

February 2, 2011

Ms. Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6616
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 7, 2011, for the Monthly Retail Trade Survey
(OMB Number: 0607-0717)

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Bureau of Census' Monthly Retail Trade Survey. The data collected from this survey are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses data from the forms to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPAs), the industry input-output (I-O), and GDP-by-industry accounts. Items used by BEA are listed in the attachment below.

Please keep BEA informed about any 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 Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9653, or by e-mail at Ruth.Bramblett@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,
/s/
Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Items BEA Uses from the Census Bureau's Monthly Retail Trade Survey

Item Title	Item Use
Sales	<p>Prepare estimates of Personal Consumption Expenditures in the NIPAs</p> <p>Prepare estimates of Gross Output in the Annual I-O table and GDP-by-industry</p>
Inventories	<p>Prepare estimates of Change in Private Inventories in the NIPAs</p> <p>Measure changes in inventories for estimates of Gross Output in the Annual I-O table</p>
Sales and inventories	Prepare Monthly Inventory/Sales Ratio in the NIPAs