

Director's Message

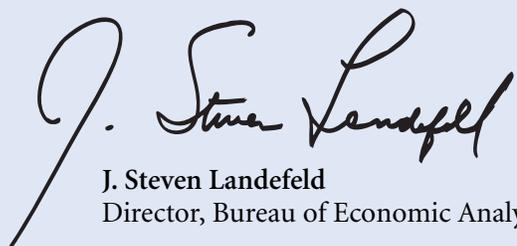
While gross domestic product (GDP) is our featured measure of economic output, it is not our only measure. For example, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) also releases gross domestic income (GDI), which is often used to assess the economy. GDI was recently cited by the Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research in its recent determination that a business cycle peak occurred in December 2007. In a *BEA Briefing*, we explain the source data used to calculate the successive vintages of this important measure. In February 2006, we published a similar article that looked at the source data used to calculate GDP.

Also in this issue, our annual update of the industry accounts for 2005–2007. This year, we published the article in a new, easy-to-read format similar to what has been previously rolled out for other articles to keep with our goal of presenting statistics in clearer, easier-to-digest formats.

The “preliminary estimates” of third-quarter GDP and new statistics on third-quarter government receipts and expenditures are discussed in separate articles.

As the new year approaches, I'd like to reemphasize our commitment to presenting our statistics in straightforward language and easy-to-read formats as well as in more technical presentations. In that spirit, we are planning several improvements to the online version of the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, which is available at www.bea.gov/scb/index.htm.

Stay tuned.



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