

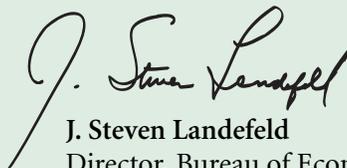
Director's Message

As part of the upcoming 2013 comprehensive revision of the national income and product accounts (NIPAs), BEA is planning to adopt a new treatment of artistic originals—movies, songs, books, long-lived television programs, and other works. Under the new treatment, the production of such artwork will be capitalized; that is, it will be treated as investment. Currently, the NIPAs treat all production of artwork as a current expense. This new treatment is in keeping with a larger effort at BEA to capitalize the intellectual property products that are recognized as assets by the *System of National Accounts 2008*.

In this issue, a *Research Spotlight* explains our ongoing research effort in this area. BEA economist Rachel H. Soloveichik estimates the value of current-dollar and real investment in long-lived artwork and the capital stock of such work as well as the effect of including this investment on gross domestic product (GDP) estimates.

In another article, we look at long-term trends in consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of gross domestic purchases. The article discusses among other things, growth in the share of consumer spending accounted for by services (particularly health care and financial services and insurance) and consumer spending trends during recessions, including the most recent one.

Elsewhere in this issue, we provide our once-a-year calculation of rates of return for domestic nonfinancial corporations, nonfinancial industries, and a few major industry groups. We also present the latest statistics from our travel and tourism satellite accounts as well as the second estimates of GDP for the first quarter of 2011.



J. Steven Landefeld
Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis