

Docket

RITA 2008-0002

March 2, 2011

Mr. Bernie Stankus  
Office of Airline Information  
RTS-42, Room E36-303  
Research and Innovative Technology Administration  
Bureau of Transportation Statistics  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 27, 2011, for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics Form 298-C; Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Small Aircraft Operators (OMB Number: 2138-0009; Docket ID Number: RITA 2008-0002)

Dear Mr. Stankus:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of information by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) on Form 298-C, Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Small Aircraft Operators. This form is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses total operating revenue data from the BTS Form 298-C to prepare output estimates for the benchmark input-output (I-O) accounts. In addition, data on total operating expenses are used to review input estimates for the benchmark I-O accounts. The I-O accounts, in turn, serve to benchmark the estimates of gross domestic product (GDP).

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to this form. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the form's 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). Should need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dennis J. Fixler  
Chief Statistician