

quarter, or year. The frequently shifting composition of OPEC can make underlying economic activity difficult to interpret from the OPEC-related time series. BEA will discontinue production of statistics on U.S. transactions with OPEC in the ITAs with the June 2020 update and in other data products in June or later.⁹ In particular, OPEC will no longer be an available country grouping in ITA tables 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, and 3.3 and will not be included in new tables 1.4 and 1.5.

BEA will continue to publish statistics for transactions with Venezuela in ITA table 1.3 and will also publish such statistics in new ITA table 1.4. It will publish statistics on seasonally adjusted goods transactions with Saudi Arabia in tables 2.2 and 3.2 as well as not-seasonally adjusted goods transactions with selected other individual members of OPEC in ITA table 2.3. Annual statistics on goods and services transactions with several individual members will be published in new ITA table 1.5. Statistics on services transactions with several individual OPEC members will be newly included in ITA table 3.3 (not seasonally adjusted) and will continue to be included in the BEA annual international services tables and in supplemental material on direct investment by country and by area.

Replacement of Roman numerals with Arabic numbers

As part of a general change in BEA presentation guidelines, tables of international statistics will use Arabic numbers instead of Roman numerals to refer to quarters (for example, “Q3” instead of “III”). This change will affect all tables with quarterly statistics. While this change is relatively minor from a presentation standpoint, data users who pull statistics from BEA tables by keying off the Roman numerals may need to adjust their programs.

Short-form country names

ITA tables will use short-form country names except in cases where the long-form name is more commonly used, such as Dominican Republic and Czech Republic. The only revision resulting from this policy will be changing “Korea, Republic of” to “South Korea.” This naming convention is consistent with presentations by other government agencies.

Global total column

Currently, users of the ITAs can only compare geographic subtotals to the global total by referring to ITA table 1.2. In the prototype tables, a global total column has been added to ITA table 1.3 and to the new table 1.4. Having this information available on other tables will improve user experience.

Availability of Prototype Tables

Prototype ITA tables that reflect the changes described in this article have been published along with the standard ITA tables since September 2019; the latest version of the prototypes were published in March 2020.¹ These prototype tables are provided alongside the current standard tables to prepare data users for the upcoming changes. With the 2020 update, the prototype tables will replace the existing tables as the standard presentation. The prototype ITA tables, published as addenda to the current tables, are available in BEA's [interactive data application](#). The prototype international services tables will be made available in May.

1. For information on the latest changes to the prototype tables, see “[Prototype Tables for the International Transactions Accounts](#).”

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1. In the June 2019 annual update, the update to statistics for direct investment income, financial transactions, and positions was limited to 2018 because of the impact of the partial federal government shutdown that started in late December 2018 and lasted through late January 2019; therefore, with the June 2020 update, revisions to direct investment statistics for 2016–2019 will be incorporated. With 2016 open for revision, BEA will incorporate updated source data for other accounts, if available.
 2. Transactions related to intellectual property that fall outside the types presented in chart 1 will be classified in charges for the use of intellectual property, regardless of the rights conveyed with the transaction.
 3. The most recent report was “[U.S. International Services: Trade in Services in 2018 and Services Through Affiliates in 2017](#),” *Survey of Current Business* 99 (October 2019).
 4. “Other research and development services” includes testing services.
 5. These improvements allow BEA to capture interline settlements in estimated average fares, rather than relying on survey data from airline operators.
 6. Port services include cargo handling, storage, warehousing, and other related transport services.
 7. Statistics for Canada and Mexico are based on data provided to BEA by Statistics Canada and the Bank of Mexico. Statistics for travel by cruise are based on data from DHS and several private sources.
 8. The future goods and services involved in the entitlement are to be interpreted broadly and may include services provided to an employer by an employee.
 9. Note that trade with members of OPEC will continue to be included in selected tables in the U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services release, which is a joint release between BEA and the U.S. Census Bureau.



Survey of Current Business
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