

## Taking Account...

### BEA Offers New Personal Income Chart Tool

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) now offers a free Web-based charting tool for personal income statistics. The tool allows users to generate high-quality bar graphs, line graphs, and pie charts on demand for use in papers, presentations, and analysis. The charting application is accessible from the regional economic accounts home page, <[www.bea.gov/regional/](http://www.bea.gov/regional/)>. It is available in two forms: a Quick Chart tool and an Advanced Chart tool.

The Quick Chart feature is fully integrated with BEA's state and local area personal income data tables and can be accessed whenever a data table is displayed. Users can select statistics and geographic areas to chart and view simultaneously with the data table. The chosen statistics are normalized to an initial value of 100, based on the first year chosen, to allow for easy comparison.

The Advanced Chart feature offers additional computations and display features. It is available at <[www.bea.gov/regional/remdchart/](http://www.bea.gov/regional/remdchart/)>. This tool offers charting of the state and local area estimates by levels, percent change from preceding period, and percent of U.S. and average annual growth rate. Various display options are available with

the Advanced Chart feature, such as displaying data values and gridlines on the chart or pulling apart pieces of a pie chart. Both charting features allow for seamless integration into a report or presentation. Charts may be saved as images for use in a word processing document. Also, the data behind the chart is downloadable as a CSV file for further analysis. BEA plans to expand the charting tool to incorporate estimates of GDP by state and by metropolitan area early this spring.

### BEA Staff Take Part in ASSA Discussions

BEA economists participated in various sessions in January at the 2008 annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Associations in New Orleans.

BEA Director Steve Landefeld presided over a panel discussion about banking and finance, in which Dennis J. Fixler, Marshall B. Reinsdorf, and George M. Smith discussed new measures of services of commercial banks in the national economic accounts. On another panel, Landefeld, along with Sumiye Okubo, also spoke about BEA's satellite account for research and development.

Deputy Director Rosemary D. Marcuss presided over a panel discussion on stock options and the national economic ac-

counts. For more information, see the *BEA Briefing* in this issue. Marcuss also presided over a panel on income and taxation. During this session, Robert L. Brown spoke about the feasibility of producing reconciliations of personal income and adjusted gross income on a state-by-state basis, and Mark A. Ledbetter provided an overview of these two widely used measures of personal income.

In addition, Nicole M. Mayerhauser and Denise A. McBride made a presentation about the treatment of housing in the national economic accounts. Adam M. Copeland presented his work on the dynamic expenditures on motor vehicles. And Ana Aizcorbe and Carol A. Robbins took part in a panel discussion about semiconductors.

### New FAQs Available on BEA Web Site

How does BEA treat remittances? How does BEA calculate average annual growth? What data does BEA make available for gross domestic product for metropolitan regions?

Answers to these and other new questions are now available on BEA's FAQ tool, which is available on BEA's Web site at <[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)>. BEA regularly adds to the list of questions and answers, all of which are searchable by keywords and categories.