



March 13, 2017

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

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 12, 2017, for the Monthly Retail Trade Survey (OMB Number: 0607-0717)

Dear Ms. Jessup:

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

BEA uses data from the forms to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPAs), the industry input-output (I-O), and GDP-by-industry 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 Danit Kanal, Acting Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9078 or by e-mail at danit.kanal@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying this form to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Abe Dunn', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Abe Dunn, Assistant Chief Economist
Acting on behalf of Dennis Fixler, Chief Economist

Attachment

ATTACHMENT**Items BEA Uses from the Census Bureau's Monthly Retail Trade Survey**

Item Title	Item Use
Sales	<p>Prepare estimates of Personal Consumption Expenditures in the NIPAs</p> <p>Prepare estimates of Gross Output in the annual I-O tables and the annual and quarterly GDP-by-industry statistics</p>
Inventories	<p>Prepare estimates of Change in Private Inventories in the NIPAs</p> <p>Measure changes in inventories for estimates of Gross Output in the annual I-O tables and the annual and quarterly GDP-by-industry statistics</p>
Sales and inventories	Prepare Monthly Inventory/Sales Ratio in the NIPAs