

December 12, 2016

Ms. Tuawana Pinkston
Internal Revenue Service
Room 6526
1111 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20224

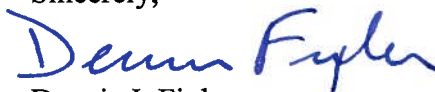
RE: *Federal Register* notice of October 13, 2016, for the Internal Revenue Service Forms W-2, Wage and Tax Statement; and W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements (OMB Number: 1545-0008).

Dear Ms. Pinkston:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) on Forms W-2 and W-3. Forms W-2 and W-3 are an important source of data for elective deferrals to deferred compensation plans. In conjunction with information on employment classification (statutory employee, retirement plan, or third-party sick pay), the data are used to develop improved estimates of pension contributions which is an income component in the national income and product accounts (NIPAs). In addition, BEA has periodically used data on wages, tips, and other compensation and on Medicare wages and tips to validate wage and salary estimates from other data sources. Also, the data are used indirectly for estimating government social benefits to persons. The accompanying table describes which data items are used and how they are used in the NIPAs.

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 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 Used from IRS Forms W-2 and W-3

Items Used:	Description:	Annual Estimates Prepared for:
(Box 12, codes D through G).	Elective deferrals to deferred compensation plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 401(k) cash or deferred arrangements • Section 403(b) salary reduction agreements • Section 408(k)(6) salary reduction SEPs • Section 457(b) 	Pension contributions (an income component in the NIPAs).
Box 13	Employee classification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory employee • Retirement plan • Third-party sick pay 	