

## Taking Account...

### **BEA customers can use Twitter to stay informed**

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) now provides updates about news releases and other information via Twitter, the popular social media site.

Customers can log on to Twitter.com and sign up to follow two BEA accounts: @BEA\_Data, which provides updates on data releases, and @BEA\_JOBS, which provides updates on job opportunities at the Bureau.

The new Twitter feature complements other services aimed at helping customers stay better informed about BEA affairs.

BEA has offered an e-mail subscription service since January 2005, which provides e-mail alerts when news releases are issued. Subscribers can choose the specific releases for which they would like to receive alerts. In addition, BEA also offers an RSS feed, which pushes notices of new releases to customers via their browsers or RSS readers.

Both services are available free on [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov).

### **Updated NIPA fixed assets data now available**

BEA's fixed assets accounts have been updated and are now available through BEA's interactive data system at no charge on the BEA Web site. In addition, a report in this issue of the *SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS* describes the update in detail and provides a full array of tables (see page 27).

The fixed assets accounts have

been updated to incorporate the results from the 2011 annual revision of the national income and product accounts (NIPAs) and the benchmarking of private fixed investment by industry and by type of asset. In addition, the fixed assets accounts were updated to reflect a new methodology that allows for more consistency between estimates of government-owned structures classified by type and structures classified by function.

Chain-type quantity index levels in some cases were revised for nearly the entire historical period, back to 1925. However, revisions to percent change in the indexes are limited to 1998 forward for private fixed assets and 1997 forward for government fixed assets.

The standard fixed assets tables present estimates of net stocks, depreciation, fixed investment, other changes in volume of assets, and the average age of net stocks for fixed assets and consumer durable goods. The private fixed investment reconciliation tables present the relationship between private fixed investment in the fixed assets accounts and corresponding items in the NIPAs.

The detailed fixed assets tables present detailed estimates of net stocks, depreciation, and investment by type and by industry (for nonresidential fixed assets only) for private residential and nonresidential fixed assets, and consumer durable goods. Detailed price indexes for

nonresidential fixed assets and implied rates of depreciation for selected aggregates by industry are also included.

The complete fixed assets accounts are available interactively by industry, by legal form of organization, and by asset type at [www.bea.gov/national/FA2004/index.asp](http://www.bea.gov/national/FA2004/index.asp). Statistics on net stocks, depreciation (consumption of fixed capital), "other changes in volume of assets," and the average age of net stocks are available, beginning with 1925; estimates of fixed investment are available, beginning with 1901.

### **New and updated FAQs available**

BEA provides a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) feature on its Web site that provides a wealth of answers to questions about the Bureau—its statistics, methodologies, surveys, services, Web site, and related topics. The service was relaunched earlier this year with a new, more intuitive user interface and a cleaner design.

Recently, several new FAQs have been made available, including several on the recently released 2011 annual revision of the national income and product accounts. Also, a new item was added, "Do BEA statistics show that the average federal worker is paid significantly more than the average private-sector worker?"

The FAQ service can be accessed on the BEA Web site.