

Taking Account...

Developers can access BEA data via API

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) produces a wealth of statistical data that have long been invaluable to policymakers, researchers, economic planning officials, and the public.

To enhance access to these statistics, BEA makes available an [application programming interface](#) (API), allowing developers to gain direct access to the data. That allows them to directly incorporate BEA data into a wide variety of analytical and presentation tools.

The API provides programmatic access using industry-standard methods and procedures. It includes methods for retrieving specific subsets of BEA statistical data and even the metadata that provides valuable descriptive information.

The data API and its documentation are generally meant for programmers who are experienced in retrieving data from Web services.

A wide range of data—from BEA’s national, international, regional, and industry program areas—are available via the tool.

Before using the API, however, developers must obtain a unique 36-character user ID by registering for free on the BEA Web site.

BEA also provides a user guide in HTML and PDF formats. This document outlines the API’s methods and procedures and provides examples and other advice.

For additional information about the data API, please access the BEA Web site or email this address: developers@bea.gov.

In addition, users can access BEA statistics through the Bureau’s interactive data application, which is also available on its Web site. This tool allows users to specify which data they are interested in and to download the data directly to their computers in a variety of formats, such as a comma-separated file.

BEA’s interactive data application was designed to offer one-stop data shopping, providing a common look and feel for users accessing national, international, regional, or industry statistics.

The application also makes the data easier to print, save, and export. The charting features are robust and visually appealing. The application allows for data sharing with others via a number of social media tools.

The interactive data application organizes data by account and topic. It uses a “tabbed” browser experience common to many Web sites. Users can easily navigate among data sets, as accessing and changing query parameters is simple.

BEA app: easy access to international data

BEA’s [International Trade and Investment Country Facts Application](#) gives users a quick snapshot of statistics for specific countries and groups of countries. The information includes

U.S. trade in goods and services, direct investment, and the activities of multinational enterprises, such as employment and sales.

Users simply select a country from an interactive world map or a searchable menu. The application generates a country factsheet with graphs and tables showing the latest data. The factsheet can be downloaded or printed in PDF format. The application also generates tables of detailed statistics that can be downloaded in Excel spreadsheet format.

Similar to the BEA’s BEARFACTS factsheets, which provide state and regional economic statistics, the international factsheets tool can be used to quickly get up to speed for a business presentation, a news story, school research, or other projects.

The international data tool is available for no charge on the BEA Web site. A list of countries for which data are available is also available.

This data tool is just one of the ways that BEA is innovating to better measure the 21st century economy and to help fulfill a strategic goal of the Commerce Department’s “Open for Business Agenda.”

Also, some of the trade data used in the tool comes from the Census Bureau, another Commerce Department agency, underscoring how agencies within Commerce work together to make data more accessible.