

Taking Account...

Updated government statistics tables available

As part of the comprehensive revision of the national income and product accounts released in July 2009, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has released updated tables that show government spending by function, that compare BEA accounts with budget data, and that show separate statistics for state governments and local governments.

These tables are released annually following the annual or comprehensive revision. All are available interactively on the BEA Web site as part of the full set of government statistical tables. Please see www.bea.gov/national/nipaweb/Index.asp.

Government spending by function. Most of BEA's government tables provide information on how governments allocate their spending by type, such as consumption expenditures, social benefits to individuals, or subsidies. The newly updated statistics by function provide an alternative presentation of government spending, focusing on the purposes of that spending, such as for health care or education.

These statistics are consistent with BEA's measures of government spending by type and allow policymakers, researchers, business analysts, and others to track spending by purpose even as government programs change over time. The estimates of current-dollar government spend-

ing show how much is spent for each function. The estimates of real government spending for consumption expenditures and gross investment remove the effects of price changes over time.

These tables—the 3.15 family and tables 3.16 and 3.17—were published in the October issue of the *SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS*.

Separate state and local statistics. In addition to statistics that combine state government and local government receipts and expenditures, BEA also published tables that disaggregate these receipts and expenditures into separate tables for state governments and local governments. The tables that show separate state and local statistics, tables 3.20 and 3.21, were published in the October *SURVEY*.

Reconciliation tables. BEA recently completed tables that compare—or “reconcile”—BEA government statistics with the federal budget and the Census Bureau's Government Finances data, from which they are derived. BEA's government statistics reflect national income and product accounting concepts, and thus differ from these other presentations in coverage, timing, and in netting. Tables 3.18 and 3.19 show the type and magnitude of these differences. This issue of the *SURVEY* includes tables 3.18B and 3.19. Please see page 6.

For an interactive chart of government receipts and expenditures and links to more government statistics from BEA,

please see www.bea.gov/national/nipaweb/GovView.asp.

Nominations for the 2010 Julius Shiskin Award

The annual Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics recognizes original and important contributions in the development of economic statistics or in the use of statistics in interpreting the economy.

Nominations for the 2010 award are now being accepted. Individuals or groups in the public or private sector from any country can be nominated.

The award will be presented with a \$750 honorarium plus additional recognition from the sponsors.

Contributions are recognized for statistical research, development of statistical tools, applications of information technology, use of statistical programs, management of statistical programs, or developing public understanding of measurement issues.

The award is cosponsored by the Washington Statistical Society, the National Association for Business Economics, and the Business and Economics Statistics Section of the American Statistical Association.

Contact Steven Paben at paben.steven@bls.gov for additional information on the Julius Shiskin award. Nominations must be received by March 5, 2010.

Nomination forms can be accessed at www.amstat.org/sections/bus_econ/shiskin.html.