

AEASat
**2018 Leave Supplement to the American Time Use Survey, Bureau of Labor
Statistics**
Public Comment Opportunity

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) proposes to publish the 2018 Leave Supplement to the [American Time Use Survey](#) (ATUS) as a public use data set to facilitate research on numerous topics, such as: Characteristics of people with paid and unpaid leave; occupations with the greatest and least access to paid leave; reasons workers are able to take leave from their jobs; how many workers have access to job flexibilities such as working from home and flexible hours, and the relationship between workers' time use and access to job flexibilities. The 2018 Leave Supplement instrument will be the same as that for 2017.

AEA members are encouraged to describe the value of the ATUS Leave Supplement for economic research; comment on the data collection instruments and methods; and suggest changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost.

Federal Register notice: [December 1, 2017](#) (includes instructions for submitting comments)

- [Information Collection Request](#) (ICR) submitted to OMB, including:
 - [Survey instrument](#)
 - [Supporting Statement](#)
- Due date: January 2, 2018
- More information: Rachel Krantz-Kent, Program Manager, American Time Use Survey, krantz-kent.rachel@bls.gov

Information on ICR Process:

- By law, each data collection carried out by a federal agency must be cleared by OMB. Through the *Federal Register* notice, BLS is announcing that it has submitted a request to OMB for clearance to conduct the 2018 ATUS Leave Supplement and offers the public a 30-day opportunity to submit comments to OMB.
- After the close of the 30-day comment period, OMB will make its decision.

Guidance on Preparing Comments:

- AEA members may comment on any aspect of the proposed data collection. Possible topics, for instance, include needs, uses, methodology, design, cost, schedule, and consultation with data users.
- AEA members may frame their comments on specific topics in any way, such as:
 - assessments – identifying what they do and do not like and support

- suggestions – for how BLS might proceed in this or future collections
- requests – for example, for a change in the design of the survey instrument, to be consulted in the future, to carry out research on an alternative approach
- observations – for example, implications of the sample size for statistical reliability
- AEA members may consider proposing that OMB incorporate a request in its “terms of clearance.” For instance, a member could suggest as a term of clearance that BLS research the efficacy of an alternative set of questions and report back to OMB in a year on the results.

For assistance in preparing comments, feel free to contact AEASat staff—Andrew Reamer (Research Professor, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University) at areamer@gwu.edu or (202) 994-7866.