

## Director's Message

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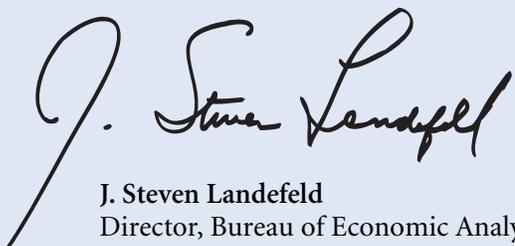
In June through October, the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS traditionally features a host of articles that present new estimates from the Bureau of Economic Analysis' (BEA) international accounts. The July issue presents an overview of the 2008 annual revision of the U.S. international transactions statistics, detailing several improvements, especially in services transactions. Other articles discuss U.S. international transactions for the first quarter of 2008, direct investment for 2007, and the international investment position of the United States at the end of 2007.

In addition, we are pleased to present advance gross domestic product (GDP)-by-state statistics for 2007 and state personal income statistics for the first quarter of 2008.

As always, we present recent GDP statistics, in this case the final estimates for the first quarter of 2008, in our signature easy-to-read format.

I'd like to briefly note that we've posted BEA's strategic plan for 2008–2012 on our Web site at <[www.bea.gov/about/pdf/strategic\\_plan\\_matrix\\_2008-2012.pdf](http://www.bea.gov/about/pdf/strategic_plan_matrix_2008-2012.pdf)>.

At BEA, our mission is to promote a better understanding of the economy by providing timely, relevant, and accurate economic statistics. To that end, our strategic plan calls for us to improve our statistics, stay abreast of a more complex economy, develop future leaders, and help our customers in various ways—despite a challenging fiscal environment. The strategic plan details 178 milestones in these areas. Please take a look. As always, comments are welcome.



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