

# Taking Account...

## **BEA Releases New RIMS II Online Ordering System**

BEA has released a new online ordering and delivery system to make it easier for users to purchase the Regional Input-Output Modeling System (RIMS II) Multipliers. The multipliers are widely used by researchers and government officials to estimate the economic impact of various projects and events on state and local economies.

The new online ordering system was designed to make it easier and faster for users to purchase RIMS II products. The time required to complete purchases—from when an order is received to when it is delivered—has been reduced to just a few days. The launch of the system fulfills a major goal set forth in BEA's strategic plan.

After a one-time registration, users can order multipliers by placing selected regions and industries into an online shopping cart. During the checkout process, users can pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and Diners Club are accepted) or by check using an E-check feature.

After payment is approved, it will take just a few business days before the order is filled. Customers will receive an e-mail notification when the multipliers

are ready for download.

The files available for download include multipliers tables (eight tables per benchmark series, four tables per annual series) and the national distribution costs tables. The files can be accessed through the RIMS II Viewer, which can also be downloaded via the system. In addition, the PDF files that contain summary-level multiplier tables (two tables per benchmark series, one table per annual series) are available.

The new ordering system can be accessed at <[www.bea.gov/regional/rims/rimsii/](http://www.bea.gov/regional/rims/rimsii/)>.

Those who do not wish to use the online system can still make purchases by contacting the RIMS staff by phone at 202-606-5343 or by e-mail at <RIMSREAD@bea.gov>.

## **New I-O Handbook Available on BEA Web Site**

BEA recently released a new handbook—*Concepts and Methods of the U.S. Input-Output Accounts*—that describes the underlying structure used to prepare the benchmark input-output (I-O) accounts of the United States.

The handbook presents the basics of I-O accounting, background on the development and uses of the accounts, and an

introduction to the process of preparing the I-O estimates and tables. It also provides information for more experienced users that is designed to broaden their understanding of certain aspects of the I-O accounts.

The handbook does not provide detailed descriptions of methodology or of database operations. It does, however, include some descriptions of methodology that is mainly based on the 1997 benchmark accounts. In addition, some updates and indications of future changes are discussed.

In general, the handbook, which is available on the BEA Web site, is intended to be a “living reference,” one that will be frequently updated.

The handbook opens with a table of contents that provides brief outlines of the main topics covered in each of the 12 chapters. A glossary of I-O terms and a bibliography of selected references are included.

Mark A. Planting and Karen J. Horowitz, formerly senior BEA economists, served as the primary authors. Significant contributions were made by Gerald F. Donahoe and Doug R. Fox, both also former BEA economists.

The handbook can now be accessed at <[www.bea.gov/bea/papers/IOManual\\_092906.pdf](http://www.bea.gov/bea/papers/IOManual_092906.pdf)>.