



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency

Agency Information Collection Activities: Information Collection Renewal;

Submission for OMB Review; Leveraged Lending

AGENCY: Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comment.

SUMMARY: The OCC, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites comment on a continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA). In accordance with the requirements of the PRA, the OCC may not conduct or sponsor, and the respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OCC is soliciting comment concerning the renewal of its information collection titled, “Leveraged Lending.” The OCC also is giving notice that it has sent the collection to OMB for review.

DATES: Comments must be received by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*.]

ADDRESSES: Commenters are encouraged to submit comments by e-mail, if possible.

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:* prainfo@occ.treas.gov.
- *Mail:* Chief Counsel’s Office, Attention: Comment Processing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Attention: 1557-0315, 400 7th Street, SW, Suite 3E-218, Washington, DC 20219.
- *Hand Delivery/Courier:* 400 7th Street, SW, Suite 3E-218, Washington, DC 20219.
- *Fax:* (571) 293-4835.

Instructions: You must include “OCC” as the agency name and “1557-0315” in your comment. In general, the OCC will publish comments on *www.reginfo.gov* without change, including any business or personal information provided, such as name and address information, e-mail addresses, or phone numbers. Comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not include any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should also be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to *www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain*. You can find this information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review – Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

You may review comments and other related materials that pertain to this information collection following the close of the 30-day comment period for this notice by the method set forth in the next bullet.

- Viewing Comments Electronically: Go to *www.reginfo.gov*. Hover over the “Information Collection Review” tab and click on “Information Collection Review” from the drop-down menu. From the “Currently under Review” drop-down menu, select “Department of Treasury” and then click “submit.” This information collection can be located by searching OMB control number “1557-0315” or “Leveraged Lending.” Upon finding the appropriate information collection, click on the related “ICR Reference Number.” On the next screen, select “View Supporting Statement and Other Documents” and then click on the link to any comment listed at the bottom of the screen.
- For assistance in navigating *www.reginfo.gov*, please contact the Regulatory Information Service Center at (202) 482-7340.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shaquita Merritt, Clearance Officer, (202) 649-5490, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), Federal agencies must obtain approval from the OMB for each collection of information that they conduct or sponsor. "Collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) to include agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. The OCC asks the OMB to extend its approval of the collection in this notice.

Title: Leveraged Lending.

OMB Control No.: 1557-0315.

Type of Review: Regular.

Affected Public: Businesses or other for-profit.

Description: On March 22, 2013, the agencies¹ issued guidance to the financial institutions they supervise² on how to evaluate and monitor credit risks in leveraged loans, understand the effect of changes in borrowers' enterprise values on credit portfolio quality, and assess the sensitivity of future credit losses to these changes in enterprise values.³ In regard to the underwriting of such credits, the guidance provides information for financial institutions to consider in assessing whether borrowers have the ability to repay credits when due and whether borrowers have sustainable capital structures, including bank borrowings and other debt, to support their continued operations through

¹ OCC, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

² For the OCC, the term "financial institution" or "institution" includes national banks, Federal savings associations, and Federal branches and agencies supervised by the OCC.

³ 78 FR 17766 (March 22, 2013).

economic cycles. The guidance also provides information to financial institutions on the risks and potential impact of stressful events and circumstances on a borrower's financial condition.

The final guidance recommends that financial institutions consider developing: (i) underwriting policies for leveraged lending, including stress-testing procedures for leveraged credits; (ii) risk management policies, including stress-testing procedures for pipeline exposures; and (iii) policies and procedures for incorporating the results of leveraged credit and pipeline stress tests into the firm's overall stress-testing framework. While not requirements, these recommended policies qualify as "collections of information" as defined in the PRA.

Respondents are financial institutions with leveraged lending activities as defined in the guidance that may develop policies recommended in the guidance.

Estimated Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 30.

Estimated Total Annual Burden: 50,812 hours.

Comments: The OCC issued a 60-day *Federal Register* notice on March 10, 2025, 90 FR 11651. The OCC received one comment from a bank. The commenter questioned the necessity and utility of the guidance related information collections. These information collections promote uniformity in the supervisory review of leveraged loans consistent with long-standing principles of commercial credit lending. The commenter also questioned the accuracy of the burden estimate. Because this information collection is voluntary, a bank can choose not to implement the information collection. Banks remain responsible, however, for sound risk management practices when engaging in leveraged lending activities, including commensurate risk management and controls. Any increase in underwriting burden is unrelated to PRA requirements and stems directly from the risk inherent to making loans to companies with significant leverage when repayment is

contingent upon realization of projections several years in the future. The commenter's additional statements, including those concerning the administrative process, are outside the scope of PRA requirements. However, the OCC may consider these comments in future actions, if any.

Comments continue to be invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the OCC, including whether the information has practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the OCC's estimate of the burden of the collection of information;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected;

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and

(e) Estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information.

Patrick T. Tierney,

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Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

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