

Director's Message

As many of you know, each issue of the SURVEY begins with the "Business Situation," a detailed presentation of recently released estimates of GDP and related measures. In this issue, we are launching a new format for that widely read article, which is now titled "GDP and the Economy."

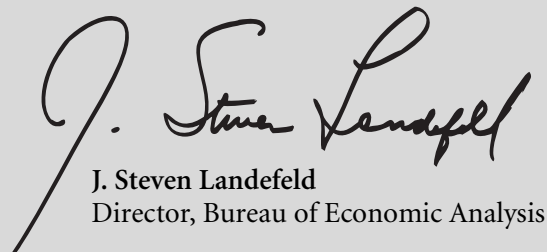
The new format presents the estimates in a more user-friendly and streamlined manner. The information is the same. But you'll notice certain data in the tables are highlighted and accompanied by plain language explanations. This format corresponds with BEA's goal of making it easier to understand our estimates and how they are constructed.

Going forward with this goal in mind, we'll be refining and re-formatting other SURVEY articles as well.

This month's issue also includes an article that translates the President's budget for fiscal year 2007, submitted to Congress in February, into a government spending account that is consistent with BEA's national income and product accounts (NIPAs). Economists and researchers often find this translation a useful tool for analyzing the economic consequences of the budget proposal.

One final note: BEA recently launched a service that, for the first time, lets users interactively access a wealth of direct investment data via our Web site. You can read more about it in the "Taking Account" highlights on the next page. In the near future, we'll be rolling out still more interactive data.

The reformatted GDP article and the interactive data service are indicative of our primary initiative. We're constantly thinking about better ways to serve our users.



J. Steven Landefeld
Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis