

## Taking Account...

### Brent Moulton wins 2015 Shiskin Award

Brent Moulton, Associate Director for National Economic Accounts of the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), was recently awarded the 2015 Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics.

The award recognizes unusually original contributions to the development of economic statistics or to the use of statistics in interpreting the economy.

As noted by the award selection committee, Moulton was recognized for his leadership role in implementing notable innovations in several areas: the U.S. national economic accounts, international standards for national accounts, and the expanded integration of U.S. statistical programs. He was also recognized for his work at the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), where he developed innovations that improved the reliability of the consumer price index.

Moulton is the 43<sup>rd</sup> recipient of the award, which is sponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Section of the American Statistical Association.

At BEA, Moulton led an effort to incorporate innovations into the U.S. national accounts that have kept them up to date with the changing U.S. economy. In these and other areas, policymakers, business economists, and academics have applauded

these efforts, which led to significantly more accurate and relevant information for monetary policy, tax policy and projections, fiscal policy, and business planning.

The innovations incorporated into the accounts included the following:

- Treating research and development as an investment rather than as an expense, recognizing its increasingly important contribution to economic growth and productivity.
- Expanding BEA's efforts to extend the incorporation of "intangibles" into the national accounts by recognizing artistic originals as capital assets.
- Developing new methods for measuring the implicit services provided by the banking and insurance industries, which resulted in more comprehensive measures of output for these industries.
- Developing quality-adjusted price measures for communications equipment and other high-tech equipment to better capture the rapid improvements in their performance and quality.

Moulton was also recognized for his leadership in developing improved international standards for national accounts.

He was one of the initiators of the update of the *System of National Accounts 2008*, the handbook for gross domestic product measurement prepared by the

European Commission, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, United Nations, and the World Bank.

Moulton has received many previous awards, including the BLS Distinguished Service Award in 1997, the Department of Commerce Gold Medals in 2001 and 2007, and the Presidential Rank Award in 2011.

Moulton received a M.S. and B.A. in economics from Brigham Young University and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. For more information, view [the release](#).

### Check out BEA's APIs to access BEA statistics

BEA offers developers a data application programming interface (API) that provides access to the Bureau's published economic statistics using industry-standard methods and procedures.

BEA's data API set includes methods for retrieving statistical data in bulk and the metadata that describes it. The data API and its documentation are meant for programmers who are familiar with the concepts and techniques common to retrieving large amounts of data via Web Services. User guides are available at no charge.

A wide array of national, international, regional, and industry statistics are available through this API. More information is available on the [BEA Web site](#).