

Director's Message

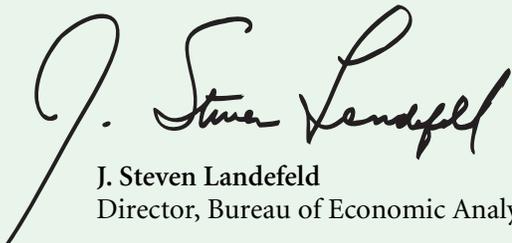
This month's SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS includes an easy-to-scan presentation of the "final" estimates of gross domestic product for the fourth quarter of 2006. A similar presentation of fourth-quarter government receipts and expenditures also appears.

Another article presents estimates of state personal income for the fourth quarter of 2006 and the year 2006, during which current-dollar personal income rose 6.3 percent, the highest since the current expansion began in December 2001. In 2005, personal income rose 5.2 percent.

Two articles on the current-account balance also appear in this issue. One presents estimates for the fourth quarter of 2006. The other details estimates for the year 2006, during which the current-account deficit rose to \$857 billion from \$792 billion in 2005.

All articles in this issue are available in the online version of the SURVEY, which is available at <www.bea.gov/scb/index.htm>. We launched an improved online version in November, in response to frequent requests by users for better search features on our Web site in general. This month, we added a new keyword search feature that allows users to search the SURVEY archive back to 1994. The new search feature complements other options that allow users to search by issue date and subject.

I'd like to also note that the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) held a well-attended national economic accounts users conference this month. We hold these events periodically for various BEA accounts to receive feedback about our services and inform customers about important initiatives. We heard a lot of good ideas and, as always, will consider them carefully.



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