



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

**Proposed collection, comment request**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the "Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey." A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the Addresses section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section below on or before **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Erin Good, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20212, telephone number 202-691-7628. (This is not a toll free number.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Erin Good, BLS Clearance Officer, telephone number 202-691-7628. (See Addresses section.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

The Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) collects data on job vacancies, labor hires, and labor separations. As the monthly JOLTS time series grow longer, their value in assessing the business cycle, the difficulty that employers have in hiring workers, and the extent of the mismatch between the unused supply of available workers and the unmet demand for labor by employers will increase. The study of the complex relationship between job openings and unemployment is of particular interest to researchers. While these two measures are expected to move in opposite directions over the course of the business cycle, their relative levels and movements depend on the efficiency of the labor market in matching workers and jobs.

Along with the job openings rate, trends in hires and separations may broadly identify which aggregate industries face

the tightest labor markets. The quits rate, the number of persons who quit during an entire month as a percentage of total employment, may provide clues about workers' views of the labor market or their success in finding better jobs. In addition, businesses will be able to compare their own turnover rates to the national, regional, and major industry division rates.

The BLS uses the JOLTS form to gather employment, job openings, hires, and total separations from business establishments. The information is collected once a month at the BLS Data Collection Center (DCC) in Atlanta, Georgia. The information is collected using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI), Web, email, and FAX. An establishment is in the sample for 36 consecutive months.

## **II. Current Action**

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for the JOLTS. The BLS is requesting a revision to the existing clearance for the JOLTS. JOLTS is extending time respondents remain in the sample from 24 to 36 months. This will cause an estimated 9.2% increase in burden costs resulting from an increase in the sample from 16,000 to 20,700 (30% increase).

## **III. Desired Focus of Comments**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.

*Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.

*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.

*Title:* Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey.

*OMB Number:* 1220-0170.

*Affected Public:* Federal Government; State, Local, or Tribal governments; Businesses or other for-profit; Not-for-profit institutions; Small businesses and organizations.

Affected Public	Total Respondents	Frequency	Total Responses	Average Time per Response	Estimated Total Burden
Private	9,637	Monthly	115,643	10 min.	19,274
State, Local, & Tribal Gov't	1,512	Monthly	18,149	10 min.	3,025
Federal Gov't	532	Monthly	6,379	10 min.	1,063
TOTALS	11,681	Monthly	140,171	10 min.	23,362

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup): \$0.*

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance): \$0.*

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on July 25, 2019.

**Mark Staniorski,**

*Chief,*

*Division of Management Systems,*

*Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

4510-24-P

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