

Subject: comments on extension to ATUS 1220-0175

From: Cowan, Benjamin W <ben.cowan@wsu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 13:25

To: DOL-PRA-Public <DOL-PRA-Public@dol.gov>

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July 23, 2025

Nicole Bouchet
Senior PRA Analyst
DOL_PRA_PUBLIC@dol.gov

Dear Nicole Bouchet,

As an economics professor with expertise in labor and health economics, I strongly support the continuation of the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). ATUS is the only comprehensive source of data on how people in the U.S. spend their time. These data provide valuable insight into activities that are central to people's daily lives such as work, sleep, eating, and time with others. They also offer a flexible mechanism for studying crucial topics that are difficult to examine using other data sources, such as time spent in caregiving (for children and adults) and how people balance work schedules with other activities.

I have used ATUS data extensively on how the remote-work revolution brought about by the COVID pandemic is affecting the work and non-work lives of men, women, and children. Nowhere else is such detailed data on time use available, and without ATUS there would be many fewer insights gained on these questions.

The ATUS equips policymakers, researchers, journalists, community and business leaders, and the public with a critical and irreplaceable resource to understand and support uses of time that promote social and economic well-being for communities and individuals across the United States.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,
Benjamin Cowan
Professor, School of Economic Sciences, Washington State University
NBER Research Associate