

Next Steps in External Integration: BEA and BLS

Robert E. Yuskavage
BEA Advisory Committee Meeting
May 19, 2006

Measuring the Nation's Economy.



Introduction

- BEA and BLS have collaborated on several projects to improve productivity measurement
 - Definition of the business sector
 - Manufacturing industry output
 - Prototype integrated production account
- New projects are designed to further improve data quality and consistency and to make progress on an integrated production account

www.bea.gov



Capital Services Expansion

- Capital services are endorsed in the new SNA
- BLS seeks a total economy measure to augment its business sector measures
- BEA will present the BLS MFP-related estimates in a NIPA table format
- BEA will provide the required source data but will rely on BLS estimates
- Some reconciliation tables may be provided

www.bea.gov



Hours Worked Reconciliation

- BLS includes but BEA excludes the hours of self-employed and unpaid family workers
- BEA includes but BLS excludes the hours associated with misreported employment
- BLS seeks a total economy measure to augment its business sector measures
- BEA and BLS are investigating how to prepare more complete and more consistent measures

www.bea.gov



Industry Output Reconciliation

- BEA and BLS real output measures are very similar in manufacturing
- Large differences remain for many sectors in non-manufacturing
- BEA and BLS will investigate industries with the largest differences
- Reconciliation tables will be provided

www.bea.gov



Historical Production Accounts

- BLS is developing production accounts for NAICS sectors back to 1987
- Extending production accounts back before 1987 raises many challenges
- BEA has initiated work on NAICS gross output estimates back to 1972
- BLS can use these estimates to prepare NAICS I-O use tables

www.bea.gov



Historical Industry Employment

- BEA has provided value added and capital stock by NAICS industry back to 1947
- BLS has provided employment back to 1990 for detailed NAICS industries
- BEA plans to provide employment estimates for NAICS industries back to 1947
- BLS will consider using these estimates to extend its labor input series before 1987

www.bea.gov



Conclusion

- Proposed projects will improve the quality and consistency of data for both aggregate and industry productivity measurement
- BEA and BLS will prepare joint quarterly reports starting in the Fall that describe the progress on each project

www.bea.gov

