

Director's Message

In this issue, we report preliminary results from the 2007 benchmark survey of the operations of U.S. affiliates of foreign companies. Benchmark surveys are the most comprehensive surveys of U.S. affiliate operations conducted by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. A major improvement for the 2007 benchmark survey is the introduction of statistics on value added by bank affiliates; previous statistics were limited to nonbanks. The new data for bank affiliates closes a significant gap in the statistics of U.S. affiliates. Collection of this data will continue in follow-on annual surveys of U.S. affiliate operations.

The comprehensive revision of state personal income statistics are detailed in this month's *Regional Quarterly Report*. Annual and quarterly statistics back to 1969 have been revised to incorporate the comprehensive revision of the national income and product accounts, which was summarized in the August and September issues of the *SURVEY*. The *Regional Quarterly Report* also takes a look at state personal income statistics for the second quarter of 2009.

This issue also includes our annual tabular presentation of the methodologies and source data used to construct the gross domestic product (GDP) accounts. These tables reflect updates from the 2009 comprehensive revision of the accounts. Separately, the advance estimates of third-quarter GDP are discussed.

As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.



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