

October 6, 2020

William Abriatis
U.S. Census Bureau
Economic Indicators Division
4600 Silver Hill Rd
Washington, DC 20233

RE: *Federal Register* notice of September 3, 2020, for the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions (OMB Number: 0607-0110)

Dear Mr. Abriatis:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions, known as the Survey of Construction (SOC). The data collected through this survey are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA relies on data collected on forms SOC-QI/SF.1, Survey of Housing Starts, Sales, and Completions (Single-family Buildings) and SOC-QI/MF.1, Survey of Housing Starts and Completions (Multiunit Buildings) to prepare the national income and product accounts. BEA's use of these data is primarily indirect, in that the information on housing starts, sales price, lot value, and building characteristics from this survey is used in the Census Bureau's Survey of Construction to prepare estimates of the value of residential construction put in place series.

This series is used by BEA to prepare estimates of the residential fixed investment component of gross domestic product (GDP) and of the output of the construction industry for the annual input-output and GDP by industry accounts. Sales, sales price, lot value, and building characteristics data from these forms also are used by the Census Bureau to prepare price indexes for single family structures and price indexes for multi-family structures that are used by BEA to prepare estimates of the real residential fixed investment component of GDP and real output of the construction industry. A list of data used indirectly and directly by BEA is provided in the attachment.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this survey. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the survey's 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 this survey to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Survey statistic:	Used by BEA for:
Single family:	
Starts	Fixed investment: single family structures
Completions	Fixed investment: single family structures
Sales	Brokers' commissions of sale of structures
Characteristics	Price index: single family structures
Sales price	Fixed investment: single family structures
Lot value	Fixed investment: single family structures
Multi-family:	
Starts	Fixed investment: multi-family structures
Completions	Fixed investment: multi-family structures
Characteristics	Price index: multi-family structures