The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has published a wealth of information about the methodologies that are used to prepare its national, industry, international, and regional accounts. In addition, most of this information is available on BEA's Web site at <www.bea.gov>. Look under “Methodologies”; for articles from the Survey of Current Business, look under “Publications.”

National accounts
The national accounts encompass the detailed estimates in the national income and product accounts (including gross domestic product) and the estimates of wealth and related estimates.

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

- An Introduction to National Economic Accounting (1985) [also in the March 1985 Survey]
- 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 NIPAs.

The following Survey articles describe the most recent comprehensive revision of the NIPAs.

- "Preview of the 2003 Comprehensive Revision of the National Income and Product Accounts” (June 2003)

In addition, see the following articles.

- "Changes in Definitions and Classifications (August 2003)
- New and Redesigned Tables (August 2003)
- Statistical Changes (September 2003)

Fixed assets and consumer durable goods.

- "Fixed Assets and Consumer Durable Goods for 1925–2002" (May 2004) describes the improvements that were incorporated into these estimates as part of the comprehensive NIPA revision.

Industry accounts
The industry accounts consist of the estimates of gross domestic product by industry, the input-output accounts, and two satellite accounts.

- Improved Annual Industry Accounts for 1998–2003” (June 2004) describes the comprehensive revision of the annual input-output accounts and the GDP-by-industry accounts; this revision features the integration of the two sets of accounts.
- "Preview of the Comprehensive Revision of the Annual Industry Accounts: Integrating the Annual Input-Output Accounts and the Gross-Domestic-Product-by-

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.gov>; look under “About BEA.”
Industry Accounts” (March 2004) provides the details about the upcoming comprehensive revision.

**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 1999–2001” (November 2002) describes the most recent annual revision of these estimates.

**Input-output accounts.** “Benchmark Input-Output Accounts for the U.S. Economy, 1997” (December 2002) presents the 1997 accounts and describes the improvements that were incorporated.

**Satellite accounts.** These accounts extend the analytical capacity of the input-output accounts by focusing on a particular aspect of economic activity.

“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 (ITAs).** *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 ITAs and the international investment position of the United States. These methodologies are usually updated and improved as part of the annual revisions of the ITAs.

The annual revisions of the ITAs are described in a series of articles, the latest of which was published in the July 2004 *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).

**International services.** *U.S. International Transactions in Private Services: A Guide to the Surveys Conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis* (1998) describes 11 surveys. It includes classifications, definitions, release schedules, the methods used to prepare the estimates, and samples of the survey forms.

“Selected Issues in the Measurement of U.S. International Services” (June 2002) describes key issues in defining and measuring insurance, wholesale and retail trade, finance, construction, and utilities services and explores possible actions to address these issues.

**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 1969–2003” (May 2004) describes the improvements in the methodology that are used to prepare the estimates and that are part of a comprehensive revision.

“The Reliability of the State Personal Income Estimates” (December 2003) evaluates the estimates of state personal income and of selected components by examining the revisions of these estimates.

“Comprehensive Revision of Local Area Personal Income for 1969–2002” (June 2004) summarizes the improvements 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, 1969–2002*.

**Gross state product.** “Comprehensive Revision of Gross State Product by Industry, 1977–94” (June 1997) 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.

“Gross State Product by Industry, 1999–2001” (June 2003) presents the most recent annual revision of these estimates.