

September 9, 2020

Susan Pozzanghera
Branch Chief, Investment Goods Branch
Economy-Wide Statistics Division
U.S. Census Bureau

RE: Proposed cognitive testing of the Census Bureau's supplemental questions on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses to the 2020 Annual Surveys

Dear Ms. Pozzanghera:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports U.S. Census Bureau's continued collection and cognitive testing of information on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on businesses through the Annual Survey of Manufacturers (ASM), Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES), and the Services Annual Survey (SAS). The proposed supplemental questions on the pandemic impacts would provide more timely data and would be crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses information from these surveys to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPA), the fixed assets accounts (FAA), the input-output accounts, gross domestic product by industry, and regional estimates of gross domestic product by state and county. The supplemental questions to the forms will assist the bureau in measuring the extent businesses have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic's impact on the U.S. economy.

Please keep BEA informed about any additional 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, on 301-278-9618 or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@bea.gov. Should you 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