

# **GDP** and the Economy

## Third Estimates for the Third Quarter of 2018

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Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 3.4 percent in the third quarter of 2018, according to the third estimates of the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) (chart 1 and table 1, line 1). The third estimate of real GDP growth was 0.1 percentage point lower than the second estimate; the general picture of economic growth remains the same. The revised estimates reflected downward revisions to consumer spending and to exports that were partly offset by an upward revision to inventory investment. In the second quarter, real GDP increased 4.2 percent.

The increase in real GDP in the third quarter reflected positive contributions from consumer spending, inventory investment, nonresidential fixed investment, federal government spending, and state and local government spending. These positive contributions were partly offset by negative contributions from exports and residential fixed investment (chart 2). Imports, a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, increased.



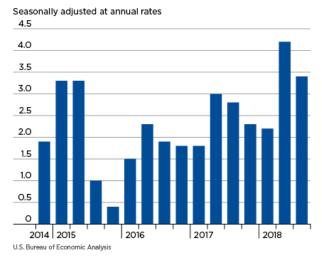
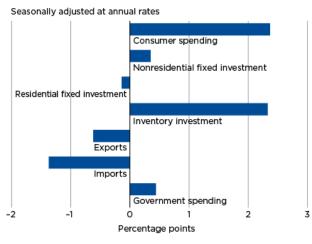


Chart 2. Real GDP: Contributions to the Percent Change in 2018:III



### Impact of Hurricane Florence on Third-Quarter 2018 Estimates

Hurricane Florence made its initial landfall on September 14, 2018, causing damage and flooding in parts of the southeastern United States, most notably, the Carolinas. This natural disaster disrupted consumption and business activities, including utilities. In contrast, provision of emergency and remediation services likely increased in response to the disaster. These impacts on production are included, but not separately identified, in the source data that BEA uses to prepare the estimates of GDP; consequently, it is not possible to estimate the overall impact of Hurricane Florence on 2018 third-quarter GDP.

The destruction of fixed assets, such as residential and nonresidential structures, does not directly affect GDP or personal income. BEA estimates disaster losses in NIPA table 5.1. Saving and Investment by Sector. BEA's estimates show that the impact of Hurricane Florence resulted in losses of \$35.0 billion in privately owned fixed assets (\$140.0 billion at an annual rate) and \$2.0 billion in state and local government-owned fixed assets (\$8.0 billion at an annual rate).

BEA also estimates the insurance benefits paid and received because of major disasters. These benefits are recorded on an accrual basis in the quarter in which the disaster occurred and are classified as capital transfers; they do not directly affect the measures of GDP, personal income, or saving. BEA's estimates, presented in NIPA table 5.11U. Capital Transfers Paid and Received, by Sector and by Type, show domestic insurance companies expect to pay benefits for disaster losses related to Hurricane Florence in the amount of \$4.9 billion (\$19.8 billion at an annual rate). The federal government's National Flood Insurance Program expects to pay an additional \$5.0 billion (\$20.0 billion at an annual rate), and foreign insurance companies expect to pay \$0.6 billion (\$2.2 billion at an annual rate).

For additional information, see "How are the measures of production and income in the national accounts affected by a natural or man-made disaster?"

## **GDP Component Detail**

The deceleration in real GDP growth in the third quarter primarily reflected a downturn in exports (line 16) and decelerations in nonresidential fixed investment (line 9) and in consumer spending (line 2). Additionally, imports increased in the third quarter after decreasing in the second (line 19). These movements were partly offset by an upturn in nonfarm inventory investment (line 14).

- The downturn in exports (line 16) primarily reflected downturns in foods, feeds, and beverages (mainly soybeans), in petroleum and products, and in nonautomotive capital goods.
- The deceleration in nonresidential fixed investment (line 9) primarily reflected a downturn in investment in structures (line 10). Decelerations in intellectual property products (line 12) and in equipment (line 11) also contributed to this deceleration. The main contributor to the downturn in structures was investment in mining exploration, shafts, and wells, which turned down following strong second-quarter growth.
- The deceleration in consumer spending (line 2) reflected a deceleration in spending on durable goods (line 4) that was partly offset by accelerations in nondurable goods (line 5) and in services (line 6). The deceleration in durable goods was mainly due to a downturn in motor vehicles and parts.
- The upturn in imports (line 19) was mostly accounted for by upturns in imported consumer durable goods (nonfood, nonautomotive) and in automotive vehicles, engines, and parts.
- The upturn in nonfarm inventory investment (line 14) was widespread across most industries. The leading contributors were the wholesale trade and manufacturing industries.

Table 1. Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Related Measures

[Seasonally adjusted at annual rates]

| Line |  | Share of current-<br>dollar GDP<br>(percent) |      |      | n prece<br>percent |      | Contribution to percent<br>change in real GDP<br>(percentage points) |       |       |       |  |  |
|------|--|--|------|------|--------------------|------|--|-------|-------|-------|--|--|
|      |  | 2018   | 2017 |      | 2018               |      | 2017   |       |       |       |  |  |
|      |  | III  | IV   | I    | II                 | III  | IV   | I     | II    | III   |  |  |
| 1    | Gross domestic product $^{1}$                            | 100.0  | 2.3  | 2.2  | 4.2                | 3.4  | 2.3  | 2.2   | 4.2   | 3.4   |  |  |
| 2    | Personal consumption expenditures                        | 68.0   | 3.9  | 0.5  | 3.8                | 3.5  | 2.64   | 0.36  | 2.57  | 2.37  |  |  |
| 3    | Goods  | 21.2   | 6.8  | -0.6 | 5.5                | 4.3  | 1.42   | -0.13 | 1.16  | 0.90  |  |  |
| 4    | Durable goods  | 7.1  | 12.7 | -2.0 | 8.6                | 3.7  | 0.87   | -0.15 | 0.60  | 0.26  |  |  |
| 5    | Nondurable goods   | 14.1   | 4.0  | 0.1  | 4.0                | 4.6  | 0.55   | 0.02  | 0.56  | 0.64  |  |  |
| 6    | Services   | 46.9   | 2.6  | 1.0  | 3.0                | 3.2  | 1.22   | 0.49  | 1.42  | 1.47  |  |  |
| 7    | Gross private domestic investment                        | 18.0   | 8.0  | 9.6  | -0.5               | 15.2 | 0.14   | 1.61  | -0.07 | 2.53  |  |  |
| 8    | Fixed investment   | 17.5   | 6.2  | 8.0  | 6.4                | 1.1  | 1.04   | 1.34  | 1.10  | 0.21  |  |  |
| 9    | Nonresidential   | 13.6   | 4.8  | 11.5 | 8.7                | 2.5  | 0.63   | 1.47  | 1.15  | 0.35  |  |  |
| 10   | Structures   | 3.1  | 1.3  | 13.9 | 14.5               | -3.4 | 0.04   | 0.40  | 0.43  | -0.11 |  |  |
| 11   | Equipment  | 6.0  | 9.9  | 8.5  | 4.6                | 3.4  | 0.56   | 0.49  | 0.27  | 0.21  |  |  |
| 12   | Intellectual property products                           | 4.5  | 0.7  | 14.1 | 10.5               | 5.6  | 0.03   | 0.58  | 0.45  | 0.25  |  |  |
| 13   | Residential  | 3.9  | 11.1 | -3.4 | -1.3               | -3.6 | 0.41   | -0.14 | -0.05 | -0.14 |  |  |
| 14   | Change in private inventories                            | 0.4  |      |      |                    |      | -0.91  | 0.27  | -1.17 | 2.33  |  |  |
| 15   | Net exports of goods and services                        | -3.2   |      |      |                    |      | -0.89  | -0.02 | 1.22  | -1.99 |  |  |
| 16   | Exports  | 12.3   | 6.6  | 3.6  | 9.3                | -4.9 | 0.79   | 0.43  | 1.12  | -0.62 |  |  |
| 17   | Goods  | 8.1  | 10.9 | 3.2  | 13.5               | -8.4 | 0.83   | 0.26  | 1.06  | -0.72 |  |  |
| 18   | Services   | 4.2  | -1.0 | 4.2  | 1.5                | 2.4  | -0.04  | 0.18  | 0.07  | 0.10  |  |  |
| 19   | Imports  | 15.5   | 11.8 | 3.0  | -0.6               | 9.3  | -1.68  | -0.45 | 0.10  | -1.37 |  |  |
| 20   | Goods  | 12.6   | 14.2 | 2.4  | -0.4               | 10.5 | -1.62  | -0.30 | 0.06  | -1.24 |  |  |
| 21   | Services   | 2.9  | 2.0  | 5.5  | -1.4               | 4.3  | -0.06  | -0.15 | 0.04  | -0.12 |  |  |
| 22   | Government consumption expenditures and gross investment | 17.2   | 2.4  | 1.5  | 2.5                | 2.6  | 0.41   | 0.27  | 0.43  | 0.44  |  |  |
| 23   | Federal  | 6.4  | 4.1  | 2.6  | 3.7                | 3.5  | 0.26   | 0.17  | 0.24  | 0.23  |  |  |
| 24   | National defense   | 3.8  | 2.9  | 3.0  | 5.9                | 4.9  | 0.11   | 0.11  | 0.22  | 0.18  |  |  |
| 25   | Nondefense   | 2.6  | 5.7  | 2.1  | 0.5                | 1.6  | 0.15   | 0.06  | 0.01  | 0.04  |  |  |
| 26   | State and local  | 10.8   | 1.4  | 0.9  | 1.8                | 2.0  | 0.15   | 0.10  | 0.20  | 0.22  |  |  |
|      | Addenda:   |  |      |      |                    |      | •  |       | •     |       |  |  |
| 27   | Gross domestic income (GDI) <sup>2</sup>                 |  | 1.5  | 3.9  | 0.9                | 4.3  |  |       |       |       |  |  |
| 28   | Average of GDP and GDI                                   |  | 1.9  | 3.1  | 2.5                | 3.8  |  |       |       |       |  |  |
| 29   | Final sales of domestic product                          |  | 3.2  | 1.9  | 5.4                | 1.0  | 3.20   | 1.94  | 5.33  | 1.03  |  |  |
| 30   | Goods  | 29.4   | 1.1  | 4.1  | 6.5                | 6.1  | 0.34   | 1.20  | 1.91  | 1.77  |  |  |
| 31   | Services   | 62.1   | 2.1  | 1.2  | 2.9                | 2.8  | 1.32   | 0.73  | 1.78  | 1.76  |  |  |
| 32   | Structures   | 8.5  | 7.9  | 3.4  | 5.5                | -2.0 | 0.64   | 0.28  | 0.47  | -0.17 |  |  |
| 33   | Motor vehicle output                                     | 2.8  | 23.2 | 9.5  | -5.8               | 9.6  | 0.58   | 0.26  | -0.17 | 0.25  |  |  |

<sup>1.</sup> The GDP estimates under the contribution columns are also percent changes.

Note. Percent changes are from NIPA tables 1.1.1 and 1.2.1, contributions are from NIPA tables 1.1.2 and 1.2.2, and shares are from NIPA table 1.1.10 or are calculated from NIPA table 1.2.5.

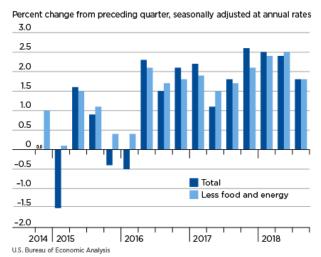
<sup>2.</sup> GDI is deflated by the implicit price deflator for GDP.

## **Prices**

Prices for gross domestic purchases, goods and services purchased by U.S. residents, increased 1.8 percent in the third quarter after increasing 2.4 percent in the second quarter (table 2, line 1, and chart 3). Food prices decelerated (line 20), increasing 0.5 percent after increasing 1.1 percent. Energy goods and services accelerated, increasing 3.3 percent after increasing 0.4 percent. Gross domestic purchases prices excluding food and energy (line 22) increased 1.8 percent after increasing 2.5 percent.

Consumer prices excluding food and energy (line 25), a measure of the "core" rate of inflation, decelerated, increasing 1.6 percent in the third quarter after increasing 2.1 percent in the second quarter.

#### Chart 3. Prices for Gross Domestic Purchases



**Table 2. Prices for Gross Domestic Purchases** 

[Percent change at annual rates; based on seasonally adjusted index numbers (2012=100)]

|      |   |                            | ge from |      |      | Contribution to percent change in gross domestic purchases prices (percentage points) |              |       |       |  |  |  |
|------|---|----------------------------|---------|------|------|---|--------------|-------|-------|--|--|--|
| Line |   | period (percent) 2017 2018 |         |      | IJ   | 2017  | urchases pri |       | 2018  |  |  |  |
|      |   | IV I II III                |         | IV   | I    | II  | III          |       |       |  |  |  |
| 1    | Gross domestic purchases <sup>1</sup>                     | 2.6                        | 2.5     | 2.4  | 1.8  | 2.6   | 2.5          | 2.4   | 1.8   |  |  |  |
| 2    | Personal consumption expenditures                         | 2.7                        | 2.5     | 2.0  | 1.6  | 1.81  | 1.63         | 1.32  | 1.04  |  |  |  |
| 3    | Goods   | 1.5                        | 2.2     | 0.4  | -0.4 | 0.30  | 0.46         | 0.08  | -0.07 |  |  |  |
| 4    | Durable goods   | -2.2                       | -1.1    | -1.6 | -0.9 | -0.16   | -0.07        | -0.11 | -0.06 |  |  |  |
| 5    | Nondurable goods  | 3.4                        | 3.9     | 1.4  | 0.0  | 0.46  | 0.53         | 0.19  | -0.01 |  |  |  |
| 6    | Services  | 3.3                        | 2.6     | 2.7  | 2.5  | 1.50  | 1.17         | 1.24  | 1.11  |  |  |  |
| 7    | Gross private domestic investment                         | 1.3                        | 2.5     | 3.1  | 2.0  | 0.22  | 0.42         | 0.53  | 0.35  |  |  |  |
| 8    | Fixed investment  | 1.2                        | 2.5     | 3.2  | 2.0  | 0.21  | 0.42         | 0.53  | 0.34  |  |  |  |
| 9    | Nonresidential  | 0.7                        | 0.7     | 2.0  | 1.6  | 0.09  | 0.09         | 0.26  | 0.21  |  |  |  |
| 10   | Structures  | 2.3                        | 3.2     | 5.1  | 3.1  | 0.07  | 0.09         | 0.15  | 0.09  |  |  |  |
| 11   | Equipment   | -0.5                       | -0.3    | 0.8  | 1.2  | -0.03   | -0.02        | 0.05  | 0.07  |  |  |  |
| 12   | Intellectual property products                            | 1.2                        | 0.4     | 1.4  | 1.0  | 0.05  | 0.02         | 0.06  | 0.04  |  |  |  |
| 13   | Residential   | 3.1                        | 8.8     | 7.3  | 3.6  | 0.11  | 0.32         | 0.27  | 0.13  |  |  |  |
| 14   | Change in private inventories                             |                            |         |      |      | 0.02  | 0.01         | -0.01 | 0.01  |  |  |  |
| 15   | Government consumption expenditures and gross investment  | 3.2                        | 2.9     | 3.3  | 2.5  | 0.53  | 0.48         | 0.55  | 0.41  |  |  |  |
| 16   | Federal   | 1.3                        | 1.8     | 2.0  | 1.5  | 0.08  | 0.11         | 0.13  | 0.10  |  |  |  |
| 17   | National defense  | 1.2                        | 1.4     | 1.3  | 1.2  | 0.05  | 0.05         | 0.05  | 0.04  |  |  |  |
| 18   | Nondefense  | 1.4                        | 2.4     | 3.0  | 2.0  | 0.04  | 0.06         | 0.08  | 0.05  |  |  |  |
| 19   | State and local   | 4.4                        | 3.6     | 4.1  | 3.0  | 0.45  | 0.37         | 0.42  | 0.32  |  |  |  |
|      | Addenda:  | I.                         |         |      |      |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
|      | Gross domestic purchases:                                 |                            |         |      |      |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 20   | Food  | 0.1                        | 0.4     | 1.1  | 0.5  | 0.01  | 0.02         | 0.05  | 0.03  |  |  |  |
| 21   | Energy goods and services                                 | 24.9                       | 12.6    | 0.4  | 3.3  | 0.61  | 0.33         | 0.01  | 0.09  |  |  |  |
| 22   | Excluding food and energy                                 | 2.1                        | 2.4     | 2.5  | 1.8  | 1.95  | 2.19         | 2.33  | 1.68  |  |  |  |
|      | Personal consumption expenditures:                        |                            |         |      |      |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 23   | Food and beverages purchased for off-premises consumption | 0.2                        | 0.2     | 1.2  | 0.4  |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 24   | Energy goods and services                                 | 24.1                       | 12.7    | 0.7  | 3.3  |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 25   | Excluding food and energy                                 | 2.1                        | 2.2     | 2.1  | 1.6  |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 26   | Gross domestic product                                    | 2.5                        | 2.0     | 3.0  | 1.8  |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 27   | Exports of goods and services                             | 6.1                        | 4.0     | 5.8  | 0.3  |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |
| 28   | Imports of goods and services                             | 5.7                        | 7.3     | 0.8  | 0.4  |   |              |       |       |  |  |  |

<sup>1.</sup> The estimated prices for gross domestic purchases under the contribution columns are also percent changes.

Note. Most percent changes are from NIPA table 1.6.7; percent changes for PCE for food and energy goods and services and for PCE excluding food and energy are from NIPA table 2.3.7. Contributions are from NIPA table 1.6.8. GDP, export, and import prices are from NIPA table 1.1.7.

#### **Note on Prices**

BEA's gross domestic purchases price index is the most comprehensive index of prices paid by U.S. residents for all goods and services, regardless of whether those goods and services were produced domestically or imported. It is derived from the prices of personal consumption expenditures (PCE), private investment, and government consumption expenditures and gross investment.

The GDP price index measures the prices of goods and services produced in the United States, including the prices of goods and services produced for export. The difference between the gross domestic purchases price index and the GDP price index reflects the differences between imports prices (included in the gross domestic purchases index) and exports prices (included in the GDP price index). For other measures that are affected by import and export prices, see the FAQ "How do the effects of dollar depreciation show up in the GDP accounts?" on BEA's website.

BEA also produces price indexes for all the components of GDP. The PCE price index is a measure of the total cost of consumer goods and services, including durable goods, nondurable goods, and services. PCE prices for food, for energy goods and services, and for all items except food and energy are also estimated and reported.

Because prices for food and for energy can be volatile, the price measure that excludes food and energy is often used as a measure of underlying, or "core," inflation. The core PCE price index includes purchased meals and beverages, such as restaurant meals and pet food. (See "What is the core PCE price index?" on BEA's website.)

BEA also prepares a supplemental PCE price index, the "market-based" PCE price index, that is based on market transactions for which there are corresponding price measures. This index excludes many imputed expenditures, such as financial services furnished without payment, that are included in PCE and in the PCE price index. BEA also prepares a market-based measure that excludes food and energy.

### **Revisions**

With the third estimates, real GDP increased 3.4 percent in the third quarter, 0.1 percentage point lower than the second estimate (table 3, line 1). Consumer spending (line 2) grew less and exports (line 16) decreased more than previously estimated. These downward revisions were partly offset by an upward revision to inventory investment (line 14).

- The downward revision to consumer spending reflected a downward revision to goods (line 3) that was partly offset by an upward revision to services (line 6). Within goods, the largest contributor to the revision was gasoline and other energy goods. Within services, the largest contributor to the upward revision was health care services.
- Within exports, both goods and services were revised down. The largest contributor to the revision in exports of goods (line 17) was "other" capital goods, and the largest contributor to the revision in exports of services (line 18) was maintenance and repair services.
- The upward revision to inventory investment (line 14) reflected an upward revision to nonfarm inventories that was partly offset by a downward revision to farm inventories.
- Within nonfarm inventories, the upward revision primarily reflected an upward revision
  to wholesale trade industries that was partly offset by a downward revision to "other"
  industries. The revision to wholesale trade was concentrated in durable goods industries.
  The revision to "other" industries was more than accounted for by the information
  industry.
- Real gross domestic income (line 28) increased 4.3 percent in the third quarter, an upward revision of 0.3 percentage point from the second estimates. The revision primarily reflected an upward revision to domestic industries' corporate profits.

Table 3. Second and Third Estimates for the Third Quarter of 2018

[Seasonally adjusted at annual rates]

|      |  | Chan                  | ge from pro<br>(perc | eceding period<br>ent)                     | Contribution to percent change in real GDP (percentage points) |                |   |  |  |
|------|--|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--|----------------|---|--|--|
| Line |  | Second Third estimate |                      | Third estimate<br>minus second<br>estimate | Second<br>estimate   | Third estimate | Third<br>estimate<br>minus second<br>estimate |  |  |
| 1    | Gross domestic product $(GDP)^1$                         | 3.5                   | 3.4                  | -0.1                                       | 3.5  | 3.4            | -0.1  |  |  |
| 2    | Personal consumption expenditures                        | 3.6                   | 3.5                  | -0.1                                       | 2.45   | 2.37           | -0.08   |  |  |
| 3    | Goods  | 4.8                   | 4.3                  | -0.5                                       | 1.00   | 0.90           | -0.10   |  |  |
| 4    | Durable goods  | 3.9                   | 3.7                  | -0.2                                       | 0.28   | 0.26           | -0.02   |  |  |
| 5    | Nondurable goods   | 5.3                   | 4.6                  | -0.7                                       | 0.73   | 0.64           | -0.09   |  |  |
| 6    | Services   | 3.1                   | 3.2                  | 0.1  | 1.45   | 1.47           | 0.02  |  |  |
| 7    | Gross private domestic investment                        | 15.1                  | 15.2                 | 0.1  | 2.52   | 2.53           | 0.01  |  |  |
| 8    | Fixed investment   | 1.4                   | 1.1                  | -0.3                                       | 0.25   | 0.21           | -0.04   |  |  |
| 9    | Nonresidential   | 2.5                   | 2.5                  | 0.0  | 0.35   | 0.35           | 0.00  |  |  |
| 10   | Structures   | -1.7                  | -3.4                 | -1.7                                       | -0.05  | -0.11          | -0.06   |  |  |
| 11   | Equipment  | 3.5                   | 3.4                  | -0.1                                       | 0.21   | 0.21           | 0.00  |  |  |
| 12   | Intellectual property products                           | 4.3                   | 5.6                  | 1.3  | 0.19   | 0.25           | 0.06  |  |  |
| 13   | Residential  | -2.6                  | -3.6                 | -1.0                                       | -0.10  | -0.14          | -0.04   |  |  |
| 14   | Change in private inventories                            |                       |                      |  | 2.27   | 2.33           | 0.06  |  |  |
| 15   | Net exports of goods and services                        |                       |                      |  | -1.91  | -1.99          | -0.08   |  |  |
| 16   | Exports  | -4.4                  | -4.9                 | -0.5                                       | -0.55  | -0.62          | -0.07   |  |  |
| 17   | Goods  | -8.1                  | -8.4                 | -0.3                                       | -0.69  | -0.72          | -0.03   |  |  |
| 18   | Services   | 3.4                   | 2.4                  | -1.0                                       | 0.14   | 0.10           | -0.04   |  |  |
| 19   | Imports  | 9.2                   | 9.3                  | 0.1  | -1.36  | -1.37          | -0.01   |  |  |
| 20   | Goods  | 10.3                  | 10.5                 | 0.2  | -1.23  | -1.24          | -0.01   |  |  |
| 21   | Services   | 4.6                   | 4.3                  | -0.3                                       | -0.13  | -0.12          | 0.01  |  |  |
| 22   | Government consumption expenditures and gross investment | 2.6                   | 2.6                  | 0.0  | 0.44   | 0.44           | 0.00  |  |  |
| 23   | Federal  | 3.5                   | 3.5                  | 0.0  | 0.23   | 0.23           | 0.00  |  |  |
| 24   | National defense   | 4.9                   | 4.9                  | 0.0  | 0.18   | 0.18           | 0.00  |  |  |
| 25   | Nondefense   | 1.5                   | 1.6                  | 0.1  | 0.04   | 0.04           | 0.00  |  |  |
| 26   | State and local  | 2.0                   | 2.0                  | 0.0  | 0.22   | 0.22           | 0.00  |  |  |
|      | Addenda:   |                       |                      |  |  |                |   |  |  |
| 27   | Final sales of domestic product                          | 1.2                   | 1.0                  | -0.2                                       | 1.23   | 1.03           | -0.20   |  |  |
| 28   | Gross domestic income (GDI)                              | 4.0                   | 4.3                  | 0.3  |  |                |   |  |  |
| 29   | Average of GDP and GDI                                   | 3.8                   | 3.8                  | 0.0  |  |                |   |  |  |
| 30   | Gross domestic purchases price index                     | 1.7                   | 1.8                  | 0.1  |  |                |   |  |  |
| 31   | GDP price index  | 1.7                   | 1.8                  | 0.1  |  |                |   |  |  |

<sup>1.</sup> The GDP estimates under the contribution columns are also percent changes.

## **Corporate Profits**

Measured in current dollars, profits from current production (corporate profits with the inventory valuation (IVA) adjustment and the capital consumption adjustment (CCAdj), increased \$78.2 billion, or 3.5 percent at a quarterly rate, in the third quarter after increasing \$65.0 billion, or 3.0 percent, in the second quarter (table 4, line 1). In the third quarter, profits of domestic financial corporations decreased \$6.1 billion (line 3), profits of domestic nonfinancial corporations increased \$83.0 billion (line 4), and rest-of-the-world profits increased \$1.3 billion (line 5).

Profits after tax (with the IVA and CCAdj) increased \$69.3 billion in the third quarter after increasing \$42.2 billion in the second quarter (line 10).

**Table 4. Corporate Profits** 

[Seasonally adjusted]

|      |  | Billi   | ons of do | llars (anr        | nual ra | te)   | Percent change from preceding |           |      |      |
|------|--|---------|-----------|-------------------|---------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| Line |  | Level   | Cha       | nge from<br>quart | -       | ing   |                               | rter (qua |      |      |
|      |  | 2018    | 2017      |                   | 2018    |       | 2017                          |           | 2018 |      |
|      |  | III     | IV        | I                 | II      | III   | IV                            | I         | II   | III  |
|      | <b>Current production measures:</b>            |         |           |                   |         |       |                               |           |      |      |
| 1    | Corporate profits with IVA and CCAdj           | 2,320.5 | 49.5      | 26.7              | 65.0    | 78.2  | 2.4                           | 1.2       | 3.0  | 3.5  |
| 2    | Domestic industries                            | 1,837.1 | 26.4      | 23.0              | 69.5    | 76.9  | 1.6                           | 1.4       | 4.1  | 4.4  |
| 3    | Financial                                      | 451.6   | -8.4      | -9.3              | 16.5    | -6.1  | -1.8                          | -2.1      | 3.7  | -1.3 |
| 4    | Nonfinancial                                   | 1,385.5 | 34.8      | 32.3              | 53.0    | 83.0  | 2.9                           | 2.7       | 4.2  | 6.4  |
| 5    | Rest of the world                              | 483.4   | 23.1      | 3.7               | -4.5    | 1.3   | 5.0                           | 0.8       | -0.9 | 0.3  |
| 6    | Receipts from the rest of the world            | 810.5   | 39.3      | 20.9              | 0.5     | -9.5  | 5.2                           | 2.6       | 0.1  | -1.2 |
| 7    | <i>Less:</i> Payments to the rest of the world | 327.2   | 16.2      | 17.2              | 5.0     | -10.8 | 5.4                           | 5.4       | 1.5  | -3.2 |
|      |  |         |           |                   |         |       |                               |           |      |      |
| 9    | Less: Taxes on corporate income                | 243.7   | -31.4     | -121.8            | 22.8    | 8.9   | -8.6                          | -36.5     | 10.7 | 3.8  |
|      |  |         |           |                   |         |       |                               |           |      |      |
| 10   | Equals: Profits after tax                      | 2,076.8 | 80.9      | 148.4             | 42.2    | 69.3  | 4.7                           | 8.2       | 2.1  | 3.5  |
| 11   | Net dividends                                  | 1,250.6 | -20.7     | 18.4              | 9.8     | 27.6  | -1.7                          | 1.5       | 0.8  | 2.3  |
| 12   | Undistributed profits from current production  | 826.2   | 101.6     | 130.0             | 32.4    | 41.7  | 19.5                          | 20.9      | 4.3  | 5.3  |
|      |  |         |           |                   |         |       |                               |           |      |      |
| 13   | Net cash flow with IVA                         | 2,614.3 | -737.5    | 1,150.1           | 59.4    | 56.2  | -35.4                         | 85.3      | 2.4  | 2.2  |

CCAdj Capital consumption adjustment IVA Inventory valuation adjustment

Note. Levels of these and other profits series are shown in NIPA tables 1.12 and 6.16D.

### **Note on Measuring Corporate Profits**

Corporate profits is a widely followed economic indicator used to gauge corporate health, assess investment conditions, and analyze the effect on corporations of economic policies and conditions. In addition, corporate profits is an important component in key measures of income.

BEA's measure of corporate profits aims to capture the income earned by corporations from current production in a manner that is fully consistent with the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs). The measure is defined as receipts arising from current production less associated expenses. Receipts exclude income in the form of dividends and capital gains, and expenses exclude bad debts, natural resource depletion, and capital losses.

Because direct estimates of NIPA-consistent corporate profits are unavailable, BEA derives these estimates in three steps.

First, BEA measures profits before taxes to reflect corporate income regardless of any redistributions of income through taxes. Estimates for the current quarter are based on corporate earnings reports from sources including the Census Bureau *Quarterly Financial Report*, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation call reports, other regulatory reports, and tabulations from corporate financial reports. The estimates are benchmarked to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) data when these data are available for two reasons: the IRS data are based on well-specified accounting definitions, and they are comprehensive, covering all incorporated businesses—publicly traded and privately held—in all industries.

Second, to remove the effects of price changes on inventories valued at historical cost and of tax accounting for inventory withdrawals, BEA adds an inventory valuation adjustment that values inventories at current cost.

Third, to remove the effects of tax accounting on depreciation, BEA adds a capital consumption adjustment (CCAdj). CCAdj is defined as the difference between capital consumption allowances (tax return depreciation) and consumption of fixed capital (the decline in the value of the stock of assets due to wear and tear, obsolescence, accidental damage, and aging).

## **Corporate Profits by Industry**

Industry profits (corporate profits by industry with the IVA) increased \$82.3 billion, or 3.9 percent at a quarterly rate, in the third quarter after increasing \$70.4 billion, or 3.5 percent, in the second quarter (table 5, line 1 and chart 4).

**Table 5. Corporate Profits by Industry** 

[Seasonally adjusted]

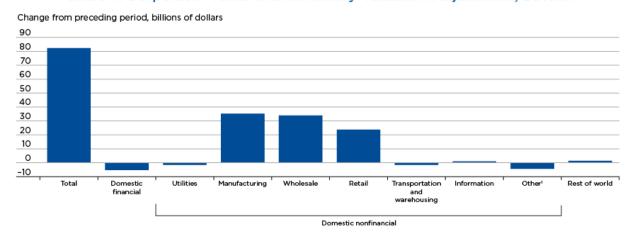
|      |  | Billio  | ons of dol                    | lars (an | nual rat | Percent change from preceding |                          |      |      |      |  |
|------|--|---------|-------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------|------|------|--|
| Line |  | Level   | Change from preceding quarter |          |          |                               | quarter (quarterly rate) |      |      |      |  |
|      |  | 2018    | 2017 2018                     |          |          | 2017                          |                          | 2018 |      |      |  |
|      |  | III     | IV                            | I        | II       | III                           | IV                       | I    | II   | III  |  |
|      | Industry profits:                          |         |                               |          |          |                               |                          |      |      |      |  |
| 1    | Corporate profits with IVA                 | 2,189.5 | -189.6                        | 26.6     | 70.4     | 82.3                          | -8.6                     | 1.3  | 3.5  | 3.9  |  |
| 2    | Domestic industries                        | 1,706.2 | -212.7                        | 23.0     | 74.9     | 81.0                          | -12.2                    | 1.5  | 4.8  | 5.0  |  |
| 3    | Financial                                  | 456.3   | -35.3                         | -9.2     | 17.1     | -5.3                          | -7.2                     | -2.0 | 3.8  | -1.1 |  |
| 4    | Nonfinancial                               | 1,249.9 | -177.4                        | 32.2     | 57.8     | 86.3                          | -14.2                    | 3.0  | 5.2  | 7.4  |  |
| 5    | Utilities                                  | -2.2    | -1.3                          | -2.5     | 0.4      | -1.6                          | -49.2                    | n.m. | n.m. | n.m. |  |
| 6    | Manufacturing                              | 302.9   | -56.3                         | -26.0    | 29.2     | 35.2                          | -17.5                    | -9.8 | 12.2 | 13.1 |  |
| 7    | Wholesale trade                            | 117.1   | -28.4                         | 2.3      | -5.4     | 33.9                          | -24.8                    | 2.7  | -6.0 | 40.7 |  |
| 8    | Retail trade                               | 164.8   | -29.5                         | 16.2     | -14.3    | 23.7                          | -17.5                    | 11.6 | -9.2 | 16.8 |  |
| 9    | Transportation and warehousing             | 52.4    | -9.0                          | -2.7     | 6.2      | -1.6                          | -15.1                    | -5.4 | 12.9 | -3.0 |  |
| 10   | Information                                | 162.6   | -33.8                         | 24.9     | 12.7     | 1.0                           | -21.4                    | 20.1 | 8.5  | 0.6  |  |
| 11   | Other nonfinancial                         | 452.2   | -19.1                         | 20.0     | 29.0     | -4.4                          | -4.5                     | 4.9  | 6.8  | -1.0 |  |
| 12   | Rest of the world                          | 483.4   | 23.1                          | 3.7      | -4.5     | 1.3                           | 5.0                      | 0.8  | -0.9 | 0.3  |  |
|      |  |         |                               |          |          |                               |                          |      |      |      |  |
|      | Addenda:                                   |         |                               |          |          |                               |                          |      |      |      |  |
| 13   | Profits before tax (without IVA and CCAdj) | 2,223.9 | -146.0                        | 26.4     | 86.1     | 26.8                          | -6.5                     | 1.3  | 4.1  | 1.2  |  |
| 14   | Profits after tax (without IVA and CCAdj)  | 1,980.2 | -114.7                        | 148.1    | 63.4     | 17.9                          | -6.1                     | 8.5  | 3.3  | 0.9  |  |
| 15   | IVA  | -34.4   | -43.6                         | 0.2      | -15.7    | 55.5                          |                          |      |      |      |  |
| 16   | CCAdj                                      | 131.0   | 239.1                         | 0.1      | -5.4     | -4.1                          |                          |      |      |      |  |

**CCAdj** Capital consumption adjustment **IVA** Inventory valuation adjustment

Value not meaningful n.m.

Note. Levels of these and other profits series are shown in NIPA tables 1.12, 1.14, 1.15, and 6.16D.

Chart 4. Corporate Profits with Inventory Valuation Adjustment, 2018:III



 <sup>&</sup>quot;Other" nonfinancial corporations include the agriculture, mining, construction, and services industries.
 Note. Based on seasonally adjusted estimates.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

### **Note on Corporate Profits by Industry**

Industry profits are corporate profits by industry with inventory valuation adjustment (IVA). The IVA removes the effect of price changes on inventories. The IVA is the difference between the cost of inventory withdrawals at acquisition cost and replacement cost. Ideally, BEA would also add the capital consumption adjustment (CCAdj) for each industry. However, estimates of the CCAdj are only available for two broad categories: total financial industries and total nonfinancial industries. For more information about BEA's methodology, see "Chapter 13: Corporate Profits" in *Concepts and Methods of the U.S. National Income and Product Accounts* on BEA's website.

### Information on Key Source Data, Assumptions, and Methodologies

A comprehensive table that presents the "Key Source Data and Assumptions" (under "Current Release") that are used to prepare each vintage of the estimate of GDP for the current quarter is available on BEA's website. For the advance estimates that are released near the end of the month after the close of the quarter, the table shows the months of source data for the quarter that are available; for most components of GDP, 3 months of data are available. For the components for which only 2 months of source data are available, BEA's assumptions for the third month are shown. Second estimates are released near the end of the second month after the close of the quarter, and third estimates are released near the end of the third month after the close of the quarter. With each vintage, the table is updated to add newly available and revised source data that have been incorporated into the estimates.

For additional details about the source data and the methodologies that are used to prepare the estimates, see "Concepts and Methods of the U.S. National Income and Product Accounts" on BEA's website.



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<sup>1. &</sup>quot;Real" estimates are in chained (2012) dollars, and price indexes are chain-type measures. Each GDP estimate for a quarter (advance, second, and third) incorporates increasingly comprehensive and improved source data; for more information, see "The Revisions to GDP, GDI, and Their Major Components" in the January 2018 Survey of Current Business. Quarterly estimates are expressed at seasonally adjusted annual rates, which reflect a rate of activity for a quarter as if it were maintained for a year.

<sup>2.</sup> In this article, "consumer spending" refers to "personal consumption expenditures," "inventory investment" refers to "change in private inventories," and "government spending" refers to "government consumption expenditures and gross investment."