



FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

AGENCY: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

ACTION: Notice, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (Board) invites comment on a proposal to extend for three years, without revision, the Payments Research Survey (FR 3067; OMB No. 7100-0355).

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by *FR 3067*, by any of the following methods:

- Agency Website: <https://www.federalreserve.gov/>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/foia/proposedregs.aspx>.
- E-mail: regs.comments@federalreserve.gov. Include the OMB number in the subject line of the message.
- FAX: (202) 452-3819 or (202) 452-3102.
- Mail: Ann E. Misback, Secretary, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 20th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20551.

All public comments are available from the Board's website at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/foia/proposedregs.aspx> as submitted, unless modified for technical reasons or to remove personally identifiable information at the commenter's request. Accordingly, comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. Public comments may also be viewed electronically or in paper in Room 146, 1709 New York

Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. For security reasons, the Board requires that visitors make an appointment to inspect comments.

You may do so by calling (202) 452-3684. Upon arrival, visitors will be required to present valid government-issued photo identification and to submit to security screening in order to inspect and photocopy comments.

Additionally, commenters may send a copy of their comments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Desk Officer – Shagufta Ahmed – Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, New Executive Office Building, Room 10235, 725 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, or by fax to (202) 395-6974.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) OMB submission, including the reporting form and instructions, supporting statement, and other documentation will be placed into OMB’s public docket files, if approved. These documents will also be made available on the Board’s public website at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/apps/reportforms/review.aspx> or may be requested from the agency clearance officer, whose name appears below. Federal Reserve Board Clearance Officer – Nuha Elmaghrabi – Office of the Chief Data Officer, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington, DC 20551, (202) 452-3829.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 15, 1984, OMB delegated to the Board authority under the PRA to approve and assign OMB control numbers to collections of information conducted or sponsored by the Board. In exercising this delegated authority, the Board is directed to take every reasonable step to solicit comment. In determining whether to approve a collection of information, the Board will consider all comments received from the public and other agencies.

Request for Comment on Information Collection Proposal

The Board invites public comment on the following information collection, which is being reviewed under authority delegated by the OMB under the PRA. Comments are invited on the following:

- a. Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the Board's functions, including whether the information has practical utility;
- b. The accuracy of the Board's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- c. Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;
- d. Ways to minimize the burden of information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and
- e. Estimates of capital or startup costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

At the end of the comment period, the comments and recommendations received will be analyzed to determine the extent to which the Board should modify the proposal.

Proposal under OMB Delegated Authority to Extend for Three Years, Without Revision, the Following Information Collection:

Report title: Payments Research Survey.

Agency form number: FR 3067.

OMB control number: 7100-0355.

Frequency: As needed.

Respondents: Private sector, individuals or households, and state and local governments.

Estimated number of respondents: Private sector: 4,300; individuals or households: 5,500; state and local governments: 200.

Estimated average hours per response: Private sector: 1.5; individuals or households: 1.5; state and local governments: 1.5.

Estimated annual burden hours: Private sector: 12,900; individuals or households: 16,500; state and local governments: 600; total: 30,000.

General description of report: The Board uses this collection to obtain information, as needed, on specific and time sensitive issues related to payments research. Respondents may comprise depository institutions, financial and nonfinancial businesses, for profit and nonprofit enterprises, federal, state, and local governments, individual consumers, or households. The Board may conduct various surveys under this collection, as needed. The frequency and content of the questions depend on changing economic, regulatory, supervisory, or legislative developments.

Legal authorization and confidentiality: The legal framework for the collection of checks and other items by Reserve Banks and for funds transfers through Fedwire is provided by section 13 of the Federal Reserve Act (FRA),¹ section 16 of the FRA,² the Expedited Funds Availability Act,³ and the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act⁴. Within the Federal Reserve System, the Reserve Banks are generally the entities engaged in the payments system. The Board has broad authority to supervise the actions of Reserve Banks, provided by section 11 of the FRA.⁵ To successfully maintain the operation of the payments system, the Board must collect payments related data and information related to the performance of Reserve Banks involved in the payments system. The Federal Reserve System has a long history of conducting surveys,

¹ 12 U.S.C. 342.

² 12 U.S.C. 360.

³ 12 U.S.C. 4001-4010.

⁴ 12 U.S.C. 5001-5018.

⁵ 12 U.S.C. 248.

including surveys of supervised institutions and of outside parties. Accordingly, FR 3067 is authorized by sections 11, 13, and 16 of the FRA, as well as the Expedited Funds Availability Act and the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act. Depending on the survey respondent, the information collection may also be authorized under a specific statute. These statutes include:

- Section 809 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act,⁶
- Section 7 of the Bank Service Company Act,⁷ and
- Section 920 of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act.⁸

Survey submissions are voluntary.

While unlikely, individual respondents may request that information submitted to the Board through a survey under FR 3067 be kept confidential. If a respondent requests confidential treatment, the Board will determine whether the information is entitled to confidential treatment on a case-by-case basis. Information collected through these surveys may be kept confidential under exemption 4 for the Freedom of Information Act, which protects privileged or confidential commercial or financial information,⁹ or under FOIA exemption 6, which covers personal information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy.¹⁰

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, September 4, 2019.

Michele Taylor Fennell,
Assistant Secretary of the Board.

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⁶ 12 U.S.C. 5468.

⁷ 12 U.S.C. 1867.

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 1693o-2.

⁹ 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4).

¹⁰ 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

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