



# SURVEY *of* CURRENT BUSINESS



IN THIS ISSUE . . .

*GDP: One of the Great Inventions of the 20th Century*  
*Annual Input-Output Accounts of the U.S. Economy,*  
*1996*



# SURVEY of CURRENT BUSINESS

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THIS ISSUE of the SURVEY went to the printer on January 12, 2000.  
It incorporates data from the following monthly BEA news releases:  
U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services (December 16),  
Gross Domestic Product (December 22), and  
Personal Income and Outlays (December 23).

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*At a press conference on December 7, 1999, the Department of Commerce announced that it had selected “the development of the national income and product accounts as its achievement of the century.” The speakers at the conference and other government policy officials and leading academic economists took the opportunity to affirm the importance of the national accounts to economic analysis and policy making. The accounts were born out of a pressing need for economic information during the Great Depression and World War II, and they have been continually updated and improved so that they provide an accurate, timely, and relevant picture of U.S. economic activity.*

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*The 1996 input-output (I-O) accounts present a detailed picture of how industries interact to provide input to, and take output from, each other. The estimates update the 1992 benchmark I-O accounts and are consistent definitionally and statistically with the recently revised NIPA estimates. The publication of the annual 1996 I-O accounts marks the return of the annual I-O program as part of BEA’s industry accounts.*

## *Regular features*

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### 1 Business Situation

*Real GDP increased 5.7 percent in the third quarter of 1999, according to the NIPA “final” estimate; the “preliminary” estimate issued last month had shown a 5.5-percent increase. The price index for gross domestic purchases increased 1.7 percent, the same as the “preliminary” estimate. The “revised” estimate of corporate profits showed an increase of \$3.7 billion (or 0.4 percent at a quarterly rate) in the third quarter; the “preliminary” estimate had shown an increase of \$8.2 billion (or 0.9 percent).*

## 90 U.S. International Transactions, Third Quarter 1999

*The U.S. current-account deficit increased \$9.0 billion, to \$89.9 billion, in the third quarter of 1999. Most of the increase was accounted for by an increase in the deficit on goods, as imports increased twice as much as exports increased. In the financial account, net recorded inflows decreased \$13.9 billion, to \$105.7 billion. Inflows for foreign-owned assets in the United States and outflows for U.S.-owned assets abroad both slowed sharply, but the slowdown in inflows, which reflected a sharp dropoff in foreign acquisitions of U.S. companies, exceeded that in outflows.*

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## LOOKING AHEAD

- ✿ ***Comparison of BEA Personal Income and IRS Adjusted Gross Income.*** An article that presents the revised estimates for 1959–97 of the reconciliation of these two widely used measures of household income will be published in a forthcoming issue of the SURVEY. The reconciliation will reflect the recent comprehensive revision of the NIPA's, including the redefinition of government employee retirement plans.
  - ✿ ***Rates of Return of Foreign-Owned U.S. Companies.*** An article that presents new industry-level estimates of the rates of return of foreign-owned U.S. companies using current-cost measures of profits and assets will be published in a forthcoming issue of the SURVEY. The article will examine various factors that may underlie the relatively low rates of return for foreign-owned companies.
  - ✿ ***Industrial Composition of State Earnings.*** An article that analyzes the industrial composition of earnings by State for 1958 and 1998 will be published in a forthcoming issue of the SURVEY. The article will show that State industrial compositions have become more similar over time and will discuss some of the reasons for this trend.
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## Getting BEA's Estimates

Estimates and related information are available in news releases and publications and on diskettes, CD-ROM's, and the BEA Web site. The news releases are now posted on the Web site within minutes of the official time of release. Our online *Catalog of Products* provides product descriptions and includes links to compressed files of our diskette products that can be downloaded for free.

Our most recent Web site postings and statistical products are listed below.

### [www.bea.doc.gov](http://www.bea.doc.gov)

#### **January 2000 *Survey of Current Business***

Click on "*Survey of Current Business* and other BEA Publications," and look under "Table of contents."

#### **1996 Annual I-O Accounts**

Click on "Industry and Wealth Data," and look under "Input-Output data."

#### **Selected NIPA Tables, Third Quarter 1999 (Final)**

Click on "GDP and related data," and look under "Current period estimates."

#### **U.S. International Transactions, Third Quarter 1999**

Under "International," click on "Data," and look under "Balance of Payments."

### **Diskettes and CD-ROM's**

#### ***1996 Annual I-O Accounts***

Contains annual input-output estimates for two-digit industries. Also contains alternative use and make tables with industries defined on a 1987 SIC basis. Diskette IDN-0247, \$20.00.

#### ***U.S. International Transactions, Third Quarter 1999***

Contains annual estimates for 1998 and quarterly estimates for 1997: I-1999:III on a balance-of-payments basis. Diskette IDN-0246, \$20.00.

#### ***Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (FDIUS): Preliminary Results From the 1997 Benchmark Survey***

Contains information on the financial structure and operations of the U.S. affiliates of foreign direct investors. Diskette IDN-0244, \$20.00.

#### ***FDIUS: Balance of Payments and Direct Investment Position Estimates, 1987-98***

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#### ***Fixed Reproducible Tangible Wealth in the United States, 1925-94***

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#### ***State Personal Income, 1929-97***

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### Schedule of Upcoming BEA News Releases

U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, November 1999*	Jan. 20	8:30 a.m.
State Personal Income, 3rd quarter 1999	Jan. 26	9:00 a.m.
Gross Domestic Product, 4th quarter 1999 (advance)	Jan. 28	8:30 a.m.
Personal Income and Outlays, December 1999	Jan. 31	8:30 a.m.
U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, December 1999*	Feb. 18	8:30 a.m.
Gross Domestic Product, 4th quarter 1999 (preliminary)	Feb. 25	8:30 a.m.
Personal Income and Outlays, January 2000	Feb. 28	8:30 a.m.
U.S. International Transactions, 4th quarter 1999	Mar. 15	10:00 a.m.
U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, January 2000*	Mar. 21	8:30 a.m.
Gross Domestic Product, 4th quarter 1999 (final) and Corporate Profits, 4th quarter 1999	Mar. 30	8:30 a.m.
Personal Income and Outlays, February 2000	Mar. 31	8:30 a.m.
U.S. International Trade in Goods and Services, February 2000*	April 19	8:30 a.m.
Gross Domestic Product, 1st quarter 2000 (advance)	April 27	8:30 a.m.
Personal Income and Outlays, March 2000	April 28	8:30 a.m.

\* Joint release by the Bureau of the Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)  
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