Researchers have long studied the activities of multinational enterprises (MNEs). To aid this effort, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has expanded its statistics about such activity over the past 40 years, allowing a broad range of questions to be explored. We are pleased to present a BEA Briefing that summarizes improvements in BEA’s data on the activities of MNEs and on trade in services, improvements in researchers’ access to the data, and the resulting research toward improving our understanding of the effects of MNEs on the U.S. economy.

This month, we also take a closer look at our consumer spending by state statistics for 2016. These statistics provide a comprehensive measure of household consumption at the state level. In 2016, growth ranged from a low of 0.2 percent in North Dakota to a high of 6.2 percent in Utah.

In addition, we present our annual guide to the methodologies and source data for the national income and product accounts, a valuable resource for all users of the statistics. In a separate article, the advance estimates for the third quarter of 2017 are discussed.

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