

AEASat
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Public Comment Opportunity

The [Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages](#) (QCEW) program produces monthly employment and quarterly wage information based on quarterly reports submitted to State Workforce Agencies by employers subject to State Unemployment Insurance laws. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) uses QCEW data as a sampling frame for establishment surveys; for publishing accurate current estimates of employment for the U.S., States, counties, and metropolitan areas; and for publishing quarterly census totals of local establishment counts, employment, and wages.

AEA members are encouraged to describe the value of the QCEW 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: Larry Huff, Chief, Statistical Methods Division, Office of Employment and Unemployment Statistics, 202-691-6362, Huff_L@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 QCEW Program 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.