Census - General

From: Finamore, John M. <jfinamor@nsf.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 1:23 AM
To: Aneta Erdie (CENSUS/ERD FED) <aneta.erdie@census.gov>
Subject: 2025 ABS

Hi Aneta,

This email provides a high-level summary of the discussions between the Census Bureau and NCSES related to the 2025 ABS ICR package development.

The 2025 ABS ICR includes specific changes proposed by the Census Bureau that were designed to reduce the survey cost and respondent burden. Included in the proposed changes was a sample size reduction. In response to the proposed changes, NCSES assessed the potential impact on its analytical estimates of interest (namely, R&D performance for businesses with 1-9 employees and innovation for all businesses). The sample reduction will increase the variances for the ABS estimates. As a result, NCSES may not be able to produce reliable estimates for some disaggregations including, but not limited to, sub-national estimates. However, despite the sample reduction and the increased variances, the 2025 ABS estimates will remain unbiased.

During the ABS ICR package development and review, NCSES and the Census Bureau agreed to the following specifics for the 2025 ABS:

- The sample size for the NPRA portion of the 2025 ABS sample would be set at 8,000 cases.
- The 2025 ABS sample will include the 2025 BERD sample cases.
- The 2025 ABS sample design and strata will align with the design used in previous ABS sample cycles with a modification only to the sampling take-every (in response to the sample reduction).
- The Census Bureau will provide NCSES with an estimate of the cost savings that will be introduced to NCSES through the sample reduction and other efficiencies included this cycle as part of the proposed changes. The original cost estimate to NCSES for the 2025 ABS was $6.5M.

Given the agreed-upon specifics outlined above and with an appreciation for the steps Census is taking to reduce costs and respondent burden, NCSES is supportive of the changes planned for the 2025 ABS as outlined in the ICR package submitted to OMB.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,
John

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