

July 5, 2017

Information Collection Clearance Officer
U.S. Geological Survey
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 807
Reston, VA 20192

RE: *Federal Register* notice of May 2, 2017, Information Collection for USGS Ferrous Metals Surveys (OMB Number: 1028-0068)

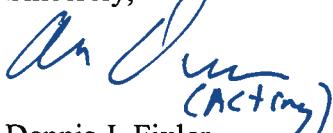
Dear Clearance Officer:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Geological Survey on the Ferrous Metals Surveys forms. The data collected on these forms are an important data source for key components of BEA's economic statistics. BEA uses information collected on these forms to prepare annual estimates of gross domestic product (GDP), GDP by industry, and GDP by state. Attached below are a list of forms and how their items are used by BEA.

Specifically, BEA uses data on the production of iron and steel scrap to estimate sales of equipment scrap in the private equipment and software component of the GDP, and uses production and valuation information to derive nominal and real gross output and state GDP for the Metal Mining sector of the economy.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to the 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,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Economist

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

BEA Uses of the Ferrous Metals Surveys Items

Form Title	Form Number	Items Used	BEA Uses
Ferroalloys	6-1056-A	Aggregate items on all forms	National Gross Domestic Product (GDP): private equipment and software (sales of equipment scrap)
Manganese Ore and Products	6-1086-MA		GDP by Industry: Metal Mining sector
Specialty Ferroalloys	9-4043-A		GDP by State: Mining, except oil and gas
Iron Ore (less than 5% manganese)	9-9044-A		
Rhenium	9-4048-A		
Chromite Ores and Chromium Prod	9-4063-M		
Cobalt	9-4064-M		
Molybdenum Ore and concentrate	9-4077-A		
Tungsten ore and concentrate	9-4092-A		
Iron and Steel Scrap & Pig Iron	9-4116-MA		
Nickel Ore	9-4139-A		