

March 9, 2015

Collection Clearance Officer
National Minerals Information Center
US Geological Survey
807 National Center
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20192

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 27, 2015 on USGS' Nonferrous Metals Surveys
(Information Collection Number: 1028-0053)

Dear Collection Clearance Officer:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on the Nonferrous Metals Survey forms. The data collected on these forms are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses the quantity and value information to derive output and average price estimates for the annual input-output (I-O) accounts and the annual estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) by industry. In addition, summary data derived from the surveys are used in BEA's annual estimates of GDP by state. A list of the specific forms and their use is attached.

Per FRN of January 27, 2015, BEA has no comments on the USGS' plan to eliminate or change the collection methods on the USGS forms (9-4053-A, 9-4073-A, and 9-4097-A). USGS still collects these data elsewhere so there is no loss in quality of the Mineral Commodity Summaries, which is one of the major sources of data for BEA in estimating GDP for the mining industry.

BEA is particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the form's approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9618, or by e-mail at Tiffany.Burrell@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

Nonferrous Metals Survey Forms Used by BEA

BEA's Industry Economics Division uses quantity and value information to derive output and average price estimates for the GDP by Industry, GDP by State, and Annual I-O Accounts.

Form	Mineral	Code	Column
4052-A	Bauxite	101-105	Shipments of material in form received (9)
4054-M	Aluminum	4	Gross weight (metric tons) (4)
4055-A	Alumina	201	Production during year (4)
4057-QA	Antimony	201	Production (7)
4061-A	Cadmium	299	Production (7)
4066-M	Copper	121	Receipts during month (copper content) (3)
4070-A	Magnesium	101	Shipments (9)
4073-A	Mercury	201	Production (7)
4075-A	Beryllium	302	Short tons (2)
4089-MA	Tin	101	Shipments (8)
4091-A	Titanium Minerals	201 203 205	Production during year
4094-MA	Zinc	309	Shipments during period Zn content (short tons) (6)
4095-MA	Slab Zinc	107	Shipments of materials in form received (8)
4097-A	Lode-Mine Production of Gold, Silver, Copper, Lead and Zinc	01 02	Gold (ounces) (3) Silver (ounces) (4) Copper (pounds) (5) Lead (pounds) (6) Zinc (pounds) (7)
4100-A	Magnesium Compounds	201-208	Produced (3)
4102-A	Rare Earths	101 102	Production (7)
4122-Q	Titanium Metal	199	Production (1)
4125-A	Refinery Production of Precious Metals	101-108	Production primary (3) Production secondary (4)
4128-A	Scandium	501-506	Production (7)