information Collection (IC)** discussed during these communications or non-response follow-up telephone contacts is used as suggestions that might facilitate clarification or ease respondent burden. Respondents are also encouraged to submit comments via a feedback link on the Web at <https://mids.er.usgs.gov/Feedback>. An annual letter is sent to our voluntary canvass respondents thanking them for their support and encouraging them to view our data products. At present, no formal tests are in process that would require clearance.

**5. Provide the names and telephone numbers of individuals consulted on statistical aspects of the design and the name of the agency unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) who will actually collect and/or analyze the information for the agency.**

For further information concerning this information collection, please contact:

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