

AEASat
Global Digital Trade, U.S. International Trade Commission
Public Comment Opportunity

The U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) plans to submit a request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to carry out a data collection to support two studies:

- Global Digital Trade 2: The Business-to-Business Market, Key Foreign Trade Restrictions, and U.S. Competitiveness (Investigation No. 332–562)
- Global Digital Trade 3: The Business-to-Consumer Market, Key Foreign Trade Restrictions, and U.S. Competitiveness (Investigation No. 332–563)

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) has directed the USITC to produce two reports that analyze the regulatory and policy measures in key foreign markets that impact (1) the ability of U.S. firms to develop and/or supply digital products and services abroad, and (2) the competitiveness of U.S. firms as well as international trade and investment flows associated with digital products and services. Fulfilling this request requires a survey of U.S. firms on the impact of foreign regulatory and policy measures on firm ability to develop and/or supply digital products and services abroad.

AEA members are invited to inform USITC about the value of the proposed USITC data collection on global digital trade for economic research and suggest changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost. USITC will summarize and respond to public comments in its subsequent submission to OMB.

Federal Register notice: [November 16, 2017](#) (includes instructions for submitting comments)

- [Proposed Information Collection](#):
 - [Draft survey instrument](#)
 - [USTR request letter](#)
- Due date: January 15, 2018
- More information: Dan Kim and Alissa Tafti (Inv. No. 332–562) and Ricky Ubee and Christopher Robinson (Inv. No. 332–563). Direct comments to the project leaders via email at globaldigitaltrade@usitc.gov.

Information on ICR Process:

- By law, each data collection carried out by a federal agency must be cleared by OMB. Through the *Federal Register* notice, USITC is announcing that it plans to submit a request to OMB for clearance to conduct the Global Digital Trade data collection and offers the public a 60-day opportunity to submit comments to it.

- After the close of the 60-day comment period, USITC will prepare and submit its proposal to OMB in light of comments received. When it does so, the public will have another 30-day comment opportunity.

Guidance on Preparing Comments:

- AEA members may comment on any aspect of the proposed data collection. Possible topics, for instance, include needs, uses, methodology, survey design, cost, schedule, and consultation with data users.
- AEA members may frame their comments on specific topics in any way, such as:
 - assessments – identifying what they do and do not like and support
 - suggestions – for how USITC might proceed in this or future collections
 - requests – for example, for a change in the design of the survey instrument, to be consulted in the future, to carry out research on an alternative approach
 - observations – for example, implications of the sample size for statistical reliability

For assistance in preparing comments, feel free to contact AEASat staff—Andrew Reamer (Research Professor, George Washington Institute of Public Policy, George Washington University) at areamer@gwu.edu or (202) 994-7866.