



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration

October 11, 2007

Mr. Ronald J. Hodapp
Railroad Retirement Board
844 North Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2092

RE: *Federal Register* notice of August 17, 2007, for the Railroad Retirement Board's Railroad Service and Compensation Reports (OMB Number: 3220-0008)

Dear Mr. Hodapp:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Railroad Retirement Board on the Railroad Service and Compensation Reports. These forms are our main data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses data from these forms in the national income and product, input-output (I-O), and regional accounts. Data from forms BA-3a (Annual Report of Creditable Compensation), and BA-4 (Report of Creditable Compensation Adjustments) are used to prepare national estimates of railroad industry employment, wages and salaries, retirement benefits, and unemployment insurance benefits. The resulting estimates of railroad industry compensation are also used in the estimates of gross domestic product by industry and in the annual I-O accounts. Data from forms BA-3a, BA-4, and the BA-6a (Address Report) are used to prepare estimates of the wages and salaries, employer contributions for employee pension and insurance funds, and personal contributions for government social insurance components of State and county personal income. A list of items used is attached.

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to this form. 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. If you should need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Items from the Railroad Service and Compensation Reports Used by BEA

Form BA-3a: Annual Report of Creditable Compensation:

- Item 8. Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act creditable compensation
- Item 11. Railroad Retirement Act parts (a) Tier I, and (b) Tier II creditable compensation
- Item 12. Last Daily Pay Rate
- Item 13. Record count
- Item 14. Compensation Totals for items 8, 11a, and 11b

Form BA-4: Report of Creditable Compensation Adjustments:

- Item 8. Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act adjustment to creditable compensation
- Item 11. Railroad Retirement Act Tier I adjustment to creditable compensation
- Item 12. Railroad Retirement Act Tier II adjustment to creditable compensation
- Item 13. Record count
- Item 14. Compensation Totals for items 8, 11, and 12
- Item 15. Adjustment Outside of the Statute of Limitations

Form BA-6a: Address Report:

- Item 9. Zip Code