

July 22, 2020

Ms. Nora Kincaid
BLS Clearance Officer
Division of Management Systems
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

RE: *Federal Register* notice of June 11, 2020, for the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Expenditure Surveys: The Quarterly Interview and the Diary (OMB Number: 1220-0050)

Dear Ms. Kincaid:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the updating and continued collection of data for the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Consumer Expenditure (CE) Surveys. This important survey is our only data source for several key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Information from the CE surveys is critical in preparing the national income and product accounts (NIPA's), the input-output (I-O) accounts, the travel and tourism satellite accounts, and the new outdoor recreation satellite account. Also, beginning with the 2013 Benchmark Revision, BEA uses the CE Surveys' data to estimate the diesel fuel portion of the personal consumption expenditure (PCE) gasoline and other motor fuel estimate. Data from the CE surveys is also used for comparison purposes such as, during the 2012 NIPA/Benchmark I-O reconciliation these data were used as a check on final demand for personal consumption expenditures. A list of items used by BEA is attached.

The changes currently proposed for these forms do not substantially affect our use of these data and we support the efforts to improve the survey and reduce the respondent burden.

Please keep BEA informed about any future 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 Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, at 301-278-9618 or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov. Should 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 Economist

Attachment

Attachment

BEA Use of the Consumer Expenditure (CE) Surveys

Item	Use/Program Area	
Food	Cross-check and comparison with PCE comparable items	NIPA
Vehicle renting and leasing	PCE auto and truck leasing PCE other vehicle leasing	I-O, NIPA, TTSA
Travel (Out-of-town trips)	Travel expenditures	TTSA
Babysitting or other child care in someone else's home	PCE child care	NIPA
Day-care centers, nursery, and pre-schools	PCE nursery schools	NIPA
Taxicabs	Total receipts for taxicabs PCE for taxicabs	I-O, NIPA, TTSA
All items	Cross-check and comparison with PCE comparable items	NIPA
BEA's Use of the CPIs based on CE information		
CPI for household fuels	PCE housing services for tenant-occupied nonfarm housing and gross housing output	NIPA
CPI's for owners' equivalent rent and residential rent	PCE housing services for owner- and tenant-occupied nonfarm housing and gross housing output	NIPA
CPI for housekeeping services	Real private household compensation	NIPA
CPI for ship fare	Travel expenditures	TTSA
CPI for intercity train fare	Travel expenditures	TTSA
CPI for recreational equipment	Consumer expenditures	ORSA
CPI for travel (local trips)	Travel expenditures	ORSA

CPI - Consumer price index
I-O - Input-output accounts
NIPA - National income and product accounts
PCE - Personal consumption expenditures
TTSA - Travel and tourism satellite accounts
ORSA - Outdoor recreation satellite accounts