

# GDP and the Economy

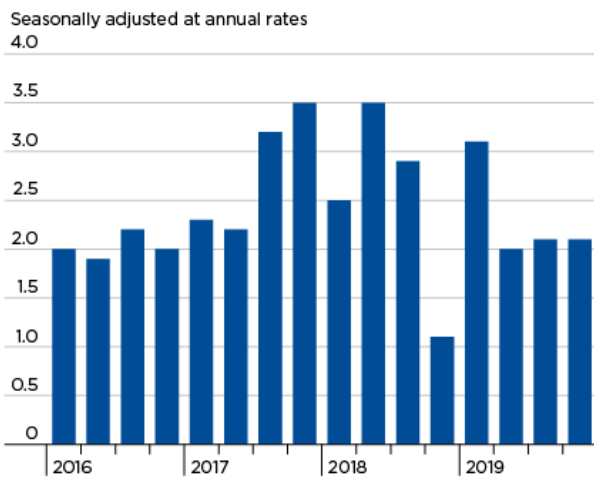
## Third Estimates for the Fourth Quarter of 2019

By Lisa Mataloni

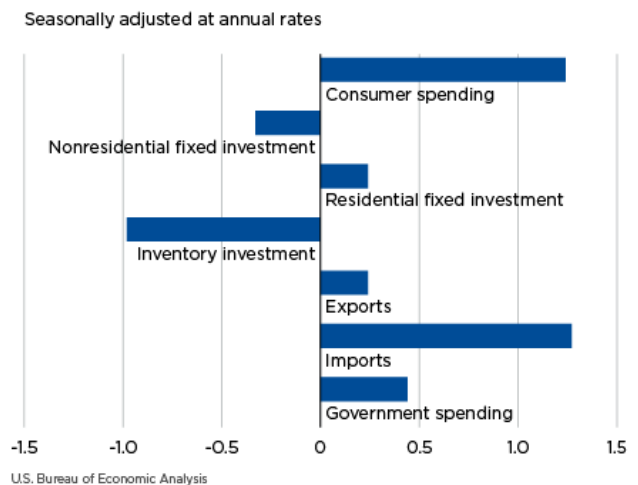
Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased at an annual rate of 2.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019, according to the third estimates of the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs) (chart 1 and table 1).<sup>1</sup> With the third estimate, real GDP growth for the fourth quarter was the same as in the second estimate issued last month (see “[Updates](#)”). In the third quarter of 2019, real GDP also increased 2.1 percent.

The increase in real GDP in the fourth quarter reflected positive contributions from consumer spending, exports, residential fixed investment, federal government spending, and state and local government spending that were partly offset by negative contributions from private inventory investment and nonresidential fixed investment.<sup>2</sup> Imports, which are a subtraction in the calculation of GDP, decreased (chart 2 and table 1).

**Chart 1. Real GDP: Percent Change from Preceding Quarter**



**Chart 2. Real GDP: Contributions to the Percent Change in 2019:IV**



## GDP Component Detail

Real GDP growth in the fourth quarter was the same as that in the third. In the fourth quarter, a downturn in imports and an acceleration in government spending were offset by a larger decrease in private inventory investment and a slowdown in consumer spending.

- The downturn in imports reflected a downturn in imports of goods.
- The acceleration in government spending primarily reflected an upturn in state and local government investment in structures.
- The larger decrease in private inventory investment was primarily in nonfarm inventories (mainly reflecting a downturn in retail trade inventory investment).
- The slowdown in consumer spending primarily reflected a slowdown in durable goods and a downturn in nondurable goods.
  - The leading contributor to the slowdown in spending on durable goods was a slowdown in recreational goods and vehicles.
  - The slowdown in spending on nondurable goods reflected downturns in “other” nondurable goods (led by a slowdown in prescription drugs) and in food and beverages purchased for off-premises consumption.

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

[Seasonally adjusted at annual rates]

Line		Share of current-dollar GDP (percent)	Change from preceding period (percent)				Contribution to percent change in real GDP (percentage points)			
		2019	2019				2019			
		IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
1	<b>Gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>
2	<b>Personal consumption expenditures</b>	<b>68.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>3.03</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>1.24</b>
3	Goods	21.0	1.5	8.6	5.3	0.6	0.32	1.74	1.09	0.12
4	Durable goods	7.1	0.3	13.0	8.1	2.8	0.02	0.87	0.56	0.20
5	Nondurable goods	13.9	2.2	6.5	3.9	-0.6	0.30	0.87	0.53	-0.08
6	Services	47.1	1.0	2.8	2.2	2.4	0.46	1.29	1.02	1.12
7	<b>Gross private domestic investment</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>-6.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>1.09</b>	<b>-1.16</b>	<b>-0.17</b>	<b>-1.07</b>
8	Fixed investment	16.9	3.2	-1.4	-0.8	-0.6	0.56	-0.25	-0.14	-0.09
9	Nonresidential	13.2	4.4	-1.0	-2.3	-2.4	0.60	-0.14	-0.31	-0.33
10	Structures	2.8	4.0	-11.1	-9.9	-7.2	0.12	-0.36	-0.30	-0.21
11	Equipment	5.6	-0.1	0.8	-3.8	-4.3	0.00	0.05	-0.22	-0.25
12	Intellectual property products	4.7	10.8	3.6	4.7	2.8	0.48	0.17	0.22	0.13
13	Residential	3.8	-1.0	-3.0	4.6	6.5	-0.04	-0.11	0.17	0.24
14	Change in private inventories	0.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.53	-0.91	-0.03	-0.98
15	<b>Net exports of goods and services</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>-0.68</b>	<b>-0.14</b>	<b>1.51</b>
16	Exports	11.5	4.1	-5.7	1.0	2.1	0.49	-0.69	0.11	0.24
17	Goods	7.5	4.6	-5.9	2.1	-0.6	0.36	-0.48	0.17	-0.04
18	Services	4.0	3.3	-5.1	-1.3	7.2	0.13	-0.21	-0.05	0.28
19	Imports	14.2	-1.5	0.0	1.8	-8.4	0.23	0.01	-0.26	1.27
20	Goods	11.3	-2.8	0.1	1.1	-11.4	0.36	-0.02	-0.13	1.41
21	Services	2.8	4.5	-0.7	4.8	4.9	-0.13	0.02	-0.13	-0.14
22	<b>Government consumption expenditures and gross investment</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.44</b>
23	Federal	6.7	2.2	8.3	3.3	3.4	0.14	0.53	0.22	0.22
24	National defense	4.0	7.7	3.3	2.2	4.4	0.29	0.13	0.09	0.17
25	Nondefense	2.7	-5.4	16.1	5.0	1.9	-0.15	0.40	0.13	0.05
26	State and local	10.9	3.3	2.7	0.7	2.0	0.36	0.29	0.08	0.22
<b>Addenda:</b>										
27	Gross domestic income (GDI) <sup>2</sup>	.....	3.2	0.9	1.2	2.6	.....	.....	.....	.....
28	Average of GDP and GDI	.....	3.2	1.4	1.7	2.4	.....	.....	.....	.....
29	Final sales of domestic product	.....	2.6	3.0	2.1	3.1	2.57	2.92	2.13	3.10
30	Goods	29.5	7.3	2.1	4.1	1.7	2.12	0.62	1.20	0.51
31	Services	62.4	1.0	2.7	1.8	2.5	0.66	1.66	1.11	1.51
32	Structures	8.2	3.9	-3.1	-2.5	1.2	0.32	-0.26	-0.21	0.10
33	Motor vehicle output	2.6	-7.6	-7.6	34.7	-26.6	-0.22	-0.21	0.83	-0.85

1. The GDP estimates under the contribution columns are also percent changes.

2. GDI is deflated by the implicit price deflator for GDP.

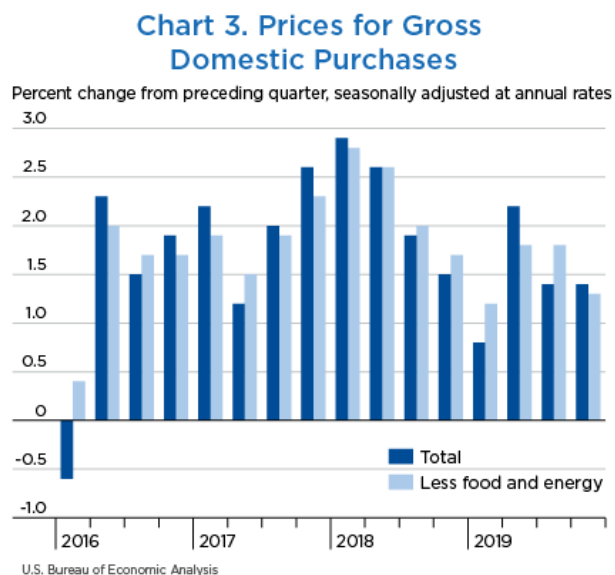
Note. Percent changes are from NIPA tables 1.1.1 and 1.2.1, contributions are from NIPA tables 1.1.2 and 1.2.2, and shares are from NIPA table 1.1.10 or are calculated from NIPA table 1.2.5.

# Prices

Prices for gross domestic purchases, goods and services purchased by U.S. residents, increased 1.4 percent in the fourth quarter, the same increase as in the third quarter (chart 3 and table 2). An upturn in prices for consumer nondurable goods and a pickup in prices for state and local government spending were offset by slowdowns in the prices paid for consumer services and for residential fixed investment.

Food prices turned up, increasing 0.4 percent after decreasing 0.7 percent. Prices for energy goods and services also turned up, increasing 4.7 percent in the fourth quarter after decreasing 8.0 percent in the third quarter. Gross domestic purchases prices excluding food and energy slowed, increasing 1.3 percent in the fourth quarter after increasing 1.8 percent in the third quarter.

Consumer prices excluding food and energy, a measure of the “core” rate of inflation, decelerated, increasing 1.3 percent in the fourth quarter after increasing 2.1 percent in the third quarter.



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

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

Line		Change from preceding period (percent)				Contribution to percent change in gross domestic purchases prices (percentage points)			
		2019				2019			
		I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
<b>1</b>	<b>Gross domestic purchases<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Personal consumption expenditures</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>0.91</b>
3	Goods	-1.6	1.6	-0.8	-0.4	-0.34	0.32	-0.16	-0.08
4	Durable goods	-0.3	-1.8	-1.2	-3.2	-0.02	-0.12	-0.09	-0.23
5	Nondurable goods	-2.3	3.3	-0.5	1.1	-0.31	0.44	-0.07	0.15
6	Services	1.3	2.8	2.5	2.2	0.60	1.25	1.14	0.98
<b>7</b>	<b>Gross private domestic investment</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.13</b>
8	Fixed investment	1.8	2.0	1.2	0.8	0.30	0.33	0.19	0.14
9	Nonresidential	1.6	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.20	0.27	0.07	0.06
10	Structures	2.8	4.0	1.6	1.1	0.08	0.11	0.04	0.03
11	Equipment	1.0	0.4	-1.1	0.2	0.06	0.02	-0.06	0.01
12	Intellectual property products	1.5	2.9	2.0	0.2	0.07	0.13	0.09	0.01
13	Residential	2.6	1.7	3.4	2.4	0.09	0.06	0.12	0.09
14	Change in private inventories	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.00	0.02	-0.01	-0.01
<b>15</b>	<b>Government consumption expenditures and gross investment</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.27</b>	<b>0.31</b>
16	Federal	4.6	-2.1	1.5	1.6	0.29	-0.14	0.10	0.10
17	National defense	1.1	1.5	1.4	1.7	0.04	0.06	0.05	0.07
18	Nondefense	10.0	-7.2	1.7	1.4	0.25	-0.19	0.04	0.04
19	State and local	-0.6	4.1	1.6	2.0	-0.06	0.43	0.17	0.21
<b>Addenda:</b>									
Gross domestic purchases:									
20	Food	3.0	0.7	-0.7	0.4	0.14	0.03	-0.03	0.02
21	Energy goods and services	-16.7	18.8	-8.0	4.7	-0.49	0.47	-0.22	0.12
22	Excluding food and energy	1.2	1.8	1.8	1.3	1.14	1.71	1.69	1.21
Personal consumption expenditures:									
23	Food and beverages purchased for off-premises consumption	3.0	0.6	-0.5	0.5	.....	.....	.....	.....
24	Energy goods and services	-16.7	18.4	-8.2	4.9	.....	.....	.....	.....
25	Excluding food and energy	1.1	1.9	2.1	1.3	.....	.....	.....	.....
26	Gross domestic product	1.1	2.4	1.8	1.3	.....	.....	.....	.....
27	Exports of goods and services	-2.5	3.3	-2.3	-1.6	.....	.....	.....	.....
28	Imports of goods and services	-3.5	1.6	-4.0	-0.5	.....	.....	.....	.....

1. 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.

## Updates

In the third estimate of the fourth quarter, real GDP increased 2.1 percent, the same increase as in the second estimate (table 3, line 1). An upward revision to consumer spending was largely offset by downward revisions to federal government spending and nonresidential fixed investment.

- Within consumer spending, an upward revision to services was partly offset by a downward revision to goods.
  - Within services, the largest contributors to the upward revision were health care and recreation services.
  - The largest contributor to the downward revision to goods was gasoline.
- The largest contributor to the downward revision to federal government spending was investment in defense equipment, notably aircraft.
- Within nonresidential fixed investment, a downward revision to intellectual property products (IPP) was partially offset by an upward revision to structures.
  - Within IPP, a downward revision to research and development was partially offset by an upward revision to software.
  - Within structures, upward revisions to most investment components were largely offset by a downward revision to mining exploration, shafts, and wells.

**Table 3. Second and Third Estimates for the Fourth Quarter of 2019**

[Seasonally adjusted at annual rates]

Line		Change from preceding period (percent)			Contribution to percent change in real GDP (percentage points)		
		Second estimate	Third estimate	Third estimate minus second estimate	Second estimate	Third estimate	Third estimate minus second estimate
1	<b>Gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
2	<b>Personal consumption expenditures</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>0.07</b>
3	Goods	0.7	0.6	-0.1	0.14	0.12	-0.02
4	Durable goods	2.6	2.8	0.2	0.18	0.20	0.02
5	Nondurable goods	-0.3	-0.6	-0.3	-0.04	-0.08	-0.04
6	Services	2.2	2.4	0.2	1.03	1.12	0.09
7	<b>Gross private domestic investment</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.06</b>	<b>-1.07</b>	<b>-0.01</b>
8	Fixed investment	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.09	-0.09	0.00
9	Nonresidential	-2.3	-2.4	-0.1	-0.31	-0.33	-0.02
10	Structures	-8.1	-7.2	0.9	-0.24	-0.21	0.03
11	Equipment	-4.4	-4.3	0.1	-0.26	-0.25	0.01
12	Intellectual property products	4.0	2.8	-1.2	0.19	0.13	-0.06
13	Residential	6.2	6.5	0.3	0.22	0.24	0.02
14	Change in private inventories	.....	.....	.....	-0.98	-0.98	0.00
15	<b>Net exports of goods and services</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>1.53</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>-0.02</b>
16	Exports	2.0	2.1	0.1	0.24	0.24	0.00
17	Goods	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.04	-0.04	0.00
18	Services	7.1	7.2	0.1	0.27	0.28	0.01
19	Imports	-8.6	-8.4	0.2	1.29	1.27	-0.02
20	Goods	-11.5	-11.4	0.1	1.42	1.41	-0.01
21	Services	4.6	4.9	0.3	-0.13	-0.14	-0.01
22	<b>Government consumption expenditures and gross investment</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-0.02</b>
23	Federal	3.8	3.4	-0.4	0.25	0.22	-0.03
24	National defense	5.3	4.4	-0.9	0.21	0.17	-0.04
25	Nondefense	1.7	1.9	0.2	0.05	0.05	0.00
26	State and local	1.9	2.0	0.1	0.21	0.22	0.01
<b>Addenda:</b>							
27	Final sales of domestic product	3.1	3.1	0.0	3.07	3.10	0.03
28	Gross domestic income (GDI)	.....	2.6	.....	.....	.....	.....
29	Average of GDP and GDI	.....	2.4	.....	.....	.....	.....
30	Gross domestic purchases price index	1.4	1.4	0.0	.....	.....	.....
31	GDP price index	1.3	1.3	0.0	.....	.....	.....

1. 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) increased \$53.0 billion, or 2.6 percent at a quarterly rate, in the fourth quarter of 2019 after decreasing \$4.7 billion, or 0.2 percent, in the third quarter (table 4). Profits of domestic financial corporations increased \$0.7 billion, profits of domestic nonfinancial corporations increased \$53.7 billion, and rest-of-the-world profits decreased \$1.4 billion.

Profits after tax increased \$39.6 billion in the fourth quarter after increasing \$11.1 billion in the third quarter.

**Table 4. Corporate Profits**  
[Seasonally adjusted]

Line		Billions of dollars (annual rate)					Percent change from preceding quarter (quarterly rate)			
		Level	Change from preceding quarter							
		2019	2019				2019			
		IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
	<b>Current production measures:</b>									
1	Corporate profits with IVA and CCAdj	2,131.0	-78.7	75.8	-4.7	53.0	-3.8	3.8	-0.2	2.6
2	Domestic industries	1,588.6	-86.0	37.2	-10.3	54.4	-5.4	2.5	-0.7	3.5
3	Financial	405.7	22.2	2.5	-4.7	0.7	5.8	0.6	-1.2	0.2
4	Nonfinancial	1,183.0	-108.2	34.7	-5.5	53.7	-9.0	3.2	-0.5	4.8
5	Rest of the world	542.4	7.3	38.7	5.5	-1.4	1.5	7.7	1.0	-0.3
6	Receipts from the rest of the world	888.0	13.7	25.3	-10.0	3.4	1.6	2.9	-1.1	0.4
7	Less: Payments to the rest of the world	345.7	6.4	-13.4	-15.5	4.8	1.8	-3.6	-4.3	1.4
8	Less: Taxes on corporate income	222.8	-3.0	9.7	-15.9	13.5	-1.4	4.5	-7.0	6.4
9	Equals: Profits after tax	1,908.2	-75.7	66.1	11.1	39.6	-4.1	3.7	0.6	2.1
10	Net dividends	1,352.4	-37.9	22.2	-7.3	12.8	-2.8	1.7	-0.5	1.0
11	Undistributed profits from current production	555.8	-37.8	43.9	18.4	26.7	-7.5	9.4	3.6	5.1
12	Net cash flow with IVA	2,489.3	23.2	72.9	40.0	45.2	1.0	3.1	1.7	1.8

**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 IVA) increased \$49.4 billion, or 2.4 percent at a quarterly rate, in the fourth quarter of 2019 after decreasing \$6.7 billion, or 0.3 percent, in the third quarter (table 5 and chart 4).

**Table 5. Corporate Profits by Industry**  
[Seasonally adjusted]

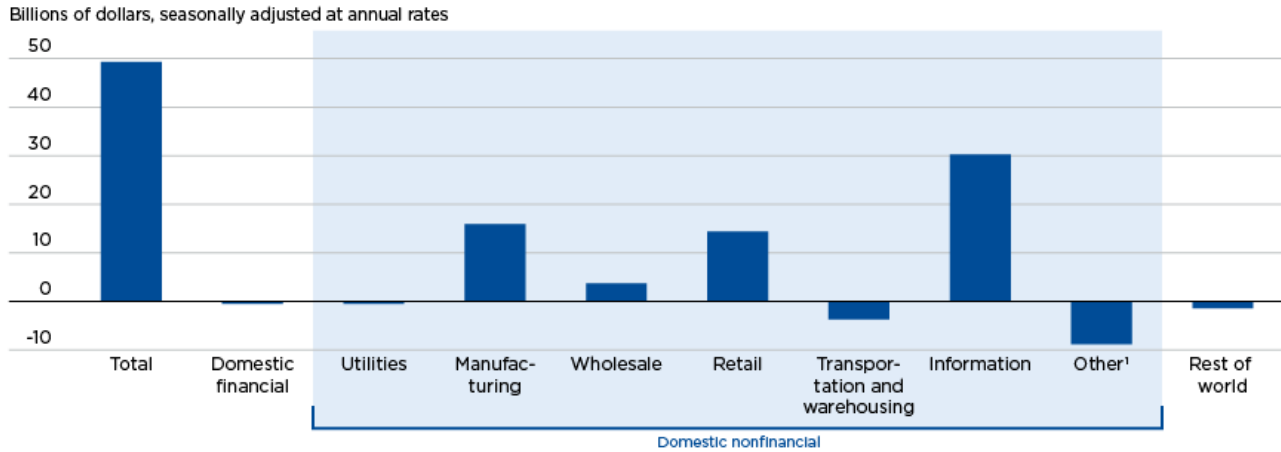
Line		Billions of dollars (annual rate)					Percent change from preceding quarter (quarterly rate)				
		Level	Change from preceding quarter								
		2019	2019				2019				
		IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
	<b>Industry profits:</b>										
1	Corporate profits with IVA	2,123.3	-31.4	80.6	-6.7	49.4	-1.5	4.0	-0.3	2.4	
2	Domestic industries	1,580.9	-38.7	41.9	-12.2	50.8	-2.5	2.8	-0.8	3.3	
3	Financial	417.2	28.1	3.4	-4.6	-0.5	7.2	0.8	-1.1	-0.1	
4	Nonfinancial	1,163.7	-66.8	38.5	-7.5	51.3	-5.8	3.6	-0.7	4.6	
5	Utilities	-2.4	6.6	2.8	-0.6	-0.5	.....	.....	.....	.....	
6	Manufacturing	290.6	-42.9	5.4	9.2	15.9	-14.2	2.1	3.5	5.8	
7	Wholesale trade	124.4	-6.8	4.5	0.1	3.7	-5.5	3.9	0.1	3.1	
8	Retail trade	178.6	21.2	10.3	2.8	14.4	16.3	6.8	1.7	8.7	
9	Transportation and warehousing	39.7	-12.5	-3.0	5.3	-3.7	-23.3	-7.4	14.0	-8.5	
10	Information	108.3	-2.8	2.9	-33.6	30.3	-2.5	2.7	-30.1	38.9	
11	Other nonfinancial	424.5	-29.6	15.6	9.2	-8.8	-6.8	3.8	2.2	-2.0	
12	Rest of the world	542.4	7.3	38.7	5.5	-1.4	1.5	7.7	1.0	-0.3	
	<b>Addenda:</b>										
13	Profits before tax (without IVA and CCAAdj)	2,126.5	-31.1	69.4	-39.0	80.6	-1.5	3.4	-1.9	3.9	
14	Profits after tax (without IVA and CCAAdj)	1,903.8	-28.0	59.7	-23.1	67.1	-1.5	3.3	-1.2	3.7	
15	IVA	-3.2	-0.3	11.2	32.3	-31.2	.....	.....	.....	.....	
16	CCAAdj	7.7	-47.4	-4.8	1.9	3.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	

**CCAAdj** Capital consumption adjustment

**IVA** Inventory valuation adjustment

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 in 2019:IV,  
Change From Preceding Quarter**



1. "Other" nonfinancial corporations include the agriculture, mining, construction, and services industries.  
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 "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](#)” 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.

1. “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.
2. 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.”