

December 13, 2007

Ms. Diana Hynek
Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer
Department of Commerce, Room 6625
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: *Federal Register* notice of November 15, 2007, for the Monthly Retail Trade Survey (OMB Number: 0607-0717)

Dear Ms. Hynek:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau on the Monthly Retail Trade Survey. The data collected on this survey are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses data from this survey to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPAs) and the input-output (I-O) accounts. Items used by BEA are listed in the attachment below.

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. If you should need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

/s/

Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Items from the Census Bureau's Monthly Retail Trade Survey

| Item Title | Item Use |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sales | Prepare estimates of Personal Consumption Expenditures in the NIPAs Prepare estimates of Gross Output in the Annual I-O table |
| Inventories | Prepare estimates of Change in Private Inventories in the NIPAs Measure changes in inventories for estimates of Gross Output in the Annual I-O table |
| Sales and inventories | Prepare Monthly Inventory/Sales Ratio in the NIPAs |