

May 5, 2008

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

RE: *Federal Register* notice of March 18, 2008, for the Annual Wholesale Trade Survey
(OMB Number: 0607-0195)

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continuation of the Census Bureau's Annual Wholesale Trade Survey. This important survey is our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics. BEA uses information from this survey to estimate the change in private inventories component of gross domestic product (GDP) and of output in both the annual input-output (I-O) accounts and GDP by industry. In addition, data on sales taxes, which are collected on this survey quinquennially, are also used to prepare estimates of GDP by industry and to derive industry output for the I-O accounts. A list of items and their use by BEA is attached.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this survey. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the survey 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.

Should you need assistance in justifying this survey to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician

Attachment

ATTACHMENT
BEA Use of Annual Wholesale Trade Survey Data

I. Wholesale Distributors		
Item on SA-42 (Wholesale Distributor)	Description	BEA Use
Item 1	EIN	N/A
	Ownership or Control	N/A
Item 2	Company Affiliation	N/A
Item 3	Number of Agent, Broker, and Electronic market locations	N/A
Item 4	Dollar volume of business	Real inventory/sales ratios Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 5	E-commerce	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 6	Value of Inventories	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 7	Inventory by valuation method	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 8	Inventory outside of the United States	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 9	Total Purchases	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 10	Operating Expenses	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
II. Agents, Brokers, and Electronic Markets		
Item on SA-42 (AGBR)	Description	BEA Use
Item 3	Dollar volume of business	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 4	E-commerce	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 5	Operating Expenses	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
III. MSBO forms		
Item on SA-42 (MSBO)	Description	BEA Use
Item 4	Dollar volume of business	Real inventory/sales ratios Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 5	E-commerce	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 6	Value of Inventories	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry
Item 7	Inventory by valuation method	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by- industry

		industry
Item 8	Inventory outside of the United States	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Item 9	Total Operating expenses of sales branches and offices	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
IV. Expense Supplemental Forms to Wholesale Distributors		
SA-42 (ESUP)	Description	BEA Use
Item 1	Operating Expenses	
A	Annual Payroll before deductions	Intermediate Inputs
B	Employers cost for fringe benefits	Intermediate Inputs
C	Contract temporary staff and leased employee expense	Intermediate Inputs
D	Expensed equipment	Intermediate Inputs
E	Purchase of packaging materials and containers	Intermediate Inputs
F	Purchases of other materials, parts, and supplies (not for resale)	Intermediate Inputs
G	Commission expenses	Intermediate Inputs
H	Expensed purchases of software	Intermediate Inputs
I	Data processing and other purchased computer services	Intermediate Inputs
J	Purchased communication services	Intermediate Inputs
K	Purchased repairs and maintenance to machinery and equipment	Intermediate Inputs
L	Purchased repairs and maintenance to building structures and offices	Intermediate Inputs
M	Leased and rental payments for machinery equipment and other tangible items	Intermediate Inputs
N	Leased and rental payments for land, buildings, structures, store spaces and offices	Intermediate Inputs
O	Purchased electricity	Decomposition of intermediate inputs in capital (K), labor (L), energy (E), materials (M), and purchased services (S) (KLEMS)
P	Purchased fuels	KLEMS
Q	Water sewer refuse removal and other utility payments	KLEMS
R	Purchased transportation shipping and warehousing services	Intermediate Inputs
S	Purchased advertising and promotional services	Intermediate Inputs
T	Purchased professional and technical services	Intermediate Inputs

U	Depreciation and amortization charges	Intermediate Inputs
V	Government taxes and license fees	Intermediate Inputs
W	All other operating expenses	Intermediate Inputs
X	Total Operating Expenses	Intermediate Inputs
Item 2	Interest Expense	Intermediate Inputs