

October 12, 2022

Sheleen Dumas
Department PRA Clearance Officer
Office of the Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Federal Register notice of September 13, 2022 on proposed extending collection of American Community Survey forms (OMB Control Number: 0607-0810)

Dear Ms. Dumas:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau in the American Community Survey (ACS). This important survey provides BEA with more timely annual information previously available only in the decennial census.

BEA uses information collected from the ACS to prepare the regional economic accounts. The geographic detail allows direct estimation of results for states and Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) and the annual frequency lessens the need for interpolation or extrapolation of those components that relied on the decennial census. Additionally, the increased accuracy of Census intercensal population estimates will improve BEA's per capita estimates, for which we use population as the denominator.

BEA has no major comments on the Federal Register notice of September 13, 2022; however, we are curious to know whether it is feasible to collect housing characteristics from administrative data providers, preferably a single source. We are particularly interested in the number of bathrooms in sampled housing units, data not currently asked in the ACS survey. Obtaining this information would be useful for BEA's housing estimates.

Please keep BEA informed of any modifications to the ACS 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 Duke Tran, of the Regional Economics Directorate, with any questions you may have. He can be reached at (301) 278-9230 or at duke.tran@bea.gov.

Sincerely,

Dennis Fixler
Chief Economist
Bureau of Economic Analysis