

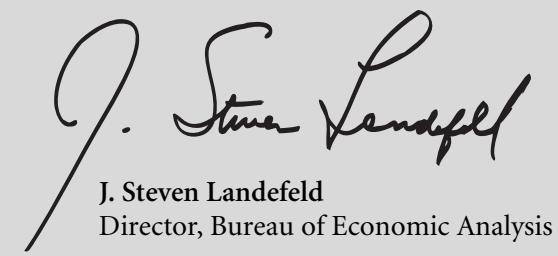
## **Director's Message**

In this month's SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, we are pleased to present an article describing the Bureau of Economic Analysis' 2006 research and development (R&D) satellite account. This account was developed in partnership with the National Science Foundation, and a full report about the account was released in September. The article included in this issue summarizes the key points and findings.

The 2006 R&D satellite account marks another milestone in BEA's ongoing efforts to adapt its accounts to the dynamic economy. Intangibles such as R&D are important contributors to economic growth. As the article describes, the new R&D satellite account provides preliminary estimates of R&D investment activity. The account also details how R&D, treated as an investment rather than as consumption, would affect key aggregates, such as gross domestic product, investment, and saving. These accounts will help in better understanding the relationship between innovation and economic growth.

This month's issue also includes an article describing this year's update of BEA's annual industry accounts. The annual update includes more detailed, revised estimates for 2005 that are integrated with the most recent input-output accounts.

As the year closes, I'd like to mention that we aim to continue our efforts to improve the SURVEY. We hope to create easier-to-read articles in new formats designed for busy users of our data. In that vein, please take a look at the new design of the online version of the SURVEY at <[www.bea.gov/scb/index.htm](http://www.bea.gov/scb/index.htm)>.



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