

AEASat
Business Research & Development Survey (2017-2019), Census Bureau
Public Comment Opportunity

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation and fielded by the Census Bureau, the [Business Research & Development Survey](#) (BRDS) requests firms to provide data on global and domestic R&D expenses, R&D workforce, intellectual property, technology transfer activities and innovation. The Census Bureau invites the public to provide comments to OMB on the proposed continuation of the BRDS for the years 2017-19.

AEA members are invited to describe the value of the BRDS for economic research, including [uses by NCSSES](#); comment on proposed changes from the 2016 version (including removing four questions on innovation); and suggest additional changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost.

Federal Register notice: [December 6, 2017](#) (includes summary of proposed changes and instructions for submitting comments)

- [Information Collection Request](#) (ICR) submitted to OMB, including:
 - [Survey instruments](#)
 - [Supporting Statement](#)
 - Due date: January 8, 2018
 - More information: Michael Flaherty, Chief, Research, Development, and Innovation Surveys Branch, Economic Reimbursable Surveys Division, U.S. Census Bureau, (301) 763-7699, michael.j.flaherty@census.gov
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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, Census is announcing that it has submitted a request to OMB for clearance to conduct the BRDS for 2017-19 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, survey 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 Census 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 Census 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.