

June 30, 2020

Mr. John Dougherty
Chief, Wholesale Trade Branch
Economy-Wide Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Washington, DC 20233

RE: *Federal Register* notice of June 3, 2020 for the Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (OMB Number: 0607-0195)

Dear Mr. Dougherty:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continuation of the Census Bureau's Annual Wholesale Trade Survey (AWTS). 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 output in both the benchmark and annual input-output (I-O) accounts and GDP by industry statistics. 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 used by BEA is in the attached table.

Additionally, BEA strongly supports the collection of the expense data for detailed operating expenses with the AWTS that were previously collected quinquennially on the Business Expenses Supplement (BES). A list of items (as previously obtained through the BES) and their use by BEA also are attached.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this survey. 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 need assistance in justifying this survey 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 Annual Wholesale Trade Survey Items

I. Wholesale Distributors	
Items on SA-42 (Wholesale Distributor)	BEA Use
Dollar volume of business	Real inventory/sales ratios Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
E-commerce	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Value of Inventories	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Inventory Valuation Method	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Purchases of Products	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Operating Expenses	Industry output for the benchmark and annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
II. Agents, Brokers, and Electronic Markets	
Items on SA-42 (AGBR)	BEA Use
Dollar volume of business	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Operating Expenses	Industry output for the benchmark and annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
III. MSBO forms	
Items on SA-42 (MSBO)	BEA Use
Dollar volume of business	Real inventory/sales ratios Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
E-commerce	Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Value of Inventories	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Inventory Valuation Method	Change in private inventories component of GDP Industry output for the annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry
Operating Expenses	Industry output for the benchmark and annual I-O accounts and GDP-by-industry

IV. Quinquennial Collection (formerly from Business Expenses Supplement), Annual Wholesale Trade Survey	
Items used (formerly on SA-42 (ESUP))	BEA Use
Annual Payroll before deductions	Intermediate Inputs
Employers cost for fringe benefits	Intermediate Inputs
Contract temporary staff and leased employee expense	Intermediate Inputs
Expensed equipment	Intermediate Inputs
Purchase of packaging materials and containers	Intermediate Inputs
Purchases of other materials, parts, and supplies (not for resale)	Intermediate Inputs
Commission expenses	Intermediate Inputs
Expensed purchases of software	Intermediate Inputs
Data processing and other purchased computer services	Intermediate Inputs
Purchased communication services	Intermediate Inputs
Purchased repairs and maintenance to machinery and equipment	Intermediate Inputs
Purchased repairs and maintenance to building structures and offices	Intermediate Inputs
Leased and rental payments for machinery equipment and other tangible items	Intermediate Inputs
Leased and rental payments for land, buildings, structures, store spaces and offices	Intermediate Inputs
Purchased electricity	Decomposition of intermediate inputs in capital (K), labor (L), energy (E), materials (M), and purchased services (S) (KLEMS)
Purchased fuels	KLEMS
Water sewer refuse removal and other utility payments	KLEMS
Purchased transportation shipping and warehousing services	Intermediate Inputs
Purchased advertising and promotional services	Intermediate Inputs
Purchased professional and technical services	Intermediate Inputs
Depreciation and amortization charges	Intermediate Inputs
Government taxes and license fees	Intermediate Inputs
All other operating expenses	Intermediate Inputs
Total Operating Expenses	Intermediate Inputs
Interest Expense	Intermediate Inputs