

oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time on October 2, 2026. Written public comments will be accepted by 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time on October 2, 2026. Comments submitted after this date will be provided by the Forest Service to the committee, but the committee may not have adequate time to consider those comments prior to the meeting.

All RAC meetings are subject to cancellation. For status of the meeting prior to attendance, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**ADDRESSES:** This meeting will be held at the Watersmeet District Office, located at E23979 US 2 East, Watersmeet, Michigan 49969, and virtually via telephone and/or video conference. Members of the public may participate in the meeting by joining virtually via videoconference at: Microsoft Teams/ Meeting ID: 248 770 518 250 58, Passcode: 4XT35Bs9 or dial in by phone +1 (202) 650-0123, passcode# United States, Washington; Phone conference ID: 892 777 239#. Committee information and meeting details can be found at the following website <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r09/ottawa/working-with-us/committees> or by contacting the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

**Written Comments:** Written comments must be sent by email to [ian.shackelford@usda.gov](mailto:ian.shackelford@usda.gov) or via mail (postmarked) to Ian Shackelford, Ottawa National Forest RAC Coordinator, E6248 US 2, Ironwood, Michigan 49938. The Forest Service strongly prefers comments to be submitted electronically.

**Oral Comments:** Persons or organizations wishing to make oral comments must pre-register by 11:59 p.m. Central Daylight Time, October 2, 2026, and speakers can only register for one speaking slot. Oral comments must be sent by email to [ian.shackelford@usda.gov](mailto:ian.shackelford@usda.gov) or via mail (postmarked) to Ian Shackelford, Ottawa NF RAC Coordinator, E6248 US 2, Ironwood, Michigan, 49938.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Trevor Hahka, Designated Federal Officer (DFO), (906) 932-1330, [trevor.hahka@usda.gov](mailto:trevor.hahka@usda.gov) or Ian Shackelford, RAC Coordinator, (906) 285-6911, [ian.shackelford@usda.gov](mailto:ian.shackelford@usda.gov). Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the hearing-impaired may call 711 to reach the Telecommunications Relay Service, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Review project proposals.
2. Recommend funding for projects.

Please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, by or before the deadline, for all questions related to the meeting. All comments, including names and addresses when provided, are placed in the record and are available for public inspection and copying. The public may inspect comments received upon request.

**Meeting Accommodations:** If you are a person requiring reasonable accommodation, please make a request in advance for sign language interpreting, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodation. For access to proceedings, please contact the person listed in the section titled **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

Equal opportunity practices, in accordance with USDA policies, will be followed in all membership appointments to the Committee.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, 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.

Dated: August 24, 2026.

**Cikena Reid,**

*USDA Committee Management Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3411-15-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; Business Trends and Outlook 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 December 18, 2024 (89 FR, pg. 102854-102855) during a 60-day comment period and March 31, 2025 (90 FR, pg. 14229-14231) during a 30-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

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

**Title:** Business Trends and Outlook Survey.

**OMB Control Number:** 0607-1022.

**Form Number(s):** This online survey has no form number.

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

**Number of Responses:** 396,000 (Cycles 1, 3, and 4) and 132,000 (Cycle 2).

**Average Hours per Response:** 10 minutes (Cycles 1, 3, and 4), 20 (Cycle 2).

**Burden Hours:** 110,000.

**Needs and Uses:** The mission of the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) is to serve as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy; to fulfill this mission, it is necessary to innovate to produce more detailed, more frequent, and more timely data products. The Coronavirus pandemic was an impetus for the creation of new data products by the Census Bureau to measure the pandemic's impact on the economy: the Small Business Pulse Survey (SBPS) and the weekly Business Formation Statistics. Policymakers and other federal agency officials, media outlets, and academia commended the Census Bureau's rapid response to their data needs during the largest economic crisis in recent American history. The Census Bureau capitalized on the successes that underlaid the high frequency data collection and near real time data dissemination engineered for the SBPS by creating the Business Trends and Outlook Survey (BTOS).

BTOS uses ongoing data collection to produce high frequency, timely, and granular information about current economic conditions and trends. BTOS is the only biweekly business tendency survey produced by the federal statistical system, providing unique and detailed data (including during times of economic or other emergencies). The

BTOS target population is all nonfarm employer businesses with receipts of \$1,000 or more in the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The current sample consists of approximately 1.2 million businesses split into six panels. Data collection occurs every two weeks, and businesses in each panel are asked to report once every 12 weeks for one year. Current BTOS data are representative of all employer businesses (excluding farms) in the U.S. economy and are published every two weeks. The data are available at the national and state levels, in addition to the 25 most-populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) sector, subsector, and state by sector are also published, as are employment size class, and sector by employment size class data, according to the same timeline.

Data from BTOS are currently used to provide timely data to understand the economic conditions being experienced by businesses; BTOS provides near real time data on key items such as revenue, paid employees, interest rates, and prices. A new sample collection is conducted each year.

BTOS also provides high level information on the changing share of businesses facing difficulties stemming from supply chain issues, interest rate changes, or weather events. Previously, there had been few data sources available to policymakers, media outlets, and academia that delivered near real-time insights into economic trends and outlooks. BTOS data has been used by the Small Business Administration to evaluate the impact of regulatory changes.

In the approved OMB package for BTOS, the Census Bureau proposed an incremental path to reach the full scope of BTOS. The first scope expansion proposed adding multi-unit businesses (those with more than one location or establishment) to BTOS. BTOS was limited in scope to include only single-unit businesses. Despite comprising a relatively small share of the total number of businesses, multi-unit (MU) businesses are responsible for most of the employment, payroll, and revenue/sales in the United States and contribute disproportionately to economic activity. In addition, MU businesses are on average larger than single-unit businesses. Adding these businesses helped ensure BTOS results are representative of the full economy. The Census Bureau proposes an incremental path to the final scope of BTOS to learn at each implemented stage and to allow for modifications based on lessons

learned or internal/external stakeholder feedback in prior iterations.

For the first year of BTOS, the content remained unchanged at 26 questions. For the second year, the Census Bureau moved to a set of core questions and supplemental content. Core content includes measures of economic activity that are broadly applicable across non-farm sectors and are important across the business cycle and during economic or other emergencies. Core content is also complementary to key items found on other economic surveys, such as revenues, employees, hours, and inventories. Core items may also include concepts that may become core topics, such as the artificial intelligence questions that started in the second year.

Supplemental content is added to the BTOS instrument as needed and on a periodic basis. It will be designed to provide urgently needed data on an emerging or current issue. The supplement will include a set of questions that perform a deeper dive into a focused topic that requires timely data. On average, the Census Bureau estimates the supplemental questions will impose an additional 10 minutes of burden.

Consideration for core and supplemental concepts will be based on data consistency, how the questions performed on the current BTOS, the results of cognitive testing, stakeholder feedback, and the ability to collect complementary items on monthly, quarterly, annual, or census programs to provide context and benchmarking.

For future changes, the Census Bureau will submit a request to OMB including 30 days of public comment announced in the **Federal Register** to receive approval to make any substantive revisions to the content or methods of the proposed survey, including incremental scope changes. It is likely new supplemental content will be chosen for each year and an updated instrument will be submitted to OMB for review along with a 30-day **Federal Register** Notice.

This submission seeks an amendment to OMB approval for three requests. First, the Census Bureau requests approval to repeat the artificial intelligence (AI) supplement with minor content changes. Cognitive testing of these changes has been conducted. We are submitting with this request the proposed AI supplemental questions. Second, the Bureau requests approval to add a new core question about business uncertainty. This new question has also been cognitively tested ahead of submission. Last, the Bureau is requesting approval to add three core

questions. Two of these questions (Generative AI usage and the impact of AI on the total number of employees) are being moved from the AI supplement, and the third is a new question about the impact of AI on new employees, conceptually expanding on the others. The new question has undergone cognitive testing to determine the finalized wording. To minimize respondent burden, the Bureau will employ skip logic for these questions, only asking them of businesses that report AI usage. The Bureau is also exploring ways to collect and publish data from the AI supplement at a frequency more often than annual, but less often than bi-weekly. This is in response to feedback from a variety of stakeholders, and the need to paint a comprehensive picture of the impacts of a swiftly emerging technology. Evaluation of the respondent burden and methodological impacts are ongoing. As part of this process, the Bureau is also looking to evaluate other AI-related topics that may be appropriate for BTOS.

Based on cognitive testing results, the burden estimate for the core questions is no more than 10 minutes. The AI supplements in sample years 2 and 4 added an additional 10 minutes of burden. The new AI supplement is estimated not to change the burden listed above.

*Frequency:* Bi-weekly.

*Respondent's Obligation:* Voluntary.

*Legal Authority:* Title 13 U.S.C., Sections 131 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 either the title of the collection or the OMB Control Number 0607–1022.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

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

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