

Director's Message

In this issue, we present updated statistics for the annual industry accounts, which detail interactions among industries and the contributions of industries to gross domestic product (GDP). According to these detailed data, in 2010, 16 of 22 major industry groups contributed to the growth of real GDP. The durable-goods manufacturing and retail trade sectors were leading contributors to the 3.0 percent increase in U.S. economic growth.

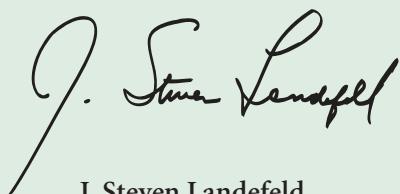
In addition, we present the second estimates of the GDP accounts for the third quarter of 2011. A separate article looks at estimates of government receipts and expenditures for the third quarter.

As the year ends, I've been reviewing our progress on meeting our strategic plan goals. And I am pleased to report that the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) has made solid progress on the more than 200 elements identified in our annual strategic plan.

One area where we have made great strides is our Web site. We launched a new look-and-feel this year, embracing a more user-friendly design. We launched a new interactive tables service that allows users to easily access statistics from across BEA via a common tool. And we launched two new Twitter feeds to complement our RSS service and our e-mail subscription service. We intend to roll out additional social media services soon.

As always, the SURVEY will be a prime tool in communicating all developments to our users.

Happy New Year!



J. Steven Landefeld
Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis