Appendix B

Suggested Reading

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has published a wealth of information about the methodologies that are used to prepare its national, industry, regional, and international accounts.

National accounts
The national accounts encompass the detailed estimates in the national income and product accounts (including gross domestic product), the estimates of wealth and related estimates, gross product by industry, the input-output accounts, and the satellite accounts.

National income and product accounts (NIPA’s).
This series of papers documents the conceptual framework of the NIPA’s and the methodologies that have been used to prepare the estimates.

*An Introduction to National Economic Accounting* (1985) [also in the March 1985 *Survey*]
*Corporate Profits: Profits Before Tax, Profits Tax Liability, and Dividends* (1985)
*Foreign Transactions* (1987)
*Government Transactions* (1988)
*Personal Consumption Expenditures* (1990)

The methodologies described in these papers have been updated and improved, typically as part of the comprehensive and annual revisions of the NIPA’s. For more information, see the following.

*National Income and Product Accounts of the United States, 1929–97* (2001) provides the definitions of the major NIPA aggregates and components, discusses the measures of real output and prices, explains how production is classified and how the NIPA’s are presented, describes the statistical conventions that are used, and lists the principal source data and methods that are used to prepare the estimates of gross domestic product (GDP).

Information about the sources and methods that are used to prepare the national estimates of personal income, which are the basis for the State estimates, is in *State Personal Income, 1929–97* (1999).

In addition, see the following articles in the *Survey*.
*Updated Summary NIPA Methodologies* (October 2001) briefly describes the principal source data and methods used to prepare the current-dollar and real estimates of GDP.
*BEA’s Chain Indexes, Time Series, and Measures of Long-Term Economic Growth* (May 1997) is the most recent in a series of articles that describe the conceptual basis for the chain-type measures of real output and prices that are used in the NIPA’s.

“Reliability of GDP and Related NIPA Estimates” (January 2002) evaluates the principal NIPA estimates by examining the record of revisions to them.


“Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods for 1925–98” (April 2000) describes the definitional and statistical improvements that were incorporated in the comprehensive revision of the estimates.

Industry accounts
Gross product by industry. “Improved Estimates of Gross Product by Industry for 1947–98” (June 2000) describes the most recent comprehensive revision of these estimates.

“Gross Domestic Product by Industry for 1998–2000” (November 2001) describes the most recent annual revision of the these estimates.


“Annual Input-Output Accounts of the U.S. Economy” presents annual tables that update the 1992 benchmark accounts
For 1996 (January 2000)
For 1997 (January 2001)
For 1998 (December 2001)

Mission Statement and Strategic Plan
The mission statement of the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the latest update to its strategic plan for improving the accuracy, reliability, and relevance of the national, industry, regional, and international accounts are available on BEA’s Web site at <www.bea.doc.gov>. See also “BEA’s Preliminary Strategic Plan for 2001–2005” in the December 2001 issue of the *Survey of Current Business*. 
Satellite accounts. These accounts extend the analytical capacity of the national accounts by focusing on one aspect of economic activity.

“Integrated Economic and Environmental Satellite Accounts” and “Accounting for Mineral Resources: Issues and BEA’s Initial Estimates” (April 1994)

“A Satellite Account for Research and Development” (November 1994)

“U.S. Transportation Satellite Accounts”
   For 1992 (April 1998)
   For 1996 (May 2000)

“U.S. Travel and Tourism Satellite Accounts”
   For 1992 (July 1998)
   For 1996 and 1997 (July 2000)

International accounts
The international accounts encompass the international transactions accounts, direct investment, and international transactions in services.

International transactions accounts (ITA’s). The Balance of Payments of the United States: Concepts, Data Sources, and Estimating Procedures (1990) describes the methodologies used to prepare the estimates in the ITA’s and the international investment position of the United States. These methodologies are usually updated and improved as part of the annual revisions of the ITA’s.

“U.S. International Transactions, Revised Estimates” is a series of articles about the annual ITA revisions and the improvements in methodology; the latest article is published in the July 2001 SURVEY.

Direct investment. International Direct Investment: Studies by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (1999) is a collection of previously published articles on U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in the United States. It also includes the following information.


“A Guide to BEA Statistics on U.S. Multinational Companies,” which is also available in the March 1995 SURVEY

“A Guide to BEA Statistics on Foreign Direct Investment in the United States,” which is also available in the February 1990 SURVEY

In addition, the updated methodology for foreign direct investment in the United States is available in Foreign Direct Investment in the United States: Final Results From the 1997 Benchmark Survey (2001)


Regional accounts
The regional accounts include estimates of personal income and gross state product.

Personal income. Estimates of personal income are prepared for States and for local areas.

“Comprehensive Revision of State Personal Income for 1969–99” (June 2000) summarizes the changes in the methodology that is used to prepare the estimates. The detailed methodology is available on the CD–ROM State Personal Income, 1929–99.

“Comprehensive Revision of Local Area Personal Income for 1969–98” (July 2000) summarizes the changes in the methodology that is used to prepare the estimates for counties and metropolitan areas. The detailed methodology is available on the CD–ROM Regional Economic Information System, 1969–99.

Gross state product. “Comprehensive Revision of Gross State Product by Industry, 1977–94” (June 1997 SURVEY) summarizes the sources and the methods that are used to prepare the estimates. “Gross State Product by Industry, 1977–98” (October 2000) describes the most recent comprehensive revision of these estimates.

Availability
Most of the items listed here are available on our Web site at <www.bea.doc.gov>; in particular, look under Methodologies. Our online Catalog of Products provides descriptions of both our printed and electronic publications. The Catalog also includes links to compressed files of our diskette products that can be downloaded for free.

For specific information about the availability of our most recently released estimates and products, see “Getting BEA’s Estimates” on the inside back cover.