

his or her information. Comments submitted through <http://www.regulations.gov> will not include the commenter's email address unless the commenter chooses to include that information as part of his or her comment. If you are unable to provide submissions by either of these means, please contact James Rude (202-693-4806) to arrange for an alternative method of submission.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. James Rude, Office of Trade and Labor Affairs, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room S-5303, Washington, DC 20210. Email: [Rude.James@DOL.Gov](mailto:Rude.James@DOL.Gov), Telephone: (202) 693-4806.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **1. Background Information**

During the legislative approval process for the CAFTA-DR, the Administration and the Congress reached an understanding on the need to support labor capacity-building efforts linked to recommendations identified in the "White Paper" of the Working Group of the Vice Ministers Responsible for Trade and Labor in the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic. Appropriations were made available from FY 2005 through 2013 to support labor capacity building efforts in CAFTA-DR countries. For more information, see the full text of the CAFTA-DR at <http://www.ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/cafta-dr-dominican-republic-central-america-fta/final-text> and the "White Paper" at [http://www.sice.oas.org/labor/White%20Paper\\_e.pdf](http://www.sice.oas.org/labor/White%20Paper_e.pdf).

In addition, in December 2006, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) published its procedural guidelines for the receipt and review of submissions under U.S. Free Trade Agreements, including the CAFTA-DR (71 FR 76691 Dec. 21, 2006). Subsequently, pursuant to CAFTA-DR Article 16.4.2, in November 2008, the United States and CAFTA-DR partner countries held the first Labor Affairs Council meeting in San Salvador, El Salvador. Since the CAFTA-DR came into force, USDOL's Office of Trade and Labor Affairs (OTLA) has received and accepted three submissions under the labor chapter of the CAFTA-DR. OTLA issued a public report in January 2009 on its review of a submission regarding Guatemala and another in September 2013 regarding the Dominican Republic. Another submission regarding Honduras is currently in the review process with the public report expected in 2014.

Under section 403(a) of the CAFTA-DR Implementation Act, 19 U.S.C. 4111(a), the President must report biennially to the Congress on the progress made by the CAFTA-DR countries in implementing the labor obligations and the labor capacity-building provisions found in the Labor Chapter and in Annex 16.5, and in implementing the recommendations contained in the "White Paper." Section 403(a)(4) requires that the President establish a mechanism to solicit public comments on the matters described in section 403(a)(3)(D) of the CAFTA-DR Implementation Act, 19 U.S.C. 4111(a)(4) (listed below in 2).

By Proclamation, the President delegated the reporting function and the responsibility for soliciting public comments under section 403(a) of the CAFTA-DR Implementation Act, 19 U.S.C. 4111(a), to the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the USTR. Proclamation No. 8272, 73 FR 38,297 (June 30, 2008). This notice serves to request public comments as required by this section.

##### **2. The USDOL Is Seeking Comments on the Following Topics as Required Under Section 403(a)(3)(D) of the CAFTA-DR Implementation Act**

a. Capacity-building efforts by the United States government envisaged by Article 16.5 of the CAFTA-DR Labor Chapter and Annex 16.5;

b. Efforts by the United States government to facilitate full implementation of the "White Paper" recommendations; and

c. Efforts made by the CAFTA-DR countries to comply with Article 16.5 of the Labor Chapter and Annex 16.5 and to fully implement the "White Paper" recommendations, including progress made by the CAFTA-DR countries in affording to workers internationally-recognized worker rights through improved capacity.

##### **3. Requirements for Submission**

Persons submitting comments must do so in English and must make the following note on the first page of their submissions: "Comments regarding the CAFTA-DR Implementation Act." In order to be assured consideration, comments should be submitted by 5 p.m. (EDT) October 27, 2014. The Department of Labor encourages commenters to make on-line submissions using the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site. When entering this site, enter docket number DOL 2014-0005 on the home page and click "search." The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice and click on the link entitled "Comment Now." (For further information on using the

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on "How to Use This Site" (found on the left side of the home page)).

The [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site allows users to provide comments by filling in a "Type Comment field," or by attaching a document using an "Upload File" field. The USDOL prefers that uploaded submissions be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf). If the submission is in an application other than those two, please indicate the name of the application in the "Type Comment" field.

Please do not attach separate cover letters to electronic submissions; rather include any information that might appear in a cover letter in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits, annexes, or other attachments in the same file as the submission itself and not as separate files.

As noted, USDOL strongly urges submitters to file comments through the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site.

Comments will be placed in the docket and open to public inspection. Comments may be viewed on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site by entering the relevant docket number in the search field on the home page.

Signed at Washington, DC, the 16 day of October 2014.

**Carol Pier,**

*Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 4510-28-P**

#### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

##### **Bureau of Labor Statistics**

##### **Proposed Collection, Comment Request**

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) [44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)]. This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection

requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed revision of the “*Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program*”. A copy of the proposed information collection request (ICR) can be obtained by contacting the individual listed below in the Addresses section of this notice.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the Addresses section of this notice on or before December 29, 2014.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, Division of Management Systems, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080, 2 Massachusetts Avenue NE., Washington, DC 20212. Written comments also may be transmitted by fax to 202-691-5111 (this is not a toll free number).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Carol Rowan, BLS Clearance Officer, at 202-691-7628 (this is not a toll free number). (See Addresses section.)

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background

The BLS has been charged by Congress (29 U.S.C. 1 and 2) with the responsibility of collecting and publishing monthly information on employment, the average wage received, and the hours worked by area and industry. The process for developing residency-based employment and unemployment estimates is a cooperative Federal-State program which uses employment and unemployment inputs available in State Workforce Agencies.

The labor force estimates developed and issued in this program are used for economic analysis and as a tool in the implementation of Federal economic policy in such areas as employment and economic development under the Workforce Investment Act and the Public Works and Economic Development Act, among others.

The estimates also are used in economic analysis by public agencies and private industry, and for State and area funding allocations and eligibility determinations according to legal and administrative requirements. Implementation of current policy and legislative authorities could not be accomplished without collection of the data.

The reports and manual covered by this request are integral parts of the LAUS program insofar as they ensure and measure the timeliness, quality, consistency, and adherence to program directions of the LAUS estimates and related research.

##### II. Current Action

Office of Management and Budget clearance is being sought for a revision of the information collection request that makes up the LAUS program. All aspects of the information collection are conducted electronically. All data are entered directly into BLS-provided systems.

The BLS, as part of its responsibility to develop concepts and methods by which States prepare estimates under the LAUS program, developed a manual for use by the States. The manual explains the conceptual framework for the State and area estimates of employment and unemployment, specifies the procedures to be used,

provides input information, and discusses the theoretical and empirical basis for each procedure. This manual is updated on a regular schedule. The LAUS program will implement a major program redesign in January 2015. The Redesign was announced in the **Federal Register** on September 10, 2014 (79 FR 53787).

##### III. Desired Focus of Comments

The Bureau of Labor Statistics is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information continues to have practical utility.
  - Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
  - Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
  - Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses.
- Type of Review:* Revision of a currently approved collection.  
*Agency:* Bureau of Labor Statistics.  
*Title:* Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program.  
*OMB Number:* 1220-0017.  
*Affected Public:* State governments.

	Total respondents	Frequency	Total responses	Average time per response (hours)	Estimated total burden (hours)
LAUS 3040 .....	52 respondents with 7403 reporting units.	13	96,239	1.5	144,358.5
LAUS 8 .....	52 .....	11	572	1	572
LAUS 15 .....	6 .....	1	6	2	12
LAUS 16 .....	52 .....	1	52	1	52
Totals .....	.....	.....	96,869	.....	144,994.5

*Total Burden Cost (capital/startup):* \$0.

*Total Burden Cost (operating/maintenance):* \$0.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the

information collection request; they also will become a matter of public record.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 22nd day of October 2014.

**Kimberley Hill,**

Chief, Division of Management Systems,  
Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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