B. Suggested Reading

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has published a wealth of information about the methodologies that are used to prepare its national, industry, international, and regional accounts. Most of this information is available on BEA's Web site at www.bea.gov.

National accounts

The national accounts encompass the detailed estimates in the national income and product accounts (including gross domestic product) and the estimates of fixed assets and consumer durable goods.

National income and product accounts (NIPAs). This series of papers documents the conceptual framework of the NIPAs and the methodologies that are used to prepare the estimates. The first seven chapters have been updated to reflect the 2011 annual NIPA revision.

Concepts and Methods of the U.S. National Income and Product Accounts (2011)
  "Introductory Chapters 1–4"
  "Chapter 5: Personal Consumption Expenditures"
  "Chapter 6: Private Fixed Investment"
  "Chapter 7: Change in Private Inventories"
  "Chapter 8: Net Exports of Goods and Services"
  "Chapter 9: Government Consumption Expenditures and Gross Investment

Corporate Profits: Profits Before Tax, Profits Tax Liability, and Dividends (2002)

An Introduction to National Income and Product Accounts (2007)

Measuring the Economy: A Primer on GDP and the National Income and Product Accounts (2007)

The following Survey articles describe the 2009 comprehensive revision of the NIPAs.
  "Initial Results of the 2009 Comprehensive NIPA Revision" (August 2009)
  "Improved Estimates of the National Income and Product Accounts: Results of the 2009 Comprehensive Revision" (September 2009)

"Preview of the Revised NIPA Estimates for 2002: Effects of Incorporating the 2002 Benchmark I-O Accounts and Proposed Definition and Statistical Changes" (March 2008)

In addition, see the following articles.
  "Annual Revision of the National Income and Product Accounts" (August 2012) presents revisions and describes any changes in the data and the methods used to prepare the estimates.

"Updated Summary of NIPA Methodologies" (November 2011) describes the source data and methods that are used to prepare the estimates.

"Chained-Dollar Indexes: Issues, Tips on Their Use, and Upcoming Changes" (November 2003) discusses the advantages of using chain-weighted indexes and the challenges of using chained dollars.

"Revisions to GDP, GDI, and Their Major Components" (July 2011) evaluates the principal NIPA estimates by examining the record of revisions to them.

"Gross Domestic Product: Revisions and Source Data" (February 2006) describes the categories of data that are used for the advance, preliminary (now called second), and final (now called third) quarterly estimates of GDP.

Fixed assets and consumer durable goods. *Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods in the United States, 1925–97* (2003) discusses the concepts and statistical considerations that underlie the estimates and their derivation.

"Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods for 1997–2010" (September 2011) describes the improvements that were incorporated into these estimates as part of the 2011 annual NIPA revision.

Satellite account. This account extends the analytical capacity of the NIPAs by focusing on the effects of a particular aspect of economic activity on GDP.

"Research and Development Satellite Account"
  For 1959–2002 (December 2006)
  For 1959–2004 (October 2007)
  For 1959–2007 (December 2010)

Mission Statement and Strategic Plan

The mission statement of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and its most recently updated strategic plan for improving the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of the national, industry, regional, and international accounts are available on BEA's Web site at www.bea.gov under "About BEA."

Industry accounts

The industry accounts consist of the annual industry accounts (the input-output accounts and the gross domestic product by industry accounts), the benchmark input-output accounts, and two satellite accounts.

Annual industry accounts. *Measuring the Nation's Economy: An Industry Perspective* (2011) provides an overview of these accounts and how they can be used to examine industry activity in the U.S. economy and to track the flow of goods and services throughout the economy.

Benchmark input-output accounts. *Concepts and Methods of the U.S. Input-Output Accounts* (September 2006) describes the concepts and methods that underlie the preparation of these accounts.

Satellite accounts. These accounts extend the analytical capacity of the input-output accounts by focusing on a particular aspect of economic activity.

"U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts"
> For 2005–2008 (June 2009)
> For 2004–2009 (November 2010)
> For 2007–2010 (June 2011)
> For 2003–2011 (June 2012)

International accounts

The international accounts encompass the international transactions accounts and the international investment position accounts, direct investment, and international transactions in services.

International transactions accounts and international investment position accounts. "A Guide to the U.S. International Transactions Accounts and the U.S. International Investment Position Accounts" (February 2010) introduces these accounts.

U.S. International Transactions Accounts: Concepts and Estimation Methods (2011) describes the methodologies used to prepare the estimates. The methodology is usually updated and improved as part of the annual revisions of the international transactions accounts. The updated and improved methodology is described in a series of articles, the latest of which was published in the July 2012 SURVEY.

"Modernizing and Enhancing BEA's International Economic Accounts: A Progress Report" (May 2012) updates BEA's plans to introduce the new international statistical standards from recently updated manuals and its plans for changes that were included in the 2011 annual revision.

Direct investment. Updated methodologies are available in *U.S. Direct Investment Abroad: Final Results From the 2004 Benchmark Survey* (2008) and in *Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Final Results From the 2002 Benchmark Survey* (2006).

Additional improvements are described in the following annual articles: "Direct Investment Positions: Country and Industry Detail" (July) and "Operations of U.S. Multinational Companies" (November 2011) and "Operations of U.S. Affiliates of Foreign Companies" (August 2011).

International services. The methodology used to prepare the estimates is usually updated and improved in a series of articles, the latest of which was published in the October 2011 SURVEY.

"Selected Issues in the Measurement of U.S. International Services" (June 2002) describes key issues in defining and measuring insurance, wholesale and retail trade, finance, construction, and utilities services.

Regional accounts

The regional accounts include estimates of personal income and gross domestic product.

Personal income. Estimates of personal income are prepared for states and for local areas.

State Personal Income and Employment (2011) describes the detailed methodology that is used to prepare the quarterly and annual estimates for the states, the District of Columbia, the eight BEA regions, and the United States.

Local Area Personal Income and Employment (2011) describes the detailed methodology that is used to prepare the estimates for counties, metropolitan areas, metropolitan divisions, micropolitan areas, combined statistical areas, and BEA economic areas and regions.

Gross domestic product. Estimates of gross domestic product (GDP) are prepared for states and metropolitan areas.

Gross Domestic Product by State (2006) describes the sources and the methods that are used to prepare the estimates.

"Gross Domestic Product by State" (December 2010) presents the results of the most recent comprehensive revision.

"Introducing New Measures of the Metropolitan Economy: Prototype Estimates of GDP by Metropolitan Area" (November 2007) describes the potential uses of the estimates.