

BEA Government Statistics Users Conference  
September 15, 2004

Planned Areas of Research for the Government Division

- I. The following four primary areas of research will be highlighted during the conference:
  1. Improve methods for measuring the real output of government services.
  2. Research prospects for developing a government inventory account and improve the timing of investment in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs).
  3. Improve NIPA sectoring, especially for government enterprises (quasi-corporations).
  4. Improve estimates that are included in international submissions to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
  
- II. The following seven secondary areas of research may be undertaken by the Government Division in preparation for future revisions:
  1. Research extending the number of series that are converted from a cash to an accrual accounting basis.
  2. Extend research on in-kind compensation to incorporate estimates of in-kind meals, college tuition, and childcare into NIPA estimates of compensation.
  3. Research the definition of capital transfers to make the NIPA definition more consistent with international guidelines.
  4. Research prospects for extending newly adopted NIPA measures of the output of property and casualty insurance services to Federal and state and local government enterprises (quasi-corporations) that provide similar services; e.g., flood, crop, and catastrophe insurance.
  5. Research prospects for developing a subsector for nonprofit institutions serving government within the government sector of the NIPAs.
  6. Extend efforts to integrate the NIPAs with the Federal Reserve Board's Flow of Funds Accounts to prepare balance sheets for Federal and state and local governments.
  7. Research BOOT (Build, Own, Operate, and Transfer) schemes to improve the recording and timing of new assets in the NIPAs.