

AEASat

Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States— Transactions of U.S. Affiliate with Foreign Parent, Bureau of Economic Analysis Public Comment Opportunity

The Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States—Transactions of U.S. Affiliate with Foreign Parent ([Form BE-605](#)) obtains quarterly data on transactions and positions between foreign-owned U.S. business enterprises and their “affiliated foreign groups” (*i.e.*, their foreign parents and foreign affiliates of their foreign parents).

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) invites the public to provide comments to OMB on the use of Form BE-605 from April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2021.

AEA members are encouraged to describe the value of Form BE-605 for economic research; comment on the data collection instruments and methods; and suggest changes that would enhance data quality, value, and accessibility and lower respondent burden and federal cost.

Federal Register notice: [December 4, 2017](#) (includes instructions for submitting comments)

- [Information Collection Request](#) (ICR) submitted to OMB, including:
 - [Survey instruments](#)
 - [Supporting Statement](#)
- Due date: January 3, 2018
- More information: Patricia Abaroa, Chief, DID, Patricia.Abaroa@bea.gov, 301-278-9591

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, BEA is announcing that it has submitted a request to OMB for clearance to use Form BE-605 from 2018-21 and offers the public a 30-day opportunity to submit comments to OMB.
- After the close of the 30-day comment period, OMB will make its decision.

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 BEA 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
- AEA members may consider proposing that OMB incorporate a request in its “terms of clearance.” For instance, a member could suggest as a term of clearance that BEA research the efficacy of an alternative set of questions and report back to OMB in a year on the results.

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.