

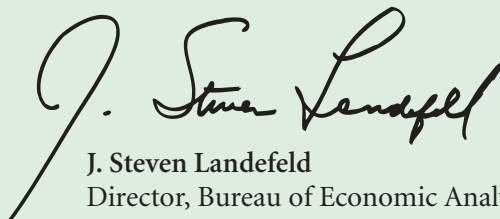
Director's Message

This issue of the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS includes two articles in our *BEA Briefings* series, which highlights trends, changes, and innovations within our economic accounts. One *BEA Briefing* takes a look at trends in unemployment insurance benefits in 2008–2011 and how they were reflected in the national income and product accounts (NIPAs). The other *BEA Briefing* updates the latest gross domestic product (GDP) statistics for four U.S. territories—American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. New estimates of territorial GDP for 2008–2009 are presented, along with revised estimates for earlier years. BEA has embarked on a project with the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, which provided funding, to measure GDP in these territories.

In addition, we continue to publish tables from the 2011 annual revision of the NIPAs, including the updated fixed assets accounts and consumer durable goods.

Another article takes a look at the most recent metropolitan area personal income statistics. In 2010, personal income rose in all but 4 of the nation's 366 metropolitan statistical areas. We also provide a look at updated direct investment data, government receipts and expenditures for the second quarter, and the second estimates of GDP, also for the second quarter.

I'd also like to mention that we have updated our [Director's Page](#), accessible at www.bea.gov. We hope people find the page a useful source of information about all we do at BEA in support of our mission: to provide timely, relevant, and accurate statistics that promote a better understanding of the economy.



J. Steven Landefeld
Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis