

August 22, 2018

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 July 16, 2018, for the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (OMB Number: 0607-0782)

Dear Ms. Jessup:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Census Bureau for the Annual Capital Expenditures Survey (ACES). The data collected on the ACES forms are critical to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses data from ACES to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPA), the benchmark and annual input-output (I-O) accounts, gross domestic product by industry (GDP by industry), and the fixed assets accounts (FAAs). Specifically, data from these forms are used to prepare estimates of private fixed investment, a major component of gross domestic product, and to prepare estimates of investment by industry in the FAAs.

Data collected by ACES every five years on industry capital expenditures by type of equipment and by type of structure are critical inputs for preparing benchmarked estimates of private fixed investment by type and by industry in the FAAs. Therefore, BEA also strongly supports the continued collection of capital expenditures by type of structure and by type of equipment in the survey every five years. Items used by BEA are listed in the attachment below.

Please keep BEA informed concerning 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 Tiffany Burrell, Source Data Coordinator, on 301-278-9618 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 Economist

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Items from the Census Bureau's Annual Capital Expenditures Survey Used by BEA

Item	BEA Use
Investment by Type of: Equipment Structure (collected every five years)	Private fixed investment in the NIPA, the I-O accounts, and the FAAs capital stock
Investment by Industry (collected annually)	Private fixed investment in the FAAs
Investment in Structures (collected annually)	Gross domestic output of the construction industries in GDP by industry