

## Director's Message

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To provide more timely information on economic turning points, on accelerations and decelerations in economic growth at the industry level, and on changes in industrial structure, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) issued its first “regular” release of current quarterly GDP by industry statistics on April 25, 2014—a major milestone for BEA. This new, widely acclaimed set of quarterly statistics will now be published regularly within 30 days of BEA’s third release of GDP.

Quarterly GDP by industry statistics fill an important void in the U.S. federal economic statistics system, providing detailed data on industry dynamics within the economy that will prove valuable to policymakers, businesses, and academics.

We are pleased to present a *BEA Briefing* that discusses GDP by industry for the fourth quarter of 2013; economic growth decelerated to 2.6 percent from 4.1 percent in the third quarter. According to the data, the deceleration was led by a slowdown in growth in the services-producing sector and a larger contraction by the government sector, which were partly offset by a pickup in growth in the goods-producing sector.

Elsewhere, we note the advance GDP statistics for the first quarter of 2014.

I’d like also to note that as part of this publication’s modernization efforts, we will soon stop publishing PDF versions of the charts and tables that typically appear in the “Charts, Tables, and More.” Rest assured, these data will remain available through BEA’s [interactive data system](#), which allows users to customize and download the data in a variety of ways. In addition, BEA provides economic series as originally released in an [online archive](#).



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