

Taking Account...

Experimental GDP by Metro Area Data

On September 26, 2007, BEA released experimental measures of gross domestic product (GDP) for 363 metropolitan areas for 2001–2005.

GDP by metropolitan area is a measure of the market value of final goods and services produced within the area in a given period. Metropolitan areas, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, are standardized county-based areas with at least one urbanized area with a population of 50,000 or more plus adjacent territories that have high degrees of social and economic integration with the core, as measured by commuting ties.

These statistics were developed in response to demand from regional data users for more detailed output measures for metropolitan areas. BEA is now seeking comments and advice about the new estimates. Comments may be e-mailed to <GDPbyMetro@bea.gov>.

There are many uses of GDP-by-metropolitan-area data, including enhanced analysis of metropolitan economies, the impact of natural or man-made disasters on cities, and comparative industrial growth across metropolitan areas.

An upcoming article in the SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS will

discuss the data in more detail.

The news release about the new data, including tables, is available at <www.bea.gov/newsreleases/regional/gdp_metro/gdp_metro_newsrelease.htm>.

Quarterly Travel Industry Statistics Released

Real direct tourism output increased at an annual rate of 0.9 percent in the second quarter of 2007, compared with a 2.1-percent increase in the first quarter, according to the data from the BEA travel and tourism satellite accounts. Growth turned down in traveler accommodations. Growth in overall transportation output remained strong.

By comparison, real GDP grew at an annual rate of 3.8 percent in the second quarter of 2007 and 0.6 percent in the first quarter of 2007.

Direct tourism employment rose 2.6 percent in the first quarter of 2007 (the most recent period for which data are available), slower than the 3.1-percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2006. By comparison, overall U.S. employment grew 1.5 percent in the first quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2006.

The travel and tourism satellite accounts provide detailed statistical information about the travel and tourism economy. The account is supported by

funding from the Office of Travel and Tourism Industries, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

More information about the most recent release is available at <www.bea.gov/newsreleases/industry/tourism/tournewsrelease.htm>.

PCE-CPI Analysis Posted on BEA Web Site

The personal consumption expenditures price index from BEA and the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics are widely followed measures of consumer prices.

But each index is produced according to different underlying concepts and often do not move in lockstep. A recent analysis by Clinton P. McCully, Brian C. Moyer, both of BEA, and Kenneth J. Stewart, of BLS, has found that from the first quarter of 2002 to the second quarter of 2007, almost half of the 0.4-percentage-point difference in growth rates between the CPI and the PCE price index can be explained by differences in index number formulas. The PCE price index is based on a Fisher-Ideal index. The CPI is based on a Laspeyres index. The paper is available at <www.bea.gov> by clicking on “Papers and Working Papers” on the left side.