

October 1, 2012

Reports Liaison Officer  
Office of Policy Development and Research  
Department of Housing and Urban Development  
451 7th Street, SW -- Room 8226  
Washington, DC 20410

RE: *Federal Register* notice of August 20, 2012, for the Housing and Urban Development's,  
American Housing Survey (OMB Number: 2528-0017)

Dear Reports Liaison Officer:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the American Housing Survey (AHS). The data collected on this form are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

Data from the AHS are used in the national income and product accounts (NIPA) to prepare the nonfarm housing services estimate which is a component of personal consumption expenditures in the gross domestic product. AHS data are also used to prepare the rental income of persons estimate which is a property income measure related to the provision of housing services in national and personal income. Rental income of persons is calculated using the estimates of nonfarm housing services, as well as estimates of condominium, cooperative housing, and property management fees; all based on AHS data.

Subsequently, these NIPA estimates are used for the BEA's industry benchmark and annual input-output accounts. Additionally, BEA's regional economic accounts plan to use the AHS to compare rent data with the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. A list of items currently used is found in the attachment.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this survey. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the survey approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, 202-606-9653 or by e-mail at [Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov](mailto:Ruth.Bramblett@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 Statistician

Attachment

## Attachment

### American Housing Survey Data Used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis

Items Used	BEA Use
<b>Table 1 – 1. Introductory Characteristics - All Housing Units<sup>1</sup></b>  Occupied and renter units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All housing units</li> <li>• Seasonal</li> <li>• Year- round occupied, total</li> <li>• Year-round occupied, owner</li> </ul> Cooperatives and condominiums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total housing units</li> <li>• Seasonal</li> <li>• Year-round occupied for owner and renter</li> <li>• Year-round vacant (all categories)</li> </ul>	Annual estimate of housing services (which are a component of personal consumption expenditures)           Annual estimate of rental income
<b>Table 1 – 2. Height and Condition of Building - All Housing Units</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seasonal</li> <li>• Year-round (all categories)</li> </ul>	Annual estimate of housing services and rental income
<b>Table 2 – 3. Size of Unit and Lot - Occupied Units</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 through 10 rooms or more</li> <li>• Tenure, renter (by size)</li> </ul>	Annual estimate of housing services and rental income
<b>Table 4 – 3. Size of Unit and Lot–Renter Occupied</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total occupied units (1 through 10 rooms or more)</li> </ul>	Annual estimate of housing services and rental income
<b>Table 4 – 13. Selected Housing Costs, Renter Occupied Units</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total occupied units (rental)</li> <li>• Monthly cost paid for electricity used</li> <li>• Monthly cost paid for piped gas used</li> <li>• Average monthly cost paid for fuel oil used</li> </ul>	Annual estimate of housing services and rental income

<sup>1</sup> Tables refer to 2009 American Housing Survey volume