

June 9, 2006

Ms. Diana Hynek  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Department of Commerce  
Room 6625  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of April 10, 2006, on the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Bureau of the Census on the Advance Monthly Retail Trade Survey. This important survey is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Data on retail sales (item 4) are used to prepare monthly estimates of the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) component of gross domestic product for all PCE goods categories except motor vehicles and gasoline and oil. These estimates are also published each month in the "Personal Income and Outlays" press release.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to these forms. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9653 or by e-mail at [Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov](mailto:Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov). If you should need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler  
Chief Statistician

Attachment

BE54:NIWD:TWEADOCK:4/20/06 ID#260  
bcc: SDIEP Major Group, T. Troy