

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Census Bureau****Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) Survey****AGENCY:** Census Bureau, Commerce.**ACTION:** Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) survey, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before September 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov. Please reference the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC-2026-0265, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Carol Aristone, Assistant Division Chief,

Economic Indicators Division, (301) 763-7062, carol.ann.aristone@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to request an extension of the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance of the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) survey. The M3 survey requests data monthly from domestic manufacturers on form M-3 (SD). Data requested are shipments, new orders, unfilled orders, total inventory, materials and supplies, work-in-process, and finished goods.

The M3 survey is designed to measure current industrial activity and to provide an indication of future production commitments. The value of shipments measures the value of goods delivered during the month by domestic manufacturers. Estimates of new orders serve as an indicator of future production commitments and represent the current sales value of new orders received during the month, net of cancellations. Substantial accumulation or depletion of unfilled orders measures excess or deficient demand for manufactured products. The level of inventories, especially in relation to shipments, is frequently used to monitor the business cycle, by calculating the inventories to sales ratio. In general, a low ratio indicates strong shipments. A high ratio indicates weaker shipments or accumulation of inventories in stock.

In October 2021, we accelerated total manufacturing and the nondurable manufacturing aggregate estimates to the same time as the Advance Report on Durable Goods Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders by creating an advance high-level report of total manufacturing. This exception to the normal procedure was initially approved by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in September 2021 and was extended annually through means of a separately submitted memo. In 2024, the Census Bureau requested and OMB approved the provisions for the early release of total manufacturing shipments, inventories and orders to be included in the clearance, thereby eliminating the need for a separate annual re-approval from OMB for the early release. This early data has permitted the public release of preliminary monthly data on shipments and inventories of total manufacturing under the provisions of the OMB's Statistical Policy Directive No. 3 on the Compilation, Release, and Evaluation of Principal Federal Economic Indicators. Currently, the Advance Report on

Durable Goods is available approximately 18 working days after each month, with the full report available approximately 23 working days after each month. Accelerating the nondurable release provides data users with early access to total manufacturing estimates ahead of the full report, giving them an early snapshot of the direction of this critical indicator. In 2024, we included additional nondurable goods industry level data. In July 2024, advance data included petroleum and coal products shipments and inventories, and in October 2024, estimates included the addition of the food products and chemical products early shipments and inventories from the monthly Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) Survey. Additionally, in July 2025, the Advance Total Manufacturing publication included detailed shipments and inventories data for all nondurable industries, to provide more detail estimates at the advance time.

II. Method of Collection

We collect the data primarily by internet. Respondents are initially contacted by email, with a small subset receiving a letter by mail. Paper collection has been phased out since January 2026. Respondents may submit their data via the internet or email. We send emails and make telephone calls to respondents to remind them to report on time.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607-0008.

Form Number(s): M-3 (SD).

Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.

Affected Public: Manufacturing Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 5,000 respondents filing a total of 60,000 reports per year.

Estimated Time per Response: 20 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 20,000.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0. (This is not the cost of respondents' time, but the indirect costs respondents may incur for such things as purchases of specialized software or hardware needed to report, or expenditures for accounting or records maintenance services required specifically by the collection.)

Respondent's Obligation: Voluntary.

Legal Authority: Title 13 U.S.C. 131, 182, and 193.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include, or summarize, each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Compliance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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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; Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites 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. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions, prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before September 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov. Please reference Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC–2026–0298, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change. All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed William Abriatis, U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Indicators Division, (301) 763–3686, or william.m.abriatis@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to request a three-year extension of the current Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance of the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales and Completions, also known as the Survey of Construction (SOC). The SOC is co-sponsored by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The SOC collects monthly data on new residential construction from a sample of owners or builders. The Census Bureau uses the Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) electronic questionnaires SOC–QI/SF.1 and SOC–QI/MF.1 to collect data on start and completion dates of construction, physical characteristics of the structure (floor area, number of bathrooms, type of heating system, etc.), and if

applicable, date of sale, sales price, and type of financing. The SOC provides widely used measures of construction activity, including the economic indicators Housing Starts and Housing Completions, which are from the New Residential Construction series, and New Residential Sales. The current clearance for this survey is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2027.

We sample approximately 1,613 new buildings each month (approximately 19,353 per year). We inquire about the progress of each building multiple times until it is completed (and a sales contract is signed, if it is a single-family house that is built for sale). For single-family buildings, we conduct an average of 9.6 interviews and for multifamily buildings, we conduct an average of 8.5 interviews. The total number of interviews conducted from 2023 through 2025 was averaged and for single-family buildings is approximately 120,312 and for multifamily buildings is about 57,390. Each interview takes 5 minutes on average. Therefore, the total annual burden is 14,809 hours. Compared to the period 2020–2022, sampled construction projects are taking longer to start, complete, and sell. Since projects are interviewed until the project is completed or sold for the single-family for sale category, this is leaving projects in sample for longer resulting in a higher average interview amount for 2023–2025. While the amount of sampled projects has decreased, the average interviews per case increasing results in a modest increase in total annual burden for this collection.

II. Method of Collection

The Census Bureau uses its field representatives to collect the data. The field representatives conduct interviews to obtain data.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0110.
Form Number(s): SOC–QI.SF.1 and SOC–QI/MF.1.

Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of a Currently Approved Collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: We sample 19,353 new buildings each year. This results in an estimated 177,702 interviews per year.

Estimated Time per Response: 5 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 14,809.