

## Director's Message

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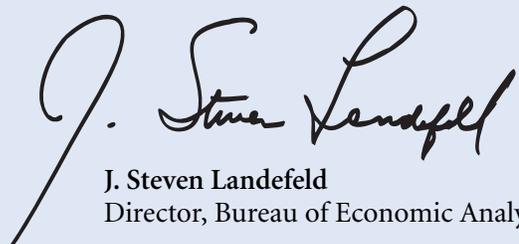
In this month's SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS, we are pleased to publish additional direct investment statistics, both inbound and outbound. These statistics complement the statistics released in July, providing more detail by country, industry, and account. Also, we included a new table of inward direct investment that breaks down the foreign direct investment position in the United States by the industry of ultimate beneficial owners of affiliates. This is one of several improvements we are making to the international accounts. All are aimed at better serving users. We welcome any feedback.

In another article, we present updated estimates of metropolitan area personal income, which slowed in more than half of the nation's 363 metropolitan areas in 2007, reflecting an overall reduction of U.S. personal income growth to 6.0 percent, down from 6.5 percent in 2006.

This issue also includes updated capital stock and government-activity-by-function tables that incorporate the results of the annual revision of the national income and product accounts.

As always, we present the most recent gross domestic product estimates in an easy-to-read, graphical format. Government spending estimates are similarly presented.

I'd also like to mention our updated customer brochure that highlights the full range of activity here at the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Users of our data, even if they focus on particular areas, may enjoy a look at the full breadth of statistics we produce. The new brochure is available in PDF at <[www.bea.gov/agency/pdf/BEA\\_Customer\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.bea.gov/agency/pdf/BEA_Customer_Guide.pdf)>.



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