

March 11, 2014

Ms. Jennifer, Jessup  
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer  
Department of Commerce, Room 6616  
14<sup>th</sup> and Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 30, 2014, for the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances (OMB Number: 0607-0585)

Dear Ms. Jessup:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Census Bureau's State and Local Government Finances surveys. The data collected are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics. Government Finances is a multi-instrument survey system that collects a database of financial information for the 50 states and for all types of local governments. The survey forms used are:

- F-5, Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections
- F-11, Locally Administered Public Employee Retirement Systems
- F-12, State Administered Public Employee Retirement Systems
- F-12(S), State Administered Public Employee Retirement Systems (Supplemental Form)
- F-13, Finances of Insurance Trust Systems
- F-25, State Agencies
- F-28, All Counties, Municipalities, and Townships
- F-29, Multi-Function Special Districts
- F-32, Single Function Special Districts
- F-42, School Building Agencies

BEA uses the information from these surveys to prepare the national income and product (NIPA) and regional accounts. More specifically, the data obtained through these forms are essential to BEA for maintaining reliable estimates of state and local government finances in the NIPAs. State and local governments currently account for about 12% of GDP, and the Government Finances data constitute the only systematic collection of financial data from which NIPA estimates and regional accounts can be constructed. The attachment below describes the items used from the various forms for the survey.

The federal register notice makes reference to scaling back the number and content of questions on the local government surveys. Because the Government Finances series of surveys plays a critical role in BEA's local state and government sector, please inform BEA about any proposed, modifications to these forms before the forms' 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](mailto: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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis J. Fixler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Dennis" on the first line and "J. Fixler" on the second line.

Dennis J. Fixler  
Chief Statistician

Attachment

**ATTACHMENT****BEA Uses of the  
Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances**

<b>Form</b>	<b>Series Used</b>	<b>BEA Use</b>
F-5	All	To prepare estimates of the state and local government sectors in the National Income and Product Accounts, and to prepare related Regional Accounts for states and local areas.
F-11	All	
F-12	All	
F-12(S)	All	
F-13	All	
F-25	All except assets and debt	
F-28	All except assets and debt	
F-29	All except assets and debt	
F-32	All except assets and debt	
F-42	All except assets and debt	