

## Taking Account...

### **SURVEY to stop publishing “D–pages” in PDF format**

The SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, the official journal of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) since the early 1920s, is in the midst of major changes that will ultimately lead to a more useful publication for our readers. Among the key changes: beginning this summer, the SURVEY will stop distributing the PDF versions of the tables and charts—known as the D–pages—that typically appear in the section called “Charts, Tables, and More” in the online publication.

Rest assured, these statistics remain available on BEA’s Web site in two ways:

- **BEA’s interactive data system.**

BEA launched the system in 2011 to provide public access to BEA economic statistics interactively via the Internet. The system allows users to customize their own tables using a streamlined step-by-step process. Users can save their work, share their work through a variety of social media tools, create customized interactive charts, and download tables in a variety of formats, including Excel spreadsheets, comma separated files and PDFs. Statistical tables and charts can also be directly printed from the application. In addition, charts can be easily downloaded for use in other applications. The data system was recently converted to

HTML5.

- **Archives of previously published statistics.** The BEA interactive data system includes the most recently available data; it is constantly updated with new data as they are released. BEA maintains the previously published statistics on the BEA Web site for the benefit of economists and others who sometimes want access to vintage data as they were originally published for research purposes.

The move to emphasize online data is one part of BEA’s plans to modernize the SURVEY, which became an online only publication in February.

That move served as the first step toward a publication that exploits the many advantages of the Web. BEA intends to work toward a publication that will serve customers with more relevant, more accessible, and more useful information and statistics delivered in less cumbersome formats—all via a more cost-effective process.

BEA remains interested in any ideas or comments about the SURVEY as well as ideas for possible new features. Please contact James Kim, Editor-in-Chief, at [james.kim@bea.gov](mailto:james.kim@bea.gov).

### **BEA’s Web site FAQ service provides answers**

BEA launched its FAQ database on its Web site in early 2006 to help customers find answers to timely and commonly asked questions about BEA’s statistics,

methodologies, surveys, and other topics, many of which relate to in-the-news economic issues.

The FAQ feature currently includes hundreds of items in an easy-to-use format.

Recently added or updated items include the following:

- **What is gross output by industry and how does it differ from gross domestic product by industry?**
- **How will the Affordable Care Act affect BEA’s measure of personal income and outlays?**

Several other recent items refer to the BE–140 form, Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies with Foreign Persons.

### **NIPA Handbook reflects comprehensive revision**

BEA has updated its [NIPA Handbook](#) to reflect the 2013 comprehensive revision of the national income and product accounts (NIPAs). The NIPA Handbook, which is available for no charge on the BEA Web site, begins with introductory chapters that describe the fundamental concepts, definitions, classifications, and accounting framework that underlie the NIPAs and the general sources and methods that are used to prepare them. It continues with chapters that describe the sources and methods that are used to prepare the expenditure components and several income components of the accounts.