

October 18, 2012

Ms. Nora Kincaid
BLS Clearance Officer
Division of Management Systems
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 4080
2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20212

RE: *Federal Register* notice of September 5, 2012, for the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Surveys: The Quarterly Interview and the Diary (OMB Number: 1220-0050)

Dear Ms. Kincaid:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the updating and continued collection of data for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Consumer Expenditure (CE) Surveys. This important survey is our only data source for several key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Information from the CE Surveys is critical in preparing the national income and product accounts (NIPA's), the input-output (I-O) accounts, and the travel and tourism satellite accounts. Also, beginning with the 2013 Benchmark Revision, BEA will use the CE Surveys data to estimate the diesel fuel portion of the PCE gasoline and other motor fuel estimate. Data from the CE Surveys are also used for comparison purposes such as during the 2012 NIPA/Benchmark I-O reconciliation as a check on final demand for personal consumption expenditures. A list of items used by BEA is attached.

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,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician

Attachment

Attachment

BEA Use of the Consumer Expenditure Surveys

Item	Use/Program Area	
Food	Cross-check and comparison with PCE comparable items	NIPA
Vehicle renting and leasing	PCE auto and truck leasing PCE other vehicle leasing	I-O, NIPA, TTSA
Travel (Out-of-town trips)	Travel expenditures	TTSA
Babysitting or other child care in someone else's home	PCE child care	I-O, NIPA
Day-care centers, nursery, and pre-schools	PCE nursery schools	NIPA
Taxicabs	Total receipts for taxicabs PCE for taxicabs	I-O, NIPA, TTSA
All items	Cross-check and comparison with PCE comparable items	NIPA
CPI for household fuels	PCE housing services for tenant-occupied nonfarm housing and gross housing output	NIPA
CPI's for owners' equivalent rent and residential rent	PCE housing services for owner- and tenant-occupied nonfarm housing and gross housing output	NIPA
CPI for housekeeping services	Real private household compensation	NIPA

CPI - Consumer price index

I-O - Input-output accounts

NIPA - National income and product accounts

PCE - Personal consumption expenditures

TTSA - Travel and tourism satellite accounts