August 20, 2026

Thomas J. Smith
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Rd
Washington, DC 20233

RE: *Federal Register* notice of July 20, 2026 for the Census Bureau's Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey (OMB Number: 0607-0008)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports the continued collection of data by the U.S. Census Bureau for the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey. The data collected on these forms are crucial to key components of BEA's economic statistics.

BEA uses information from the M3 to prepare the national income and product accounts (NIPA), gross domestic product (GDP) by industry, and the annual input-output (I-O) accounts. BEA's quarterly GDP by industry statistics depend upon information from the M3 as well. BEA is strongly in favor of the proposal to permanently collect and publish advanced total manufacturing estimates, as well as strongly in favor of the increased detail for the nondurable goods industries. Attached is a table describing how the M3 data are used currently by BEA.

Please keep BEA informed about any modifications to this form. 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 by BEA from the
Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3) Survey

ITEMS USED	ESTIMATES PREPARED FOR
Manufacturers' Shipments	NIPAs: - Quarterly Investment in equipment and software - Monthly estimates of real domestic inventories, sales, and inventory/sales ratios GDP By Industry: - Quarterly manufacturing output - Annual manufacturing output - Quarterly gross operating surplus estimates I-O Accounts: - Annual manufacturing output
Manufacturers' Inventories	NIPAs: - Quarterly change in private domestic inventories - Monthly estimates of real domestic inventories, sales, and inventory/sales ratios GDP By Industry: - Annual manufacturing output I-O Accounts: - Annual manufacturing output

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 9/22/26, 1:36 PM
Received: September 18, 2026
Status: Draft
Tracking No. mu7-o4fl-i2ml
Comments Due: September 18, 2026
Submission Type: Web

Docket: USBC-2026-0265
Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) Survey

Comment On: USBC-2026-0265-0001
Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, & Orders (M3) Federal Register Notice

Document: USBC-2026-0265-DRAFT-0003
Comment on FR Doc # 2026-14513

Submitter Information

Name: Andrew Allgood
Address:

NH,

Email: andrew@allgood.gg

General Comment

Date: 18 September 2026
To: Re: U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce
Proposed extension of the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders Survey
From: Andrew Allgood

I oppose the proposed extension of the Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders survey. Collecting this manufacturing data is not a legitimate role of the federal government.

The notice would continue a monthly Census Bureau survey asking domestic manufacturers for shipments, new orders, unfilled orders, total inventory, materials and supplies, work-in-process, and finished goods. That is commercial information about

private firms. The government does not need to compile it in order to perform the few functions that belong to it. If someone wants this information — a researcher, a trade association, a bank, a news organization, or a group of manufacturers — they are free to start an organization that solicits it. Firms that see value in sharing the data can do so. Firms that do not can decline.

The market already produces industry statistics when buyers will pay for them. There is no reason for the Department of Commerce to stand in for that process. A government survey substitutes a tax-funded collection program for voluntary exchange. Even where response is labeled voluntary, the collection itself is a federal program. That is the point at issue. I do not believe the United States should operate a monthly factory ledger for the convenience of data users who could organize and pay for it themselves.

I ask the Census Bureau not to extend this collection, and I ask the Office of Management and Budget not to approve it. If the data are useful, private parties can gather them.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Allgood

Attachments

Allgood_Comment_M3_Manufacturing_Survey

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: 9/22/26, 1:36 PM
Received: September 18, 2026
Status: Draft
Tracking No. mu6-j4ry-zjt3
Comments Due: September 18, 2026
Submission Type: Web

Docket: USBC-2026-0265
Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories and Orders (M3) Survey

Comment On: USBC-2026-0265-0001
Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, & Orders (M3) Federal Register Notice

Document: USBC-2026-0265-DRAFT-0002
Comment on FR Doc # 2026-14513

Submitter Information

Name: Anonymous Anonymous

General Comment

Assessment of Practical Utility vs. Digital Transition Impact
The notice indicates that paper collection was completely phased out in January 2026 in favor of internet and email submissions. To help the public and OMB fully evaluate whether this collection method maintains its practical utility across the entire manufacturing sector, we request that the Census Bureau clarify:
1. What percentage and total volume of the 5,000 survey respondents were actively using paper forms immediately prior to the January 2026 phase-out?
2. Has the elimination of paper forms impacted response rates or panel retention among smaller manufacturing entities that may lack dedicated automated accounting systems?
3. Has the transition to digital-only collection caused any observable shift in non-response bias across specific 3-digit or 4-digit NAICS industry groups?

We support the Census Bureau's efforts to modernize data collection and deliver timely economic indicators. However, providing transparent data on the scale of the paper form elimination will validate that the digital requirement enhances data utility without inadvertently excluding non-digital respondents.