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### BEA economists present at AEA/ASSA meetings

Several BEA economists participated in the American Economic Association/Allied Social Sciences Association meetings held in Atlanta in January.

- Papers presented as part of the conference session on "New Approaches to Economic Measurement in Productivity Analysis and National and International Accounting" included "Measuring the Near-Market Government Output" by Bruce E. Baker. Steven Payson presided over the session.
- Rachel Soloveichik presented

her paper "Artistic Originals As Capital Assets" as part of the conference session on measurement issues and intangible capital.

- Baoline Chen presented her paper "Reconciling the System of National Accounts for the U.S. Studies of Regional Differences and the Effects of Regional Government Programs." Carol A. Robbins and Steven Payson acted as discussants.
- Steven Payson presided over the conference session on "Household Portfolio Allocations and Participation in Income-Related Programs."

In the future, the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS may include various articles, perhaps in BEA's *Research Spotlight* series, that discuss these papers.

### Federal recovery programs and BEA statistics

Information about various federal economic recovery programs, including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, and their effect on BEA statistics is now available on the BEA Web site.

The information includes various tables, charts, frequently asked questions, articles, and other material that discuss the effect of these recovery efforts on BEA statistics, both national and regional.

One featured table shows the estimated effect of the American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act (ARRA) of 2009 on selected NIPA estimates of federal receipts and expenditures. Another table and chart detail how the ARRA outlays have been allocated among BEA government statistics so far. These tables will be updated regularly; the next update, to include data for the fourth quarter of 2009, will occur in February.

The new information site is available on the BEA Web site at [www.bea.gov/recovery/index.htm](http://www.bea.gov/recovery/index.htm).

### Historical material in the BEA Digital Library

The BEA Digital Library provides free access to seminal documents related to the history of the U.S. national economic accounts.

The library includes key SURVEY articles from the 1930s through the 1990s, early reports by the Department of Commerce on the measurement of national income and product, volumes from the Conference on Research in Income and Wealth, annual review articles from the SURVEY through 1974, and selected other documents of special historical significance. The Digital Library was launched in June 2006 and now includes 1,141 articles.

Visitors can use a search engine that utilizes optical character recognition to allow full-text searches of the original documents and print PDF versions. The library can be accessed at [library.bea.gov/](http://library.bea.gov/).