

U.S. International Economic Accounts: Concepts and Methods

International Transactions Accounts,
International Investment Position Accounts,
Activities of Multinational Enterprises, and
Other International Economic Accounts

September 2026

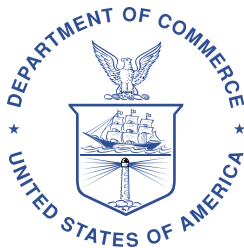
Transactions Expenditures
Affiliates Greenfield Trade
Statistics Flow Activities Global Abroad Position
Goods Financial Enterprise Country
Instruments Foreign
Survey Multinational
Portfolio Parent Residence
Imports Deficit Insurance Benchmark Direct Assets Claim Ownership
Services Revision
Investment Liabilities Accounts



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September 2026



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Preface

This volume details the concepts and methods used by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to prepare the U.S. International Economic Accounts. The current version is the the latest in a series of (mostly) annual updates of a volume that was released on the BEA website in 2021. The 2021 volume expanded and updated BEA's previous volume that was published in 2014 and accompanied a comprehensive restructuring of several of the accounts—the most significant change in the structure and presentation of these accounts since 1976. The 2014 volume expanded on an earlier 2011 volume by covering the International Investment Position Accounts and statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises, along with the featured International Transactions Accounts.

This version reflects changes in sources, methods, and statistical presentations introduced in the International Economic Accounts since the release of the last volume.

This volume will continue to be updated periodically to reflect changes in concepts, sources, and methods as they are introduced into the U.S. International Economic Accounts. In addition, new material may be introduced as needed to provide thorough and up-to-date documentation of important topics and issues related to these accounts.

BEA acknowledges the influence of the International Monetary Fund's *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* on the structure and content of this volume.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition	Abbreviation	Definition
ABCP	Asset-backed commercial paper	DOE	U.S. Department of Education
ACE	Automated Commercial Environment	EBOPS	Extended Balance of Payments Classification System
AMNE	Activities of multinational enterprises	ECFMG	Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
API	Application programming interface	F.A.S.	Free alongside ship
APIS	Advance Passenger Information System	F.O.B.	Free on board
ARC	Airlines Reporting Corporation	FATS	Foreign affiliates statistics
<i>BD4</i>	<i>Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition</i>	FCRS	Foreign Credit Reporting System
BEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	FDIUS	Foreign direct investment in the United States
BIS	Bank for International Settlements	FFIEC	Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council
BLS	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	FIMA	Foreign and international monetary authorities
BOP	Balance of payments	FISIM	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured
<i>BPM5</i>	<i>Balance of Payments Manual, Fifth Edition</i>	FRB	Federal Reserve Board
<i>BPM6</i>	<i>Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition</i>	FRBNY	Federal Reserve Bank of New York
BTS	U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics	GAAP	Generally accepted accounting principles
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection	GATS	General Agreement on Trade in Services
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security	GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
DOC	U.S. Department of Commerce	GDP	Gross domestic product
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense	GNI	Gross national income

Table continues

Abbreviation	Definition	Abbreviation	Definition
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System	NPISHs	Nonprofit institutions serving households
I-O	Input-output	NTTO	National Travel and Tourism Office
ICE	Intercontinental Exchange	OBE	Office of Business Economics
ICT	Information and communication technology	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
IIE	Institute of International Education	OLFC	Office of Foreign Labor Certification
IIP	International investment position	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
IMF	International Monetary Fund	PP&E	Property, plant, and equipment
IRS	Internal Revenue Service	R&D	Research and development
ISI	International Surveys Industry	SDR(s)	Special drawing right(s)
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification	SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
ITA(s)	International Transactions Account(s)	SEVIS	Student and Exchange Visitor System
MMF(s)	Money market fund(s)	SIAT	Survey of International Air Travelers
MNC	Multinational company	SIC	U.S. Standard Industrial Classification
MNE(s)	Multinational enterprise(s)	SNA	<i>System of National Accounts</i>
MSITS	<i>Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services</i>	SOFR	Secured Overnight Financing Rate
NAICS	North American Industry Classification System	SPE(s)	Special Purpose Entity(ies)
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service	TIC	Treasury International Capital
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization	TIPS	Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities
NAWS	National Agricultural Workers Survey	TRIPS	Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
NCD(s)	Negotiable certificate(s) of deposit	UBO	Ultimate beneficial owner
n.i.e.	Not included elsewhere	UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
NIPAs	National Income and Product Accounts	UN Comtrade	United Nations International Trade Statistics Database

Table continues

Abbreviation	Definition
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
USDIA	U.S. direct investment abroad

Abbreviation	Definition
USPS	U.S. Postal Service
WTO	World Trade Organization

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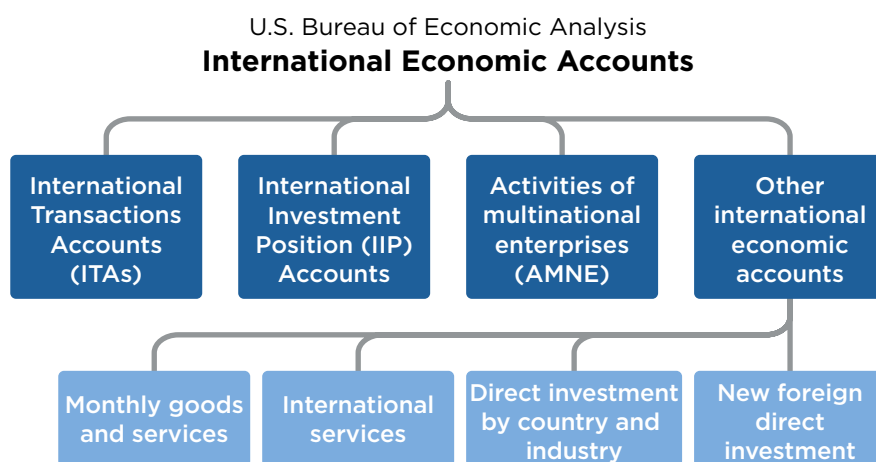
Part I.

Introduction and Overview

Chapter 1. Purpose and Structure of the Accounts

- 1.1. The [U.S. International Economic Accounts](#) prepared by the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) (BEA), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, provide timely, accurate, and relevant economic statistics that allow policymakers and other decision makers to understand the role of the United States in the global economy and the performance of the U.S. economy relative to other countries. The core accounts consist of the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs), the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts, and statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE).

Figure 1.a. U.S. International Economic Accounts



The "other" accounts shown here include only those discussed in detail in this volume.

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- 1.2. Related to the core International Economic Accounts are other statistics, such as monthly trade in goods and services statistics, international services statistics, direct investment by country and industry statistics, and statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States (see figure 1.a.). The statistics in these other international accounts provide additional

information on specific aspects of the core accounts; as such, they can be viewed as belonging to the U.S. International Economic Accounts broadly construed. This volume focuses primarily on the core International Economic Accounts, but it also discusses these related statistics. Taken together, the core accounts and the other International Economic Accounts provide a comprehensive, integrated, and detailed picture of important and closely followed U.S. international economic activities. Figure A.1 in appendix A presents an overview of data items connecting the various U.S. International Economic Accounts.

- 1.3. The ITAs are a quarterly statistical summary of transactions between U.S. residents and non-residents organized into three major accounts: the current account, the capital account, and the financial account. The current account records exports and imports of goods and services, receipts and payments of primary income, and receipts and payments of secondary income (current transfers). The capital account records capital transfers, such as debt forgiveness, and transactions in nonproduced, nonfinancial assets. Both current- and capital-account data are used in compiling the [U.S. National Income and Product Accounts](#) (NIPAs) prepared by BEA. The financial account records investment transactions between U.S. residents and nonresidents for direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, reserve assets, and financial derivatives. Financial-account data are used in compiling the [Financial Accounts of the United States](#) prepared by the Federal Reserve Board (FRB).
- 1.4. The IIP Accounts are a statistical summary of the quarter-end value of accumulated stocks of U.S. assets and U.S. liabilities, and the value of the net international position of the United States. Separate statistics are available for the value of accumulated stocks of direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, reserve assets, and financial derivatives. Changes in positions arise from financial transactions, valuation changes, and other changes in volume and valuation. Data from the IIP Accounts are used in compiling national balance sheet statistics in the Financial Accounts of the United States prepared by the FRB.
- 1.5. BEA prepares statistics on the financial and operating activities of U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) and the U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs using data it collects on its surveys of U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in the United States. These activities of MNEs (or AMNE) statistics—which include data items such as sales; employment; value added; expenditures for property, plant, and equipment; and balance sheets—are critical for understanding the role played by MNEs in an increasingly integrated global economy.
- 1.6. Monthly statistics on trade in goods and services provide more frequent information on these two particular aspects of the ITAs. International services statistics provide detailed information drawn from the trade in services data used to construct the ITAs and from data collected to prepare the AMNE statistics. Direct investment by country and industry statistics provide additional country and industry detail underlying the direct investment entries in the ITA current and financial accounts and in the IIP Accounts. Statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States provide information related to aspects of the ITAs and the AMNE statistics.

- 1.7. Both the core International Economic Accounts and the other international accounts broadly conform to international statistical guidelines. These guidelines provide a useful framework for understanding and tracking changes in economic relationships between countries and assist statistical agencies in categorizing and measuring new developments in the real and financial sectors of the international economy. In addition, alignment with the guidelines facilitates comparisons between statistics produced by BEA and statistics produced by partner countries. International guidelines for international economic accounts are consistent and have been developed together with international guidelines for national economic accounts. As a result, BEA's International Economic Accounts are highly consistent with, and in many cases feed directly into, BEA's National Economic Accounts, such as the NIPAs. Figure A.2 in appendix A presents an overview of how statistics from the U.S. International Economic Accounts are incorporated into BEA's National Economic Accounts. The comprehensiveness of the International Economic Accounts and their consistency with BEA's national economic statistics and with statistics of partner countries provides policymakers, researchers, and others with a strong statistical foundation for understanding and responding to international economic events.
- 1.8. International economic statistics that are comparable across countries allow assessments of relative economic performance, facilitate trade negotiations, and provide the basis for tracking and analyzing the global economy. BEA's International Economic Accounts are also used to study international competitiveness and to formulate trade and investment policy. Data on direct investment and the activities of U.S. MNEs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs are also used by businesses to assist in their decisions on the location of affiliates abroad, the hiring of foreign labor, and sales and purchases of goods and services abroad.
- 1.9. This volume is organized into 8 parts consisting of 35 chapters, 4 appendixes, and a glossary. [Part I](#) (chapters 1–5) provides an introduction and overview of the accounts and identifies data sources used in compiling the accounts. [Part II](#) (chapters 6–9) is a conceptual framework that provides descriptions of key concepts and principles that underlie the International Economic Accounts and that are critical for understanding and interpreting the statistics. Parts III, IV, and V provide summaries of statistical methodologies used for the three core International Economic Accounts, including data sources and estimation methods. Specifically, [Part III](#) (chapters 10–21) covers the ITAs, [Part IV](#) (chapters 22–27) covers the IIP Accounts, and [Part V](#) (chapter 28) covers AMNE statistics. [Part VI](#) (chapters 29–33) discusses International Economic Accounts other than the three core accounts. [Part VII](#) (chapters 34 and 35) covers special topics in the International Economic Accounts. [Part VIII](#) provides supplemental information including appendixes and a glossary of terms.

Chapter 2. Brief History of the Accounts

- 2.1. The history of the U.S. International Economic Accounts dates to the early 1920s. The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) first published the balance of payments accounts in 1923 for the statistical year 1922 and later provided statistics back to 1919. The DOC's Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce published the accounts throughout the 1930s and during World War II. These statistics were in great demand to measure the flow of goods and services abroad during the war. Even greater attention was focused on the accounts published by the DOC's Office of Business Economics (OBE), the predecessor agency to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. OBE played a prominent role in the measurement of financial assistance provided for economic reconstruction in the late 1940s and much of the 1950s.
- 2.2. With the advent of increased currency convertibility and the increased flow of capital globally, considerable disagreement arose by the late 1960s on how to best present the accounts. Several "partial" balances, consisting mostly of various components of the current account and some long-term capital transactions, were viewed as presenting an incomplete picture of total payments flows. Financial transactions were not recognized as part of the payments flows of the nation in any of these balances, yet they had begun to rise sharply in size. This was especially true with the surge in transactions of U.S. banks in the rapidly developing Eurodollar market. With capital mobility, it became increasingly difficult to distinguish between transactions in liquid and illiquid assets and to distinguish between financial flows (particularly short term) that arose from the nation's payments and flows that were considered settlement transactions required of monetary authorities under the system of fixed exchange rates.
- 2.3. Differences of opinion also emerged on how best to capture, in a single "overall" or "summary" balance, the total payments flows of the nation. Several overall balances were published as part of the official presentation of the accounts, but they often gave conflicting evidence on the payments flows of the nation for a given quarter or year. Equally important, these overall balances were too volatile in short time periods to provide a reliable gauge of longer run developments in the payments position of the nation. In the final analysis, the choice of one or several overall balances was made more difficult not only by limitations of the statistical reporting system but also by complications resulting from the dollar's role as an international reserve currency.
- 2.4. The choice of several overall balances was retained, and improved somewhat, in the 1971 modification of the presentation of the accounts, but the end of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange rates in 1973 made the presentation of these balances considerably less relevant. In 1976, a review by an expert advisory panel recommended that the accounts be presented with no single overall or summary balance; a presentation of partial balances was considered appropriate. The committee also recommended that BEA's primary presentation feature "international transactions"

rather than “balance of payments.” This recommendation led to the accounts being renamed the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs). Although the presentation was modified several times since 1976, no significant alterations in the basic structure of the ITAs were made until June 2014, when BEA completed a comprehensive restructuring of the accounts. The restructuring resulted from a multiyear effort to modernize and enhance the accounts by introducing changes recommended by international statistical guidelines along with other improvements. The most significant change was a new presentation of the accounts that conformed more closely to international guidelines and brought the U.S. accounts into closer alignment with those of other countries.

- 2.5. The United States was also involved in the 1920s with the collection of data on the operations of U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs). When U.S. MNE data were first provided in 1930, the scope was limited to one item: the value of foreign commercial assets controlled by U.S. companies. Since then, the scope has been greatly expanded in step with the growth in MNEs and the increasing integration of the global economy. A DOC census of U.S. direct investment abroad (outward investment) for 1950 marked the first appearance on a federal government survey of questions on the financing and operations of foreign affiliates of U.S. companies. In response to increased foreign direct investment in the United States, BEA conducted its first survey of the financing and operations of the U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs in the 1970s.

Overview of historical changes

- 2.6. The International Economic Accounts have evolved in response to policy needs and to address new types of international transactions and financial instruments, particularly those arising from rapid growth and innovation in international services trade and financial markets and the shifting global patterns of goods production and merchandise trade.
- 2.7. Changes to the accounts, including the introduction of new statistics and changes in estimation methods, definitions, and classifications for existing accounts are presented in *Survey of Current Business* articles. For the ITAs and International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts, changes are discussed in each year’s annual update articles, which are typically published in July. Changes that do not affect the ITAs and the IIP Accounts may be discussed in other articles that present those statistics.
- 2.8. Below are examples of major changes that have been introduced to keep the accounts up-to-date and relevant to the needs of government, business officials, academia, and other users of the data. Most of these changes resulted in improvements to the ITAs, but some changes also resulted in improvements to the IIP Accounts and to the statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE). Others resulted in the introduction of new statistical products that are published separately in other international accounts.

Changes prior to the comprehensive restructuring

- 2.9. With continued growth of outward direct investment and the acceleration of inward direct investment in the 1970s and 1980s, interest in the finances and operations of MNEs—such as employment, technology, and domestic production—increased correspondingly, and equal emphasis started to be placed on collecting data on investment in both directions. In response, BEA expanded its data on the overall operations of U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates and instituted new surveys to collect similar data on the operations of the U.S. affiliates of foreign companies. The resulting AMNE statistics became a main BEA data series.¹ BEA also introduced statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States. These statistics measured the establishment of new business enterprises and the acquisition of existing businesses by foreign direct investors. The authority to collect these data regularly on a mandatory basis was secured with the enactment of the International Investment Survey Act of 1976.
- 2.10. In the mid-1980s to early 1990s, BEA broadened its collection system for business services to capture the rapidly expanding universe of internationally traded services, partly in response to the [International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act](#) of 1984, which amended the 1976 International Investment Survey Act. The 1984 amendment established mandatory reporting of U.S. international trade in services and called for benchmark surveys of international services. For the first time, trade in services between affiliated enterprises (parent companies and their affiliates) was recorded on a gross basis. Previously, these transactions had been recorded only on a net basis. This net treatment obscured the two-way flow of intrafirm services trade, resulting in an understatement of total exports and imports of services.
- 2.11. In the early to mid-1980s, questions pertaining to sales reported on BEA's surveys of U.S. MNEs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs were expanded to request separate reporting of sales of goods and services. As a result, BEA started to provide annual statistics on the sales of services by affiliates, which included statistics often described as foreign affiliates' trade in services statistics.² The supply of services by affiliates corresponds to the delivery of services via the channel of commercial presence, which is one of the four modes of service delivery identified in the General Agreement on Trade in Services. Later, in the mid-2000s, BEA developed new measures of services supplied through affiliates for insurance services, financial services, and wholesale and retail trade services that better capture the value of these services.
- 2.12. In 1989, the ITAs adopted the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System) of commodity classification for goods exports and imports, which provided an improved and more detailed structure for classifying merchandise trade data.

1. Starting with the 2011 statistics, BEA adopted standard international terminology by replacing the term “multinational companies” (or “MNC”) with “multinational enterprises” (or “MNE”) and the term “financial and operating (F&O) statistics” (or “F&O statistics”) with “statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises” (or “AMNE statistics”). This change in terminology did not affect the actual statistics produced.

2. Foreign affiliates' trade in services statistics originally went by the acronym FATS. The meaning of the FATS acronym has evolved over time. FATS now refers to “Foreign AffiliaTe Statistics,” which is a set of statistics that encompasses several affiliate activities beyond just the sale or supply of services. The more recent notion of FATS is used in chapter 28 of this volume.

The Harmonized System was developed under the auspices of the World Customs Organization to establish an internationally accepted standard for the classification of traded goods. Many countries adopted the system at the time of its introduction in the late 1980s, and in 1989 the U.S. Census Bureau and BEA adopted the Harmonized System as the basic building block for U.S. merchandise trade data. At that time, BEA revamped its end-use commodity classification system to reflect the new Harmonized System. Commodity trade flows on the newly developed end-use basis were carried back to 1978.

- 2.13. Starting with the first quarter of 1990, U.S.-compiled exports to Canada were replaced with the counterpart Canadian import statistics, and Canadian-compiled exports to the United States were replaced with the counterpart U.S. import statistics. This exchange of statistics between the Census Bureau and Statistics Canada eliminated many of the U.S. balance of payments adjustments to the Census-basis data for timing, coverage, and valuation that were needed when the United States was using its own export data.
- 2.14. In 1994, a new set of monthly services statistics was introduced in response to requests from policymakers for more timely data on services transactions that complemented the long-standing monthly series for merchandise trade. The new services statistics for seven services categories enabled BEA and the Census Bureau to begin publishing a joint monthly release on goods and services trade, which resulted in a more complete picture of U.S. international trade. The new statistics on goods and services trade covered transactions beginning with 1992.
- 2.15. In the late 1990s, BEA introduced new statistics for exports and imports of financial services based on its first benchmark survey of financial services transactions between U.S. financial services providers and unaffiliated foreign persons conducted for 1994. Services newly covered by the benchmark and corresponding annual services surveys beginning in 1995 included financial management services, financial advisory and custody services, credit card services, credit-related services, securities lending services, and electronic funds transfer services. Indirect methods used for brokerage services were replaced by survey data for commissions on stock transactions, private stock and bond placements, futures transactions, and foreign exchange transactions. The new statistics based on the benchmark survey began with 1992.
- 2.16. In 1993, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published the *Balance of Payments Manual, Fifth Edition (BPM5)*, the primary set of international guidelines for producing international economic accounts. In the late 1990s, changes resulting from these updated guidelines were introduced in the U.S. ITAs, including the establishment of the financial account along with the capital account in order to distinguish financial asset transactions from transactions in nonproduced nonfinancial assets. Transactions were presented in three accounts: current account, capital account, and financial account. Previously, transactions had been presented in just the current account and the capital account. The current account was redefined by removing capital transfers and transactions in nonproduced nonfinancial assets to the new capital account. The previous capital account became the new financial account. BEA provided statistics starting with 1982 under the revised presentation.

- 2.17. From 1999 to 2003, BEA transitioned the industry classification used for its direct investment and AMNE statistics from one based on the U.S. Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to one based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The use of a NAICS-based classification allowed BEA's statistics to better reflect new and emerging industries and industries involved in the production of advanced technologies. The NAICS-based classification also better reflected the growth and diversification of service industries that had taken place over the prior decades. With the movement away from the SIC-based classification, petroleum-related activities were no longer grouped as the major industry category "petroleum" but were instead spread among other sectors. The presentational changes were introduced in the AMNE statistics in 1999 for 1997 statistics on U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs and in 2002 for 1999 statistics on U.S. MNEs. They were introduced in 2003 for the ITAs and for direct investment by country and industry statistics starting with 1999.
- 2.18. From 2001 to 2005, the reorganization and significant expansion of the U.S. Treasury Department's and Federal Reserve Board's statistical collection system for transactions in securities and for transactions of banks and nonbank firms—the Treasury International Capital (TIC) reporting system—led to major improvements in coverage, which resulted in benefits not only for the financial account and the IIP Accounts but also for portfolio and other investment income in the current account. In 2007, estimates of transactions in financial derivatives were incorporated into the ITAs and the IIP Accounts for the first time based on a newly developed TIC survey conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on behalf of the U.S. Treasury Department.
- 2.19. In July 2003, insurance services in the current account were redefined and new estimation methods were developed to remove the impact of catastrophic events on the measure of services activity. Insurance services were previously measured as premiums less actual losses paid or recovered. A major shortcoming of this measure was that the often highly variable fluctuations in losses from period to period caused the measure of insurance services to vary in a way that had little relation to the services provided. The new method measures services as premiums less expected, or "normal" losses, where normal losses are inferred from the relationship between actual losses and premiums averaged over several years. Statistics were revised back to 1992. In addition, auxiliary insurance services were reclassified from business, professional, and technical services to insurance services.
- 2.20. In 2006 and 2007, the geographic detail available for the ITAs was expanded significantly from 18 to 38 major countries and areas in response to demand for bilateral statistics for a wider set of U.S. partners.³
- 2.21. In June 2008, services exports and imports were revised to incorporate statistics from redesigned surveys of international services. BEA's redesigned benchmark survey of selected services and intellectual property for 2006, quarterly follow-on survey beginning in 2007, and the redesigned quarterly survey of financial services beginning in 2007, consolidated transactions with affiliated

3. In 2020, 3 of the 38 areas—Members of OPEC, Other European Union, and Other Euro Area—were dropped.

and unaffiliated parties into a single reporting system. In addition, detail by type of service activity for affiliated transactions was greatly expanded to parallel the detail available for unaffiliated transactions. The new estimates provided a more complete picture of services trade by detailed type of service.

- 2.22. In June 2008, claims on foreign residents reported by U.S. nonbank firms were revised back to 2005 to significantly expand the coverage of financial intermediaries' claims associated with the issuance of asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP), resulting in improvements to both the ITAs and the IIP Accounts. During this period, many offshore structured investment vehicles and ABCP conduits set up 100-percent-owned affiliates in Delaware for the sole purpose of issuing ABCP in the U.S. market. The ABCP proceeds were then lent to the offshore special purpose vehicles, which used the funds to purchase other assets. The intercompany debt transactions between Delaware affiliates and their offshore parents took the form of increases and decreases in U.S. nonbank claims on financial intermediaries' accounts.
- 2.23. In the late 2000s, BEA enhanced coverage of its AMNE statistics by requiring banks to report on annual surveys of direct investment. Prior to the expanded reporting, banks were only required to report in benchmark years, and the bank survey forms only included a few key data items. The expanded data collections for banks enabled BEA to publish statistics on all bank and nonbank U.S. parents, all bank and nonbank foreign affiliates of both bank and nonbank U.S. parents, and all bank and nonbank U.S. affiliates.
- 2.24. In response to a request from the IMF for more countries to compile quarterly IIP statistics as an economic monitoring tool in the wake of the global financial crisis, BEA introduced quarterly IIP statistics in March 2013. Previously, BEA had released only annual IIP statistics. The new quarterly IIP statistics complemented the annual statistics by providing more frequent and timely information on the U.S. external position. These statistics also satisfied statistical guidelines from the IMF Executive Board, which prescribe quarterly IIP reporting for members that participate in the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard. In contrast to BEA's more detailed annual IIP Accounts, which included transactions and detailed valuation adjustments, BEA's quarterly IIP Accounts provided only position statistics. One important factor that allowed production of quarterly IIP Accounts was an acceleration of the reporting of financial derivatives in the TIC system from 60 days to 45 days after the end of the reference quarter.
- 2.25. Also in March 2013, the release of monthly goods and services trade statistics was accelerated from 40 days after the end of the reference month to 35 days. Both this acceleration initiative and the introduction of the quarterly IIP statistics resulted in more timely and more frequent data from the U.S. International Economic Accounts for policymakers.

- 2.26. In June 2013, BEA integrated new monthly data on cross-border holdings of U.S. and foreign long-term securities collected on a new TIC form, “Aggregate Holdings of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents” (SLT). The monthly SLT positions data supplemented the monthly transactions data from the TIC reporting system, thereby improving coverage of long-term debt securities in financial-account statistics.

Changes associated with the comprehensive restructuring of the accounts

- 2.27. In June 2014, BEA introduced a comprehensive restructuring of the U.S. International Economic Accounts, the most significant change in the presentation of the accounts since 1976. As part of the comprehensive restructuring, BEA introduced a new presentation of the ITAs, a new presentation of the IIP Accounts, and a new presentation of international services statistics. These changes were the culmination of a multiyear effort to enhance the quality and usefulness of the accounts and to bring the accounts into closer alignment with international guidelines.
- 2.28. This restructuring was motivated by the 2009 release of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* and other related international statistical guidelines at about the same time. The manual was published by the IMF in cooperation with members of the international statistical community, including BEA, and was designed to improve accounts produced by national statistical organizations, promote relevance and consistency, and facilitate international comparability. This update, the first since 1993, was coordinated with an update in 2008 of the *System of National Accounts (SNA 2008)* in order to maximize consistency between these two key sets of international guidelines for economic accounts. In addition, in 2008 the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released the *Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition (BD4)*, and in 2010 guidance was provided in manuals for statistics on merchandise trade and services trade. These manuals include *International Merchandise Trade Statistics: Concepts and Definitions 2010* and *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS) 2010*, both published by the United Nations.
- 2.29. These international statistical guidelines were issued in response to important economic developments that arose after the previous set of updates in 1993, such as the increased globalization of economic activity, rising innovation and complexity in financial markets, and an increased emphasis on the balance sheet as a tool for understanding economic activity. Some of the recommendations in these statistical guidelines were particularly noteworthy for their impact on the U.S. International Economic Accounts:
- Trade in goods and services was to be more strictly defined on a change-of-ownership basis to increase consistency with the treatment of the related financial flows and the treatment of domestic transactions and to more clearly identify global outsourcing of manufactured goods.

- Direct investment was to be presented on an “asset/liability” (gross) basis, and the related income flows were to be defined on a receipts/payments basis, instead of both being presented on a directional (net) basis. This change facilitated comparisons with related balance sheet and financial flow statistics.
- Financial intermediation services that are not explicitly charged—but are implicit in transactions and can be measured indirectly—were to be recognized in order to account more completely for the different ways that financial services are priced and delivered.
- Research and development (R&D) results were to be treated as produced assets and included in the current account with other produced assets rather than treated as nonproduced assets and recorded in the capital account. This change better reflected the role of R&D results as assets that contribute to current production.

- 2.30. Because of the broad scope of the changes, BEA adopted a phased approach to implementing the updated international guidelines that took into account the feasibility of implementation due to factors such as source data availability, resource requirements, and consistency with BEA’s national, industry, and regional accounts. Beginning in 2009 and up until June 2014, BEA introduced changes recommended by the international guidelines that did not require changes to the presentation of the accounts, including the reclassification of transactions between goods and services and between services types, new treatments of special drawing rights holdings and transactions, the reclassification of debt between selected financial intermediaries, the exclusion of migrants’ transfers from the capital account, and the reclassification of certain disaster-related insurance settlements.
- 2.31. In June 2014, BEA introduced restructured presentations of the International Economic Accounts and several changes in definitions, classifications, and methodology recommended by the international guidelines. These changes were described in the [March](#) and [July](#) 2014 issues of the *Survey of Current Business*. Revised statistics were presented as a consistent quarterly time series back to 1960 for the highest levels of aggregation, back to 1999 for most current-account detailed series, and back to 2003 for most other detailed series. While BEA attempted to implement each of the major *BPM6* recommendations, not all were feasible at that time. Certain recommendations were implemented in later years.
- 2.32. One of BEA’s principal objectives in adopting the updated international guidelines was to bring its standard presentation into closer alignment with the presentation recommended by *BPM6*. BEA’s previous presentation of the International Economic Accounts differed in several significant ways from the prior IMF guidelines based on *BPM5*, particularly for the financial account and the IIP Accounts. Adopting the *BPM6*-recommended presentation resulted in statistics that are more clearly identified, better understood by data users, and easier to compare with similar statistics from other countries.

- 2.33. Several aspects of the restructured International Economic Accounts represented major changes from BEA's long-standing presentation. The major changes, which are briefly described below, included changes in sign convention and income presentation, the use of functional investment categories and sector detail, and the presentation of direct investment on an asset/liability basis.

Sign convention

- 2.34. The uniform use of negative signs for debit entries was eliminated. Previously, credits (exports, income receivable, transfers received, reductions in assets, and increases in liabilities) were presented as positive numbers, and debits (imports, income payable, transfers made, increases in assets, and reductions in liabilities) were presented as negative numbers. Although this convention facilitated some types of aggregation across accounts, it proved to be a source of confusion for a significant number of data users.
- 2.35. Under the restructured presentation, positive signs were used to show exports and imports, income receipts and payments, transfers made and received, and increases in assets and liabilities. Negative signs were used only to indicate negative investment income (losses) and decreases in assets or in liabilities (as occur, for example, if investments are sold off). Consequently, current-account and capital-account balances were calculated as the difference between the underlying gross flows (for example, exports less imports). For the financial account, net lending/borrowing was calculated as the difference between the acquisition of assets and the incurrence of liabilities. These conventions not only made the ITAs easier to understand and interpret but also clarified their relationship with the corresponding changes in asset and liability positions in the IIP Accounts.

Income presentation

- 2.36. The restructured presentation adopted the *BPM6* nomenclature of primary income and secondary income in the current account. Primary income is income generated from current production. In BEA's previous presentation, primary income receipts and payments were known as income receipts and payments. Secondary income was known as current transfers and was only presented on a net basis. In the restructured presentation, secondary income receipts and secondary income payments were shown separately (gross) rather than combined.

Functional categories

- 2.37. The restructured presentation reflected significant changes to the presentation of the financial account and the IIP Accounts. Financial-account transactions and positions in the IIP Accounts were classified according to five functional categories—direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, reserve assets, and financial derivatives other than reserves—and then according to the type of instrument. Investment income in the current account was also classified by functional category.

Sector detail

- 2.38. The restructured presentation introduced additional detail on portfolio investment and other investment by sector. *BPM6* defines four main sectors: central bank, deposit-taking corporations except the central bank, general government, and “other sectors,” which includes the two subsectors “other financial corporations” and “nonfinancial corporations, households, and NPISHs” (non-profit institutions serving households). BEA eliminated the summary category “other sectors” and presented the two subsectors, “other financial institutions” and “nonfinancial institutions except general government,” in its place.
- 2.39. Two basic changes to the names in the restructured presentation were made. First, for deposit-taking corporations except the central bank sector and the two subsectors in “other sectors,” the term “corporations” was replaced with the term “institutions” to include enterprises such as partnerships that belong in this category but that are not organized as publicly held corporations. Second, because BEA has little source data on the transactions of households and NPISHs with foreign residents, BEA used the label “nonfinancial institutions.”

Asset/liability basis

- 2.40. Direct investment was presented on the asset/liability basis recommended by *BPM6*, to the extent allowed by source data, in addition to the directional basis recommended by earlier guidelines.⁴ On the asset/liability basis, direct investment statistics are organized according to whether the investment relates to the net U.S. acquisition of an asset or the net U.S. incurrence of a liability. On the directional basis, direct investment statistics are organized according to whether the direct investment is outward (U.S. direct investment abroad) or inward (foreign direct investment in the United States). This change primarily affected the recording of intercompany debt between parents and affiliates. Under the asset/liability basis, U.S. parents’ debt claims were no longer netted against their debt liabilities to their foreign affiliates, and U.S. affiliates’ debt claims were no longer netted against their debt liabilities to their foreign parent groups. The restructured presentation also showed the conversion from the asset/liability basis to the directional basis.

Changes following the comprehensive restructuring

- 2.41. In late 2014, BEA reintroduced the survey of new foreign direct investment in the United States, which had been discontinued in 2008 because of budgetary constraints. In addition to collecting information on the acquisition and establishment of U.S. business enterprises by foreign direct investors, the new version of the survey also collected information on the expansion of existing U.S. affiliates of foreign entities. This addition allowed for the measure of “greenfield” investment, which includes establishments and expansions of U.S. affiliates. Statistics from the reinstated survey were first published in 2015 and included first-year investment expenditures and planned

4. Per *BPM6* recommendations, statistics by partner country continued to be presented on the directional basis.

total expenditures. Subsequent releases also included a comparison of future-year expenditures projected at the time that establishments or expansions were initiated with actual future-year expenditures.

- 2.42. In May 2016, BEA updated and expanded an earlier study on trade in information and communications technology (ICT) services and digitally deliverable services (the latter of which was at the time called trade in potentially ICT-enabled services). This study used data underlying the existing trade in services statistics to produce aggregations, based on international guidelines, showing annual trade in ICT and digitally deliverable services. In October 2016, these new statistics were added to the annual international services statistics, joining detailed trade in services statistics and statistics on services supplied through affiliates.
- 2.43. In 2016–2018, BEA expanded the detail shown in its international services statistics. In October 2016, BEA expanded the geographic detail it presents in its annual trade in services statistics by increasing the number of countries and areas from 49 to 90, beginning with statistics for 2013. In October 2017, BEA expanded and standardized the geographic and industry detail it presents in its statistics on services supplied through affiliates. In October 2018, BEA expanded this geographic detail for trade in services, as well as trade in ICT services and digitally deliverable services, back to 2006.
- 2.44. In 2019, BEA added a breakdown to its outward AMNE statistics for 2017 focusing on the activities of U.S.-headquartered MNEs. This breakdown excluded the activities of U.S. parents that are ultimately owned by a foreign MNE and the activities of foreign affiliates of those parents. Such activities are included in the rest of the outward AMNE statistics and thus represent an overlap between the outward and inward AMNE statistics.
- 2.45. In 2020, BEA further expanded its coverage of trade in services in the ITAs and international services statistics. In both accounts, it increased the number of major service types covered to the 12 types recommended in *BPM6* by adding manufacturing services on inputs owned by others,⁵ adding “personal, cultural, and recreational services,” and reclassifying construction to the status of major service type. It also closed a gap by providing estimates for two implicit financial services: financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) and market-making services. In the ITAs, BEA expanded the coverage of its table on trade in services by area and country to include 90 countries or geographic areas. In addition, it accelerated the release of the trade in services portion of the annual international services statistics from October to June/July.
- 2.46. BEA reorganized its presentation within and across the major service types and reclassified certain subcomponents to more closely conform to *BPM6* guidance and to provide more information to data users. In particular, BEA reclassified certain transactions in intellectual property to better distinguish outright sales or purchases from licenses to use and from licenses to reproduce or

5. BEA tables on trade in services include manufacturing services on inputs owned by others as a major service type, but BEA does not yet provide statistics for this service type. The service type is included in the tables as a placeholder for future statistics.

distribute. The improved presentation of intellectual property was facilitated by requests for more detail from respondents on BEA's surveys of transactions in selected services and intellectual property with foreign persons.

- 2.47. In the capital account of the ITAs, BEA included, for the first time, transactions that had previously been classified as trade in services (outright sales of trademarks and franchise fees) or as secondary income (investment grants provided by the U.S. government).
- 2.48. In 2020, BEA also introduced two new tables—one providing an alternate view of international transactions by partner country, the other providing more detailed annual statistics on goods and services by country and area—to its suite of ITA tables. It also expanded the detail provided in its secondary income table and added a new category of “other investment”—“other equity”—to its ITA and IIP tables.
- 2.49. BEA introduced in 2021 a disaggregation of U.S. debt positions in the IIP Accounts by currency, sector, and maturity. The introduction of these statistics resulted in part from a recommendation of the G-20 Data Gaps Initiative.
- 2.50. In 2021, BEA introduced direct investment statistics on U.S.-resident special purpose entities (SPEs) owned by foreign direct investors in two new ITA tables—one providing SPE income, the other providing SPE financial transactions—and in a new IIP table on SPE positions. The statistics were introduced in response to the prevalence of SPEs, whose investment transactions and positions tend to be disproportionate to their impact on the host economy, as well as to emerging international statistical guidelines that recommended the provision of separate statistics on investments related to SPEs. In 2022, BEA expanded its SPE statistics to also cover foreign-resident SPEs owned by U.S. direct investors.
- 2.51. Beginning in 2022, two new ITA tables (4.5 and 6.2) present detailed direct investment income and financial transactions by country and industry. These statistics had previously been published separately as part of the direct investment by country and industry statistics that supplement the ITAs.
- 2.52. In 2023, BEA incorporated data from the expanded TIC SLT form, which began collecting directly reported transactions data in late 2022. The expanded TIC SLT data was incorporated in the statistics on financial asset and liability transactions in portfolio investment equity and investment fund shares and long-term debt securities. In 2022 and earlier years, these transactions were derived from reported positions and estimated valuation changes.

- 2.53. In 2024, BEA began publishing quarterly detail on the components of the change in IIP, with a decomposition of the change into transactions, price changes, and exchange-rate changes for assets and liabilities in IIP table 1.3. Previously, this detail had only been published annually. The expanded quarterly information was enabled by the incorporation of data from the expanded TIC SLT.⁶
- 2.54. In 2024, BEA began releasing services trade by enterprise characteristics (STEC) statistics annually in its international services statistics (tables 6.1–6.4). STEC statistics had previously only been released periodically.
- 2.55. In 2025, BEA significantly expanded the geographic detail available on international trade in services by releasing statistics on total U.S. exports, imports, and the balance for more than 225 countries and areas (international services table 2.4). Previously, only 90 countries and areas were separately presented.
- 2.56. In 2025, BEA expanded the detail provided in ITA table 8.1 by introducing statistics for transactions in other investment assets and liabilities by maturity for the first time.

6. Additional information on the expansion of the TIC SLT can be found in appendix B.

Chapter 3. Data Sources

- 3.1. The methods used to prepare statistics for the U.S. International Economic Accounts rely on a wide variety of source data. These accounts include the core accounts—the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs), the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts, and statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE)—as well as other international accounts, including monthly trade in goods in services statistics, international services statistics, statistics on direct investment by country and industry, and statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States.
- 3.2. As shown in figure A.2 in appendix A, most of the source data are derived from data collection programs conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department), and the U.S. Census Bureau. In addition, BEA uses data provided by U.S. government agencies involved with international transactions; other government and private-sector surveys and reports related to cross-border activities; and foreign statistical agencies, foreign central banks, and international organizations. Other sources, such as private for-profit and non-profit sources, are also used. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.
- 3.3. BEA uses three major types of source data for the accounts: survey data, administrative data, and other source data. These three types of data are not mutually exclusive—for instance, some data are collected on surveys but have important administrative purposes—but the various types of data sources used by BEA reflect the broad coverage of the accounts.⁷
- 3.4. Survey data come from BEA surveys and from other government and nongovernment sources. BEA survey programs are designed primarily for collecting data to use in preparing BEA's International Economic Accounts. The survey programs of other surveying institutions are designed primarily for other purposes, but some of these programs align, to various degrees, the data they collect with the needs of BEA's International Economic Accounts.
- 3.5. Administrative data include tabulations created as a byproduct of administering government programs; the trade in goods data from the Census Bureau are a key example. Administrative data also include information from U.S. government agencies that engage in international transactions, such as the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense.

7. For many of the accounts, the data sources identified in in this chapter, or in parts III or IV of this volume, are available only with a lag—that is, not in time to be used for the most recent reference period(s). Appendix D outlines the sources and methods BEA uses to estimate (or “project”) the ITAs and IIP accounts when the source data are not yet available.

- 3.6. Other source data come from a variety of entities and are collected for a variety of purposes. Among these data are data from the statistical agencies and central banks of certain partner countries or from international agencies; these sources are sometimes described as counterparty data. Counterparty data measure transactions between U.S. and foreign residents from the point of view of the foreign resident.
- 3.7. Table 3.a lists the key data sources for the three core International Economic Accounts and for statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States.⁸ (The table does not provide an exhaustive list of either the data sources used in the International Economic Accounts or the accounts covered by each data source.) The remainder of this chapter discusses at greater length select aspects of BEA survey data and data from the Treasury Department's [Treasury International Capital \(TIC\)](#) reporting system that apply widely across several of the International Economic Accounts.

**Table 3.a. Overview of Data Sources Used in the BEA
International Economic Accounts**

Principal sources	Accounts using principal sources
BEA, quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on international trade in services	- ITAs/current account: goods, services, secondary income - ITAs/capital account
BEA, quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on direct investment	- ITAs/current account: primary income, secondary income - ITAs/financial account: direct investment, other investment - IIP Accounts: direct investment, other investment - AMNE statistics - New foreign direct investment in the United States
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Automated Commercial Environment	ITAs/current account: goods, services, secondary income
U.S. Department of the Treasury, Treasury International Capital system	- ITAs/current account: services, primary income - ITAs/financial account: portfolio investment, other investment, financial derivatives other than reserves - IIP Accounts: portfolio investment, other investment, financial derivatives other than reserves

Table continues

8. The other three international economic accounts—monthly trade in goods and services, international services, and direct investment by country and industry—rely on the same source data as used for the core accounts, so they are not explicitly identified in the table.

Other key sources	Accounts using other key sources
Airbus SE	ITAs/current account: goods
Airlines Reporting Corporation	ITAs/current account: services
AM Best Company	- ITAs/current account: services - AMNE statistics
Bank for International Settlements	- ITAs/financial account: other investment - IIP Accounts: other investment
Bank of Mexico and National Institute of Statistics and Geography	ITAs/current account: services
BEA's Fixed Assets Accounts	- ITAs/current account: primary income - IIP Accounts: direct investment
Bilateral (counterparty) data from partner countries and other sources	- ITAs/current account: services, primary income, secondary income - ITAs/financial account: other investment - IIP Accounts: other investment
Candid	ITAs/current account: secondary income
Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates	ITAs/current account: services
Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council	ITAs/current account: services, primary income
Federal Reserve Bank of New York	- ITAs/current account: goods, primary income - ITAs/financial account: other investment, reserve assets - IIP Accounts: other investment, reserve assets
Federal Reserve Board	- ITAs/current account: primary income - ITAs/financial account: other investment - IIP Accounts: other investment
IHS Markit	ITAs/current account: goods, services
Institute of International Education, Open Doors report	ITAs/current account: services, primary income, secondary income
Intercontinental Exchange Price Indexes	- ITAs/current account: primary income - ITAs/financial account: portfolio investment - IIP Accounts: portfolio investment
International Monetary Fund	- ITAs/current account: primary income - ITAs/financial account: other investment, reserve assets - IIP Accounts: other investment, reserve assets
MSCI	- ITAs/current account: primary income - ITAs/financial account: portfolio investment - IIP Accounts: direct investment, portfolio investment
Pew Hispanic Center	ITAs/current account: primary income
Planespotters.net	ITAs/current account: goods
S&P Dow Jones Indices	- ITAs/current account: primary income - ITAs/financial account: portfolio investment - IIP Accounts: direct investment, portfolio investment
Statistics Canada	ITAs/current account: goods, services, primary income, secondary income
Surface Transportation Board	ITAs/current account: services

Table continues

Other key sources	Accounts using other key sources
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Institute for Statistics	ITAs/current account: services
United Nations International Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade)	ITAs/current account: goods
U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Farm Labor Survey	ITAs/current account: primary income
U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, National Travel and Tourism Office, Survey of International Air Travelers	ITAs/current account: services
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, demographic/labor surveys	ITAs/current account: secondary income
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, other data	ITAs/current account: services
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S.-Canada Data Exchange	ITAs/current account: goods, services, secondary income
U.S. Department of Defense	- ITAs/current account: goods, services - ITAs/financial account: other investment - IIP Accounts: other investment
U.S. Department of Education, Foreign Gift and Contract Report	ITAs/current account: secondary income
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics	ITAs/current account: primary income
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection	ITAs/current account: goods, services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Student and Exchange Visitor Information System	ITAs/current account: services, primary income
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Surveys	ITAs/current account: services
U.S. Department of Labor, National Agricultural Workers Survey	ITAs/current account: primary income
U.S. Department of State, data on property transactions abroad	ITAs/capital account
U.S. Department of State, visa statistics	ITAs/current account: services, primary income
U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics	ITAs/current account: services
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration	ITAs/current account: services
U.S. Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service	ITAs/current account: primary income, secondary income
U.S. Department of the Treasury, other data	- ITAs/current account: primary income, secondary income - ITAs/capital account - ITAs/financial account: other investment, reserve assets - IIP Accounts: other investment, reserve assets

Table continues

Other key sources	Accounts using other key sources
U.S. government agencies	- ITAs/current account: services, primary income, secondary income - ITAs/capital account - ITAs/financial account: other investment - IIP Accounts: other investment
U.S. International Development Finance Corporation	- ITAs/current account: primary income - ITAs/financial account: portfolio investment
U.S. Office of Management and Budget	ITAs/current account: services
U.S. Postal Service	ITAs/current account: goods, services, secondary income
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval (EDGAR) system	ITAs/financial account: portfolio investment
U.S. Social Security Administration	ITAs/current account: secondary income

AMNE Activities of multinational enterprises

BEA U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

IIP International Investment Position

ITAs International Transactions Accounts

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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BEA survey data

- 3.8. BEA conducts survey programs focusing on direct investment and multinational enterprises (MNEs) and on trade in services. This section provides general information on these two survey programs.⁹ Because the survey programs collect the microdata underlying BEA's published statistics, BEA must undertake several processing tasks for these data that it does not face when using data already largely processed by other data providers. This section also provides information on how BEA designs sampling schemes, derives population and subpopulation estimates, and protects the microdata from unauthorized disclosure.

BEA data collection programs

- 3.9. BEA conducts 7 mandatory surveys on direct investment and 10 mandatory surveys on trade in services that underlie BEA's statistics on direct investment, AMNE, and several types of trade in services. The legal authority for these surveys is the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act (P.L. 94-472, as amended; 22 U.S.C. 3101-3108). The financial services surveys are also authorized by the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 4908). All U.S. entities that meet the mandatory thresholds for covered activities or transactions with foreign persons must report these to BEA.

9. The BEA website provides [information for survey respondents](#) and [copies of survey forms](#) used previously. Additional information on BEA's direct investment surveys is available in [A Guide to BEA's Direct Investment Surveys](#), and additional information on BEA's trade in services surveys is available in [A Guide to BEA's Services Surveys](#).

BEA's direct investment surveys

- 3.10. BEA conducts mandatory quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in the United States, along with a mandatory survey on new foreign direct investment in the United States. Quarterly surveys provide data for measuring direct investment transactions and income for the ITAs and direct investment positions for the IIP Accounts. Annual and benchmark surveys provide AMNE statistics and more detailed data needed for annual and benchmark revisions of direct investment transactions and positions. The survey on new foreign direct investment provides information on the acquisition, establishment, and expansion of U.S. business enterprises by foreign direct investors.
- 3.11. Benchmark surveys are conducted at 5-year intervals and provide the most comprehensive coverage of business entities and data items. Quarterly and annual surveys are cutoff sample surveys that cover a sample of businesses above a size-exemption level. The survey of new foreign direct investment in the United States is required each time a foreign direct investor acquires, establishes, or expands a U.S. business enterprise.
- 3.12. U.S. direct investment abroad represents the ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by one U.S. entity of 10 percent or more of the voting securities of the foreign business enterprise if it is legally incorporated, or an equivalent interest if it is not legally incorporated. U.S. entities with direct investment abroad are required to report for the fully consolidated U.S. domestic business enterprise and for each foreign affiliate. For the foreign affiliate reports, the U.S. entity may consolidate affiliates in the same country when the affiliates are in the same industry or when the affiliates are integral parts of the same business operation.
- 3.13. Foreign direct investment in the United States represents the ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by a foreign entity (including business enterprises) of 10 percent or more of the voting securities of the U.S. business enterprise if it is legally incorporated, or an equivalent interest if it is not legally incorporated. A U.S. business enterprise subject to these reporting requirements is known as a U.S. affiliate. A U.S. affiliate must file its survey response on a fully consolidated domestic U.S. basis. The fully consolidated domestic entity is considered one U.S. affiliate.

BEA's surveys of direct investment include the following:

- Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-577)
- Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-11)
- Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-10)
- Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-13)
- Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-605)
- Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-15)
- Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-12)

BEA's services surveys

- 3.14. BEA conducts mandatory quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys of U.S. exports and imports of services to obtain data used in estimating services transactions in the current account of the ITAs. Survey respondents are primarily U.S. business enterprises having transactions in services with nonresidents that exceed certain reporting thresholds. Quarterly surveys provide information on services transactions with both affiliated and unaffiliated parties by partner country. Benchmark services surveys are typically conducted at 5-year intervals. The surveys cover transactions in transportation services, financial services, insurance services, other selected services, and intellectual property.

BEA's services surveys include the following:

- Quarterly Survey of Foreign Airline Operators' Revenues and Expenses in the United States (BE-9)
- Annual Survey of Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States (BE-29)
- Quarterly Survey of Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of United States Carriers (BE-30)
- Quarterly Survey of U.S. Airline Operators' Foreign Revenues and Expenses (BE-37)
- Benchmark Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons (BE-180)
- Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons (BE-185)
- Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons (BE-140)
- Quarterly Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons (BE-45)
- Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120)
- Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125)

Sampling

- 3.15. BEA collects survey data on trade in services and on direct investment from enterprises involved in these activities. The enterprises are U.S. entities that report for themselves and, for surveys of U.S. direct investment abroad, for their foreign affiliates.
- 3.16. Unlike many other surveys, BEA surveys typically do not use probability sampling. Some of BEA's surveys are benchmark surveys, or censuses, in which BEA endeavors to survey the entire universe. Benchmark surveys are typically conducted once every 5 years. Other BEA surveys use nonprobability samples—most typically, size cutoff samples. For example, BEA's annual and quarterly surveys

of direct investment and BEA's quarterly trade in services surveys use cutoff samples that account for very large fractions of the direct investment and trade in services estimates but much smaller fractions in terms of the number of units involved. The use of cutoff sampling reduces respondent burden and the resources required by BEA to process the surveys while ensuring high levels of coverage of the transactions and activities of interest.

Editing

- 3.17. Before BEA incorporates the survey data into the International Economic Accounts, it performs a number of data validity or “edit” checks. The data from a reporter are reviewed for consistency with filings for previous periods, with related data from other parts of the report, with data from related reports, with comparable data reported by other reporters, and with related data from other sources.

Universe estimation

- 3.18. In producing statistics for periods covered only by a sample survey, BEA fills in values for observations missing from the sample survey by combining information from units reporting on the sample survey with information about the missing observations from prior (or in some cases, subsequent) benchmark or sample surveys. In doing so, a data file is constructed for the entire universe consisting of observations reported on the sample survey and estimates for observations that are not reported on that survey (or are reported but are not usable). Observations may not be reported for several reasons, including the following:
1. Units (to which the observations apply) are sampled but do not submit reports.
For such cases, observation values are imputed (unit imputation).
 2. Units are sampled and submit reports, but one or more data items are not reported.
For some such cases, observation values are imputed (item imputation). For other such cases, unit imputation is used.
 3. Units are not sampled. For such cases, observation values are estimated.
 4. Units are sampled and report the requested information but are required to provide information with less detail than the level of detail at which statistics are published.
For such cases, observation values are estimated for data items at the missing level of detail.
 5. Units or items are sampled less frequently than estimates are produced. For example, a unit might be sampled only on a benchmark survey covering a full year, but estimates are needed for each of the four quarters of the year. For such cases that are subject to universe estimation, observation values are estimated for data items at the missing level of detail. (Not all such cases are subject to universe estimation; in some cases, estimates are made only at the publication level instead of at the unit level).

- 3.19. Construction of observations for the universe data file for cases (1) and (2) above falls under the traditional notion of imputation. Construction of observations for cases (3) through (5) uses imputation-like procedures and has the same goal of producing a data value that is not present in the reported data. In contrast to traditional imputation, however, the generation of observations for cases (3) through (5) produces data that are not intended to be in the sample, not just data missing from the sample.
- 3.20. Collectively, BEA calls the process of constructing observations for cases (1) through (5) “universe estimation.” This process varies in the particulars by survey, but in general it uses information that was reported for the unit on past surveys (if available), including the benchmark surveys, and information about trends or patterns from units reporting on the sample survey. For example, a value for exports of accounting services for a given enterprise may be estimated by taking that enterprise’s reported value from the preceding survey period and advancing it by the growth rate of exports of accounting services amongst a set of reporting, but otherwise similar, exporters of such services. Or, employee compensation on an annual direct investment survey may be estimated for a foreign affiliate that reports the number of employees by multiplying that number by the average compensation per employee of a set of reporting affiliates from countries with similar levels of economic development.
- 3.21. Because BEA’s surveys do not use probability samples, and because universe estimation results in a data file with values—either reported or constructed—for each observation in the universe, BEA’s survey-based published statistics are compiled by simple addition. No weights are used, and measures of sampling error are not estimated.

Data protection

- 3.22. The legal authorities under which BEA surveys are collected protect the confidentiality of the companies that report on the surveys. The assurance of confidentiality is essential to securing the cooperation of respondents and thus to maintaining the integrity of the statistical system. Without the prior written permission of the respondent, BEA cannot publish or otherwise release the data collected on its surveys in a form that would allow an individual respondent to be specifically identified.
- 3.23. Coarsening, a category of disclosure avoidance methods that involves reducing the level of detail or specificity of published statistics, such as through rounding, aggregating (grouping), and/or the use of ranges, is BEA’s primary category of disclosure avoidance for all statistical products. Prior to June 2026, suppression, the category of disclosure avoidance methods that involves expressly redacting certain values, was also used by BEA for disclosure avoidance.

Treasury International Capital survey data

- 3.24. The Treasury International Capital (TIC) reporting system is the U.S. government's primary source of data on financial flows into and out of the United States, excluding direct investment, and the resulting levels of cross-border claims and liabilities. BEA uses data from the TIC system as a key source for the financial account of the ITAs and for the IIP Accounts. The TIC reporting system consists of a related set of monthly, quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY) acting as the fiscal agent for the Treasury Department, which has the legal authority to collect the survey data and to publish the resulting statistics. In 1998, the Federal Reserve Board started performing validation and review services on behalf of the Treasury Department in support of this data collection system.

The TIC reporting system

- 3.25. The TIC reporting system collects data on all financial activities of U.S. residents with foreign residents, excluding direct investment, taking advantage of the concentration of international financial activity in large U.S. financial enterprises. The TIC system requires that U.S. banks, securities brokers, and custodians report not only their own positions or transactions with foreign residents but also the positions or transactions of their customers. With one exception discussed below, respondents report both for themselves and for their U.S. and foreign customers. TIC surveys can be grouped according to the types of financial instruments covered. Table 3.b summarizes the TIC reporting forms.

Table 3.b. TIC Reporting Forms

Form number	Form description
TIC B reports (banks and other financial firms)	
BC	Report of U.S. Dollar Claims of Financial Institutions on Foreign Residents (monthly)
BL-1	Report of U.S. Dollar Liabilities of Financial Institutions to Foreign Residents (monthly)
BL-2	Report of Customers' U.S. Dollar Liabilities to Foreign Residents (monthly)
BQ-1	Report of Customers' U.S. Dollar Claims on Foreign Residents (quarterly)
BQ-2	Part 1: Report of Foreign Currency Liabilities and Claims of Financial Institutions and of Their Domestic Customers' Foreign Currency Claims With Foreign Residents Part 2: Report of Customers' Foreign Currency Liabilities to Foreign Residents (quarterly)
BQ-3	Report of Maturities of Selected Liabilities and Claims of Financial Institutions With Foreign Residents (quarterly)
TIC C reports (nonfinancial firms)	
CQ-1	Report of Financial Liabilities to, and Financial Claims on, Unaffiliated Foreign Residents (quarterly)
CQ-2	Report of Commercial Liabilities to, and Commercial Claims on, Unaffiliated Foreign Residents (quarterly)
TIC D report (derivatives)	
D	Report of Holdings of, and Transactions in, Financial Derivatives Contracts With Foreign Residents (quarterly)
TIC S reports (securities)	
S	Purchases and Sales of Long-Term Securities by Foreign-Residents (monthly) (discontinued) ¹

Table continues

Form number	Form description
SHC(A)	Report of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities Including Selected Money Market Instruments (annually)
SHL(A)	Foreign-Residents' Holdings of U.S. Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments (annually)
SLT	Aggregate Holdings, Purchases and Sales, and Fair Value Changes of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents (monthly)

TIC Treasury International Capital

1. The TIC S form was discontinued in February 2023.

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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Other investment and short-term debt securities

- 3.26. (See paragraphs 9.67–9.69 for information on “other investment”; see paragraphs 9.20–9.22 for information on debt securities.) The TIC B and C forms collect balance sheet positions from U.S. financial and nonfinancial enterprises for their claims on and liabilities to foreign residents. Instruments covered include loans, deposits, trade credit, and similar instruments that are classified as other investment in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts. These surveys also collect balance sheet positions covering short-term debt securities and negotiable certificates of deposit, which are classified as portfolio investment.
- 3.27. Financial enterprises are required to report on the B forms if their claims or liabilities with foreign residents exceed the exemption levels. Most financial enterprises report their positions with affiliated and unaffiliated foreign residents on the B forms. Transactions in debt instruments, such as deposits and loans, between affiliated U.S. and foreign financial enterprises are not considered to be part of a direct investment relationship and thus are also reported on the B forms. Insurance companies and pension funds receive special treatment because their transactions with affiliates are defined as direct investment in international guidelines; they are financial companies that report their balances only with unaffiliated foreign residents on the B forms.
- 3.28. Nonfinancial enterprises, which must file the C form if their claims or liabilities with foreign residents exceed the exemption levels, report only positions with unaffiliated foreign residents to avoid reporting direct investment with affiliates.

Financial derivatives

- 3.29. (See paragraphs 9.72–9.74 for information on financial derivatives.) Comprehensive data on financial derivatives are collected on TIC Form D, “Report of Holdings of, and Transactions in, Financial Derivatives Contracts.” Data are collected from U.S. banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies, securities dealers, and all other firms with worldwide holdings of financial derivatives, for their own and their customers’ accounts combined, in excess of \$400 billion in notional

value. The data collected include the fair value of derivative positions, which are included in the IIP Accounts, and the net settlement payments associated with derivatives contracts, which are included in the ITAs. Trading in financial derivatives is highly concentrated among a small number of large firms. With the introduction of the D form in 2005, derivatives were excluded from BEA's direct investment surveys to avoid double counting transactions.

Equity and long-term debt securities

- 3.30. (See paragraph 9.16 for information on equity; see paragraphs 9.17–9.21 for information on debt securities.) TIC surveys that focus on the collection of transactions and positions between U.S. residents and foreign residents in long-term securities are another major group of surveys. TIC SLT Form, “Aggregate Holdings, Purchases and Sales, and Fair Value Changes of Long-term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents,” collects data on holdings, transactions, and valuation changes of equity and long-term debt securities by U.S. and foreign residents through reports by U.S. custodians, U.S. issuers, and large U.S. investors.
- 3.31. In addition to these monthly surveys, benchmark surveys conducted every 5 years and related annual surveys collect holdings of equity securities and long- and short-term debt securities from U.S. custodians, U.S. issuers, and large U.S. investors on a security-by-security basis. Separate surveys are conducted to collect U.S. residents' holdings of foreign securities and foreign residents' holdings of U.S. securities. “Report of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments” [SHC(A)] collects U.S. residents' holdings of foreign securities. “Foreign-Residents' Holdings of U.S. Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments” [SHL(A)] collects foreign resident's holdings of U.S. securities. These less frequent surveys are different from the SLT in important ways.
- 3.32. The security-level detail in these surveys allows the coupon interest rate for each issue to be matched with the position data, allowing (1) current interest yields on U.S. corporate, federally sponsored agency, and Treasury long-term debt securities held by foreign residents to be derived from the SHL(A) survey data and (2) current interest yields on foreign long-term debt securities held by U.S. residents to be derived from the SHC(A) survey data. These yields, together with other interest and dividend yields, are used to prepare estimates of portfolio investment income.
- 3.33. For the annual surveys, only the largest custodians and institutions are required to report, and statistical methods are used to estimate holdings that are consistent with the most recent benchmark survey. In the benchmark surveys, a broader reporting panel is surveyed to obtain all holdings. U.S. custodians and large U.S. investors provide detailed records of all reportable securities on the SHC(A) and the SHL(A). Compiling these surveys security-by-security provides a much more detailed understanding of the holdings of securities by U.S. and foreign residents than does the SLT, which is collected by allowing respondents to submit aggregated monthly reports by security type.

- 3.34. The U.S. securities brokers, banks, custodians, investors, and other respondents on the TIC B, C, S, and SLT forms and the SHC(A) and SHL(A) surveys are instructed, in cooperation with BEA, to not report holdings of or transactions in equity or debt securities that are part of a direct investment relationship, as defined in the TIC form instructions.
- 3.35. Significant changes have been made to the TIC reporting system over the years in response to innovation in financial activity and changes to international statistical compilation guidelines. Appendix B outlines changes in the TIC reporting system and its use as a major data source in BEA's ITAs and IIP.

Chapter 4. Relationship to Other Economic Accounts

- 4.1. The International Economic Accounts produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis are an important component of the three major sets of accounts that comprise the U.S. National Economic Accounts—the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs), the Industry Economic Accounts, and the Financial Accounts of the United States. The U.S. National Economic Accounts closely follow the recommendations of the international *System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA 2008)*. While the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) correspond to the *SNA*’s rest-of-the-world accounts, they differ in that the ITAs present U.S. transactions with nonresidents from the perspective of the resident sectors, whereas the National Economic Accounts (NEAs) present these transactions from the perspective of nonresidents. The *SNA* items that are equivalent to international transactions items include exports and imports of goods and services, primary income, secondary income, current external balance, balance on the capital account, and net lending/net borrowing. Figure A.2 in appendix A presents an overview of how statistics from the U.S. International Economic Accounts are incorporated into BEA’s National Economic Accounts and the Federal Reserve Board’s (FRB) Financial Accounts of the United States.
- 4.2. The NIPAs, prepared by BEA, feature gross domestic product (GDP) statistics. These accounts present the value and composition of domestic output and the distribution of incomes generated in production. The international dimension of these productive activities is represented by transactions in goods and services between U.S. residents and nonresidents, which are obtained from the ITAs. The net exports component of GDP includes exports of goods and services less imports of goods and services. Income flows to and from foreign residents, which are also obtained from the ITAs, represent the international dimension of series such as national income and corporate profits.
- 4.3. Several adjustments are made to the ITA current-account statistics before they are incorporated in the NIPAs. These adjustments are generally small because of the use of common concepts, definitions, and source data. Adjustments are presented in NIPA tables 4.3B and 4.3C and are published each August in the *Survey of Current Business*. The largest adjustments are for territorial coverage and for nonmonetary gold.¹⁰ In recent years, these adjustments have usually had only a small net impact on the current-account balance on the NIPA basis. For more information on the recording of net exports of goods and services in the NIPAs, see [NIPA Handbook: Concepts and Methods of the U.S. National Income and Product Accounts, Chapter 8](#).

10. For nonmonetary gold, the NEA estimates are not based on trade in nonmonetary gold in the ITAs. Only a small share of exports and imports of nonmonetary gold recorded in the ITAs is for industrial use; most transactions are for investment purposes. Therefore, when NEA incorporates exports and imports from the ITAs, the value of exports and imports of nonmonetary gold is removed and replaced with an adjustment, which is calculated as the difference between domestic production and industrial use of gold. For more information, see “[How are exports and imports of nonmonetary gold treated in BEA’s National Economic Accounts?](#)”.

- 4.4. The Industry Economic Accounts, also prepared by BEA, consist of the Input-Output (I-O) Accounts and the GDP by Industry Accounts. The I-O Accounts trace the flow of goods and services among industries in the production process and show the value added by each industry and the detailed commodity composition of national output. The GDP by Industry Accounts measure the contribution of each private industry and of government to nominal and real GDP. International flows of goods and services from the ITAs are critical to the complete measurement of output at the national level and to the industry composition of that output. Import use tables derived from the I-O Accounts, which show the use of imported goods and services by industries and final uses, are partly based on data from the ITAs.
- 4.5. The FRB's Financial Accounts of the United States record the acquisition and sales of nonfinancial and financial assets throughout the U.S. economy, the sources of funds used to acquire those assets, and the value of assets held and of liabilities owed. Data on transactions and positions in financial assets and liabilities from the ITAs and International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts provide the international dimension of transactions and positions for the Financial Accounts of the United States. In addition, BEA and the FRB jointly publish the U.S. Integrated Macroeconomic Accounts, which combine data from the NIPAs, the ITAs, and the Financial Accounts of the United States to provide a reconciliation between national aggregate statistics for flows and stocks.
- 4.6. BEA also prepares regional accounts, which consist of statistics on GDP by state and by metropolitan area, state personal income, and local area personal income. ITA statistics on compensation of border workers are used for these accounts. Finally, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics prepares estimates of productivity for major sectors of the U.S. economy, which are partly based on BEA's estimates of GDP and GDP by industry.

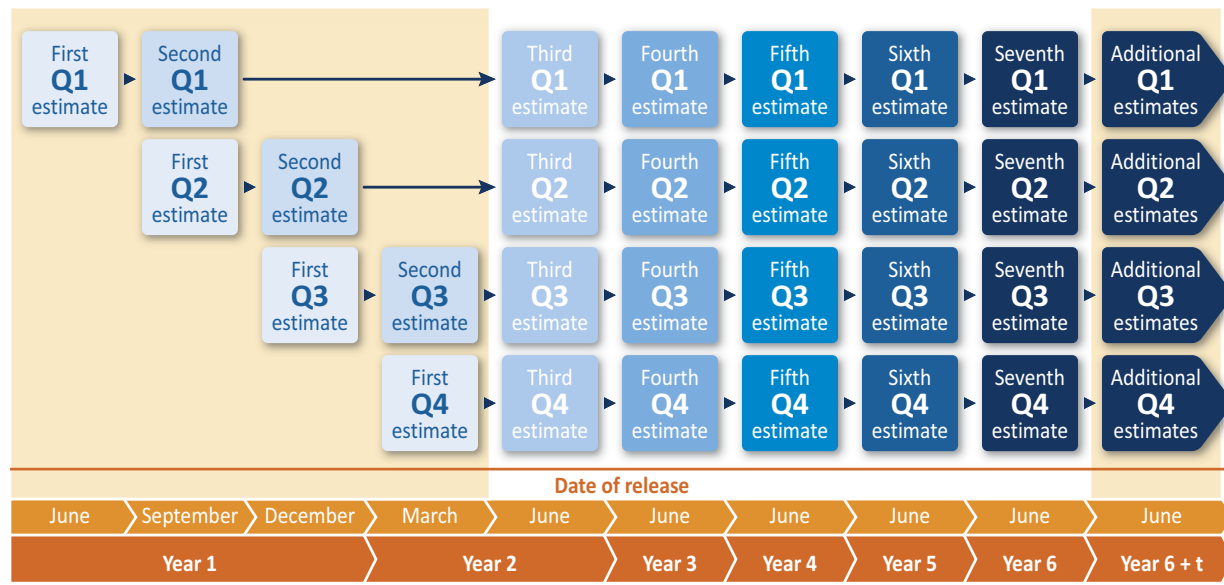
Chapter 5. Release and Update Cycle

- 5.1. For the International Economic Accounts, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis prepares and releases statistics at monthly, quarterly, and annual frequencies. BEA releases U.S. international trade in goods and services statistics monthly (jointly with the U.S. Census Bureau); the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts quarterly; and statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE), on new foreign direct investment in the United States and on international services, annually. Certain statistics on direct investment by country and industry are released quarterly; others are released annually.
- 5.2. Annual statistics for the ITAs represent the sum of the four quarters of the calendar year. Annual statistics for the IIP Accounts represent the positions at yearend. Annual statistics for trade in goods and services represent the sum of the twelve months of the calendar year.
- 5.3. Monthly, quarterly, and annual statistics from the International Economic Accounts are revised on a regular and published schedule. Updates typically incorporate new and revised source data and periodically incorporate changes in definitions, classifications, and estimation methods. Updates in certain months and quarters for seasonally adjusted statistics incorporate revisions to ensure that the total of monthly or quarterly statistics equals the total of not seasonally adjusted statistics. Update cycles for the core International Economic Accounts and for major related statistics are described below.

Update cycles for core International Economic Accounts

International Transactions Accounts and International Investment Position Accounts

- 5.4. Preliminary quarterly ITA and IIP Accounts statistics—termed first estimates in figure 5a—are released in March, June, September, and December, approximately 85 days after the end of the reference quarter. These statistics are revised the following quarter to incorporate new source data; in figure 5a, these are termed second estimates (for Q1, Q2, and Q3 statistics released, respectively, in September, December, and March) or third estimates (for Q4 statistics released the following June). Quarterly not seasonally adjusted statistics are open for revision for at least the prior 3 years in annual updates released in June, and seasonal adjustments are open for at least 5 years; these statistics are represented as third or higher estimates in the figure. Preliminary annual statistics are released in March along with statistics for the fourth quarter of the previous year; the March transactions statistics incorporate revisions for the seasonally adjusted statistics of each quarter of the previous year to ensure that the total of seasonally adjusted quarters equals the annual totals.

Figure 5.a. Timeline of Quarterly ITA and IIP Estimate Vintages

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises

- 5.5. Preliminary statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises are released each August or November of the second year after the reference year and are revised once the following August or November.

Update cycles for other international accounts**Monthly goods and services statistics**

- 5.6. Preliminary statistics are released each month about 35 days after the end of the reference month. These statistics are revised the following month to incorporate new source data. No further revisions are made until more complete source data become available in March, June, September, and December. The releases in March, September, and December contain revised statistics for the previous 6 months.
- 5.7. The releases in February and March also contain revisions for each month of the prior year to ensure that the total of the seasonally adjusted months equals the annual totals. The release in June includes annual updates, which reflect newly available and revised source data, changes in definitions and classifications, and changes in estimation methods. Annual statistics are open for revision in subsequent annual updates.

International services statistics

- 5.8. Detailed annual trade in services statistics by type and by country and area or affiliation and a complementary aggregation of trade in information and communications technology (ICT) services and digitally deliverable services are released in July of the year after the reference year. These statistics reflect the revisions made to the quarterly ITA statistics in June of that same year. Preliminary statistics for services supplied to foreign markets by the foreign affiliates of U.S. MNEs and to the U.S. market by the U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs are released in October of the second year after the reference year and are revised once the following October. Services trade by enterprise characteristics, or STEC, statistics are released in July of the year after the reference year. They reflect the revisions made to the quarterly ITA statistics in June of that same year and revisions to the underlying data on MNEs since the last release.

Direct investment by country and industry statistics

- 5.9. Comprehensive annual statistics by country and by industry on income, financial transactions, and positions are released each July for the previous year and are revised in July of the following 3 years (4 years if the release occurs in a year in which benchmark results are incorporated into the statistics).

Statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States

- 5.10. Preliminary annual statistics on new investments in the United States by foreign direct investors are released each June for the previous year and are revised the following June. Planned expenditures for greenfield investments are revised in June of the following 3 years after the investment is initiated.
- 5.11. Departures from the standard revision practices are made infrequently, with advance notice, and only for special circumstances. For example, for the third quarter of 2009, BEA revised the ITA statistics in December 2009 to include a new treatment of special drawing rights requested by the International Monetary Fund as part of efforts to monitor the impact of the global financial crisis. Under the standard procedures, revisions to historical quarterly statistics are not made until the following June, when annual updates incorporate newly available and revised source data, along with any changes in definitions, classifications, and estimation methods, and all quarters of the current and previous years are open for revision.

Dissemination of statistics and related analyses

- 5.12. Full sets of detailed statistics from each of the International Economic Accounts are available, free of charge, on BEA's website at the time of each statistical release (see [International Economic Accounts](#)). For most of the accounts, many or all of the statistics are available through BEA's [interactive tables](#). Some statistics, however, are only available as preformatted files. BEA and the U.S. Department of Commerce have long-standing procedures that are designed to ensure that data dissemination to all interested members of the public occurs simultaneously. Furthermore, these procedures preserve the distinction between the policy-neutral release of data

by statistical agencies and their interpretation by policy officials. The objectivity of BEA estimates is also fostered by the publication of methodologies. The BEA procedures adhere to the Office of Management and Budget standards for data dissemination. See appendix C for information on the reliability of the statistics.

- 5.13. Many of the statistics from BEA's core International Economic Accounts discussed in this chapter and many of the related statistics are also available through BEA's [application programming interface \(API\)](#). BEA's API provides developers and analysts a mechanism to search, display, analyze, retrieve, or view BEA statistics and the metadata that describes the statistics. BEA's API is intended to provide programmatic access to published economic statistics using industry-standard methods and procedures. More information is provided in the API User Guide.¹¹
- 5.14. For certain International Economic Accounts, each statistical release is accompanied (at the time of the release) by a news release that presents the key aggregate outcomes from the latest reference period and identifies lower-level components that are primary contributors to these aggregate outcomes. Statistical releases that are not accompanied by a news release are typically accompanied by an analytical article in the [Survey of Current Business](#). For some statistical releases, both a news release and an article discuss the key outcomes. In such cases, the article typically is published in the month following the month of the news release, and the article may provide more detail than the news release. Table 5.a outlines the analytical material associated with each statistical release.

Table 5.a. Availability of Analytical Materials by Account

Account	News release	<i>Survey of Current Business</i> article
International Transactions Accounts	Quarterly	Annually; following annual update news release
International Investment Position Accounts	Quarterly	Annually; following annual update news release
AMNE statistics	Annually	None
Monthly trade in goods and services	Monthly	None
International services	None	Annually, typically in October
Direct investment by country and industry	Annually	Month following news release
Statistics of new foreign direct investment in the United States	Annually	None

AMNE Activities of multinational enterprises

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

11. Bilateral statistics are also available through BEA's country factsheet application; see chapter 35 for more information.

Part II.

Conceptual Framework

Chapter 6. Economic Territory and Residence

- 6.1. Economic territory and residence are fundamental concepts for International Economic Accounts because they, along with the concept of institutional unit described in paragraphs 7.2–7.4, determine the scope of the economy for which the accounts are compiled. An economy consists of the institutional units that are resident in a specific economic territory. The degree to which institutional units are connected to a particular economic territory is largely determined by factors such as physical presence and the extent of control by the government. Most institutional units have strong connections with only one economy.

Economic territory

- 6.2. The most common concept of economic territory is the area controlled by a single government.
- 6.3. The economic territory includes the land area, airspace, territorial waters, and islands belonging to the territory, and territorial enclaves in the rest of the world. Territorial enclaves are clearly identified land areas physically located in other territories and used by governments for diplomatic, military, scientific, or other purposes. Examples include embassies, consulates, military bases, and immigration offices. International organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations, are economic territories in their own right and are not considered part of the economic territory in which they are physically located.
- 6.4. For purposes of the U.S. International Economic Accounts, the United States consists of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other territories and possessions, U.S. foreign trade zones, and offshore oil and gas sites. The U.S. National Economic Accounts use a different definition of the United States, which excludes the territories and possessions. The territories and possessions are included in the International Economic Accounts because they have a closer degree of economic association with the United States than with any other country and because the United States is the predominant center of economic interest for these territories and possessions.

- 6.5. U.S. government military, diplomatic, consular, and other nonmilitary installations abroad are considered to be part of the U.S. economy, and their operations are regarded as an extension of U.S. government domestic operations.

Residence

- 6.6. Residence is another fundamental concept for the International Economic Accounts because its application, in terms of the location of institutional units, determines whether transactions and related economic activities are within the scope of the International Economic Accounts. Each institutional unit's residence is the economic territory with which it has the strongest connection, expressed as its center of predominant economic interest. Each institutional unit is a resident of one and only one economic territory. Other notions, such as citizenship or physical location of institutional units when transactions occur, are not used to determine whether transactions are in scope.
- 6.7. An institutional unit is resident in an economic territory when it engages—or intends to engage over a long period—in economic activities from some specific location in that territory. It is not necessary for the location to be fixed as long as it remains within the economic territory. In practice, actual or intended location for one year or more is used as the criterion for establishing residency in order to avoid uncertainty and to promote cross-country consistency.
- 6.8. For the U.S. International Economic Accounts, a U.S. resident is defined to include (1) individuals who reside or intend to reside in the United States for more than one year; (2) business enterprises and nonprofit organizations established under U.S. laws, including corporations, partnerships, and proprietorships; and (3) U.S. federal, state, and local governments, together with their subdivisions. Residency criteria for each of these three groups are described below. Also discussed below are the residency of international organizations and the determination of partner country classifications.

Individuals

- 6.9. Individuals who reside or intend to reside in a country for one year or more are considered residents of that country; for example, those residing or intending to reside in the United States for at least one year are considered to be U.S. residents. The residence of individuals is determined by the economic territory in which their household members maintain or intend to maintain their principal dwelling. All members of the same household have the same residence as the household itself.
- 6.10. ***Students and medical patients.*** Exceptions to the 1-year rule are made for students who study abroad and for persons who travel for medical treatment. Students retain the residency of their home country regardless of their length of stay. Medical patients, like students, retain the residency of their home country regardless of their length of stay for treatment.

- 6.11. ***Diplomats, military personnel, etc.*** Exceptions to the 1-year rule are also made for government employees stationed abroad (and their families), such as diplomats, consular officials, and members of the armed forces. For example, U.S. diplomats and military personnel are treated as U.S. residents, regardless of their length of stay abroad.
- 6.12. ***International organization staff.*** These staff, including those with diplomatic status, are treated as residents of the territory of their principal dwelling. The treatment of international organization staff differs from that for national diplomats and other government officials mentioned previously because the latter continue to be paid from and directed by their home government.
- 6.13. ***Cross-border workers.*** Because the residence of individual persons is determined by that of the household in which they belong, border workers, seasonal workers, and other short-term workers are considered residents of the country of their principal dwelling, rather than the country of their employment.
- 6.14. ***Crews of ships and other equipment.*** Crews of ships, aircraft, oil rigs, space stations, and other similar equipment that operate outside a territory or across several territories are treated as residents of their home country.
- 6.15. ***Refugees.*** No exception to the 1-year rule is made for refugees. Refugees are considered residents of their country of refuge, rather than of their home country, if they have stayed or intend to stay for one year or more.

Business enterprises and nonprofit institutions

- 6.16. Business enterprises and nonprofit institutions serving households (NPISHs) are treated as residents of the country in which they are located, operated, organized, or incorporated. U.S. resident entities consist of all for-profit and nonprofit institutions established under U.S. laws. Their foreign affiliates—including branches¹²—are considered residents of the countries in which they are located; similarly, all U.S. affiliates of foreign for-profit and nonprofit institutions are considered U.S. residents.
- 6.17. Affiliates of multinational enterprises (MNEs) are treated as residents of the country in which they are located, not as residents of the country of the parent; thus, U.S. affiliates of foreign corporations are considered U.S. residents, and foreign affiliates of U.S. MNEs are considered foreign residents.

General government

- 6.18. General government includes federal, state, and local governments and their agencies and subdivisions, whether operating at home or abroad. All of these government entities are treated as residents of their home country. Thus, U.S. government installations abroad are considered residents of

12. A branch is a business affiliate established, but not incorporated, in a foreign country to conduct the business of the parent company in the parent's name; it is not a separate legal entity.

the United States, and foreign government installations located in the United States are considered residents of their home country. This treatment is adopted because such units usually have some degree of immunity from the host country's laws and, under international law, are deemed to be extensions of the home government's territory.

International organizations

- 6.19. International organizations, such as the IMF and the United Nations, are treated as residents of an international area of their own beyond national boundaries, rather than as residents of the country in which they are located or in which they operate. Transactions in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) include, for example, the administrative expenses of these organizations in the United States and the compensation paid to U.S. resident employees by these organizations.

Partner country classifications

- 6.20. The International Economic Accounts show transactions and positions with all nonresidents as a single total, but considerable interest exists for statistics on transactions and positions with nonresidents classified by individual partner country or country groups. Such breakdowns may be provided for the accounts as a whole or for particular components, such as goods, services, direct investment, portfolio investment, or sales and employment of MNEs and affiliates. Partner country data allow bilateral comparisons and assist in identifying compilation problems. The U.S. International Economic Accounts provide extensive bilateral (partner country) statistics for the ITAs and for statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE) but only for the direct investment component of the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. More detailed information on U.S. bilateral statistics is provided in chapter 35.
- 6.21. The basic principle for attribution by partner country is the economy of residence of the counterparty to the transaction or position. The same principles for determining residence apply, but they are often more difficult for partner country attribution because the information is not always known to the resident party. For the U.S. ITAs, the partner country attribution is based on the location of the counterparty to the transaction (transactor approach). For the U.S. IIP Accounts, U.S. asset positions are attributed to the country of residence of the issuer, and U.S. liability positions are attributed to the country of residence of the holder (debtor/creditor approach). In practice, such attributions are sometimes made to the country of residence of the transactor, such as a financial institution located in an international financial center, because the residence of the holder is not known. Inward AMNE statistics for U.S. affiliates are attributed to the country of residence of the ultimate beneficial owner, and outward AMNE statistics for foreign affiliates of U.S. MNEs are attributed to the country where the affiliate is located.

Chapter 7. Institutional Units and Sectors

- 7.1. Institutional units are entities that engage in transactions and other economic activities in an economic territory and that form the foundation for economic statistics compiled in the National Economic Accounts and the International Economic Accounts. These units are characterized by having the right to own goods or assets and to exchange their ownership, the ability to make economic decisions and engage in economic transactions, the ability to incur liabilities on their own behalf and to enter into contracts, and the existence of a complete set of financial accounts or the capacity to construct such accounts as needed. Such units are grouped into sectors for the U.S. International Economic Accounts.

Institutional units

- 7.2. The two principal types of entities that qualify as institutional units are *households* and *institutions*. Households consist of persons or groups of persons who share the same living accommodation, pool some of their income and wealth, and consume certain goods and services collectively. Households include persons living in institutional arrangements such as retirement homes. Institutions include legally incorporated business enterprises, business enterprises that are not incorporated (such as cooperatives, limited liability partnerships, and notional resident units), government units, and nonprofit institutions. An *enterprise* is an institutional unit engaged in production and may be a business enterprise, a nonprofit institution, or a part of a household or government unit engaged in production.
- 7.3. A notional resident unit is a type of business enterprise created for statistical purposes to hold land owned by foreign residents. A wholly owned subsidiary corporation can be recognized as an institutional unit separate from its parent. Business enterprises also include investment funds and other institutions and trusts that hold assets and liabilities on behalf of owners. A branch is a nonresident unit with substantial operations over a significant period in an economic territory but with no separate legal entity for those operations. Each branch is a direct investment enterprise.
- 7.4. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis departs from the naming conventions recommended in the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* in two ways. First, the *BPM6* term “corporations” is replaced with the term “business enterprise” in order to include enterprises such as partnerships that belong in this category but that are not organized as publicly held corporations. This departure from *BPM6* was made to clarify the concept for data users and survey respondents in the United States. Second, BEA does

not use the term “unincorporated enterprise” in order to avoid confusion with business enterprises that are not legally incorporated. In *BPM6*, “unincorporated enterprise” only refers to part of a household or government unit in its capacity as a producer of goods and services.¹³

- 7.5. Institutional units that have similar economic objectives and behavior are grouped into institutional sectors. While an institutional sector classification could apply to both resident units and counterpart nonresident units, BEA applies it only to resident units. The institutional sector classification system recommended in *BPM6* closely follows that found in the *System of National Accounts 2008*. For the U.S. International Economic Accounts, sectors are recognized for financial asset and liability transactions in the financial account of the ITAs and for positions in the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. For the IIP Accounts, assets are classified by sector of the U.S. holder and liabilities are classified by sector of the U.S. issuer. Sector classifications for related ITA transactions follow the same principles. Sectors are not recognized for the statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises although those statistics are classified by industry.

Institutional sectors

- 7.6. BEA’s presentation uses sectors adapted from the *BPM6* guidelines primarily to provide additional detail on portfolio investment and other investment. *BPM6* defines four main sectors: central bank, deposit-taking corporations except the central bank, general government, and “other sectors,” which includes the two subsectors “other financial corporations” and “nonfinancial corporations, households, and NPISHs.” (NPISHs are nonprofit institutions serving households.) In its sector terminology, BEA has replaced “corporations” with “institutions.” In addition, because little source data is available for the international transactions of households and NPISHs, BEA uses the label “nonfinancial institutions” without reference to households and NPISHs. Finally, BEA has eliminated the summary category “other sectors” and presents its two subsectors in its place. BEA’s sector classifications thus comprise central bank, deposit-taking institutions except central bank, other financial institutions, nonfinancial institutions except general government, and general government. Each of these sectors is described below.
- 7.7. **Central bank.** A central bank is the financial institution that exercises control over key aspects of a financial system. In the United States, the central bank is part of the Federal Reserve System. The central bank conducts activities such as issuing currency, managing international reserves, transacting with the International Monetary Fund, and providing credit to deposit-taking institutions.
- 7.8. **Deposit-taking institutions except central bank.** Deposit-taking institutions except central bank are business enterprises that engage in financial intermediation as their principal activity. As a result, they have liabilities in the form of either deposits or financial instruments that are close

13. For example, the provision of rideshare services by an individual acting as an independent contractor would be considered to be an unincorporated enterprise in *BPM6*.

substitutes for deposits. These enterprises include commercial banks, savings banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, cooperative credit banks, and other specialized financial institutions that take deposits.

- 7.9. ***Other financial institutions.*** Other financial institutions consist of all business enterprises other than deposit-taking institutions that are principally engaged in providing financial services to other institutional units. Such services include financial intermediation, financial risk management, liquidity transformation, and auxiliary financial services such as securities brokerage. Other financial institutions include money market funds (MMFs), non-MMF investment funds, insurance enterprises, pension funds, and other financial intermediaries such as those engaged in the securitization of assets, financial leasing, and commercial and personal lending.
- 7.10. ***Nonfinancial institutions except general government.*** Nonfinancial institutions except general government include business enterprises whose principal activity is the production of market goods or nonfinancial services as well as households and NPISHs. The business enterprises include legally constituted corporations and business that are not incorporated—such as branches of nonresident enterprises, cooperatives, limited liability partnerships, and notional resident units owning land—as well as nonprofit institutions that are market producers of goods or nonfinancial services. As described above, households consist of a group of persons who share the same living accommodation. NPISHs are entities engaged in providing goods and services to households or the community at large free of charge or at prices that are not economically significant and that are not controlled and financed by government units.
- 7.11. ***General government.*** General government units are legal entities established by political processes and that have legislative, judicial, or executive authority over other institutional units within a given area. The principal functions of government are to provide goods and services to the community or individual households and to finance their provision; to redistribute income and wealth by means of transfers; and to engage in nonmarket production. In the United States, many separate government units exist at different levels, including federal, state, and local government.

Chapter 8. Accounting Principles

- 8.1. This chapter discusses the accounting principles underlying the recording of entries in the International Economic Accounts that are designed to ensure a complete integration of flows and positions along with symmetric counterparty recording. It first describes the characteristics of flows and positions, then explains the double-entry recording system, and follows with explanations of general accounting principles such as time of recording, valuation, and gross versus net recording of values. These principles apply primarily to the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. Accounting principles for statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE) follow U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Flows and positions

- 8.2. *Flows* refer to economic activities and events that occur within an accounting period and *positions* refer to a level of assets or liabilities at a point in time. Cross-border flows include transactions that are recorded in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts and other flows that account for other changes in financial assets and liabilities in the IIP Accounts. Flows and positions are integrated so that all changes in positions between two points in time are fully explained by the recorded flows. The ITAs consist of transactions and exclude other changes in the volume, value, or classification of assets and liabilities. The IIP Accounts consist of both positions and changes in position. Changes in position reflect either transactions or other changes in the volume, value, and classification of assets and liabilities. AMNE statistics consist of both flows and positions.
- 8.3. A *transaction* is an exchange or transfer of value between two institutional units that occurs by mutual agreement or by law. Transactions are classified according to the nature of the economic value provided—namely, goods or services, primary income, secondary income, capital transfers, nonproduced nonfinancial assets, financial assets, or liabilities. With an exchange of value, a transaction consists of two economic flows, one in each direction—for example, goods supplied by one party in return for currency supplied by the other. Transfers represent transactions in which economic value is acquired or provided without a corresponding return of economic value (*quid pro quo*).
- 8.4. Changes in position may also result from changes in the volume, value, or classification of an asset or liability not arising from a resident-nonresident transaction. These “other flows,” as defined in international statistical guidelines, capture changes in the values of assets and liabilities between opening and closing positions that are not due to transactions. Other flows consist of two broad types of changes: (1) other changes in the volume of assets and liabilities, which reflect the entry of new and the exit of existing assets and liabilities from balance sheets that are not due to

transactions and (2) revaluations (holding gains and losses) on an asset or liability that arise from changes in their prices or exchange rates. In the U.S. International Economic Accounts, other flows are classified into those revaluations identifiably due to exchange-rate changes, those revaluations identifiably due to other price changes, and changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. (not included elsewhere).

- 8.5. Positions refer to the level of financial assets or liabilities at a point in time and typically are shown at the beginning and end of an accounting period. Positions between two periods are connected with flows during that period because changes in positions are caused by transactions and other flows. The IIP Accounts include financial assets and liabilities that have an international dimension. All financial claims and financial liabilities involve two parties and have an international dimension when the counterparty is a nonresident institutional unit. AMNE statistics include positions from balance sheet statistics.

Double-entry principle

- 8.6. The ITAs are based on a double-entry system of accounting. The main characteristic of double-entry accounting is that each transaction leads to two corresponding entries—a credit entry and a debit entry—in the accounts of the transactors. The International Economic Accounts for an economy are compiled on a double-entry basis from the perspective of the residents of that economy.
- 8.7. In the current and capital accounts, a credit denotes entries for exports, primary income receipts, secondary income (transfers) receipts, and disposals of nonproduced nonfinancial assets. A debit denotes entries for imports, primary income payments, secondary income (transfers) payments, and acquisitions of nonproduced nonfinancial assets.
- 8.8. In the case of transactions in financial assets and liabilities, the terms “net acquisition of financial assets” and “net incurrence of liabilities” are used. Financial-account items are recorded on a net basis separately for each financial asset and liability (that is, they reflect changes due to all credit and debit entries during an accounting period). The use of the terms “net acquisition of financial assets” and “net incurrence of liabilities” highlights the impact of the financial account on the IIP Accounts. The use of these terms also simplifies the interpretation of the statistics. A positive change indicates an increase in assets or liabilities and a negative change indicates a decrease in assets or liabilities.
- 8.9. The interpretation of increase or decrease under the credit or debit notion, however, depends on whether the increase or decrease refers to assets or liabilities. An increase for an asset and a decrease for a liability are both debits. Although the debit and credit presentation is not emphasized for the financial-account transactions, it is important to recognize and maintain the accounting identities. For example, a credit is always conceptually matched with a corresponding debit, the latter relating in the financial account to either an increase in an asset or a reduction in a liability.

- 8.10. Each credit entry requires an equal and offsetting debit entry, and vice versa. For example, if a foreign resident purchases a U.S. good with a payment from its U.S. bank account, the offsetting entry to the credit for U.S. goods exports would be a debit for U.S. incurrence of liabilities abroad by U.S. deposit-taking institutions, reflecting the reduction in U.S. bank deposit liabilities to foreign residents. Similarly, a debit entry for a donation of emergency supplies by a U.S. resident to a foreign resident (transfer payment) is offset by a credit entry for U.S. goods exports.

Accounting periods, time of recording, and change in ownership

- 8.11. Unless noted otherwise below, statistics published in the ITAs represent the value of transactions taking place during a reference period. Annual statistics are presented on a calendar-year basis (that is, January through December) and quarterly statistics are presented on a calendar-quarter basis (that is, Q1 = January, February, and March; Q2 = April, May, and June; Q3 = July, August, and September; Q4 = October, November, and December). Also, unless noted otherwise below, the IIP Accounts present the dollar value of U.S. financial assets and liabilities with respect to foreign residents at a specific point in time, either the end of a calendar year or the end of a calendar quarter.
- 8.12. For trade in services and direct investment statistics based on surveys conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, the respondent is typically required to report data for its fiscal quarter that ends closest to the end of a specified calendar quarter. For the annual and benchmark surveys, the respondent is typically required to report for its fiscal year that ends in the specified calendar year. In most cases, the respondent's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, so the published statistical aggregates track calendar-year transactions and positions fairly closely. When fiscal years differ from calendar years, BEA sums the four quarters that most closely correspond to the calendar year to proxy statistics on a calendar-year basis. Using the fiscal quarter instead of the calendar quarter is intended to ease the burden on respondents that use fiscal-year accounting records in their reports.
- 8.13. AMNE statistics are collected and published on a fiscal-year basis. As such, the comparability between those statistics and the direct investment statistics in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts depends, in part, on the number and size of, and volatility of the data for, multinational enterprises (MNEs) and affiliates whose fiscal years do not correspond to the calendar year. However, for the majority of MNEs and affiliates, the fiscal year ends on December 31.
- 8.14. For new foreign direct investments that begin in a particular calendar year, statistics on finances and operations associated with the new investments are compiled on a fiscal-year basis.
- 8.15. The accrual basis is used for determining the time of recording of flows for the ITAs and AMNE statistics, as recommended by international guidelines. Central to the recording of transactions on an accrual basis is the identification of the time at which economic ownership changes. Economic ownership, which may differ from legal ownership, accrues to the party that bears the risks and enjoys the rewards of ownership. For trade in goods, the time at which change of ownership

occurs is approximated by the time at which goods cross the border. For services, transactions are recorded when the services are performed or provided rather than when payments are made. For income, transactions are recorded in the period in which the amounts payable accrue rather than when the income is paid or received. Entries for sales, payroll, and other AMNE flow statistics are recorded in a similar manner.

- 8.16. The accrual basis, which matches the time of recording with the timing of the events giving rise to the flows, provides the most comprehensive accounting because all flows are recorded, including nonmonetary transactions, imputed transactions, and other flows. Such a comprehensive recording ensures the integration of flows and changes in positions as well as consistency among ITA, IIP, and AMNE statistics. The accrual basis is consistent with the way transactions, other flows, and key aggregates are defined, and it corresponds closely to U.S. business accounting practices.
- 8.17. The accrual basis specifies that transactions are to be recorded when a change of ownership occurs in real or financial assets. Generally, economic ownership changes when real and financial assets are purchased or sold, and the time of recording these transactions is when the purchases or sales are entered on the books of the business entities, regardless of when payment was due or actually made. This change in ownership principle is the same as that employed throughout the U.S. National Economic Accounts.
- 8.18. The concept of economic ownership refers to the ownership of assets and all of the risks and rewards of ownership. The risks include the potential losses caused by damage, theft, or holding losses; by management, transfer, or maintenance costs that are greater than anticipated; and, in the case of financial assets, by default of the counterparty. The rewards generally refer to the ability to use assets in production, such as buildings or machinery; the generation of services, such as renting produced assets to another entity; the generation of property income, such as interest and dividends received by owners of financial assets; and the potential to sell and thus realize holding gains.
- 8.19. Economic ownership is often the same as legal ownership, and changes in legal ownership are often used as evidence that a change in economic ownership has occurred. However, evidence that legal ownership has changed is sometimes not available in a timely fashion and occasionally differs from the concept of risk and rewards of economic ownership. In such cases, pragmatic applications are employed to gauge the appropriate time of recording of transactions.

Valuation

- 8.20. In principle, whenever feasible the U.S. International Economic Accounts use “market prices” as the basis for valuation. Market prices are the amounts that willing buyers pay to acquire something from willing sellers. The exchanges are made between independent parties on the basis of commercial considerations only—sometimes called “at arm’s length.” Market price is the price payable by the buyer after taking into account any rebates, refunds, and adjustments from the

seller. Imports and exports of general merchandise are recorded at “free on board” (F.O.B.) values, which take into account export taxes payable or tax rebates receivable. Most statistics from the International Economic Accounts are recorded at market prices.

- 8.21. Transactions in financial assets and liabilities are recorded exclusive of any commissions, fees, and taxes whether charged explicitly, included in the purchaser’s price, or deducted from the seller’s proceeds. Both debtors and creditors presumably record the same amount for the transaction in the same financial instrument. The commissions, fees, and taxes are recorded separately from the transaction under appropriate categories. The valuation of transactions in financial instruments, which excludes commission charges (recorded as transactions in services), differs from the valuation of nonfinancial asset transactions, which includes any costs of ownership transfer unless paid separately.
- 8.22. “Transfer pricing” refers to the valuation of transactions between affiliated enterprises. In the U.S. International Economic Accounts, these transactions are described as intrafirm trade. In some cases, transfer pricing may be motivated by income allocation or equity buildups or withdrawals. In principle, replacing book values (transfer prices) with market-equivalent values is desirable when the distortions are large and when availability of data makes it feasible to do so. However, in practice BEA lacks the source data needed to identify transfer prices and adjust them to market values.

Prices

- 8.23. In general, positions of financial assets and liabilities are valued at market prices. Values are assigned as though the instruments were acquired in market transactions on the balance sheet reporting date. Loan positions and positions on deposits and accounts receivable/payable are recorded at nominal value. Nominal value refers to the outstanding amount owed, which consists of the outstanding principal amount including accrued interest. Use of nominal values for loans and deposits reflects pragmatic concerns about data availability and the need for symmetry between debtors and creditors. BEA applies these principles to the valuation of the IIP Accounts for each functional category, subject to limitations imposed by data availability.
- 8.24. Direct investment positions in the IIP Accounts are valued at market prices, which is BEA’s featured measure, at current cost, and at historical cost (book value). AMNE balance sheet statistics are valued at historical cost (book value). Historical cost largely reflects values on the books of the entity during the reference period and is the valuation method used for positions reported on BEA’s direct investment surveys. BEA’s market value statistics are derived by revaluing the historical cost values of the equity portion of direct investment using indexes of stock market prices. Historical cost valuations are used for direct investment position statistics classified by country and by industry.

- 8.25. Transactions and other flows in the International Economic Accounts are generally presented in current dollars—that is, at prices current in the reference period.¹⁴ Positions in the International Economic Accounts are also presented in current dollars subject to the discussion in the “Valuation” section above.
- 8.26. Current-dollar trade in goods and services statistics from the ITAs are used as the basis for real (or “chained-dollar”) statistics on goods and services exports and imports in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs). An adjustment for price change is made using the Fisher chain-weighted methodology developed by BEA and deflators primarily based on monthly price indexes published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (see NIPA tables 4.2.1–4.2.6).

Gross and net recording

- 8.27. Transactions in the current and capital accounts of the ITAs are primarily recorded on a gross basis in order to present a complete picture of the two-way flow of trade and the exchange of nonproduced nonfinancial assets. For example, if the United States both exported and imported automobiles in a given period, the exports and the imports would be separately recorded. Therefore, most entries in the current and capital accounts have positive signs.
- 8.28. For direct investment income on equity, however, transactions are recorded on a net basis in the sense that profits and losses—or, for an individual unit, revenues and costs—are not recorded separately but are netted against each other. As a result, direct investment income on equity entries can have a negative sign depending on the mix of profits and losses in the direct investment universe.
- 8.29. As with transactions in direct investment equity income, transactions in the financial account are presented on a net basis, but the nature of the netting differs slightly. For net U.S. acquisition of assets and net U.S. incurrence of liabilities, transactions reflecting flows in one direction are netted against transactions reflecting flows in the other direction. Therefore, if U.S. residents both sold and purchased foreign securities in a given period, only the net sales or purchases would be recorded. Consequently, as with direct investment income on equity, financial-account entries can have a negative sign depending on the magnitudes of cross-border gross outflows and inflows.
- 8.30. Transactions and other flows in financial assets and liabilities are recorded as net changes in financial assets and net changes in liabilities, respectively. The net recording principle is applied at the lowest level of classification of financial instruments, taking into account the functional, institutional sector, maturity, and currency classifications, as applicable. Generally, the net recording principle is applied within a given standard component of assets or liabilities.

14. Note, however, that in the monthly goods and services statistics, in addition to the presentation in current dollars, real statistics are presented for broad end-use categories of goods exports and imports data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

- 8.31. Except in certain circumstances, financial asset transactions in the ITAs are not netted against financial liability transactions. For the United States, an exception is the treatment of financial derivatives, which are presented on a net basis as net transactions in assets less net transactions in liabilities.
- 8.32. In the IIP Accounts, positions of financial assets and liabilities are recorded on a gross basis. Positions of the same type of financial instrument held as both a financial asset and a liability are presented on a gross basis, so that assets are recorded under assets and liabilities are recorded under liabilities. For example, a claim from short-term debt securities held as an asset is presented separately from a liability for short-term debt securities.
- 8.33. AMNE statistics are primarily recorded on a gross basis and, consequently, have mostly positive signs. However, measures such as net income and value added, which, by construction, are calculated as the sum of positive and negative components, can have negative signs. For example, the calculation for net income (revenues less costs) can result in a negative value.

Chapter 9. Classification of Transactions and Positions

- 9.1. The International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts disaggregate and classify resident-nonresident transactions and positions in various ways to provide greater insight into their economic significance and to present the statistics in the broader context of integrated economic accounts. Classifications are used to group similar components and to separate components with different characteristics. This chapter describes important classifications of transactions that distinguish activities in the current and capital accounts, the key characteristics of financial assets and liabilities and related classifications, and the functional categories that are used to classify positions, income flows, and financial-account transactions. Some of these classifications also apply to statistics produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE).

Current and capital accounts

- 9.2. The current account of the ITAs consists of resident-nonresident transactions in goods and services, primary income, and secondary income (current transfers). The capital account of the ITAs consists of resident-nonresident transactions in nonproduced nonfinancial assets and capital transfers. Major current-account classifications include goods versus services and primary income versus secondary income (current transfers). Distinctions between goods and services, between current and capital transfers, and between primary income and services are not always straightforward. This section discusses important cross-cutting classification issues that affect the current and capital accounts.

Goods versus services

- 9.3. In economic accounts, goods and services are the two categories of outputs of productive activities.¹⁵ In principle, goods are physical items with ownership rights that can be exchanged among institutional units through transactions. The production of a good can be separated from its subsequent sale or resale. In principle, services are the result of production activities that change the condition of the consumer—by changing either the condition of the consumer’s goods or the physical or mental condition of the consumer—or that facilitate the exchange of products and financial assets. Services are not outputs over which ownership rights can be established; they cannot be traded separately from their production.
- 9.4. In practice, certain products lack the features that fully characterize goods or fully characterize services. In particular, “knowledge-capturing products,” which include outputs of information, advice, and entertainment that can be repeatedly accessed by the consumer, are not necessarily

15. This discussion of goods and services draws on the *System of National Accounts 2008*.

physical, but ownership rights can be exchanged for such products and production can be separated from sale or resale. Most knowledge-capturing products are categorized in the International Economic Accounts as services and many services categories consist of these products. Knowledge-capturing products include some intellectual property products, such as computer software and audio-video recordings, and several other products in which the output is provided in the form of information, advice, and entertainment.¹⁶

- 9.5. In the ITAs, the valuation of goods includes transport services within the exporting economy as well as wholesale and retail services embedded in the price of the goods. Cross-border transport and insurance services for goods are included in services. Certain services include the value of goods, such as travel, construction, and government goods and services n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). Moreover, some services—particularly manufacturing services; maintenance and repair services; installation, alteration, and training services; and freight transport—are closely related to the production or transport of new and used goods.

Primary income versus services

- 9.6. Primary income includes both investment income—such as interest, dividends, and reinvested earnings—and compensation of employees. An important issue for distinguishing compensation of employees from services trade is the existence of an employer-employee relationship between a resident and nonresident. Provision of certain types of services may pose classification problems because firms may purchase a service, such as legal services, from a self-employed person or may hire an employee to provide the service. If an employer-employee relationship exists between the worker and the producing entity, the payment represents compensation of employees. If an employer-employee relationship does not exist, the payment constitutes a purchase of services.
- 9.7. Another cross-cutting issue regarding classifications between primary income and services concerns dividends paid by the affiliates of multinational enterprises to their parents. In some cases, parents provide management and administrative services to their affiliates without an explicit charge and account for these services as revenue for the parent and an expense for the affiliate. If these types of intra-firm services transactions are not recognized for accounting purposes, then the measured flow of dividends between the parent and the affiliate would be affected. These distinctions are important for proper measurement of both the International Economic Accounts and the National Economic Accounts.
- 9.8. Disproportionately large values of services between affiliated enterprises may indicate the existence of disguised dividends. Financial reporting and income tax minimization strategies may provide incentives for firms to characterize unpriced services transactions between affiliated enterprises as business expenses rather than as dividends.

16. Although most knowledge-capturing products are categorized as services, some are categorized as goods. Aside from some intellectual property products, knowledge-capturing products include products such as newspapers, medical diagnostic testing, surveying, photography, and some legal services.

Current versus capital transfers

- 9.9. Secondary income in the current account consists of current transfers between residents and non-residents. The capital account includes capital transfers along with transactions in nonproduced nonfinancial assets. Unlike an exchange, a transfer is a transaction that provides a good, service, or asset to another institutional unit without a corresponding return of economic value (*quid pro quo*). Capital transfers represent a change in ownership of an asset between parties. Current transfers include items such as personal remittances, government grants, cross-border fines and penalties, and institutional remittances. Capital transfers include debt forgiveness, nonlife insurance payments resulting from catastrophic events, and investment grants.
- 9.10. Current transfers directly affect the level of disposable income and savings and influence the consumption of goods or services. That is, current transfers reduce income and consumption possibilities of the donor country and increase income and consumption possibilities of the recipient country. As a result, current transfers are closely related to the goods, services, and financial assets provided and are included in the current account.
- 9.11. Entries for current transfers offset transactions with nonresidents that involve real resources or financial assets recorded in the goods, services, income, or financial accounts. Because a transfer is the offsetting entry to an actual resource flow, the value of the transfer equals the value of the corresponding flow. In general, transfers are recorded at the time of delivery of goods, performance of services, or disbursement of cash. The valuation of noncash transfers generally corresponds to the value of the goods or services for which they are offsets.

Financial assets and liabilities

- 9.12. Financial assets are a type of economic asset identified in economic accounts. Economic assets are resources over which ownership rights are enforced and from which future economic benefits may flow to the owner. They include fixed assets, such as equipment and outcomes of research and development, that are used repeatedly or continuously in production over more than one year. Economic assets also include inventories, valuables, nonproduced assets, and financial assets. Aggregate economic accounts usually distinguish produced and nonproduced assets among the universe of economic assets. In the ITAs, transactions in produced assets are recorded in the current account, in nonproduced nonfinancial assets in the capital account, and in financial assets and liabilities in the financial account.
- 9.13. Financial instruments, which consist of the full range of financial contracts between institutional units, may give rise to financial claims. A claim is a financial instrument that leads to an economic asset with a counterpart liability. Claims arise from contractual relationships under which one institutional unit promises to provide funds or other resources to another in the future. The only financial instrument that does not give rise to a claim is gold bullion that is included in monetary gold.

- 9.14. Each claim is a financial asset that has a corresponding liability. The existence of two parties to a claim implies that it can arise in a cross-border situation. Nonfinancial assets do not have a corresponding liability. Financial assets, which consist of claims and the gold bullion component of monetary gold, include equity and investment fund shares, debt instruments, financial derivatives other than reserve assets, and monetary gold.

Classification by type of instrument

- 9.15. Three broad categories of financial assets and liabilities are identified for the ITAs and the IIP Accounts: (1) equity and investment fund shares, (2) debt instruments, and (3) other financial assets and liabilities. More detailed classifications of financial assets and liabilities are also provided that are based primarily on the legal characteristics of the relationship between the involved parties. The classification system provides broad categories that allow for international comparability and the inclusion of new instruments arising from financial innovation. BEA's financial instrument detail closely follows but does not exactly match the detail recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. Departures from *BPM6* guidelines are described below.

Equity and investment fund shares

- 9.16. Equity and investment fund shares have the distinguishing feature that the holders own a residual claim on the assets of the institutional unit that issued the instrument. Equity represents the owners' funds in the institutional unit and is treated as a liability of the issuing institutional unit. In contrast to debt, equity generally does not provide the owner with a right to a predetermined payment or an amount determined by a fixed formula. Investment fund shares have a specialized role in financial intermediation as a type of collective investment in other assets. Investment funds include money market funds (MMFs) and non-MMF investment funds. Equity securities excluding investment fund shares include common stocks, preferred stocks, restricted stocks, and depository receipts. Investment fund shares include shares in money market, equity, and bond mutual funds; real estate investment trusts; index-linked equity unit investment trusts; and limited partnership interests.

Debt instruments

- 9.17. Debt instruments require the payment of principal and/or interest at some future point. Debt instruments consist of IMF special drawing rights (SDRs), currency and deposits, debt securities, loans, insurance technical reserves, pension and related entitlements, provision for calls under standardized guarantees, and other accounts receivable/payable. The term "debt instrument" applies to both the liability and the corresponding claim. Some instruments, such as currency and certain deposits, pay no interest. Debt securities are negotiable instruments that include asset-backed securities, collateralized debt obligations, and collateralized mortgage obligations.

- 9.18. Debt instruments differ from equity and investment fund shares in the nature of the liability and risk. While equity provides a residual claim on the assets of the entity, a debt instrument involves an obligation to pay an amount of principal and/or interest, usually according to a predefined formula. As a result, the creditor usually has a more limited risk exposure with debt than with equity. In contrast, the return on equity largely depends on the economic performance of the issuer. Unlike financial derivatives, debt instruments have a principal amount typically associated with the supply of financial or other resources.
- 9.19. The ITAs and the IIP Accounts include detailed statistics for a variety of debt instruments in portfolio investment, other investment, and reserve assets. Below are descriptions for each of the published types of debt instrument.
- 9.20. **Debt securities.** Debt securities are negotiable instruments serving as evidence of a debt. They include bills, bonds, notes, negotiable certificates of deposit, commercial paper, debentures, asset-backed securities, money market instruments, and similar instruments traded in financial markets.
- 9.21. Debt securities include corporate bonds and notes both in registered and in bearer form, convertible debt, zero coupon debt, index-linked debt securities, medium-term notes, note issuance facilities, floating rate notes, asset-backed securities, sovereign debt of foreign governments and their political subdivisions, and debt issued by international and regional financial institutions. Debt securities also include U.S. Treasury securities, federally sponsored agency securities, and securities issued by state and local governments.
- 9.22. Asset-backed securities include collateralized mortgage obligations, collateralized bond obligations, collateralized loan obligations, collateralized debt obligations, other securities backed by pools of mortgages, credit card receivables, automobile loans, consumer and personal loans, and commercial and industrial loans.
- 9.23. **Currency and deposits.** Currency consists of notes and coins with fixed nominal values that are issued or authorized by central banks or governments. Deposits include all claims on deposit-taking institutional units that are represented by evidence of deposit. The nominal value of deposits is usually fixed in the currency of denomination.
- 9.24. **Loans.** Loans are financial assets that are established when a creditor lends funds directly to a debtor and that are evidenced by documents that are not negotiable. This category includes installment loans, hire-purchase loans, and trade credit finance, as well as securities repurchase agreements and financial leases. A financial lease is a contract under which the lessor of an asset conveys substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee; it is thus equivalent to a loan from the lessor to the lessee.
- 9.25. Some types of debt instruments may be classified as deposits or as loans. *BPM6* recommends that “interbank positions” (transactions between U.S. banks and foreign banks) be classified as deposits.

Because the Treasury International Capital source data used by BEA provide a breakdown of interbank positions between loans and deposits, BEA provides “interbank transactions” as a subset of transactions by deposit-taking institutions except central bank for both other investment assets and other investment liabilities. These interbank transactions may include deposits or loans.

- 9.26. Securities repurchase agreements, which are a widely used type of financial instrument in the U.S. economy, may also be classified as deposits or loans. *BPM6* recommends that the supply and receipt of funds under a securities repurchase agreement be generally classified as a loan but as a deposit if it involves liabilities of a deposit-taking institution and is included in national measures of broad money.
- 9.27. **Insurance technical reserves.** Insurance technical reserves consist of reserves for unearned non-life insurance premiums due to prepayment of premiums and reserves against outstanding nonlife insurance claims, which are amounts identified by insurance companies to cover expected payouts from actual events for which claims have not been settled. Insurance technical reserves arise for both nonlife direct insurance and reinsurance.
- 9.28. **Trade credit and advances.** Trade credit and advances consist of credit extended directly by the suppliers of goods and services to their customers and advances for work in progress and prepayment by customers for goods and services not yet provided. Trade credit and advances arise when payment for goods and services is not made at the same time as the change in ownership of the good or provision of a service.
- 9.29. **Special drawing rights.** SDRs are international reserve assets created by the IMF and allocated to members to supplement existing official reserves. SDR holdings represent unconditional rights to obtain foreign exchange or other reserve assets from other IMF members.
- 9.30. **Reserve position in the IMF.** A country’s reserve position in the IMF equals the sum of the reserve tranche plus any indebtedness of the IMF in the General Resources Account that is readily available to the member country. The reserve tranche represents the member’s unconditional drawing right on the IMF.

Other financial assets and liabilities

- 9.31. For the ITAs and the IIP Accounts, other financial assets and liabilities include (1) financial derivatives other than reserves and (2) monetary gold.
- 9.32. **Financial derivatives other than reserves.** In *BPM6*, this item is defined as financial derivatives and employee stock options. Financial derivatives and employee stock options have similar features in that both transfer risk, but employee stock options are also designed to be a form of compensation. However, BEA is not able at this time to estimate cross-border transactions in employee stock options. A financial derivative contract is a financial instrument that is linked to another specific

financial instrument, indicator, or commodity, and through which specific financial risks can be traded in financial markets. Transactions and positions in financial derivatives are treated separately from the values of underlying linked items.

- 9.33. **Monetary gold.** Monetary gold is gold for which the monetary authorities have title and is held as reserve assets. Gold includes gold bullion and unallocated gold accounts with nonresidents. All monetary gold is included in reserve assets or is held by international financial organizations. In contrast to monetary gold, which is a financial asset, nonmonetary physical gold is classified as a good. Monetary gold is treated differently because of its role as a means of international payments and as a store of value for use in reserve assets.

Classifications by maturity, currency, and sector

- 9.34. The maturity of a debt instrument is classified as either short-term or long-term. Short-term is defined as payable on demand or with a maturity of one year or less. Long-term is defined as having a maturity of more than one year or with no stated maturity (other than on demand, which is included in short-term). This classification provides information on the liquidity dimensions of debt. Currency is included in short-term maturity. Maturity may relate to original maturity or remaining maturity.
- 9.35. A financial asset or liability can also be classified as domestic currency or foreign currency, depending on its unit of account, denomination, or settlement. The currency of denomination is determined by the currency in which the value of the positions is fixed as specified in the contract between the parties. The currency of settlement may differ from the currency of denomination, and its use means that a currency conversion is required each time a settlement occurs.
- 9.36. Classification of financial assets and liabilities by sector can provide useful insights into how financial transactions and positions are distributed across the U.S. economy. For the ITAs and the IIP Accounts, sectors include central bank, deposit-taking institutions except central bank, other financial institutions, nonfinancial institutions except general government (including households and nonprofit institutions), and general government. Financial assets are classified by the sector of the U.S. holder and financial liabilities are classified by the sector of the U.S. issuer. Classifications by sector and by type of instrument provide even further insight into the distribution of asset and liability positions in the U.S. economy. (See chapter 7 for more detailed information about institutional sectors.)

Functional categories

- 9.37. In the U.S. ITAs and the IIP Accounts, functional categories are the primary classification used for financial transactions, positions, and income. Five functional categories of investment are identified in the accounts: direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, reserves, and financial derivatives other than reserves.

- 9.38. While the functional categories are based on the classification of financial assets and liabilities discussed above, they also take into account aspects of the relationship between the transactors and the motivation for the investment. The functional categories are designed to facilitate analysis by distinguishing categories that demonstrate different motivations and behavior patterns. For example, a loan can appear under direct investment or other investment, but the different nature of the relationship between the parties is important because the risks and motivations underlying the transaction may be different. A different relationship exists between the counterparties for portfolio investors versus direct investors.
- 9.39. **Direct investment.** Direct investment is related to control or a significant degree of influence and is usually associated with a lasting relationship. In contrast, portfolio investors typically have a much smaller role in the operations of the enterprise, with potentially important implications for future flows and for the volatility of the price and volume of positions.
- 9.40. **Portfolio investment.** Portfolio investment differs from other functional categories because it provides a direct way for investors to access financial markets and thus can provide liquidity and flexibility. It is associated with financial markets and with their specialized service providers, such as exchanges, dealers, and regulators.
- 9.41. **Other investment.** Other investment is a residual category that includes positions and transactions other than those included in direct investment, portfolio investment, reserve assets, and financial derivatives other than reserves. Other investment includes the large volume of international transactions intermediated by large bank and nonbank financial intermediaries through loans and deposits.
- 9.42. **Reserve assets.** Reserve assets are shown separately because they serve a different function and thus are managed in different ways from other assets. Reserve assets include a range of instruments that are shown under other categories when they are not owned by monetary authorities. As reserve assets, however, they have the distinct purpose of meeting balance of payments financing needs and undertaking market intervention to influence the exchange rate.
- 9.43. **Financial derivatives other than reserves.** The nature of financial derivatives other than reserves as instruments through which risk is traded in its own right in financial markets sets them apart from other types of investment. While other instruments may also have risk transfer elements, these other instruments also provide financial or other resources.

Direct investment

- 9.44. Direct investment is a category of cross-border investment in which a resident in one economy has control or a significant degree of influence over the management of an enterprise resident in another economy. In addition to the voting interest that leads to control or influence, direct

investment also includes equity investment associated with that relationship, including investment in indirectly influenced or controlled enterprises, investment in fellow enterprises, most debt, and reverse investment.

- 9.45. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development provides criteria for determining whether cross-border ownership results in a direct investment relationship based on control and influence. Control or influence may be achieved directly by having voting power in the enterprise or indirectly by having voting power in another enterprise that has voting power in the enterprise. Immediate direct investment relationships arise when a direct investor directly owns 10 percent or more of the voting power in the direct investment enterprise. Control exists if the direct investor owns more than 50 percent of the voting power in the direct investment enterprise.
- 9.46. Indirect direct investment relationships arise through the ownership of voting power in one direct investment enterprise that owns voting power in another enterprise or enterprises. An entity is thus able to exercise indirect control or influence through a chain of direct investment relationships. For example, an enterprise may have an immediate direct investment relationship with a second enterprise that has an immediate direct investment relationship with a third enterprise. Although the first enterprise has no voting interest in the third enterprise, it may be able to exercise indirect control or influence.
- 9.47. U.S. direct investment abroad (outward investment) is the ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by one U.S. entity of 10 percent or more of the voting securities of a legally incorporated foreign business enterprise, or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated foreign business enterprise. Foreign direct investment in the United States (inward investment) is the ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by one foreign entity of 10 percent or more of the voting securities of a legally incorporated U.S. business enterprise, or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated U.S. business enterprise.
- 9.48. For partnerships, the determination of whether a partner and a limited partnership are in a direct investment relationship is based on control of the partnership and not on the percentage of ownership in the partnership's equity. In most cases, the general partner is presumed to control a limited partnership and thus have a direct investment relationship with the limited partnership. In the case of multiple general partners, the partnership is presumed to be controlled equally by each of the general partners, unless a clause to the contrary is included in the partnership agreement. Limited partners normally do not exercise any control over a limited partnership. Unless a limited partner is granted some control over the partnership in a specific clause in the agreement or the agreement grants voting rights to limited partners, the limited partner is assumed to not be in a direct investment relationship with the partnership.
- 9.49. Direct investment refers to ownership by a single entity, or group of related entities, and not to the combined ownership of all entities in a country. An "entity" is broadly defined to include (1) any individual, branch, partnership, associated group, estate, trust, corporation or other business

organization; (2) any government, including a foreign government, the U.S. government, a state or local government, or any division thereof; and (3) any government-sponsored agency or government-sponsored investment fund, such as a sovereign wealth fund. An associated group is treated in this definition as a single entity.

- 9.50. Because direct investment is defined from a single-owner viewpoint, it excludes investment in enterprises in which ownership is so dispersed that no one owner in another economy has an interest of 10 percent or more and the owners do not, or cannot, act in concert to influence management. The single-owner viewpoint also means that investment by a U.S. entity of less than 10 percent in a foreign business enterprise is not considered direct investment, even if another U.S. entity has an interest of at least 10 percent in the enterprise. Thus, if one U.S. entity owns 11 percent and another owns 9 percent, then the 11 percent interest is included, but the 9 percent interest is excluded. However, if two or more U.S. entities each hold an interest of at least 10 percent, and are not associated with each other, then each such interest is included.
- 9.51. A direct investment ownership in a foreign business enterprise can result from direct or indirect ownership by a U.S. entity. For outward investment, it is directly held if the U.S. entity itself holds the ownership interest in the foreign business enterprise. It is indirectly held if one or more tiers of ownership exist between the foreign business enterprise and the U.S. entity. For example, a foreign business enterprise may be directly owned by another foreign business enterprise that is, in turn, owned by the U.S. entity.
- 9.52. A U.S. entity's percentage of indirect voting ownership in a given foreign business enterprise is equal to the direct-voting-ownership percentage of the U.S. entity in the first foreign business enterprise in the ownership chain, times the first foreign business enterprise's direct-voting-ownership percentage in the second foreign business enterprise in the chain, times the corresponding percentages for all intervening enterprises in the chain, times the last intervening enterprise's direct voting-ownership percentage in the given foreign business enterprise.
- 9.53. For example, suppose there are three related direct investment enterprises: a U.S. parent company (enterprise A), a directly held foreign affiliate in the Netherlands (enterprise B), and an indirectly held foreign affiliate in Spain (enterprise C). If enterprise A owns 80 percent of the voting power in enterprise B, which, in turn, owns 50 percent of the voting power in enterprise C, then enterprise A's indirect voting ownership share in enterprise C is 40 percent (80 percent x 50 percent).
- 9.54. If more than one ownership chain exists, the percentages of direct and indirect ownership in all the chains are summed to determine the U.S. entity's ownership percentage. For inward direct investment, the ownership percentage of a foreign entity in a given U.S. business enterprise is calculated in a parallel manner.

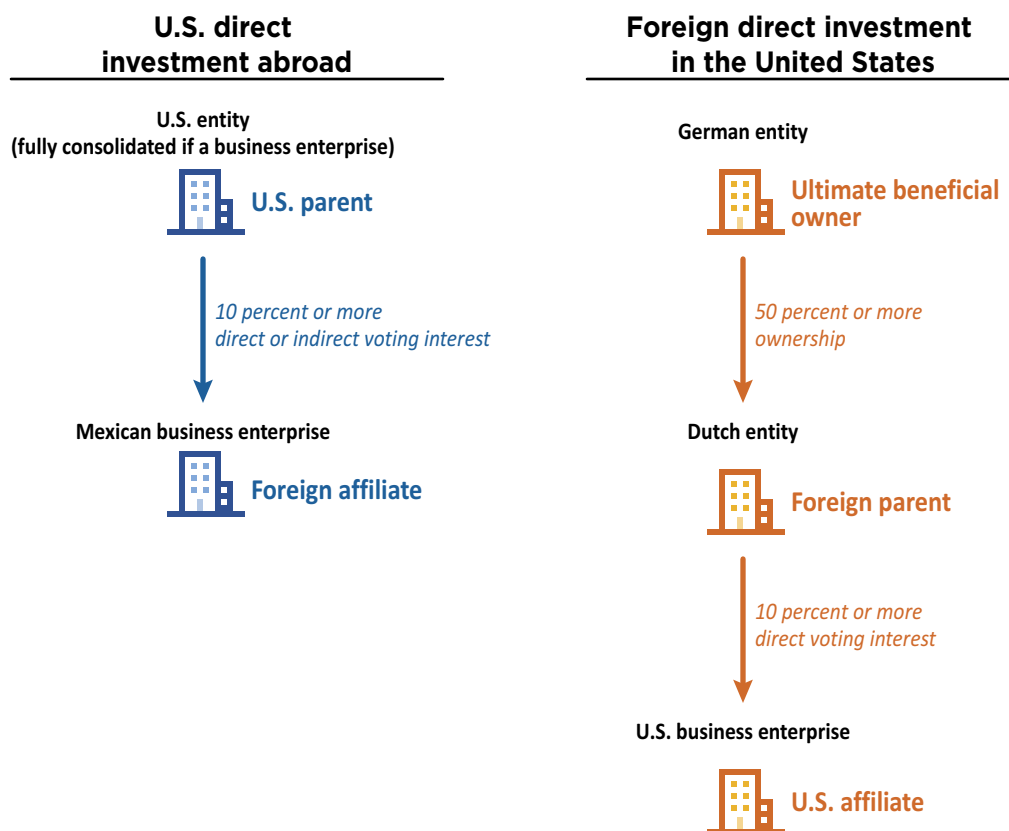
- 9.55. The direct investor is the entity that has a 10 percent or more direct or indirect ownership interest in a business enterprise located in another country. A business enterprise may have one or more direct investors, either through a single chain of ownership or through multiple chains. For outward investment, the International Economic Accounts focus on the direct investor that is resident in the United States; this direct investor is referred to as the *U.S. parent*. If the direct investor is a business enterprise, the U.S. parent is the fully consolidated domestic U.S. enterprise that consists of (1) the U.S. business enterprise whose voting securities are not owned more than 50 percent by another U.S. business enterprise and (2) proceeding down each ownership chain from that U.S. business enterprise, any U.S. business enterprise whose voting securities are more than 50 percent owned by the business enterprise above it in the chain. All other business enterprise and all foreign business enterprises owned by the U.S. parent are excluded from the full consolidation.
- 9.56. For inward investment, a U.S. business enterprise may have more than one direct investor through a given chain of ownership. The immediate direct investor in any ownership chain is referred to as the *foreign parent*, but the concept is defined much more narrowly than that of U.S. parent for outward investment. The foreign parent is the first foreign entity outside the United States in a U.S. affiliate's ownership chain that has direct investment in the affiliate. Thus, while for outward investment the parent includes all members of the fully consolidated U.S. enterprise, for inward investment it includes only the first foreign entity outside the United States and excludes all other affiliated foreign entities. However, direct investment statistics include direct transactions of U.S. business entities with all of the affiliated foreign entities that, together with the foreign parent, constitute the *foreign parent group*. Some members of the foreign parent group may also be direct investors in the U.S. affiliate, but only the foreign parent is the immediate direct investor.
- 9.57. The foreign parent group, which is conceptually analogous to the U.S. parent for outward investment, consists of (1) the foreign parent; (2) any foreign entity, proceeding up the foreign parent's ownership chain, that owns more than 50 percent of the entity below it up to and including the ultimate beneficial owner (UBO) (the entity that is not owned more than 50 percent by another entity); and (3) any foreign entity, proceeding down the ownership chain of each of these members, that is owned more than 50 percent by the entity above it. Because the members of the foreign parent group may be located in different countries, transactions of a U.S. business entity with members of the foreign parent group are classified in the U.S. International Economic Accounts by the respective country of each member.¹⁷
- 9.58. *Affiliates* are business enterprises that are directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an entity in another country to the extent of 10 percent or more ownership of the voting stock for a legally incorporated business, or an equivalent interest for an unincorporated business. A *business enterprise* is any organization, association, branch, venture, or ownership of real estate that exists for

17. The term "foreign affiliate of the foreign parent" is used to refer to any member of the foreign parent group besides the foreign parent itself (entities satisfying (2) or (3) in the definition of the foreign parent group).

profit-making purposes or to otherwise secure economic advantage.¹⁸ A business enterprise need not be legally incorporated; business enterprises also include branches, partnerships, and sole proprietorships. They may also include directly held commercial property.

- 9.59. Figure 9.a illustrates direct investment relationships between a direct investor (U.S. parent) and a foreign affiliate for outward direct investment to Mexico and between a UBO, a foreign parent, and a U.S. affiliate for inward direct investment from Germany through the Netherlands.

Figure 9.a. Affiliates, Parents, and Ultimate Beneficial Owners in Direct Investment Relationships



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- 9.60. Direct investment transactions and positions include the equity that gives rise to control or influence and intercompany lending, that is, debt between affiliated enterprises. However, debt between selected affiliated financial institutions is not classified as direct investment because it is not considered to be so strongly connected to the direct investment relationship. These transactions are classified as other investment because the transactions are more closely connected to financial

18. The ownership of real estate exclusively for personal use is not a business enterprise; a primary residence that is leased to others by an owner while outside the United States who intends to reoccupy it is considered real estate held for personal use and not a business enterprise.

intermediation. The financial institutions covered by this exception are (1) deposit-taking corporations, (2) investment funds, and (3) other financial intermediaries except insurance enterprises and pension funds.

- 9.61. Also excluded from direct investment, by definition, are transactions in financial derivatives. These transactions are included as a separate functional category in the International Economic Accounts. Even when transactions in financial derivatives are conducted by a direct investor or direct investment affiliate, they are considered transactions in financial instruments rather than transactions between a direct investor and an affiliated or unaffiliated entity.
- 9.62. Investments in or by private funds (collective investment institutions) are excluded from direct investment, and are included in portfolio investment, if the investor does not ultimately own at least 10 percent of the voting interest or equivalent of an “operating company”—that is, a U.S. or foreign business enterprise that is not a private fund or a holding company—through the private fund.
- 9.63. Direct investment is presented on the asset/liability basis recommended by *BPM6*, to the extent that source data allow, in addition to the directional basis recommended by previous guidelines. On the directional basis, direct investment statistics are organized according to whether the direct investment is outward or inward. On the asset/liability basis, direct investment statistics are organized according to whether the investment relates to an asset or a liability. This primarily affects the recording of intercompany debt, recorded as “debt instruments,” between parents and affiliates.
- 9.64. Under the asset/liability basis, U.S. parents’ debt claims are not netted against their debt liabilities to their foreign affiliates, and U.S. affiliates’ debt claims are not netted against their debt liabilities to their foreign parent groups. Partly because of source data limitations related to the measurement of investment between fellow enterprises, BEA’s direct investment statistics only approximate the full asset/liability basis. As recommended by *BPM6*, BEA presents direct investment statistics on a directional basis for the purpose of classifying direct investment by partner country and by industry.

Box 9a: Special Purpose Entities

In BEA statistics, *special purpose entities (SPEs)* constitute a subset of affiliates. SPEs are legal entities with little or no employment or physical presence that can be set up by direct investors to take advantage of favorable tax or regulatory regimes. Some multinational enterprises use complex global structures to maximize their worldwide profits, and SPEs often play important roles in those structures. Due to source data limitations, BEA is only able to provide SPE statistics for the direct investment functional category.

BEA direct investment statistics on SPEs cover both U.S. SPE affiliates of foreign parents and foreign SPE affiliates of U.S. parents. BEA identifies affiliates as SPEs using the following criteria, which operationalize the definition of SPE provided by the IMF's Task Force on Special Purpose Entities:¹

- Majority-owned by their foreign or U.S. parent(s)
- Zero to five employees
- Less than \$1 million of gross property, plant, and equipment
- Less than 10 percent of total sales to local customers (that is, customers in the country of residence of the SPE)

Although U.S. parents of foreign affiliates and members of the foreign parent groups of U.S. affiliates can also be SPEs, due to source data limitations they are not identified in the statistics as SPEs. See table 9.a for information on which U.S. and foreign SPEs are covered in the BEA statistics on SPEs.

Statistics on SPEs are presented on an asset/liability basis. Income and financial transactions statistics include a current-cost adjustment; position statistics are at market value.

1. The IMF's Task Force on Special Purpose Entities define SPEs according to the following criteria:

- An SPE, resident in an economy, is a formally registered and/or incorporated legal entity recognized as an institutional unit, with no or little employment up to a maximum of five employees, no or little physical presence and no or little physical production in the host economy.
- SPEs are directly or indirectly controlled by nonresidents.
- SPEs are established to obtain specific advantages provided by the host jurisdiction with an objective to (i) grant its owner(s) access to capital markets or sophisticated financial services; and/or (ii) isolate owner(s) from financial risks; and/or (iii) reduce regulatory and tax burden; and/or (iv) safeguard confidentiality of their transactions and owner(s).
- SPEs transact almost entirely with nonresidents and a large part of their financial balance sheet typically consists of cross-border claims and liabilities.

Table 9.a. SPE Classification in BEA's SPE Tables of Direct Investment Transactions or Positions

U.S. entity	Foreign counterparty			
	Foreign direct investor that is an SPE	Foreign direct investor that is not an SPE	Foreign affiliate that is an SPE	Foreign affiliate that is not an SPE
U.S.-resident SPE that is owned by foreign direct investor and that is not a U.S. parent of foreign affiliates	U.S. SPE	U.S. SPE	Not relevant; no direct investment relationship	Not relevant; no direct investment relationship
U.S.-resident SPE that is owned by foreign direct investor and that is also a U.S. parent of foreign affiliates	U.S. SPE	U.S. SPE	Foreign SPE	Not available
U.S. affiliate that is not an SPE but is a U.S. parent of foreign affiliates	Not available	Not relevant; no SPEs involved	Foreign SPE	Not relevant; no SPEs involved
U.S. parent of foreign affiliates that is not a U.S. affiliate	Not relevant; no direct investment relationship	Not relevant; no direct investment relationship	Foreign SPE	Not relevant; no SPEs involved

U.S. SPE	Recorded in BEA SPE tables as associated with U.S.-resident SPE
Foreign SPE	Recorded in BEA SPE tables as associated with foreign-resident SPE
Not available	Involves SPE, but not recorded in BEA SPE tables as associated with an SPE because information is not available to distinguish the SPE

BEA U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

SPE Special Purpose Entity

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Portfolio investment

- 9.65. Portfolio investment is defined as cross-border transactions and positions involving debt or equity securities, other than those included in direct investment or reserve assets. Securities are debt and equity financial instruments that have the characteristic feature of negotiability. Negotiability is a way of facilitating trading, allowing securities to be held by different parties during their lives. Negotiability allows investors to diversify their portfolios and to withdraw their investment readily.
- 9.66. Portfolio investment includes securities traded on organized financial markets. Such investment usually involves financial infrastructure, along with market-making dealers, and a sufficient volume of buyers and sellers. Acquisitions of shares in hedge funds, private equity funds, and venture capital are examples of portfolio investment that occur in less public and more lightly regulated markets. Portfolio investment is distinctive because of the nature of the funds raised, the largely anonymous relationship between the issuers and holders, and the degree of trading liquidity in the instruments. Portfolio investment may be classified by instrument, original or remaining maturity, or institutional sector.

Other investment

- 9.67. Other investment is a residual category that includes positions and transactions other than those included in direct investment, portfolio investment, reserve assets, and financial derivatives other than reserves. To the extent that the following classes of financial assets and liabilities are not included under direct investment or reserve assets, other investment includes: (1) other equity; (2) currency and deposits; (3) loans (including use of IMF credit and loans from the IMF); (4) nonlife insurance technical reserves, life insurance and annuities entitlements, pension entitlements, and provisions for calls under standardized guarantees; (5) trade credit and advances; (6) other accounts receivable/payable; and (7) SDR allocations. (SDR holdings are included in reserve assets.)
- 9.68. Other equity is included in other investment when it is not direct investment or reserve assets.
- 9.69. Other investment may be further classified by type of instrument, original or remaining maturity, or institutional sector. Because of a lack of source data, financial transactions and positions in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts are not separately reported for other equity liabilities and other accounts receivable/payable and do not include standardized guarantees or insurance technical reserves.

Reserves

- 9.70. Reserve assets are those external assets that are readily available to and controlled by monetary authorities for meeting balance of payments financing needs, for intervening in exchange markets to affect the currency exchange rate, and for achieving other related purposes such as maintaining confidence in the currency and the economy and serving as a basis for foreign borrowing.

Underlying the concept of reserve assets are the notions of “control” and “availability for use” by the monetary authorities. In the United States, authority over reserve assets is shared by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System.

- 9.71. In general, only external claims actually owned by the monetary authority can be classified as reserve assets. Reserve assets must also be readily available in the most unconditional form. Reserve assets consist of monetary gold, SDR holdings, reserve position in the IMF, currency and deposits, securities (including debt and equity securities), financial derivatives, and other claims (loans and other financial instruments, including repurchase agreements). Monetary gold, SDR holdings, and reserve position in the IMF are considered reserve assets because they are readily available to the monetary authorities in unconditional form. Currency and deposits, securities, and other assets often are equally available and therefore qualify as reserve assets.

Financial derivatives other than reserves

- 9.72. The functional category “financial derivatives other than reserves” in the U.S. ITAs and the IIP Accounts largely coincides with the corresponding financial instrument class described above; however, transactions in employee stock options are not included in the U.S. economic accounts because of the lack of appropriate source data.
- 9.73. This category is identified separately because it relates to risk transfer rather than supply of funds or other resources. Unlike other functional categories, no primary income accrues on financial derivatives. Any amounts accruing under the contract are classified as revaluations and are included in the other changes in assets and liabilities account.
- 9.74. While *BPM6* encourages the recording of financial derivatives separately for both assets and liabilities, it recognizes that measuring transactions on a gross basis may not be feasible, in which case net reporting is acceptable. In the ITAs, net transactions are reported because measuring transactions on a gross basis is not feasible. In the IIP Accounts, however, gross positions are reported for financial derivatives held as assets and as liabilities.

Part III.

Statistical Methodology of International Transactions Accounts

Chapter 10. Introduction to the International Transactions Accounts

- 10.1. The [International Transactions Accounts \(ITAs\)](#) are a quarterly statistical summary produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis of transactions between U.S. residents and nonresidents. The ITAs consist of the current account, the capital account, and the financial account, along with a balancing item—the statistical discrepancy—and several balances. This chapter presents an overview of the ITAs. The remaining chapters in part III present methodologies for statistics published in the ITAs.
- 10.2. Chapters 11–14 present information on current-account statistics. The current account consists of transactions between U.S. residents and nonresidents in goods, services, primary income, and secondary income. Sources and methods for each major component of the current account are provided in individual chapters: chapter 11 covers trade in goods, chapter 12 covers trade in services, chapter 13 covers transactions in primary income transactions, and chapter 14 covers transactions in secondary income.
- 10.3. Chapters 16–20 present information on financial-account statistics. The financial account consists of transactions between U.S. residents and nonresidents for direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, reserves, and financial derivatives other than reserves. Sources and methods for statistics on financial transactions are discussed in chapter 16 for direct investment, in chapter 17 for portfolio investment, in chapter 18 for other investment, in chapter 19 for reserve assets, and in chapter 20 for financial derivatives other than reserves.

- 10.4. Chapter 15 presents information on capital-account statistics. Chapter 21 discusses the statistical discrepancy and balances in the ITAs.
- 10.5. Included in the chapters in part III are descriptions of concepts and coverage, including departures from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*, data sources, and estimation methods for the published components. For many of the accounts, the data sources identified in part III are available only with a lag—that is, not in time to be used for the most recent reference period(s). Appendix D outlines the sources and methods BEA uses to estimate (or “project”) the ITAs when the source data described in part III are not yet available.
- 10.6. The ITAs are prepared and released quarterly (except for ITA table 1.5). Transactions are presented in current dollars (that is, at prices current in the reference period). Quarterly statistics are available both with and without seasonal adjustment, which is described in more detail below. Annual statistics represent the sum of the four quarters of the calendar year.
- 10.7. The ITA tables are comprised of several groups of tables, which are available on the BEA website:
- Tables 1.1–1.4 present the overall ITAs. Table 1.1 presents a summary of the current, capital, and financial accounts, as well as the statistical discrepancy and balances; it contains limited detail for major components of the accounts. Table 1.2 presents expanded detail on the components of the accounts in table 1.1.¹⁹ Table 1.3 presents the expanded detail of table 1.2 by selected country and area grouping. Table 1.4 presents the same statistics as table 1.3 but from the perspective of country and area detail by account. Table 1.5, an annual-only table, presents details for trade in goods and services by country and area grouping.
 - Tables 2.1–2.4 present details for trade in goods, part of the current account.
 - Tables 3.1–3.3 present details for trade in services, part of the current account.
 - Tables 4.1–4.6 present details for transactions in primary income, part of the current account.
 - Table 5.1 presents detail for transactions in secondary income, part of the current account.
 - Tables 6.1–6.3 present details for financial transactions in direct investment.
 - Table 7.1 presents detail for financial transactions in portfolio investment.
 - Table 8.1 presents detail for financial transactions in other investment.
 - Table 9.1 presents detail for financial transactions for liabilities to foreign official agencies.

Tables 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 4.5, and 6.2 provide geographic detail. The other tables present statistics at the all-country level.

- 10.8. The accounts and their published components are discussed in part III in the order that they are presented in ITA table 1.2 and are shown below in table 10.a.

19. All of the accounts included in ITA table 1.1 are also included in ITA table 1.2, but table 1.1 provides a longer time series for these accounts than table 1.2.

**Table 10.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions
Accounts Table 1.2. U.S. International Transactions, Expanded Detail**

Line	Current account	Line	Current account
1	Exports of goods and services and income receipts (credits)	34	Imports of goods and services and income payments (debits)
2	Exports of goods and services	35	Imports of goods and services
3	Goods	36	Goods
4	General merchandise	37	General merchandise
5	Foods, feeds, and beverages	38	Foods, feeds, and beverages
6	Industrial supplies and materials	39	Industrial supplies and materials
7	Capital goods except automotive	40	Capital goods except automotive
8	Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	41	Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines
9	Consumer goods except food and automotive	42	Consumer goods except food and automotive
10	Other general merchandise	43	Other general merchandise
11	Net exports of goods under merchandising		
12	Nonmonetary gold	44	Nonmonetary gold
13	Services	45	Services
14	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	46	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others
15	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	47	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.
16	Transport	48	Transport
17	Travel (for all purposes including education)	49	Travel (for all purposes including education)
18	Construction	50	Construction
19	Insurance services	51	Insurance services
20	Financial services	52	Financial services
21	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	53	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.
22	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	54	Telecommunications, computer, and information services
23	Other business services	55	Other business services
24	Personal, cultural, and recreational services	56	Personal, cultural, and recreational services
25	Government goods and services n.i.e.	57	Government goods and services n.i.e.
26	Primary income receipts	58	Primary income payments
27	Investment income	59	Investment income
28	Direct investment income	60	Direct investment income
29	Portfolio investment income	61	Portfolio investment income
30	Other investment income	62	Other investment income
31	Reserve asset income		
32	Compensation of employees	63	Compensation of employees
33	Secondary income (current transfer) receipts	64	Secondary income (current transfer) payments
Line	Capital account	Line	Capital account
65	Capital transfer receipts and other credits	66	Capital transfer payments and other debits

Table continues

Line	Financial account	Line	Financial account
67	Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (net increase in assets/financial outflow (+))	91	Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (net increase in liabilities/financial inflow (+))
68	Direct investment assets	92	Direct investment liabilities
69	Equity	93	Equity
70	Debt instruments	94	Debt instruments
71	Portfolio investment assets	95	Portfolio investment liabilities
72	Equity and investment fund shares	96	Equity and investment fund shares
73	Debt securities	97	Debt securities
74	Short term	98	Short term
75	Long term	99	Long term
76	Other investment assets	100	Other investment liabilities
77	Other equity	101	Other equity
78	Currency and deposits	102	Currency and deposits
79	Loans	103	Loans
80	Insurance technical reserves	104	Insurance technical reserves
81	Trade credit and advances	105	Trade credit and advances
82	Reserve assets	106	Special drawing rights allocations
83	Monetary gold		
84	Special drawing rights		
85	Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund		
86	Other reserve assets		
87	Currency and deposits		
88	Securities		
89	Financial derivatives		
90	Other claims		

Line	Financial account
107	Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions
Line	Statistical discrepancy
108	Statistical discrepancy
Line	Balances
109	Balance on current account
110	Balance on goods and services
111	Balance on goods
112	Balance on services
113	Balance on primary income
114	Balance on secondary income
115	Balance on capital account
116	Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from current- and capital-account transactions
117	Net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) from financial-account transactions

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

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- 10.9. Line 109 of ITA table 1.2 presents the balance on the current account, one of the Principal Federal Economic Indicators. Principal Federal Economic Indicators are a major statistical series designated by the Office of Management and Budget that describe the current condition of the U.S. economy.
- 10.10. In addition to the statistics in the ITA tables, BEA also publishes related sets of statistics at different frequencies or at greater levels of detail than the ITA statistics. See figure A.1 in appendix A for an illustration of the related statistics and the data items that connect them.
- 10.11. One related set of statistics available at a greater frequency than the ITAs is the monthly statistics on trade in goods and services. These statistics are conceptually consistent with measures of trade in goods and services in the quarterly ITAs but generally are presented in less detail. For more information on the monthly statistics, see chapter 30.
- 10.12. Two sets of related statistics include more detail than the corresponding statistics in the ITAs, namely the trade in services portion of annual international services statistics and the transactions portion of the statistics on direct investment by country and industry.
- 10.13. The annual presentation of international services statistics provides expanded detail on a basis that is fully consistent with the quarterly ITAs. It includes additional detail by type, by affiliation, and by country and area. It also presents statistics on trade in information and communications technology (ICT) services and digitally deliverable services. For more information on the international services statistics, see chapter 31.
- 10.14. BEA also publishes more detailed annual statistics on direct investment financial transactions and income flows than those presented in the ITAs. These statistics on direct investment by country and industry use concepts and methods broadly consistent with those used for the featured measures of direct investment transactions in the ITAs, but they are presented on a directional basis and without current-cost adjustment. The comprehensive annual statistics include more geographic and industry detail than the ITAs. For more information on the direct investment by country and industry statistics, see chapter 32.

Seasonal adjustment

- 10.15. In its analysis of the ITAs in news releases and *Survey of Current Business* articles, BEA features seasonally adjusted statistics. Quarterly ITA statistics are seasonally adjusted when a series demonstrates a recurring seasonal pattern. Seasonal adjustment aims to remove effects due to variations that occur at about the same time and with about the same magnitude and direction each year. Removal of the seasonal component leaves a time series in which movements are caused by factors other than routine seasonal patterns.

- 10.16. X-13ARIMA-SEATS, a software program developed by the U.S. Census Bureau to identify and remove seasonal effects from a time series, is used to seasonally adjust the ITAs. The ITAs to date are adjusted exclusively using the X-11ARIMA functionality within X-13ARIMA-SEATS. This process uses a combined regARIMA model to preadjust for time series features such as length of quarter, trading day, moving holidays, and outlier effects and an X-11 method that uses filter-based symmetric moving averages to determine trend, seasonal, and irregular components. The ITAs are predominately adjusted using a multiplicative model, meaning estimates of the quarterly or monthly adjustments are calculated as percentages above or below the general level of the series. Seasonally adjusting with X-13ARIMA-SEATS can yield multiple valid adjustment factors depending on inputs to the model such as timespan considered and decisions about outliers. The software includes diagnostic tools and guidelines, but adjustment is subject to some degree of judgment. For more information, see [X-13ARIMA-SEATS Seasonal Adjustment Program](#) on the Census Bureau website.
- 10.17. BEA uses an indirect approach to seasonal adjustment in which the component series are seasonally adjusted, and these adjusted components are then aggregated to obtain the seasonally adjusted aggregate statistics. While this approach can introduce residual seasonality in aggregate series, BEA carefully evaluates the aggregates for residual seasonality and refines the adjustments as needed. This indirect approach allows users to add seasonally adjusted components to obtain the published seasonally adjusted totals. (Under a direct approach, the aggregate statistics would be separately seasonally adjusted without any expectation that seasonally adjusted components would sum to seasonally adjusted totals.)
- 10.18. Most components of the current account are seasonally adjusted; exceptions include many components of primary income. Most components of the financial account are not seasonally adjusted because these items do not exhibit stable, predictable seasonal patterns. One exception in the financial account is direct investment transactions, which exhibit a seasonal pattern that reflects seasonality in the company earnings that underlie the reinvestment of earnings. Neither capital-account receipts nor capital-account payments are seasonally adjusted.
- 10.19. For trade in goods, the U.S. Census Bureau computes seasonal adjustments for monthly “Census-basis” goods exports and imports (see paragraph 11.10 for more on Census-basis trade) by end-use commodity. BEA also evaluates its balance of payments adjustments to the Census-basis goods trade statistics (see paragraphs 11.28–11.52) to identify seasonal patterns and apply seasonal adjustment as needed. BEA sums these seasonally adjusted months to arrive at seasonally adjusted quarters of trade in goods. For trade in services, BEA adjusts at the most detailed level by type of service. For primary income, BEA adjusts direct investment income receipts and payments at the level of major industry sectors.
- 10.20. BEA presents seasonally adjusted statistics for goods and services trade by selected country and area in ITA tables 2.2 and 3.2, respectively. These tables provide neither end-use detail for goods nor service-type detail for services. In general, estimates that are seasonally adjusted along one

detailed dimension (such as geography) do not sum to the same total as estimates that are seasonally adjusted along another dimension (such as end-use commodity or service type) because the detailed seasonally adjusted estimates along each dimension are derived from different aggregations of the data and from different seasonal adjustment models. Therefore, the country-level seasonally adjusted statistics in these tables do not feed into statistics in other seasonally adjusted ITA tables.

- 10.21. Seasonal factors applied to the preliminary estimates (and for the first, second, and third quarters of a year, the first revised estimates) are projected for the reference year based on data for prior years. In the estimates released during the next calendar year's annual update, the reference year's not seasonally adjusted quarterly data themselves become inputs into the seasonal adjustment procedure. For later revisions, adjustment factors account for seasonality in not seasonally adjusted estimates for years before, during, and after the year of the reference quarter.
- 10.22. Because the four quarterly estimates that sum to the preliminary annual estimate released each March after the reference year use seasonal factors that have been projected, the quarterly seasonally adjusted estimates do not automatically sum to the annual estimate. Therefore, BEA revises the quarterly adjusted estimates as necessary to ensure that the adjusted quarters sum to the annual total.
- 10.23. BEA reviews seasonal factors each year as part of the annual updates to account for newly available source data and changes in seasonal patterns over time. BEA reviews every series and initiates adjustment on series that exhibit seasonality but were not previously adjusted, and it terminates adjustment on series that cease to exhibit a predictable seasonal pattern.
- 10.24. A revision to a seasonally adjusted estimate can be decomposed into a revision to the underlying not seasonally adjusted estimate and a revision to its seasonal adjustment factor. Because the seasonal factor for a particular reference period is estimated from a time series of the not seasonally adjusted data, revisions to not seasonally adjusted values in other periods in the time series can result in a revision to the seasonally adjusted value for a particular reference period even if its corresponding not seasonally adjusted value in that period is unrevised.

Chapter 11. Current-Account Goods

Concepts and coverage

- 11.1. *Goods* are physical items with ownership rights that can be exchanged among institutional units through transactions. The production of a good can be separated from its subsequent sale or resale. Resident-nonresident transactions in goods include all goods sold, exchanged, donated, or otherwise transferred from U.S. to foreign ownership and vice versa. The major published components are “general merchandise,” “net exports of goods under merchanting,” and “nonmonetary gold.” General merchandise includes six major subcomponents: foods, feeds, and beverages; industrial supplies and materials; capital goods except automotive; automotive vehicles, parts, and engines; consumer goods except food and automotive; and other general merchandise. The goods components and subcomponents are presented in table 2.1 of the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and shown below in table 11.a.

Table 11.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions Accounts Table 2.1 U.S. International Trade in Goods

Line	Exports	Line	Imports
1	Exports of goods	105	Imports of goods
2	General merchandise	106	General merchandise
3	Net exports of goods under merchanting		
4	Nonmonetary gold	107	Nonmonetary gold
5	General merchandise, all end-use commodities	108	General merchandise, all end-use commodities
6	Foods, feeds, and beverages	109	Foods, feeds, and beverages
7	Agricultural	110	Agricultural
8	Grains and preparations	111	Green coffee
9	Wheat	112	Cocoa beans and sugar
10	Corn	113	Meat products and poultry
11	Rice and other food grains		
12	Other feeds		
13	Soybeans		
14	Meat products and poultry		
15	Vegetables, fruits, nuts, and preparations	114	Vegetables, fruits, nuts, and preparations
		115	Wine, beer, and related products
16	Other agricultural foods, feeds, and beverages	116	Other agricultural foods, feeds, and beverages
17	Nonagricultural	117	Nonagricultural
18	Fish and shellfish	118	Fish and shellfish
19	Distilled beverages and other nonagricultural foods, feeds, and beverages	119	Distilled beverages and other nonagricultural foods, feeds, and beverages
20	Industrial supplies and materials	120	Industrial supplies and materials

Table continues

Line	Exports	Line	Imports
21	Agricultural	121	Agricultural
22	Raw cotton		
23	Tobacco, unmanufactured		
24	Hides and skins, including furskins		
25	Other agricultural industrial supplies		
26	Nonagricultural	122	Nonagricultural
27	Energy products	123	Energy products
28	Petroleum and products	124	Petroleum and products
29	Crude	125	Crude
30	Fuel oil	126	Fuel oil
31	Other petroleum products	127	Other petroleum products
32	Liquefied petroleum gases	128	Liquefied petroleum gases
33	Coal and related products	129	Coal and related products
34	Natural gas	130	Natural gas
35	Nuclear fuel and electric energy	131	Nuclear fuel and electric energy
36	Paper and paper-base stocks	132	Paper and paper-base stocks
37	Textile supplies and related materials	133	Textile supplies and related materials
38	Chemicals except medicinals	134	Chemicals except medicinals
39	Plastic materials	135	Plastic materials
40	Fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides	136	Fertilizers, pesticides, and insecticides
41	Industrial inorganic chemicals	137	Industrial inorganic chemicals
42	Industrial organic chemicals	138	Industrial organic chemicals
43	Other chemicals	139	Other chemicals
44	Building materials except metals	140	Building materials except metals
45	Other nonmetals	141	Other nonmetals
46	Metals and nonmetallic products	142	Metals and nonmetallic products
47	Steelmaking materials	143	Steelmaking materials
48	Iron and steel products	144	Iron and steel products
49	Nonferrous metals	145	Nonferrous metals
50	Precious metals except nonmonetary gold	146	Precious metals except nonmonetary gold
51	Bauxite and aluminum	147	Bauxite and aluminum
52	Copper		
53	Other nonferrous metals	148	Other nonferrous metals
54	Other metals and nonmetallic products	149	Other metals and nonmetallic products
55	Capital goods except automotive	150	Capital goods except automotive
56	Machinery and equipment except consumer-type	151	Machinery and equipment except consumer-type
57	Electric-generating machinery, electric apparatus, and parts	152	Electric-generating machinery, electric apparatus and parts
58	Oil-drilling, mining, and construction machinery	153	Oil-drilling, mining, and construction machinery
59	Industrial engines, pumps, and compressors	154	Industrial engines, pumps, and compressors
60	Machine tools and metalworking machinery	155	Machine tools and metalworking machinery

Table continues

Line	Exports	Line	Imports
61	Measuring, testing, and control instruments	156	Measuring, testing, and control instruments
62	Other industrial machinery	157	Other industrial machinery
63	Other service-industry and agricultural machinery	158	Other service-industry and agricultural machinery
64	Computers	159	Computers
65	Computer accessories, peripherals, and parts	160	Computer accessories, peripherals, and parts
66	Semiconductors	161	Semiconductors
67	Telecommunications equipment	162	Telecommunications equipment
68	Other office and business machines	163	Other office and business machines
69	Scientific, hospital, and medical equipment and parts	164	Scientific, hospital, and medical equipment and parts
70	Civilian aircraft, engines, and parts	165	Civilian aircraft, engines, and parts
71	Civilian aircraft, complete, all types	166	Civilian aircraft, complete, all types
72	Engines and parts	167	Engines and parts
73	Other transportation equipment	168	Other transportation equipment
74	Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines	169	Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines
75	To Canada	170	From Canada
76	Passenger cars, new and used	171	Passenger cars, new and used
77	Trucks, buses, and special purpose vehicles	172	Trucks, buses, and special purpose vehicles
78	Engines and engine parts	173	Engines and engine parts
79	Other parts and accessories	174	Other parts and accessories
80	To other areas	175	From other areas
81	Passenger cars, new and used	176	Passenger cars, new and used
82	Trucks, buses, and special purpose vehicles	177	Trucks, buses, and special purpose vehicles
83	Engines and engine parts	178	Engines and engine parts
84	Other parts and accessories	179	Other parts and accessories
85	Consumer goods except food and automotive	180	Consumer goods except food and automotive
86	Nondurable goods	181	Nondurable goods
87	Apparel, footwear, and household goods	182	Apparel, footwear, and household goods
88	Medicinal, dental, and pharmaceutical products	183	Medicinal, dental, and pharmaceutical products
89	Toiletries and cosmetics	184	Toiletries and cosmetics
90	Other nondurable goods	185	Other nondurable goods
91	Durable goods	186	Durable goods
92	Televisions, video receivers, and other video equipment	187	Televisions, video receivers, and other video equipment
93	Radio and stereo equipment, including recorded media	188	Radio and stereo equipment, including recorded media
94	Toys and sporting goods, including bicycles	189	Toys and sporting goods, including bicycles
95	Household and kitchen appliances and other household goods	190	Household and kitchen appliances and other household goods

Table continues

Line	Exports	Line	Imports
96	Household furnishings and related products	191	Household furnishings and related products
97	Household and kitchen appliances	192	Household and kitchen appliances
98	Other household goods, including cell phones	193	Other household goods, including cell phones
99	Jewelry and collectibles	194	Jewelry and collectibles
100	Gem diamonds and other gemstones	195	Gem diamonds and other gemstones
101	Other durable goods	196	Other durable goods
102	Other general merchandise	197	Other general merchandise
103	Net exports of goods under merchanting		
104	Nonmonetary gold	198	Nonmonetary gold

Line	Balance
199	Balance on goods

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- 11.2. The ITAs include goods that were produced in previous periods (used goods and inventories), U.S. exports that were produced in other countries (reexports), and U.S. imports that were produced in the United States (reimports). The ITAs do not identify how the goods are used, such as for personal consumption, intermediate consumption, inventories, or gross fixed capital formation.

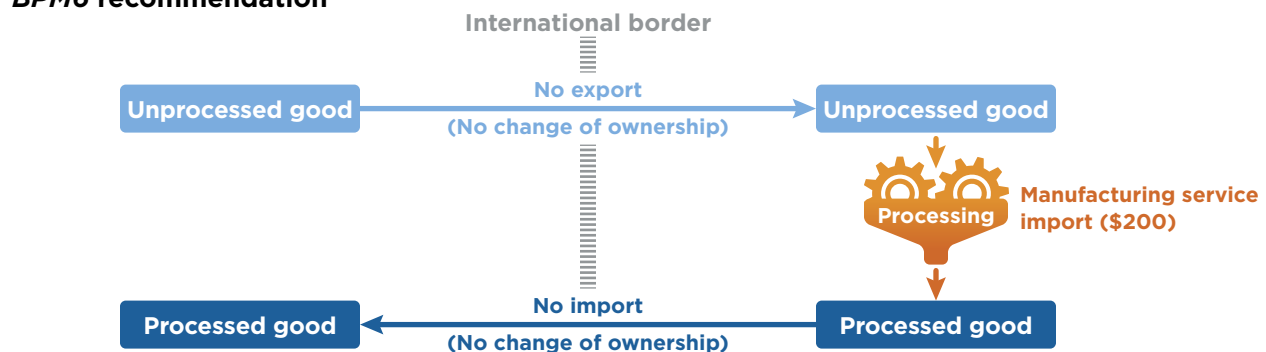
Departures from BPM6

- 11.3. The coverage and presentation of goods closely follow recommendations in the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. The most important departure stems from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis not implementing the recommended treatment of goods for processing and the associated manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others because of a lack of adequate source data. Another departure arises from not providing statistics on the gross flows for goods acquired and sold under merchanting.
- 11.4. For the processing abroad of U.S.-owned goods, under BEA's current treatment a change in ownership is imputed when goods intended for processing leave the United States, and the value of the goods is included in goods exports. Similarly, a change in ownership is imputed when the resulting processed goods return to the United States, and the value of the goods is included in goods imports. Conversely, a change in ownership is not recognized when goods to be processed are purchased overseas by U.S. residents and stay abroad for processing. Neither is a change in ownership recognized when goods that are owned by U.S. residents but have been processed overseas are sold to a foreign buyer (either in the country of processing or a third country). BEA's current treatment of foreign goods processed in the United States is symmetric to its treatment of U.S. goods processed abroad.

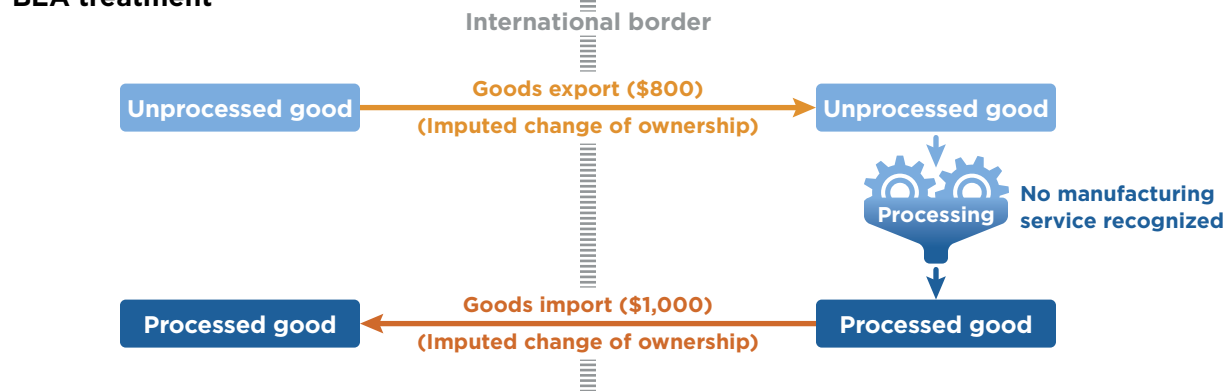
- 11.5. Under the *BPM6* treatment, goods that are sent abroad for processing without a change in ownership and that are returned to the United States should be excluded from statistics on trade in goods, and the processing fee charged by the foreign manufacturing service provider should be recorded as U.S. imports of services; any inputs purchased abroad by the U.S. firm and processed abroad should be recorded as U.S. imports of goods when the inputs are purchased. Similarly, goods that enter the United States for processing without a change in ownership and that are returned to the country of ownership should be excluded from statistics on trade in goods, and the processing fee charged by the U.S. manufacturing service provider should be recorded as U.S. exports of services; any inputs purchased in the United States by the foreign firm and processed in the United States should be recorded as U.S. exports of goods when the inputs are purchased.
- 11.6. In addition, goods sent abroad for processing and subsequently sold abroad should be recorded as U.S. exports of goods when they are sold. Similarly, goods entering the United States for processing and subsequently sold in the United States should be recorded as U.S. imports of goods when they are sold. In both cases, the processing fee should be recorded as a services transaction. Figure 11.a shows how the *BPM6* treatment differs from BEA's treatment for a case in which goods worth \$800 are sent abroad for \$200 of processing and then returned to the United States.

Figure 11.a. Comparison of *BPM6* Recommendation and BEA Treatment of Goods for Processing and Manufacturing Services

***BPM6* recommendation**



BEA treatment



BEA U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

BPM6 Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- 11.7. Currently, detailed information on the processing fees received and paid by U.S. firms for manufacturing services and on the underlying goods transactions either are not available in the U.S. statistical system or are not identifiable in any of the source data. Despite these challenges, BEA continues to conduct research to determine feasible approaches for implementing this treatment. (See paragraphs 12.5 and 12.6 for a discussion of the discrepancy between BEA's treatment of the processing fees for the manufacturing services and *BPM6*'s recommendation.)
- 11.8. In addition, under "net exports of goods under merchanting," *BPM6* recommends presenting separately merchandise gross flows for "goods acquired under merchanting" as negative exports in the period the merchant acquires the goods and merchandise gross flows for goods sold under merchanting as positive exports in the period the merchant sells the goods. However, source data are not available for implementing this recommendation. BEA's source data on merchanting transactions reflect the net value of goods that are purchased and subsequently resold abroad and thus assume that the purchase and sale occur in the same quarter.

Data sources

- 11.9. BEA uses a variety of data sources to estimate goods exports and imports; these sources are listed in table 11.b.

Estimation methods

- 11.10. Statistics for trade in goods in the ITAs are based on monthly trade data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau ("Census-basis data")—including data from the Automated Commercial Environment and from the U.S.-Canada Data Exchange—which are further described below. BEA makes adjustments to the Census-basis data in order to align them with the coverage, valuation, definitions, and concepts used for the International Economic Accounts and the National Economic Accounts. These adjustments, which are applied separately to exports and imports, are necessary to supplement coverage of the Census-basis data, to eliminate duplication of transactions recorded elsewhere in the ITAs, to value transactions at market prices, and to include certain changes in ownership that occur without the goods crossing the U.S. customs boundary.
- 11.11. Exports of goods consist of "general merchandise," "net exports of goods under merchanting," and "nonmonetary gold." Imports of goods consist of general merchandise and nonmonetary gold. Each of these published components is described below.

Table 11.b. Sources of Data for Current-Account Goods

Source	Use	Note
Airbus SE	Aircraft imports	Airbus SE publishes aircraft delivery information used to estimate aircraft imports that are not collected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
BEA quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on international trade in services	(1) Fuel exports and imports and (2) net exports of goods under merchanting	BEA's surveys used include (1) surveys of transport services and (2) surveys of international transactions in selected services and intellectual property. See chapters 3 and 12 for more information on these surveys.
Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Nonmonetary gold exports and imports	
IHS Markit	Fuel exports and imports	IHS Markit is a private source that provides data on ocean vessels.
Planespotters.net	Aircraft imports	Planespotters.net publishes aircraft delivery information used to estimate aircraft imports that are not collected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
Statistics Canada	Mail order exports to Canada and imports of locomotives and railcars from Canada	
United Nations International Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade)	Electric energy exports to and imports from Mexico and imports of locomotives and railcars from Mexico and Canada	
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, ACE	Goods exports for all countries except Canada and goods imports for all countries	As required by law, exporters and importers or their agents file customs declarations with U.S. Customs and Border Protection through ACE. The Census Bureau compiles these data and provides them to BEA through a Memorandum of Understanding. Data on goods exports and imports by water are also used to estimate fuel procured in ports by nonresident ocean carriers.
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S.-Canada Data Exchange	Exports to Canada	For statistics on exports to Canada, the United States substitutes Canadian statistics on imports from the United States in accordance with a 1987 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Census Bureau, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Canada Border Services Agency, and Statistics Canada. Similarly, under this Memorandum of Understanding, Canada substitutes U.S. imports from Canada for Canadian exports to the United States.
U.S. Department of Defense	Goods purchased abroad by U.S. military agencies and exports of military goods through grant programs	U.S. government operating agencies submit data quarterly under Office of Management and Budget Statistical Directive No. 19.
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. CBP	Fuel exports and imports	CBP provides data on ocean vessels that are used to estimate fuel procured in ports by nonresident ocean carriers.
U.S. Department of State	Exports of military goods through grant programs	
U.S. Postal Service	Exports of private parcels	

ACE Automated Commercial Environment

BEA U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

CBP Customs and Border Protection

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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Published components

General merchandise

- 11.12. General merchandise covers goods exchanged between a resident and a nonresident and excludes goods under merchanting and nonmonetary gold. While transactions in goods that have not changed ownership should be excluded from the ITAs according to international guidelines, BEA is not currently able to identify these transactions to remove them from the source data it receives from the Census Bureau. (See paragraphs 11.3–11.7 for more information.)
- 11.13. General merchandise is presented as a single item in the *BPM6* standard components with no proposed standards for classification of goods. However, *BPM6* encourages presentations according to the priorities of the compiling economy. In the ITAs, exports and imports of general merchandise are classified and presented by six broad end-use categories in ITA table 1.2 and by detailed end-use commodities in ITA table 2.1. The end-use commodities are based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System). (See paragraphs 11.24–11.26 for more information.)

Net exports of goods under merchanting

- 11.14. Merchanting is defined as the purchase of goods by a resident of the compiling economy from a nonresident combined with the subsequent resale of the same goods to another nonresident without the goods entering the compiling economy. Merchanting arrangements are often used for international wholesale and retail trade operations, but they may also be used in commodity dealing and for managing global manufacturing processes. In principle, for goods shipped under merchanting arrangements, purchases and resales are recorded at the time economic ownership of the goods changes.
- 11.15. BEA currently measures merchanting as the margin between proceeds from the sale of the goods and the cost of acquiring the goods sold. Data on this margin are collected as “net merchanting receipts” on BEA’s surveys of international transactions in selected services and intellectual property and presented as net exports of goods under merchanting. The Census-basis data do not include goods under merchanting because these goods do not cross the U.S. customs boundary.

Nonmonetary gold

- 11.16. Nonmonetary gold is shown separately from other goods in the ITAs partly because of its special role in financial markets and partly because most gold transactions have little to do with current production, consumption, or income.
- 11.17. Nonmonetary gold covers all gold other than jewelry, which is recorded separately under consumer goods in the end-use system, and monetary gold, which is gold owned by monetary authorities and

held as a reserve asset.²⁰ On a “balance of payments” (BOP) basis, nonmonetary gold can be in the form of bullion, gold powder, finished metal shapes of gold, noncommemorative gold coins, and gold in other varied stages of manufacture including unwrought or semi-manufactured forms.

- 11.18. In the ITAs, nonmonetary gold reflects the sum of cross-border trade in nonmonetary gold based on (1) exports and imports recorded in the Census-basis data and (2) transactions between foreign official agencies and private U.S. residents in foreign official reserves of gold that are held in the custody of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY). Both (1) and (2) are estimated via BOP adjustments.²¹ For (1), the BOP adjustment value is the sum of exports and imports recorded in three end-use commodities in the Census-basis data, including nonmonetary gold, numismatic coins (gold-related only), and finished metal shapes of gold.²² For (2), transactions are not captured in the Census-basis data and, therefore, must be added to goods exports and imports through a BOP adjustment based on information from the FRBNY. Gold that is purchased by foreign official agencies, such as a foreign central bank, from private entities in the United States and is shipped to the FRBNY for storage is recorded as an export. Similarly, gold that is purchased by private entities in the United States from foreign official agencies out of stock held at the FRBNY is recorded as an import.

Goods, Census basis

- 11.19. Exports consist of shipments of domestic and foreign goods by U.S. residents to foreign residents, involving both commercial and noncommercial transactions; shipments can be from within the U.S. Customs territory or from a U.S. Customs bonded warehouse or a U.S. Foreign Trade Zone. Domestic exports consist of commodities grown, produced, or manufactured in the United States and commodities of foreign origin that have been changed in form or enhanced in value in the United States. Exports of foreign goods consist of commodities of foreign origin that are substantially in the same condition when exported as when initially imported into the United States. Exports of foreign goods are often referred to as reexports.
- 11.20. Imports consist of shipments of foreign goods and goods of U.S. origin by foreign residents to U.S. residents, involving both commercial and noncommercial transactions. Goods of U.S. origin include U.S. goods returned and reimports. U.S. goods returned consist of commodities that are not accepted by the foreign purchaser because of problems such as damage, defects, and incorrect shipments. Reimports consist of commodities of U.S. origin that are substantially in the same condition when imported as when initially exported from the United States.

20. Transactions and positions in monetary gold are discussed in chapters 19 and 27 of this volume.

21. See paragraphs 11.32 and 11.33 (exports) and 11.44 and 11.45 (imports) for more information on these BOP adjustments.

22. The end-use classification for goods in the Census-basis data is based on the principal use of the goods, rather than on physical characteristics. As such, the end-use commodity ‘nonmonetary gold’ includes nonmonetary gold in unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms and excludes gold in more advanced, manufactured forms. Gold in more manufactured forms is captured in the commodities numismatic coins and finished metal shapes.

Valuation

- 11.21. Exports are valued on a free alongside ship (F.A.S.) basis at the U.S. port of export. The value of exports at the U.S. port of export is based on the transaction price, including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in placing the goods alongside the carrier at the U.S. port of export. The value, as defined, excludes the cost of loading the goods aboard the exporting carrier and excludes freight, insurance, and charges or transportation costs beyond the U.S. port of export. Freight, insurance, and charges beyond the U.S. port of export are assumed to be incurred by the foreign importer.
- 11.22. Imports are valued on a customs-value basis at the foreign port of export. The customs value is the value of imports as appraised by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in accordance with the legal requirements of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. The value is generally defined as the price actually paid or payable for goods at the foreign port of export, excluding U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the goods to the United States. Freight, insurance, and charges beyond the foreign port of export are assumed to be incurred by the U.S. importer.
- 11.23. The valuations of exports on an F.A.S. basis and of imports on a customs value basis differ slightly from the free on board (F.O.B.) valuation recommended in *BPM6*. On an F.O.B. basis, the valuation would include the loading cost of placing the goods onto the shipping carrier. BEA's statistics on goods exclude this loading cost because it is not captured in source data from the Census Bureau.

Classification

- 11.24. Exports and imports are organized under several different commodity classification systems, including the Harmonized System and the end-use system. BEA's International Economic Accounts and National Economic Accounts primarily use the end-use classification system, which was created by the Balance of Payments Division of the former Office of Business Economics (BEA's predecessor) to make it easier to relate changes in goods trade to changes in production and in consumption. The end-use classification system is based on the principal use rather than the physical characteristics of the merchandise and allows changes in trade to be compared with changes in production, consumption, and income.
- 11.25. The end-use classification system is based on the Harmonized System, which is an internationally accepted standard for the commodity classification of internationally traded goods developed under the auspices of the World Customs Organization. The Harmonized System organizes transactions by the physical nature of commodities and their stage of processing rather than their end-use. The current U.S. Harmonized System consists of approximately 9,000 export commodity categories and 19,000 import commodity categories. The Census Bureau publishes concordance files that link the Harmonized System codes to their end-use codes.

- 11.26. The broad end-use categories used by BEA and the Census Bureau are foods, feeds, and beverages; industrial supplies and materials; capital goods except automotive; automotive vehicles, parts, and engines; consumer goods except food and automotive; and “other general merchandise.” Currently, the end-use system includes about 200 subcategories of exports and about 200 subcategories of imports. In ITA table 2.1 “U.S. International Trade in Goods,” some end-use categories are published separately while others may be part of aggregations of detailed subcategories.²³
- 11.27. Exports and imports of goods are also classified by country of residence of the counterparty transactor according to the principles described in chapter 6. See paragraphs 35.10–35.11 for more detail on partner country detail for merchandise trade statistics.

Balance of payments adjustments to Census-basis data

- 11.28. As described above, BEA makes BOP adjustments to the Census-basis data in order to align them with the coverage, valuation, definitions, and concepts used for the International Economic Accounts and the National Economic Accounts. These adjustments are discussed below and adjustments with a material impact on the statistics are also presented in ITA table 2.4, which presents the reconciliation between Census-basis data and balance of payments-basis data. For exports, the largest adjustments are additions for goods procured in U.S. ports by foreign ocean and air carriers. For imports, the largest adjustments are additions for inland freight in Canada and Mexico and additions for goods procured in foreign ports by U.S. carriers.

Export adjustments

- 11.29. An addition is made for goods procured in U.S. ports by foreign ocean and air carriers. At this time, these purchases are limited to fuel, which are not included in the Census-basis data described above. Estimates are based on a supplemental report provided by the Census Bureau, on BEA’s surveys of international transactions in transport services, and on data from IHS Markit.
- 11.30. An addition is made for the net value of goods under merchanting. This value reflects the net value of goods that are purchased and subsequently sold abroad without the goods entering the United States. Because these goods do not cross the U.S. customs boundary, their value is not recorded in the Census-basis data. This adjustment is based on BEA’s surveys of international transactions in selected services and intellectual property.
- 11.31. An addition is made for personal parcels shipped via the U.S. Postal Service because Census-basis data do not cover these items. The adjustment is based on a survey of postal operations and estimates by BEA. The offsetting entry to these items is included as part of other private transfer payments in secondary income.

23. For additional information, including a complete listing of end-use code descriptions and a crosswalk between end-use categories and the categories shown in ITA Table 2.1, see [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis End-Use Codes: A Primer](#).

- 11.32. A reallocation, consisting of two offsetting BOP adjustments, is made to align the Census-basis data on exports of nonmonetary gold with BOP concepts, definitions, and components, which include trade in nonmonetary gold as a major component of goods. A deduction is made to exclude Census-basis exports from general merchandise trade in the ITAs for three end-use commodities, nonmonetary gold (in unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms), gold-related numismatic coins, and finished metal shapes of gold. An offsetting addition is made to the nonmonetary gold component of goods in the ITAs to add these values. The net effect of this reallocation to total goods exports in the ITAs is zero. These adjustments are based on the Census-basis data.
- 11.33. An addition is made for nonmonetary gold not included in the Census-basis data. This involves gold that is purchased by foreign official agencies and is shipped to the FRBNY where it is held in custody for foreign official accounts. No export documents are filed for this gold transaction. This adjustment is based on the monthly average of daily fixings of London gold prices and on data provided by the FRBNY.
- 11.34. A reallocation is made for undocumented exports to Canada, which reflects an estimate for late arrivals and corrections to U.S. exports to Canada based on the U.S.-Canada Data Exchange. The reallocation is made to attribute the late arrivals and corrections to more detailed five-digit end-use categories for use in the ITAs and the National Income and Product Accounts. An adjustment is made to deduct the value from the Census-Basis category undocumented exports to Canada. Offsetting additions are made to several other five-digit end-use codes based on historical ratios. During the subsequent annual update, the undocumented exports to Canada estimate is replaced with actual transactions reported on the Harmonized System classification and the balance of payments adjustment is removed. The net effect of this reallocation to total goods exports is zero. This adjustment is based on data provided by Statistics Canada.
- 11.35. An addition is made for electric energy supplied to Mexico. The adjustment is based on data from the United Nations International Trade Statistics Database (UN Comtrade).
- 11.36. An addition is made for the transfer of military goods through grant programs such as the Presidential Drawdown Authority. The adjustment is based on data from the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense.
- 11.37. An addition is made to raise the value of recorded smart cards to their full market value from the value of the media—that is, the value of the blank or unrecorded smart cards. This adjustment is based on Census-basis data and is applied beginning with statistics for 2009.
- 11.38. A deduction is made for the value of nonwarranty repairs and alterations of foreign-owned equipment repaired or altered in the United States and subsequently exported. The value of these repairs is combined with data on equipment repairs from BEA's surveys of international transactions in selected services and intellectual property and included in services exports in "maintenance and repair services n.i.e." (not included elsewhere). This adjustment is based on Census-basis data.

- 11.39. A deduction is made for exports of exposed motion picture film for sale or rent which are already included in services exports in “personal, cultural, and recreational services.” This adjustment is based on Census-basis data.
- 11.40. A deduction is made for U.S.-owned grain shipped for storage in Canada and an addition is made for subsequent delivery of U.S.-owned grain from Canadian warehouses to third countries. The net effect of these adjustments to total goods exports is zero. These adjustments are based on Census-basis data.

Import adjustments

- 11.41. An addition is made for goods procured in foreign ports by U.S. ocean and air carriers. At this time, these purchases are limited to fuel, which are not included in the Census-basis data. Estimates are based on a supplemental report provided by the Census Bureau, on BEA’s surveys of international transactions in transport services, and on data from IHS Markit.
- 11.42. An addition is made for the value of goods purchased abroad by U.S. military agencies, which is reported to BEA by the Department of Defense. The Census-basis data only include imports of goods by U.S. military agencies that enter the U.S. customs territory.
- 11.43. An addition is made for locomotives and railcars imported from Canada and Mexico, which are not reported on U.S. CBP import declarations. The adjustment is based on data from Statistics Canada and UN Comtrade.
- 11.44. A reallocation, consisting of two offsetting BOP adjustments, is made for nonmonetary gold included in the Census-basis data to align with a BOP-basis. A deduction is made to exclude from general merchandise imports the value of Census-basis commodities of nonmonetary gold (in unwrought or in semi-manufactured forms), gold-related numismatic coins, and finished metal shapes of gold. An addition is made to the nonmonetary gold component of goods imports in the ITAs. The net effect of this reallocation to total goods imports is zero. This adjustment is based on Census-basis data.
- 11.45. An addition is made for nonmonetary gold not included in Census-basis data. This involves gold that is sold by foreign official agencies to private purchasers out of stock held at the FRBNY. No import documents are filed for this gold. This adjustment is based on the average of daily fixings of London gold prices and data provided by the FRBNY.
- 11.46. An addition is made for the value of electric energy imported from Mexico. This adjustment is based on data from UN Comtrade.
- 11.47. An addition is made to raise the value of selected noncustomized computer software to its full market value from the value of the medium (such as CDs, DVDs, and smart cards) on which it is placed, which is the value reported on CBP import declarations.

- 11.48. An addition is made for U.S. air carriers' purchases of foreign-manufactured aircraft delivered outside the United States, which are not reported on CBP import declarations. The adjustment is based on delivery information from Airbus SE and Planespotters.net and on Census Bureau data on imports of aircraft.
- 11.49. An addition is made for inland freight charges to transport goods from their point of origin in Canada and in Mexico to the U.S. customs boundary. Imports of goods from all countries should be valued at the customs value—that is, the value at the foreign port of export including inland freight charges. For imports from Canada and Mexico, this should be the cost of the goods at the U.S. border. However, the customs value for imports for certain Canadian and Mexican goods is at the point of origin in Canada or Mexico. BEA makes an addition for the inland freight charges of transporting these goods to the U.S. border to make the value comparable to the customs value reported for imports from other countries. The adjustment is based on Census-basis data.
- 11.50. A deduction is made for the value of nonwarranty repairs and alterations of U.S.-owned equipment repaired or altered abroad and subsequently imported into the United States. The value of these repairs is combined with data on equipment repairs from BEA's surveys of international transactions in selected services and intellectual property and included in services imports in "maintenance and repair services n.i.e." This adjustment is based on Census-basis data.
- 11.51. A deduction is made for imports of exposed movie film for sale or rent, which are already included in services imports in "personal, cultural, and recreational services." This adjustment is based on Census-basis data.
- 11.52. A deduction is made for the value of repairs performed abroad on U.S.-owned vessels included in Census-basis data. These transactions are already included in services imports in "transport." This adjustment is based on Census-basis data.

Chapter 12. Current-Account Services

Concepts and coverage

- 12.1. Services transactions reflect productive activities that change the condition of the consumer or that facilitate the exchange of products and financial assets. Services transactions also include most knowledge-capturing products. (See paragraphs 9.3–9.5 for more on the distinction between goods and services and on knowledge-capturing products.) In the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs), certain service types include the value of goods because of the difficulty of clearly distinguishing between goods and services transactions or because information is not available for the goods transactions incidental to some types of services to be assigned to the relevant goods categories.
- 12.2. Services can be provided to international markets by one of four modes of supply identified in the World Trade Organization's General Agreement on Trade in Services. Modes of supply are discussed in chapter 34. Services covered in the ITAs mostly correspond to services provided by the modes of cross-border supply, consumption abroad, and the presence of natural persons, specifically services suppliers. The supply of services via the mode of commercial presence, such as by the affiliates of multinational enterprises, is mostly excluded from the ITAs. See chapters 28, 31, and 34 for more information on the mode of commercial presence and on services supplied through affiliates.
- 12.3. Services are classified in the ITAs into 12 broad categories that correspond to standard components in the International Monetary Fund's sixth edition of the *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6)* classification scheme. These broad categories are further classified into subcategories. The services categories and subcategories are presented in ITA table 3.1 and shown in table 12.a below. Detail by type of service and by partner country in the annual international services statistics exceeds that in the quarterly ITAs (see chapter 31); detail in the quarterly ITAs exceeds that in the monthly trade in goods and services statistics (see chapter 30).

**Table 12.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions
Accounts Table 3.1. U.S. International Trade in Services**

Line	Exports	Line	Imports
1	Exports of services	55	Imports of services
2	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others	56	Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others
3	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.	57	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.
4	Transport	58	Transport
5	Sea transport	59	Sea transport
6	Freight	60	Freight
7	Port	61	Port
8	Air transport	62	Air transport
9	Passenger	63	Passenger
10	Freight	64	Freight
11	Port	65	Port
12	Other modes of transport	66	Other modes of transport
13	Travel (for all purposes including education)	67	Travel (for all purposes including education)
14	Business	68	Business
15	Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers	69	Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers
16	Other business travel	70	Other business travel
17	Personal	71	Personal
18	Health related	72	Health related
19	Education related	73	Education related
20	Other personal travel	74	Other personal travel
21	Construction	75	Construction
22	Construction abroad	76	Construction in the United States
23	Foreign contractors' expenditures in the United States	77	United States contractors' expenditures abroad
24	Insurance services	78	Insurance services
25	Direct insurance	79	Direct insurance
26	Reinsurance	80	Reinsurance
27	Auxiliary insurance services	81	Auxiliary insurance services
28	Financial services	82	Financial services
29	Explicitly charged and other financial services	83	Explicitly charged and other financial services
30	Brokerage and market-making services	84	Brokerage and market-making services
31	Underwriting and private placement services	85	Underwriting and private placement services
32	Credit card and other credit-related services	86	Credit card and other credit-related services
33	Financial management services	87	Financial management services
34	Financial advisory and custody services	88	Financial advisory and custody services
35	Securities lending, electronic funds transfer, and other services	89	Securities lending, electronic funds transfer, and other services
36	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured	90	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured

Table continues

Line	Exports	Line	Imports
37	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	91	Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.
38	Franchises and trademarks licensing fees	92	Franchises and trademarks licensing fees
39	Licenses for the use of outcomes of research and development	93	Licenses for the use of outcomes of research and development
40	Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software	94	Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software
41	Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual products	95	Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual products
42	Telecommunications, computer, and information services	96	Telecommunications, computer, and information services
43	Telecommunications services	97	Telecommunications services
44	Computer services	98	Computer services
45	Information services	99	Information services
46	Other business services	100	Other business services
47	Research and development services	101	Research and development services
48	Professional and management consulting services	102	Professional and management consulting services
49	Technical, trade-related, and other business services	103	Technical, trade-related, and other business services
50	Personal, cultural, and recreational services	104	Personal, cultural, and recreational services
51	Audiovisual services	105	Audiovisual services
52	Artistic-related services	106	Artistic-related services
53	Other personal, cultural, and recreational services	107	Other personal, cultural, and recreational services
54	Government goods and services n.i.e.	108	Government goods and services n.i.e.

Line	Balances
109	Balance on services
Line	Supplemental detail on insurance transactions
110	Premiums received
111	Losses paid
112	Premiums paid
113	Losses recovered
n.i.e.	Not included elsewhere

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- 12.4. In some cases, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis provides detail beyond the *BPM6* standard components that correspond with the Extended Balance of Payments (EBOPS) classification system published in the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010*. Both the *BPM6* and EBOPS classification systems are mainly product-based—that is, they are based on the type of service rather than on the industry or entity that provides or purchases the service. However, classifications are transactor-based for travel, for construction, and for government goods and services n.i.e. (not included elsewhere).

Departures from BPM6

- 12.5. The coverage and presentation of services differ in some ways from *BPM6* recommendations. One major gap stems from not yet providing estimates of “manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others,” a specific form of contract manufacturing. At present, BEA’s statistics show “n.a.” (not available) for this major services component. In addition, BEA’s goods statistics impute a change in ownership to physical inputs and processed goods related to such manufacturing services when they enter or leave the United States but do not recognize a change in ownership when such items are sold to or purchased from foreigners without physically crossing the U.S. border. Under *BPM6* recommendations, processing by a manufacturer that does not own the physical inputs or the resulting goods outputs should be recorded as manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others. Trade in the physical inputs and finished goods associated with these manufacturing services should be recorded in accordance with actual changes in ownership, which is different from what is reflected in shipments of goods entering or leaving the United States. (See paragraphs 11.3–11.7 for more information on the discrepancy between BEA’s treatment of goods associated with manufacturing services and the *BPM6* recommendations.)
- 12.6. Currently, detailed information on the processing fees received and paid by U.S. firms for manufacturing services and on the underlying goods transactions either is not available in the U.S. statistical system or is not identifiable in any of the source data. Nevertheless, transactions associated with manufacturing services are partly included in the U.S. International Economic Accounts because (1) a portion of these services is included in the value of goods exports and imports and (2) some manufacturing services are collected on BEA’s surveys of transactions in selected services and intellectual property and are included in statistics on technical, trade-related, and other business services. However, the manufacturing services portion included in the value of goods exports and imports cannot be separately identified. Despite these challenges, BEA continues to conduct research to determine feasible approaches for implementing this treatment.
- 12.7. In addition, BEA’s “insurance services” category differs from the *BPM6* standard component “insurance and pension services” because of a lack of source data for pension services.

Data sources

- 12.8. BEA uses a variety of data sources to estimate services exports and imports. These sources are listed in table 12.b. The remainder of the section provides additional detail on one of the sources—BEA survey data.

Table 12.b. Sources of Data for Current-Account Services

Source	Use	Note
BEA quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on international trade in services	Transport; construction; insurance services; financial services; charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.; telecommunications, computer, and information services; other business services; and personal, cultural, and recreational services	See paragraphs 12.9–12.23 for details on these surveys. See chapter 3 for general information on BEA surveys.
ARC	Air passenger transport	ARC, a company that offers ticket transaction settlement services between airlines and those that sell their products in the United States (including both traditional and online travel agencies), prepares ticket-level data on the travel patterns and fares of air passengers on foreign carriers.
AM Best Company—Best Aggregates and Averages: Property/Casualty	Insurance services	
Bank of Mexico and National Institute of Statistics and Geography	Travel (trade with Mexico)	
ECFMG	Education-related travel	ECFMG prepares data on the number of U.S. certification exams that it administers to international medical graduates.
Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council	Financial services	
IHS Markit	Sea freight and sea port transport	IHS Markit is a private source that prepares data on ocean vessels, including the operating company, the operating company's country of registration, and the flag of the vessel.
Institute of International Education, Open Doors report	Education-related travel	The Open Doors report features data on study-abroad programs of U.S. educational institutions.
Partner country data	Financial services	
Statistics Canada	Computer and information services (imports from Canada), travel (trade with Canada), air passenger transport and rail transport (trade with Canada)	

Table continues

Source	Use	Note
Surface Transportation Board	Rail freight transport and rail port transport	
UNESCO, UIS	Education-related travel	UIS prepares data on the number of internationally mobile students.
U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, NTTO, SIAT	Other personal travel, other business travel, and health-related travel	NTTO conducts the SIAT either in the gate area at U.S. international airports or aboard a sample of scheduled flights departing the United States. Data are collected on actual expenditures in the United States by foreign residents as they depart the United States and on anticipated expenditures abroad by departing U.S. residents.
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Air freight data	Air freight transport	The Census Bureau compiles data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection on air freight shipments and adds supplemental information about the air carrier.
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, U.S.-Canada Data Exchange	Maintenance and repair services n.i.e. and freight transport	For statistics on goods exports to Canada, the United States substitutes Canadian statistics on goods imports from the United States in accordance with a 1987 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Census Bureau, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Canada Border Services Agency, and Statistics Canada. Similarly, under this Memorandum of Understanding, Canada substitutes U.S. goods imports from Canada for Canadian goods exports to the United States.
DOD	Government goods and services n.i.e.	DOD provides data on the Foreign Military Sales program and other transfer programs, as well as international military training programs. Military departments each provide data on compensation paid to U.S. personnel stationed abroad, purchases of goods and services supplied to military enclaves, payments to international organizations, and purchases of other goods and services not separately identified. The Defense Commissary Agency and the Military Postal Service Agency each provide data on sales in U.S. enclaves.
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, CBP	Other business travel, other personal travel, health-related travel, air passenger transport, sea freight transport, and sea port transport	CBP collects counts of U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens traveling between the United States and other countries on its Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) and counts of foreign residents visiting the United States on the Arrival-Departure Record Card (Form I-94). In addition to passenger citizenship, the APIS data also include information on the nationality of the carrier and the last (first) foreign port visited for flights entering (leaving) the United States. In addition to passenger residency, the I-94 data also include the passengers' class of admission granting them entry into the United States, which in some cases may indicate the purpose of the trip. The APIS and I-94 data are provided to BEA through NTTO. U.S. exports and imports of goods by water are collected by CBP and provided to BEA through the Census Bureau. Additional data on ocean vessels are provided by CBP directly.

Table continues

Source	Use	Note
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, SEVIS	Education-related travel	SEVIS is a web-based system for maintaining information on nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors in the United States.
U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Expenditure Surveys	Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers (travel)	The Consumer Expenditure Surveys are conducted monthly to collect data on household expenditures.
U.S. Department of State (State Department)	Government goods and services n.i.e.	The State Department provides data on compensation paid to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals working in U.S. enclaves.
U.S. Department of Transportation, BTS	Air passenger transport, air freight transport, air port transport, and truck freight transport	BTS data include (1) ticket-level data from its Origin and Destination Survey on the travel patterns—for example, information on airports, flight connections, and carriers—and fares of air passengers on U.S. carriers; (2) data from its Report of Financial and Operating Statistics for Large Certificated Air Carriers on nonticket expenditures—for example, baggage fees; (3) air freight and air passenger data; and (4) data on the value and freight charges of goods crossing the U.S.-Canadian border by truck.
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration	Space transport	
U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department), TIC system	Financial services	The Treasury Department collects cross-border financial transactions and positions on selected TIC forms. See chapter 3 for general information on the TIC system.
U.S. government agencies	Government goods and services n.i.e.	U.S. government operating agencies submit data quarterly under Office of Management and Budget Statistical Directive No. 19.
OMB	Government goods and services n.i.e.	OMB publishes appropriations data that are used to estimate the delivery of services provided through military grant programs.
U.S. Postal Service	Postal services (transport)	

n.i.e.	Not included elsewhere
ACE	Automated Commercial Environment
ARC	Airlines Reporting Corporation
BEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
ECFMG	Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
NTTO	National Travel and Tourism Office
OMB	U.S. Office of Management and Budget
SEVIS	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
SIAT	Survey of International Air Travelers
TIC	Treasury International Capital
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

BEA survey data

- 12.9. Statistics for several services categories are based largely on data collected on BEA's quarterly, annual, and benchmark services surveys.²⁴ These categories include transport; construction; insurance services; financial services; charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.; telecommunications, computer, and information services; other business services; and personal, cultural, and recreational services. General information on BEA surveys is provided in chapter 3. The surveys used for the services statistics are described in more detail below.

Surveys of transport services

- 12.10. ***Quarterly Survey of Foreign Airline Operators' Revenues and Expenses in the United States (BE-9)***. This survey covers revenues of foreign air carriers for transporting freight to and from the United States, the weight of merchandise transported, expenses incurred in the United States, aircraft leasing expenses, the number of passengers transported to and from the United States, and revenues for transporting passengers to and from the United States. U.S. offices, agents, or other representatives of foreign airline operators that transport passengers or freight and express freight to or from the United States must report all relevant transactions.
- 12.11. ***Annual Survey of Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States (BE-29)***. This survey covers the expenses incurred by foreign ocean carriers in U.S. ports, both those that own and operate vessels and those that operate chartered U.S.-flag and foreign-flag vessels. U.S. agents of foreign ocean carriers must report all relevant transactions on port services provided or obtained by them for foreign carriers and on port services provided by third persons.
- 12.12. ***Quarterly Survey of Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of U.S. Carriers (BE-30)***. This survey covers revenues and expenses of U.S. ocean carriers—both U.S. flagged and foreign flagged—from the transportation of U.S. exports and imports and associated weights, revenues from the transportation of cargo between foreign ports, expenses incurred by U.S. ocean carriers in foreign countries, and charter hires with crew and space-leasing transactions with foreign residents.
- 12.13. ***Quarterly Survey of U.S. Airline Operators' Foreign Revenues and Expenses (BE-37)***. This survey covers U.S. air carriers' revenues for transporting U.S. exports to foreign points and for transporting freight between foreign points, expenses incurred by U.S. airline operators in foreign countries, aircraft leasing expenses, revenues for transporting passengers between foreign points, revenues for transporting passengers to and from the United States, the number of passengers transported to and from the United States, and interline settlements.

24. Benchmark surveys are generally conducted once every 5 years and cover services transactions that occur throughout a specified year. Compared to a corresponding quarterly survey, a benchmark survey covers the full transactions universe and may request additional detail on aspects of selected transactions.

- 12.14. Data from the BE-9, BE-29, BE-30, and BE-37 surveys are used to prepare statistics for transport services.

Surveys of financial services

- 12.15. **Benchmark Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons (BE-180).** This survey covers the universe of U.S. international transactions in explicitly charged financial services between U.S. financial services providers and foreign persons. It collects annual data from U.S. financial services providers on payments to, and receipts from, affiliated and unaffiliated foreign persons for several detailed types of financial services.
- 12.16. **Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons (BE-185).** This survey covers U.S. international transactions in explicitly charged financial services between U.S. financial services providers and foreign persons. It collects data on payments to, and receipts from, affiliated and unaffiliated foreign persons for several detailed types of financial services.
- 12.17. Data from the BE-180 and BE-185 surveys are used to prepare statistics for trade in financial services. The BE-180 benchmark survey collects all of the data items collected on the BE-185 quarterly survey, and it typically collects information on additional aspects of financial services transactions not covered on the quarterly survey. Moreover, it collects data from U.S. financial services providers that do not provide data on the quarterly survey because their annual international financial services transactions fall below specified dollar thresholds.

Surveys of insurance services

- 12.18. **Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons (BE-140).** This survey covers the universe of U.S. international transactions in insurance between U.S. insurance companies and foreign persons. It collects annual data on premiums and losses related to reinsurance and primary insurance along with receipts and payments for auxiliary insurance services.
- 12.19. **Quarterly Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons (BE-45).** This survey covers U.S. international transactions in insurance between U.S. insurance companies and foreign persons. It collects data on premiums and losses related to reinsurance and primary insurance along with receipts and payments for auxiliary insurance services.
- 12.20. Data from the BE-140 and BE-45 surveys are used to prepare statistics for trade in insurance services. The BE-140 benchmark survey collects all of the data items collected on the BE-45 quarterly survey, and it typically collects information on additional aspects of insurance transactions not

covered on the quarterly survey. Moreover, it collects data from U.S. insurance companies that do not provide data on the quarterly survey because their annual international insurance transactions fall below a specified dollar threshold.

Surveys of charges for the use of intellectual property and other selected services

- 12.21. **Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120).** This survey covers the universe of U.S. international transactions in all types of services and intellectual property for which information is not collected on the BEA services surveys discussed previously and is not available to BEA from other sources. The survey collects annual data from U.S. persons who had transactions—receipts and/or payments—with affiliated and unaffiliated foreign persons during the reporting period for a wide variety of business, professional, and technical services. This survey is also filed by U.S. persons that have entered into agreements with affiliated or unaffiliated foreign persons to distribute, buy, sell, or use various types of intellectual property or proprietary rights.
- 12.22. **Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125).** This survey covers U.S. international transactions in the same types of services and intellectual property and proprietary rights as covered on the BE-120 benchmark survey. It is filed by U.S. persons who had transactions—receipts and/or payments—with affiliated and unaffiliated foreign persons during the reporting period in the relevant types of services and intellectual property.
- 12.23. Data from the BE-120 and BE-125 surveys are used to prepare statistics on trade in maintenance and repair services; construction; intellectual property; telecommunications, computer, and information services; other business services; and personal, cultural, and recreational services. These surveys also collect data on payments to foreign residents for insurance and explicitly charged financial services by U.S. persons that are not primarily insurance or financial services providers to ensure complete coverage of these services in BEA's services statistics. The BE-120 benchmark survey collects all of the data items collected on the BE-125 quarterly survey, and it typically collects information on additional aspects of transactions in selected services and intellectual property not covered on the quarterly survey. Moreover, it collects data from U.S. companies that do not provide data on the quarterly survey because their annual covered transactions fall below specified dollar thresholds.

Estimation methods

- 12.24. Estimation methods vary depending on the services component and the estimation period. As described above, for many of the services components, statistics are based on BEA survey data with adjustments for coverage and concepts. Certain components of travel statistics are prepared as the product of the number of travelers and a measure of average expenditure per traveler. Other components are based on government administrative data and other sources.

- 12.25. Definitions and estimation methods for each of the 12 broad services categories published quarterly by BEA are provided below. These categories closely follow but do not always exactly match the *BPM6* standard components for services. Specific departures from *BPM6* are also described below. Services categories are presented in the same order as in ITA table 3.1. Unless otherwise noted, descriptions of methods apply to both exports and imports.

Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others

- 12.26. Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others cover processing, assembly, labeling, packaging, and related services performed by entities that do not own the inputs or outputs of the manufacturing process. The owner of the goods pays the manufacturer a service fee for the processing services. Manufacturing services are recorded regardless of whether the inputs are shipped to the manufacturer by the owner of the inputs or the inputs are purchased by the owner from another company, including companies residing in different countries than the owner. Similarly, these services are recorded regardless of whether the outputs are shipped to the owner or shipped directly to a buyer.
- 12.27. Source data for manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others are collected on BEA surveys, including the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and the Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). The data collected cover the fee received by the manufacturer; neither the value of the physical inputs nor the value of the physical outputs is included. At present, BEA has assessed that the data collected only comprise a partial measure of manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others. Rather than directly publish this partial measure, cell values for this category in published tables are marked as “n.a.” (not available). However, BEA indistinguishably includes the partial measure under “technical, trade-related, and other business services” in the “other business services” major category. BEA continues to evaluate the comprehensiveness of these survey-collected source data. It is also examining the use of indirect methods to estimate manufacturing services and to remove from its trade in goods statistics estimates of physical inputs and processed goods that cross borders without a change in ownership.

Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.

- 12.28. Maintenance and repair services n.i.e (not included elsewhere) cover maintenance and repair services by residents of one country on goods that are owned by residents of another country. The repairs may be performed at the site of the repair facility or elsewhere. Maintenance and repair of ships, aircraft, and other transport equipment are currently included in *transport* because these transactions cannot be separately identified in BEA’s source data for *transport* services. Construction maintenance and repairs, including renovation, repair, or extension of fixed assets in the form of buildings, and repairs of railway facilities, harbors, and airfield facilities are included in *construction*. Computer maintenance and repairs are included in the computer services component of “telecommunications, computer, and information services.”

- 12.29. Statistics for maintenance and repair services are based primarily on BEA survey data and are supplemented by data from the U.S. Census Bureau on the cross-border movement of equipment and other goods for repair and by information from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) on repairs related to the Foreign Military Sales program. The BEA surveys include the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property with Foreign Persons (BE-125) and the Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). The value recorded for maintenance and repair services is the value of the work performed, not the gross value of the goods before or after repair. Service values include parts or materials supplied by the service provider.

Transport

- 12.30. Transport consists of transactions associated with moving people and property from one location to another and includes related supporting and auxiliary services. Transport is classified by mode of transport (sea, air, or other mode) and by what is transported (passengers or freight). Under sea transport and air transport, BEA presents port services, which include cargo handling, storage and warehousing, and “other related transport services.” BEA does not separately present the *BPM6* standard component of postal and courier services.²⁵
- 12.31. The primary sources of information are (1) four mandatory BEA surveys of U.S. and foreign air and ocean carriers; (2) Census Bureau data on U.S. exports and imports of goods by air; (3) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data on ocean vessels, U.S. exports and imports of goods by water, and international air passengers; (4) ticket-level information on international air transport from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS); (5) ticket-level information on international air transport from the Airlines Reporting Corporation (ARC); and (6) IHS Markit data on ocean vessels. Three of the BEA surveys are quarterly (U.S. ocean and air carriers and foreign air carriers) and one is annual (foreign ocean carriers). The Census Bureau data and the CBP data are monthly. The BTS, ARC, and IHS Markit data are quarterly.
- 12.32. Various methods are used to estimate the transactions covered by the components of transport. For some components, the transactions are available from a primary data source, such as a BEA survey. For most components, however, transactions are estimated using multistep methods that include, for example, multiplying the weight of goods transported, which is based on information from the Census Bureau or CBP, by estimates of freight rates derived from BEA surveys.
- 12.33. Freight services are recorded in the U.S. International Economic Accounts when shipping services are performed by the residents of one country for residents of other countries. A key convention in estimating freight services is the assumption that shipping services performed on a country’s goods exports beyond its borders are paid for by the importing country. Thus, freight charges for transporting U.S. exports of goods are included in the U.S. International Economic Accounts as transport

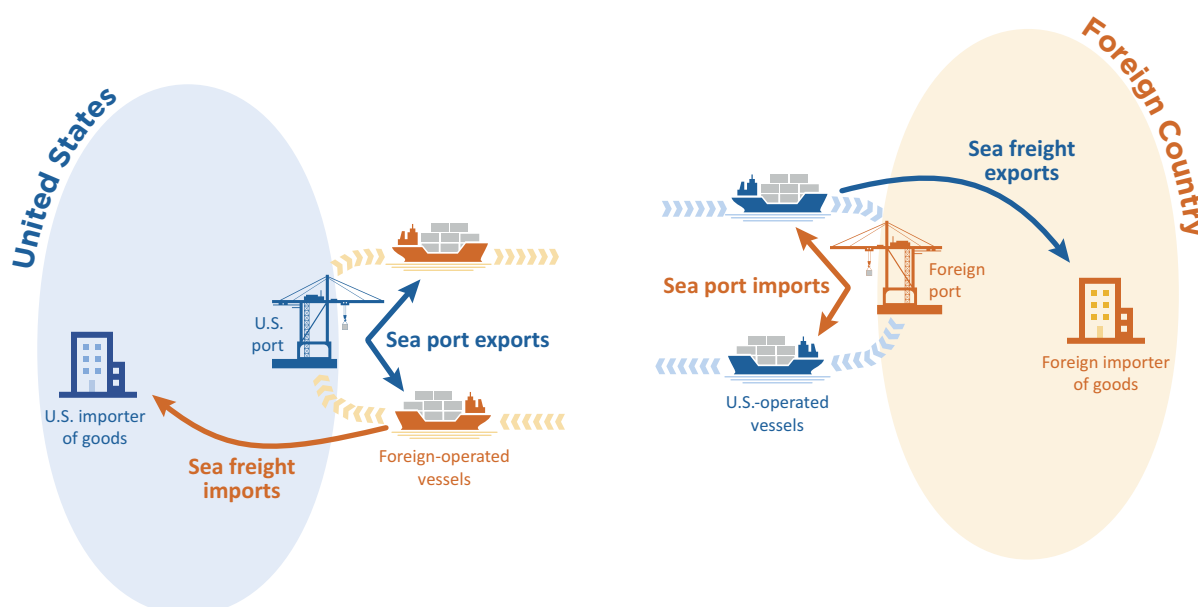
25. In its annual international services statistics, BEA separately presents statistics on postal services under other related transport services.

exports if the carriers are U.S. residents; if the carriers are foreign residents, the charges are excluded because the transactions are deemed to be between foreign residents. Similarly, freight charges for transporting U.S. imports of goods are included in the U.S. International Economic Accounts as transport imports if the carriers are foreign residents; if the carriers are U.S. residents, the charges are excluded because the transactions are deemed to be between U.S. residents.

Sea transport

- 12.34. Sea transport consists of freight services and port services. Freight services exports include receipts of U.S. vessel operators for transporting U.S. goods exports to foreign ports and transporting goods between foreign ports; freight services imports include U.S. payments to foreign vessel operators for transporting U.S. goods imports from foreign ports to U.S. ports (see paragraph 12.33 for an explanation for why BEA does not record freight services exports to U.S.-operated vessels transporting goods imports or freight services imports from foreign-operated vessels transporting goods exports). Freight services also include short-term operating leases of transportation equipment and crew, such as for a single voyage. Port services exports include the value of nonfuel goods and services procured by foreign carriers in U.S. ports; imports include the value of nonfuel goods and services procured by U.S. carriers in foreign ports. Figure 12.a illustrates the combinations of vessel operator (U.S. or foreign) and route direction (inbound or outbound) for which international trade in sea freight and sea port services is recorded.

Figure 12.a. Recording Sea Transport Services



A key convention in estimating freight services is the assumption that shipping services beyond the customs frontier of the exporting country are paid for by the importer. BEA therefore records sea freight services exports for U.S.-operated vessels transporting goods exports, but not goods imports, and sea freight services imports for foreign-operated vessels transporting goods imports, but not goods exports. In contrast, BEA records sea port exports for services provided in U.S. ports to foreign-operated vessels transporting both goods exports and goods imports and sea port imports for services received in foreign ports by U.S.-operated vessels transporting both goods exports and goods imports.

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- 12.35. Consistent with *BPM6* guidelines, purchases of fuel in ports are excluded from transport and included in exports and imports of goods. However, BEA's statistics on port services depart from *BPM6* guidelines by their inclusion of transactions in nonfuel goods procured in ports. They also depart by including the value of vessel repairs—which *BPM6* recommends be classified in maintenance and repair, n.i.e.—and the value of certain personnel expenses—which are recommended to be included in primary income as compensation of employees or in business travel services.
- 12.36. **Sea freight.** Sea freight services statistics are primarily based on CBP data on ocean vessels and waterborne exports and imports, on IHS Markit data on ocean vessels, and on BEA's Quarterly Survey of Ocean Freight Revenues and Foreign Expenses of U.S. Carriers (BE-30). CBP waterborne data include tonnage and the value of goods transported, including freight and insurance charges on imports. IHS Markit data include information on type of vessel and on residency of the vessel operator. BEA merges these two datasets to identify the type and residency of vessels carrying goods exports and imports. IHS Markit and CBP data cover both U.S.-flag and foreign-flag vessels providing liner, tanker, and tramp services to and from the United States, including transport on the Great Lakes. The BE-30 survey covers U.S. ocean carriers' revenues and tonnage for transporting U.S. exports to foreign points and revenues for transporting freight between foreign points.
- 12.37. Sea freight exports are estimated by multiplying the merged CBP and IHS Markit data on export tonnages carried by U.S.-operated vessels departing a U.S. port for each type of service by the corresponding per-ton freight rates. Freight rates are derived from the merged CBP and IHS Markit data on import freight charges because BEA does not have a data source that contains information on export freight charges. Instead, estimates of outbound freight charges on U.S. vessels are statistically modeled using data on inbound freight charges on U.S. vessels. An estimate of insurance charges is removed from these estimates of freight charges because such receipts are covered by BEA's source data for insurance services. Sea freight exports also include receipts of U.S.-operated vessels from foreign residents for carrying goods between foreign ports and for operating leases of transportation equipment with crew for limited periods of time (such as a single voyage) for the carriage of freight and passengers. These receipts are reported on the BE-30 survey.
- 12.38. Sea freight imports are estimated by summing the merged CBP and IHS Markit data on import freight charges, which include insurance, received by foreign-operated vessels arriving at a U.S. port. As with sea freight exports, an estimate of insurance charges is removed from these data. Sea freight imports also include payments of U.S.-operated vessels to foreign residents for operating leases of transportation equipment with crew for limited periods of time (such as a single voyage) for the carriage of freight and passengers. These payments are reported on the BE-30 survey.
- 12.39. **Sea port.** Sea port services statistics are based on BEA's Annual Survey of Foreign Ocean Carriers' Expenses in the United States (BE-29), the BE-30 survey, CBP data on ocean vessels and U.S. waterborne exports and imports, and IHS Markit data on ocean vessels. The BE-29 survey covers the expenses incurred by foreign ocean carriers in U.S. ports. These carriers include foreign affiliates of U.S. companies that operate vessels for their own accounts. The BE-30 survey covers the

expenses incurred by U.S. ocean carriers in foreign ports. BEA merges the CBP and IHS Markit data to provide U.S. export and import tonnage by residency of the vessel operator and by type of service (liner, tanker, and tramp) transported to and from the United States, including transport on the Great Lakes.

- 12.40. Sea port exports are estimated by multiplying the merged CBP and IHS Markit data on export and import tonnages carried by foreign-operated vessels for each type of service by the corresponding per-ton port expense rates derived from the BE-29 survey. Sea port imports are estimated by multiplying the merged CBP and IHS Markit data on export and import tonnages carried by U.S.-operated vessels for each type of service by the corresponding per-ton port expense rates derived from the BE-30 survey.

Air transport

- 12.41. Air transport consists of “passenger,” “freight,” and “port” services. Air passenger services cover the transport of nonresidents by U.S. air carriers between the United States and foreign countries and between two foreign points (exports), and the transport of U.S. residents by foreign air carriers between the United States and foreign countries and between two foreign points (imports). Air freight services exports cover the transport by U.S. air carriers of U.S. goods exports from the United States to foreign points and the transport of goods between two foreign points. Imports cover the transport by foreign air carriers of U.S. goods imports from foreign countries to U.S. points. Port services include the value of nonfuel goods and services procured by foreign air carriers in U.S. ports (exports) and by U.S. air carriers in foreign ports (imports).
- 12.42. Consistent with *BPM6* guidelines, purchases of fuel in ports are excluded from transport and included in goods exports and imports. However, BEA’s statistics on port services depart from *BPM6* guidelines by their inclusion of transactions in nonfuel goods procured in ports. They also depart by including the value of vessel repairs—which *BPM6* recommends be classified in maintenance and repair, n.i.e.—and the value of certain personnel expenses—which are recommended to be included in primary income as compensation of employees or in business travel services.
- 12.43. **Air passenger.** Air passenger services statistics are compiled separately for Canada and for all other countries. For countries other than Canada, BEA multiplies counts of foreign passengers transported by U.S. carriers and U.S. passengers transported by foreign carriers by estimates of average air fares. Counts of passengers are from the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), collected by CBP. Average fares for exports are based on the BTS Origin and Destination Survey. Average fares for imports are based on data from ARC. The BTS and ARC provide ticket-level samples of flights operated, respectively, by U.S. and foreign air carriers. Along with calculating average fares, BEA uses these data to link foreign travelers flying on U.S. carriers to individual countries of residence and to link U.S. travelers with the nationality of the carriers operating their flights. For travel to and from Canada, BEA uses data provided by Statistics Canada.

- 12.44. Air passenger services also include ancillary fees, or nonticket expenditures by passengers, such as baggage fees and reservation fees. Estimates for these transactions are based on data from BTS.
- 12.45. **Air freight.** Air freight statistics are based primarily on BEA's Quarterly Survey of U.S. Airline Operators' Foreign Revenues and Expenses (BE-37) and the Census Bureau's monthly data on exports and imports of goods by air. The BE-37 survey covers U.S. air carriers' revenues for transporting U.S. exports to foreign points and for transporting freight between foreign points. The Census Bureau air freight data provide export tonnage and import freight and insurance charges by residence of operator.
- 12.46. Air freight exports are estimated based on the revenue data reported on the BE-37 survey. BEA uses ratios derived from freight export weight by country of destination reported by U.S. airlines on BTS Airline Passenger and Freight Traffic Form (T-100) to distribute total U.S. air carriers' revenues to each of the ITA geographic areas. Air freight imports are estimated by summing Census Bureau data on import freight and insurance charges received by foreign air carriers. Insurance payments are estimated as a share of these charges and then removed because these transactions are covered by BEA's source data for "insurance services."
- 12.47. **Air port.** Air port services statistics are based on BEA's Quarterly Survey of Foreign Airline Operators' Revenues and Expenses in the United States (BE-9) and the quarterly BE-37 survey. Air port exports are estimated based on reported data from the BE-9 survey, which covers the expenses incurred by foreign air carriers in the United States. Air port imports are estimated based on reported data from the BE-37 survey, which covers the expenses of U.S. air carriers in foreign countries.

Other modes of transport

- 12.48. Other modes of transport include postal services, port services for rail, and freight services performed by truck, rail, pipeline, and in space. Statistics for each of these modes are derived using a variety of sources and methods.
- 12.49. Postal service exports represent revenues of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) for the transportation of foreign mail. Imports represent the payments of the USPS to foreign residents for the transportation of U.S. mail. The source for data on these transactions is the USPS.
- 12.50. Truck freight services exports consist of revenues of U.S. truck carriers for transporting U.S. exports from the U.S.-Canadian border to points in Canada and for transporting U.S. imports from points in Canada to the U.S.-Canadian border. Imports consist of revenues of Canadian truck carriers for transporting U.S. exports from points inside the United States to the U.S.-Canadian border and for transporting U.S. imports from the U.S.-Canadian border to points inside the United States. Small adjustments are made to account for U.S. and Canadian carriers' receipts for cabotage and landbridge-type activities. Sources consist primarily of data from the BTS and private sources.

Truck freight services with Mexico are not measured because these transactions are negligible due to restrictions on the operation of Mexican trucks in the United States and vice versa beyond the commercial zones located near the border.

- 12.51. Rail freight services exports represent revenues of U.S. rail carriers for transporting (1) U.S. exports from the U.S. customs frontier to interior destinations or to other rail connections in Canada, (2) goods within Canada transported on the U.S. rail carriers' leased trackage in Canada, and (3) foreign-owned goods through the United States en route to another foreign country. Imports represent revenues of Canadian rail carriers for transporting U.S. imports from third countries through Canada and U.S. goods through Canada en route from one U.S. point to another. Rail port services represent the expenditures by Canadian rail carriers in the United States (exports) and by U.S. rail carriers in Canada (imports). Sources include the Surface Transportation Board and Statistics Canada.
- 12.52. Space transport exports represent revenues of U.S. launch service providers for launching foreign-owned satellites into space. Imports represent revenues of foreign launch service providers for launching U.S.-owned satellites into space. Sources include the Federal Aviation Administration and industry reports.
- 12.53. Pipeline freight exports represent revenues of U.S.-incorporated affiliates of Canadian pipeline companies for transporting oil and gas, unloaded from tankers in Portland, Maine, to destinations in Canada. Transportation of oil en route from one Canadian point to another through pipelines across the United States is also included. Data come from the U.S. affiliates of Canadian companies that provide such services.

Travel (for all purposes including education)

- 12.54. Travel consists of transactions involving goods and services acquired by nonresidents while visiting another country. A traveler is defined as a person who stays, or intends to stay, for less than one year in a country of which the traveler is not a resident or a nonresident whose purpose is to obtain education or medical treatment, no matter how long the stay. Travel is a transactor-based component that covers a variety of goods and services, primarily lodging, meals, transportation in the country of travel, entertainment, and gifts. Travel excludes goods for resale, which are included in goods under "general merchandise." Air passenger service for travel between the United States and other countries and between foreign countries is included in transport.
- 12.55. Travel is further classified between "business travel" and "personal travel." Business travel covers goods and services acquired by persons whose primary purpose for travel is for business. It includes goods and services for which business travelers are reimbursed by their employers. BEA breaks down business travel into (1) expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term

workers and (2) other business travel. Personal travel covers travel for all nonbusiness purposes. BEA breaks down personal travel into (1) health-related, (2) education-related, and (3) other personal travel.

- 12.56. Because of limits on source data, certain travel statistics for exports to and imports from Canada and Mexico are prepared differently than for other countries. Statistics for other business travel and other personal travel for Canada are based on data provided by Statistics Canada and for Mexico are based on data provided by the Bank of Mexico and the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, Mexico's national statistical agency. Statistics for health-related travel for Canada and Mexico are calculated by multiplying ratios of health-related travel to other business travel and other personal travel for other countries by estimates of other business travel and other personal travel for Canada and Mexico.

Business travel

- 12.57. **Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers.** Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers cover the expenditures on goods and services by foreign residents who commute to work in the United States, by other foreign workers temporarily employed in the United States, and by U.S. residents employed temporarily abroad. Statistics are based on the earnings of these workers, which are included in primary income under “compensation of employees” (see paragraphs 13.59–13.70), and on information from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Expenditure Surveys, which BEA uses to estimate the portion of earnings spent.
- 12.58. **Other business travel.** “Other business travel” is estimated as one component of “other business and other personal travel,” an unpublished subaggregate measure of travel that excludes expenditures by travelers whose primary purpose for travel is education or health and expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers. The total value of “other business and other personal travel” is estimated by multiplying the number of travelers by a measure of their average expenditures.
- 12.59. Numbers of travelers are collected by CBP. For travel exports, the numbers of travelers are counts of I-94 international visitor arrivals, by country of residence. These counts exclude foreign visitors who are admitted for purposes not relevant to “other business and other personal travel,” such as education, short-term work, or official travel by diplomats, consular staff, or military personnel.²⁶ BEA adjusts these counts to remove estimates of health-related travelers. For travel imports, the numbers of travelers are counts of U.S. citizens on passenger manifests for flights departing the United States for foreign destinations, as reported to CBP via the APIS. Counts of outbound U.S. travelers are provided to BEA by the country of U.S. travelers' flights' initial destination outside the United States. BEA makes adjustments to remove estimates of health- and education-related

26. The counts also exclude certain visitors who are in-scope for other business travel but are omitted because of data limitations: (1) travelers on official government travel that is nondiplomatic in nature are excluded because such travelers cannot be identified separately in the source data from those on diplomatic travel or those covered by BEA's estimates of expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers and (2) members of carrier crews stopping off or laying over are excluded because BEA's estimates of average expenditure are thought to not be representative of their spending.

travelers. These counts are allocated to the countries of the travelers' ultimate destinations based on relationships observed in data from the Survey of International Air Travelers (SIAT), conducted by the National Travel and Tourism Office.

- 12.60. Baseline average expenditures by country of residency of foreign travelers and country of main destination of U.S. travelers are estimated from expenditures reported on the SIAT. For countries with smaller sample sizes, baseline expenditures are calculated by averaging reported expenditures over time or across geographic regions. Baseline average expenditures are then smoothed to limit the influence of data variability introduced by small sample sizes and survey sample outliers using a moving average of the baseline quarterly estimates and adjusted using supplemental information to account for underreported spending—a characteristic of many expenditure surveys—on the SIAT.
- 12.61. The product of the number of travelers and average expenditures is distributed into other business travel and other personal travel using country-level spending shares estimated using information on the main purpose of travel from the SIAT.

Personal travel

- 12.62. **Health-related travel.** Health-related travel includes expenditures by those traveling for health reasons—that is, by travelers seeking medical or dental care and procedures outside their country of residence and by travelers accompanying them on those trips. It is not limited to only medical expenditures, but it excludes medical (and other) expenditures by those traveling for reasons other than health. Estimates of health-related travel are based on SIAT data on expenditures by travelers traveling for health reasons and on the numbers of travelers data from CBP. SIAT data are used to calculate average spending by those traveling for health reasons and the share of travelers that travel for health reasons. These estimates are multiplied by the number of travelers. SIAT source data on travel for health reasons are sparse, so long-term averages are used to smooth health-related travel estimates, both at the aggregate level and, more so, at the country level.
- 12.63. **Education-related travel.** Education-related travel includes all expenditures by travelers whose primary purpose for travel is education, including dependents and other travelers accompanying students. Numbers of travelers for education-related travel exports are based on counts of foreign students in the United States from the U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement's Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). Numbers of travelers for imports are based on counts of U.S. students in study-abroad programs from the Institute of International Education's *Open Doors* report and counts of U.S. students directly enrolled abroad from the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics and other data sources. For certain countries not covered by the UIS counts, numbers of travelers are supplemented with estimated counts of U.S. medical students enrolled abroad based on data from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates on the number of certification examinations it administers or with estimated counts of students directly enrolled abroad based on other data sources. For exports, education-related travelers include individuals enrolled in primary,

secondary, and post-secondary programs at educational institutions in the United States who are not U.S. citizens, immigrants, or refugees; they do not include travelers on education-related visas working in the United States after graduation under optional practical training or similar programs. For imports, education-related travelers exclude individuals enrolled in primary and secondary programs because of a lack of source data.

- 12.64. Foreign students' average expenditures, which are used for calculating exports, are based on data collected by the SEVIS covering tuition, living expenses (including expenses for dependents), and other expenses. The SEVIS data are also used as the basis for estimating average expenditures of U.S. students abroad (for imports), with adjustments to account for differences in price levels, program lengths, and types of expenses encountered by U.S. students abroad compared with foreign students in the United States.
- 12.65. **Other personal travel.** "Other personal travel" is the second component of "other business and other personal travel." See paragraphs 12.58–12.61 for the method used to estimate "other business and other personal travel." The measure of "other personal travel" from the calculation is supplemented with expenditures by travelers on cruises, which are not covered by the primary source data used to estimate "other business and other personal travel." Source data from CBP and from several private sources are used to estimate expenditures by travelers on cruises.

Construction

- 12.66. Construction covers the creation, renovation, repair, or extension of buildings, land improvements, and civil engineering constructions, such as roads and bridges. It also includes management of construction projects. Statistics on construction are presented differently than statistics on other service types. Whereas other service types cover only sales of the service outputs themselves, *BPM6* recommends that construction statistics include measures of local goods and services purchased by construction companies. Under *BPM6* guidelines, construction exports are to be measured as the sum of sales of construction projects abroad by U.S. construction companies and purchases of goods and services from U.S. residents by foreign construction companies for their projects in the United States. Construction imports are to be measured as the sum of sales of construction projects in the United States by foreign companies and purchases of inputs from foreign residents by U.S. construction companies for their projects abroad.
- 12.67. BEA's construction statistics depart from the recommendation in *BPM6* for exports in that source data are unavailable for goods and services acquired in the United States by foreign construction companies for projects in the United States. The statistics also depart by including in imports local wages and salaries along with local purchases of goods and services. *BPM6* recommends that local wages and salaries instead be recorded in primary income as compensation of employees. Finally, the statistics depart from *BPM6* recommendations by subtracting exports of goods by U.S. construction companies for their projects abroad. Under *BPM6* guidelines, no subtraction is made

in construction, but such exports are not included in the goods statistics either since there is no change in ownership. The source data for goods do not allow these exports to be excluded from the goods statistics, so BEA subtracts them from construction to avoid the overcounting of exports.

- 12.68. Statistics for construction are based on data collected on BEA's Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). Data on sales, goods exports, and local expenses are collected from U.S. sellers of construction services; data on purchases are collected from U.S. purchasers of construction services.
- 12.69. Subcategories of BEA's statistics on construction services include "construction abroad" and "foreign contractors' expenditures in the United States." Construction abroad is estimated as U.S. firms' sales less their goods exports for projects abroad. Foreign contractors' expenditures in the United States are shown as "n.a." (not available) because of a lack of source data. Subcategories of BEA's statistics on imports of construction services include "construction in the United States" and "U.S. contractors' expenditures abroad." Construction in the United States is estimated as U.S. firms' purchases of construction services from foreign suppliers. U.S. contractors' expenditures abroad are estimated as U.S. construction firms' local expenses related to projects abroad.

Insurance services

- 12.70. Insurance services include "direct insurance," "reinsurance," and "auxiliary insurance services." Direct insurers and reinsurers provide policyholders financial protection against specified risks (a risk-pooling service) and serve as financial intermediaries by investing technical reserves that are viewed as belonging to policyholders. Direct insurance services include the provision of life insurance (including annuities) and nonlife (property and casualty) insurance. Reinsurance is the provision of insurance to another insurance company to cover risks associated with the purchasing company's policies, either individually or collectively. Both direct insurance and reinsurance services are measured as gross premiums earned less "normal" (expected) losses plus premium supplements; this net measure reflects the margin between the amounts accruing to the companies and the amounts accruing to the policyholders. BEA does not include the *BPM6* component pension services because of a lack of source data.

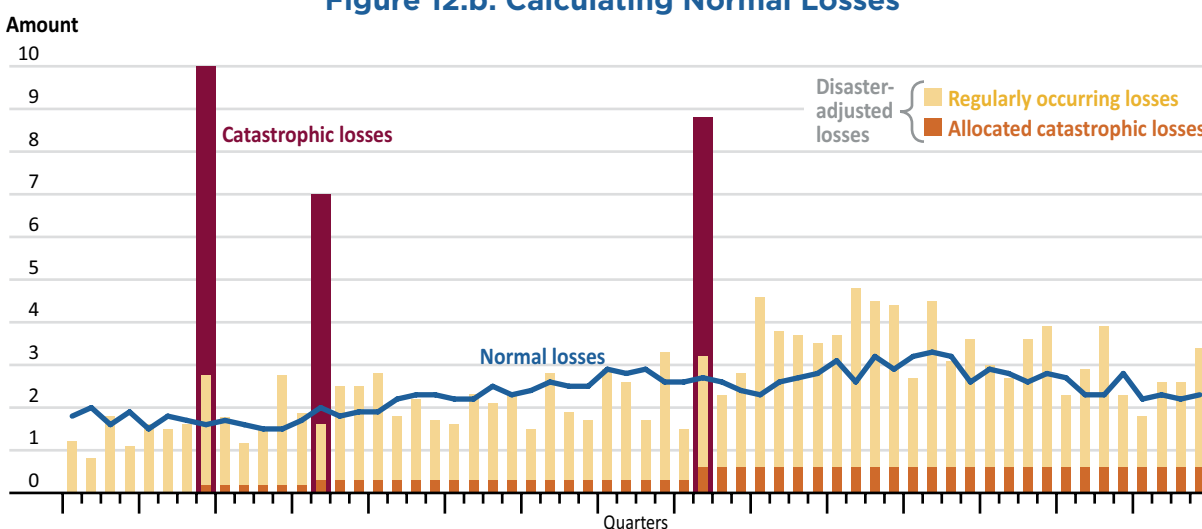
Gross premiums less normal losses

- 12.71. Gross premiums less normal losses represent the bulk of the services provided by direct insurers and reinsurers. Normal losses are a proxy measure for the claims that insurers expect to pay in a given period. The calculation of normal losses is based on reference period premiums and the historical relationship between premiums and actual losses. The use of normal losses is consistent with the notion that insurers' expectations about current and future losses are informed by their historical losses. Premiums less normal losses are used instead of premiums less actual claims paid in a single period because actual claims paid are subject to high volatility and their use could result in an erratic, or even negative, measure of insurance services that would inadequately reflect

long-term insurance output. (The “replacement” of actual claims with normal losses is referred to as an adjustment for claims volatility in paragraphs 14.12, 14.33, and 14.34.) Two types of losses are distinguished: catastrophic losses and regularly occurring losses. Regularly occurring losses are all losses not deemed to be catastrophic. Calculations of normal losses involve the two loss types as described below.

- 12.72. The calculation of normal losses involves several steps (see figure 12.b): (1) add regularly occurring losses and “allocated catastrophic losses” (as described below) to give “disaster-adjusted losses”; (2) divide disaster-adjusted losses by premiums to get a loss ratio; (3) take a moving average over 24 quarters of the loss ratio; and (4) multiply the moving average of the loss ratio by reference-quarter premiums. The result of these four steps is normal losses. In the moving average calculation in step (3), ratios from the reference quarter are excluded from the moving average in order to achieve an ex ante concept of regularly occurring losses.

Figure 12.b. Calculating Normal Losses



Catastrophic losses (■) are spread over 80 quarters, beginning with the quarter in which they occur, to estimate “allocated catastrophic losses” (■).

Regularly occurring losses (■) plus allocated catastrophic losses (■) are equal to “disaster-adjusted losses.”

Normal losses (—) are calculated by multiplying reference-quarter premiums by a 24-quarter moving average of the ratio of disaster-adjusted losses to premiums.

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- 12.73. Catastrophic losses occur at infrequent intervals and are assumed to affect loss expectations over a long period. BEA generally identifies losses as catastrophic when they arise from an event where the total impact, insured and uninsured, is greater than 0.1 percent of annual U.S. gross domestic product. Before using catastrophic losses in the calculation of normal losses, the catastrophic losses are spread and allocated over two decades to give the quantity used in step (1) above using the following process. First, catastrophic losses are spread over the 80 quarters following their

occurrence in equal allotments. Second, for each reference quarter the allotments from each catastrophe that occurred in the 80 quarters prior to the reference quarter are summed to get the total catastrophic loss allotment for the reference quarter.

- 12.74. Ratios of normal losses to premiums are calculated separately for direct insurance and reinsurance and for exports and imports because the ratio of losses-to-premiums tends to be lower for direct insurance than for reinsurance. Reinsurance involves fewer and larger transactions than direct insurance, which involves selling and writing larger numbers of individual policies to customers.

Premium supplements

- 12.75. Premium supplements represent investment income (“gains”) earned on the insurance technical reserves that insurers hold on behalf of policyholders. Insurance companies hold and manage these assets as an integral part of their business. Because the income generated on these assets serves to decrease the premiums that insurance companies charge, BEA treats it as being paid to the policyholders by the insurer, who then pay it back to the insurer as a second means of compensation for the insurance services provided.²⁷ Premium supplements are estimated by multiplying smoothed premiums and a ratio of investment gains to premiums that is based on data from *AM Best’s Aggregates & Averages: Property/Casualty*, an industry report. Investment gains-to-premiums ratios are estimated separately for direct insurance and reinsurance because reinsurers may have different ratios of gains to premiums and may hold larger reserves than direct insurers. Because data necessary to compute the ratio of investment gains to premiums are not available for foreign insurance companies, the ratio for domestic insurance companies is applied to premium payments to estimate premium supplement payments.
- 12.76. Conceptually, calculating premium supplements using the relationship between investment gains and the technical reserves held by insurance enterprises on behalf of policyholders would be preferred to using the relationship between investment gains and premiums. However, BEA does not collect information on technical reserves on its surveys.

Auxiliary insurance services

- 12.77. Services that are auxiliary to insurance are measured separately and include agents’ commissions, insurance brokering and agency services, insurance consulting services, actuarial services, evaluation and adjustment services, salvage administration services, and “other insurance administration services.”

27. In practice, the insurers typically retain the investment income earned from investing policyholders’ technical reserves, so there is no actual flow of funds from insurer to policyholder and back. The notional payment of income to policyholders—the first part of this *as-if* round-trip transaction—is recorded in primary income (see also paragraph 12.80). The notional payment back to the insurer is the premium supplement and is recorded as part of insurance services.

Relationship to other accounts in the ITAs

- 12.78. Normal losses are considered transfers from the policyholders to the insurance company and are recorded in “insurance-related transfers” in secondary income as a current transfer. These transfers represent the portion of premiums that is not accounted for in insurance services. Claims payable (actual losses), except catastrophic losses, are transfers from the insurance company back to the policyholder and are also recorded in insurance-related transfers in secondary income. (For more on the recording of insurance transactions in secondary income see paragraphs 14.33–14.35.)
- 12.79. An exception to this treatment of claims payable is the treatment for catastrophic losses. For catastrophic losses, the full amount of the insured loss is entered as a transfer in the capital account in the quarter in which the event occurs. This treatment is consistent with the treatment of these losses in BEA’s National Income and Product Accounts, and it avoids having the payment affect current economic activity as it would if it were combined with regular losses in current transfers. The treatment also removes a significant source of volatility in the current-account balance. (For more on the recording of catastrophic losses see paragraphs 14.35 and 15.11.)
- 12.80. To account for the investment income on technical reserves that accrues to policyholders and is implicitly paid as premium supplements, an offsetting entry is recorded in primary income. (For more on the recording of primary income attributable to insurance premium supplements, see paragraph 13.52.) Figure 12.c illustrates how premiums, premium supplements, normal losses, and actual losses are recorded in the ITAs.
- 12.81. International guidelines recommend that cross-border transactions in insurance technical reserves should be recorded in the financial account. However, BEA does not include them because insurance-related transactions currently cannot be distinguished from other changes in claims and liabilities reported in BEA’s source data from the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

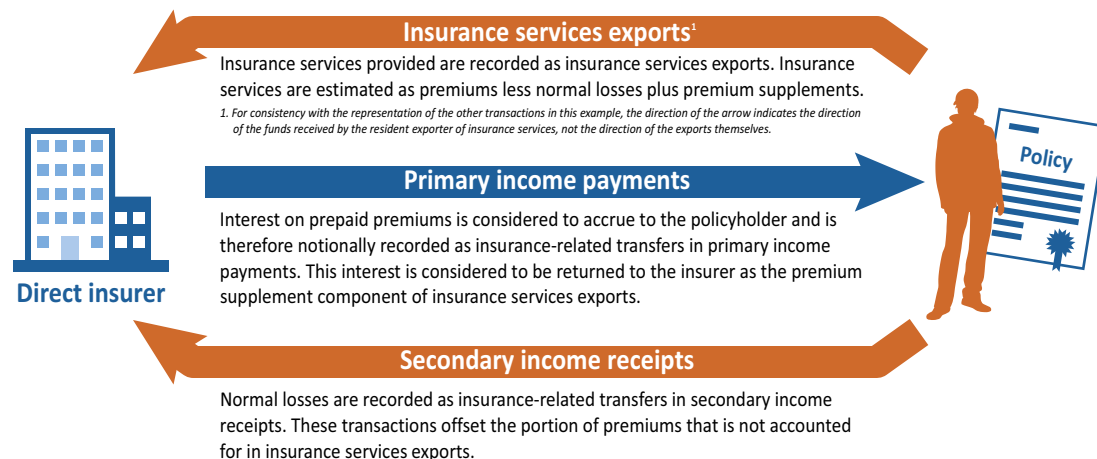
Estimation

- 12.82. The main data source for statistics on insurance services is BEA surveys, which collect data on premiums, losses, and auxiliary insurance services. BEA surveys of U.S. insurance providers are the Quarterly Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons (BE–45) and the Benchmark Survey of Insurance Transactions by U.S. Insurance Companies With Foreign Persons (BE–140). BEA collects data from noninsurance companies on their transactions in auxiliary insurance services and on their premiums paid for direct insurance on the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property with Foreign Persons (BE–125) and the Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE–120).

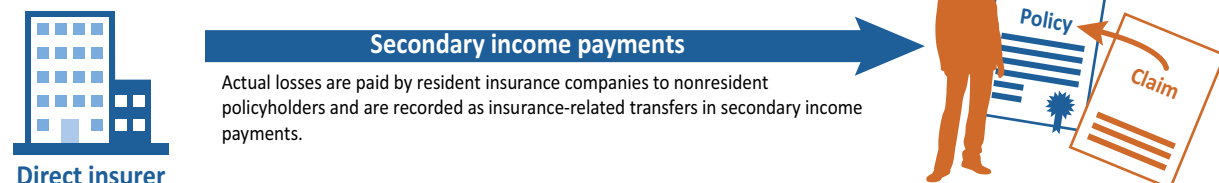
Figure 12.c. How Insurance Transactions are Recorded in the International Transactions Accounts

Example of a resident insurer and a nonresident policyholder

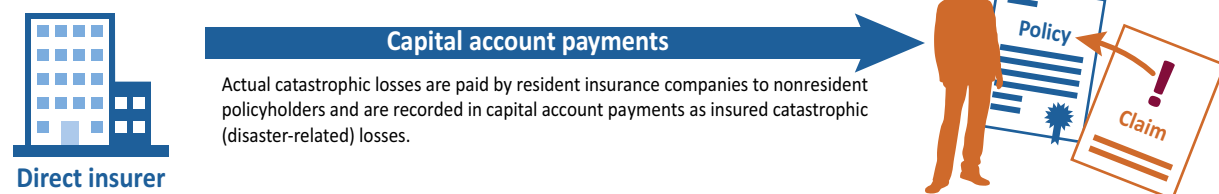
For every insurance policy, the following transactions are recorded each quarter:



When there is a claim other than a catastrophic claim, the following transaction is recorded:



When there is a catastrophic claim, the following transaction is recorded:



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Financial services

- 12.83. Financial services include financial intermediary and auxiliary services, except insurance services. These services include those normally provided by banks and other financial institutions. Services include both those for which an explicit commission or fee is charged as well as those for which fees are implicit: financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), bond transactions,

and dealers' and market-makers' margins on financial instruments. BEA classifies FISIM separately in its financial services statistics. All other financial services are grouped under "explicitly charged and other financial services."

Explicitly charged and other financial services

- 12.84. BEA presents explicitly charged and other financial services according to the six components described below.
- 12.85. **Brokerage and market-making services.** Brokerage and market-making services covers commission or fee-based financial brokerage services including (1) brokerage services related to equity services, such as commissions and fees for executing orders to purchase or sell equities; (2) brokerage services for executing orders to purchase or sell forwards, futures, options, and swaps and other financial instruments, including brokerage of foreign currencies, whether conducted on organized exchanges, in over-the-counter markets, or over internet and electronic communications networks; and (3) brokerage services related to debt securities, estimated as implicit fees for executing orders to purchase and sell bonds. Brokerage and market-making services also cover liquidity services performed by dealers, which are proxied by the implicit trading profit generated by market makers when they trade on their quoted bid-ask spread. Brokerage and market-making services cover transactions by U.S. financial firms with foreign-resident customers (exports) and by foreign financial firms with U.S.-resident counterparties (imports).
- 12.86. **Underwriting and private placement services.** Underwriting and private placement services covers services associated with both equities and bonds, including earnings and losses from buying and reselling an entire or substantial portion of newly issued securities and fees provided by an issuer of securities for privately placing its securities, including fees on dealer-placed commercial paper.
- 12.87. **Credit card and other credit-related services.** Credit card and other credit-related services covers (1) credit card services, such as transaction and service fees, interchange fees, and currency-conversion fees and (2) credit-related services, such as for establishing and maintaining standby letters of credit, arranging mortgages, performing factoring services, issuing financial guarantees and loan commitments, and arranging or entering into financial lease contracts.
- 12.88. **Financial management services.** Financial management services covers fees for administering portfolios of cash, securities, financial derivatives, and other financial instruments.
- 12.89. **Financial advisory and custody services.** Financial advisory and custody services covers (1) fees for advisory services on mergers and acquisitions, commodity trading services, investment newsletters or investment advice, and proxy voting advisory services and (2) custody services (including payments and settlements services such as mortgage servicing) and other custody services.

- 12.90. ***Securities lending, electronic funds transfer, and other services.*** Securities lending, electronic funds transfer, and other services covers (1) amounts received or paid for lending or borrowing securities, arranging loan terms and conditions, monitoring the value of collateral, providing guarantees against default, and providing other securities lending services; (2) fees for the electronic funds transfers of money or financial assets received directly from, or paid directly to, foreign persons; and (3) other financial services, such as asset pricing services, check processing fees, securities or futures clearing and settling services, and imports of financial services by nonfinancial services companies.

Financial intermediation services indirectly measured

- 12.91. FISIM measures the revenue implicitly generated by financial intermediaries through their lending and deposit-taking services, including services associated with repurchase/resale agreements. FISIM is enabled by differences in interest rates charged by financial intermediaries for loans to customers, or rates paid by financial intermediaries on customer deposits, and a reference rate that represents a financial intermediary's cost of funds. For borrower FISIM, financial intermediaries charge customers a loan rate that is higher than the reference rate, with the spread between the two rates generating revenue to cover the costs of providing the lending service. Likewise, financial intermediaries pay a deposit rate to customers that is lower than the reference rate. This allows the financial intermediary to obtain funds more cheaply than if it borrowed at the cost of funds rate. This "savings" is depositor FISIM.
- 12.92. In accordance with *BPM6* guidance, BEA recognizes no FISIM on transactions between affiliated parties. In contrast with that guidance, however, BEA currently only recognizes FISIM when a bank is the lender or the deposit taker. No FISIM is attributed to loans provided by, and deposits accepted by, other financial institutions. When both parties to a loan or deposit transaction are banks, no FISIM is recognized as this activity is assumed to occur at the reference rate.

Estimation

- 12.93. Statistics for financial services are based primarily on BEA survey data. BEA collects information from U.S. financial services providers on the Quarterly Survey of Financial Services Transactions Between U.S. Financial Services Providers and Foreign Persons (BE-185) and the Benchmark Survey of Financial Services Transactions by U.S. Financial Services Providers With Foreign Persons (BE-180). BEA collects information on U.S. nonfinancial services companies' purchases of financial services from foreign persons on the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and the Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). These surveys collect data on exports and imports of explicitly charged financial services transactions.
- 12.94. Because bonds are generally not traded on a commission or fee basis, bond brokerage transactions are estimated as the product of one-half of the difference between bid and ask prices and transactions volume. Similarly, market-making services (margins) are estimated as the product of one-half

of the difference between bid-ask prices and transactions volume. Transactions volumes for both bond brokerage estimates and margins estimates are based on data from Treasury International Capital (TIC) S reports (Purchases and Sales of Long-Term Securities by Foreign-Residents). Data on bid-ask spreads for both types of estimates are obtained from industry sources.

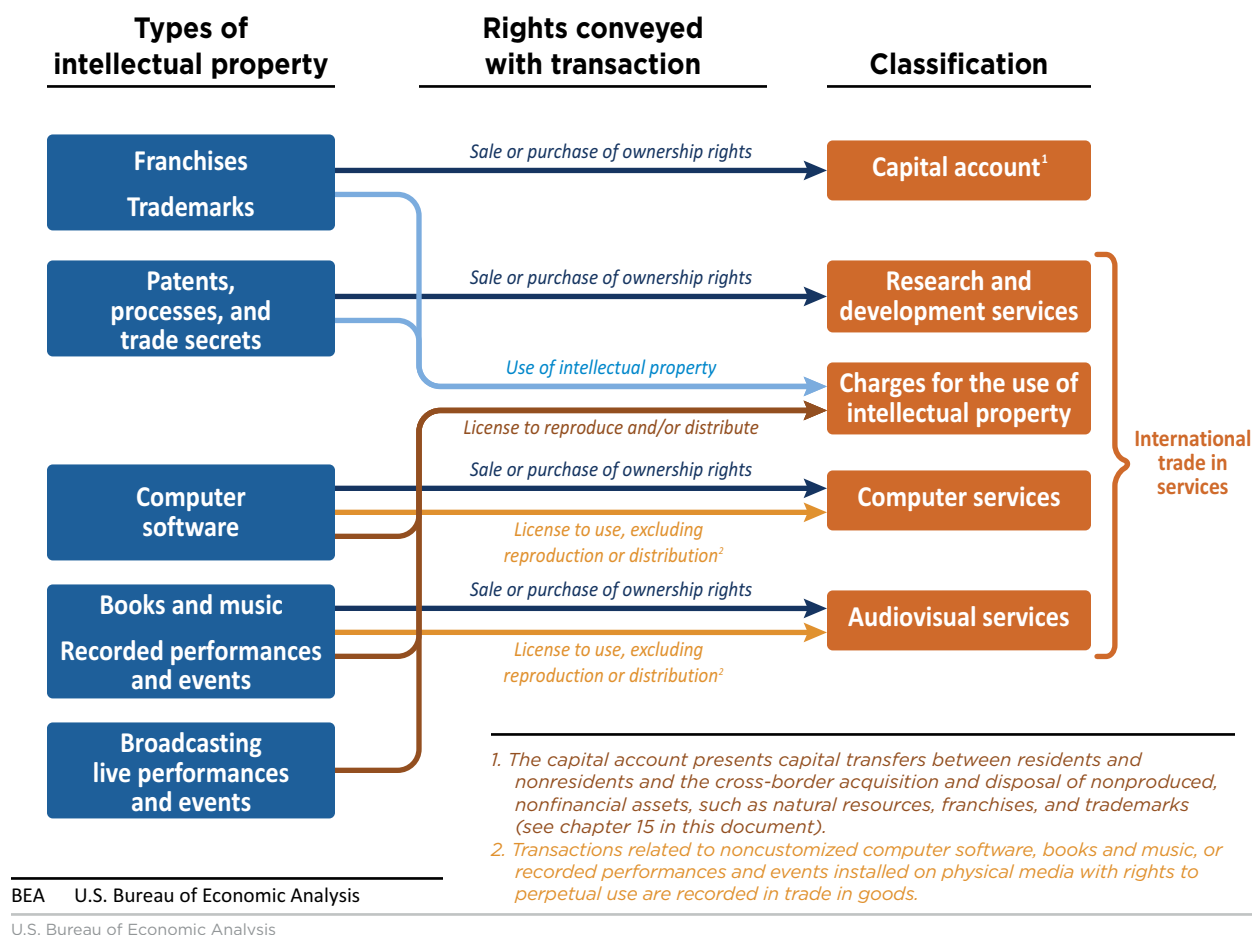
- 12.95. FISIM is estimated as the product of a measure of outstanding loans and deposits (including repurchase/resale agreements) and the difference between market interest rates and a reference rate. Data on the value of loan and deposit balances come from various TIC surveys, including TIC B (filed by banks and other financial institutions) and C reports (filed by other commercial enterprises)—see chapter 3 for more information on TIC reports. BEA also uses data on balances from partner-country statistical agencies. Data on market interest rates come primarily from call reports collected by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. The reference rate is based on an average of the 5-year U.S. Treasury rate and a composite Treasury rate computed from the call reports. The reference rate used for trade in FISIM is the same reference rate used in BEA's National Economic Accounts for estimates of domestic FISIM. For repurchase/resale agreements, rates are based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate from the Federal Reserve Board.

Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.

- 12.96. “Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.” includes charges for rights to reproduce, redistribute, or otherwise use intellectual property that are not included in other service types. These include (1) charges for the use of proprietary rights (such as patents, trademarks, copyrights, industrial processes and designs including trade secrets, and franchises) that can arise from research and development (R&D) as well as from marketing and (2) charges for licenses to reproduce and/or distribute intellectual property embodied in produced originals or prototypes (such as copyrights on books and manuscripts, computer software, cinematographic works, and sound recordings) and related rights (such as for live performances and television, cable, or satellite broadcast).
- 12.97. Outright sales or purchases of ownership rights to intellectual property are not included in charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.; such transactions are instead included in the service category that reflects the production of these rights or in the capital account. For example, outright sales or purchases of patents, processes, and trade secrets are included in “research and development services” (in “other business services”); outright sales or purchases of the rights to computer software products are included in computer services (in “telecommunications, computer, and information services”); both outright sales or purchases of the rights to books, music, motion pictures (including television programming); and recorded performances and events are included in audiovisual services (in “personal, cultural, and recreational services”). Outright sales or purchases of trademarks and franchises are included in the capital account because they are nonfinancial assets that are considered to be nonproduced.

- 12.98. Licenses to use intellectual property, excluding reproduction and distribution, are included in computer services for computer software products and in audiovisual services for books, music, motion pictures, and recorded performances and events. Figure 12.d illustrates how transactions in various types of intellectual property are classified in the ITAs.

Figure 12.d. BEA Treatment of Selected Intellectual Property



- 12.99. Statistics for charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e. are based primarily on BEA survey data. The BEA surveys include the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and the Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). Quarterly and benchmark survey data are collected by type of service and by type of rights conveyed.
- 12.100. BEA classifies and presents charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e. according to the four components described below.

- 12.101. ***Franchises and trademarks licensing fees.*** Franchises and trademarks licensing fees include receipts and payments for the rights to sell products under a particular trademark, brand name, or signature and fees received and paid under business format franchising agreements with foreign persons.
- 12.102. ***Licenses for the use of outcomes of research and development.*** Licenses for the use of outcomes of research and development include license fees, royalties, and other fees received or paid for rights to use intellectual property, including patents, trade secrets, and other proprietary rights, that are used in connection with, or related to, the production of goods or services. This component also includes transactions in intellectual property that cannot be classified in one of the other three components of charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e. or in research and development services, computer services, audiovisual services or in the capital account.
- 12.103. ***Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software.*** Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software include receipts and payments for rights to distribute general use software and rights to reproduce general use computer software created from a master copy. This item includes licensing fees for reproducing copies of general use software for local area network computer systems.
- 12.104. ***Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual products.*** Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual products include receipts and payments for the rights to reproduce or distribute books, music, and recorded performances and events, such as radio and television programs and motion pictures (including digital recordings) and to record and/or broadcast live artistic performances, sporting events, and other live performances or events.
- 12.105. Payments (or receipts) for the acquisition (or sale) of rights to broadcast a major live performance or event, such as the Olympics, often extend over several years prior to the event. The cumulative amount of payments over all the years is recorded in the period in which the event is held.

Telecommunications, computer, and information services

- 12.106. This service type consists of telecommunications services, computer services, and information services. BEA publishes each component separately.
- 12.107. ***Telecommunications services.*** Telecommunications services include the broadcast or transmission of sound, images, data, or other information by electronic means. These services do not include the value of the information transmitted. Telecommunications services covers (1) basic telecommunications, defined as transmitting messages between U.S. and foreign destinations or between foreign points; (2) private leased channel services; (3) value-added services; (4) support services; and (5) reciprocal exchanges.

- 12.108. **Computer services.** Computer services include subcomponents for computer software services and for computing and data storage services, along with a variety of other services. The computer software subcomponent includes end-user licenses and customization. It covers sales of customized software and related use licenses as well as licenses to use noncustomized software with a periodic license fee. This subcomponent also covers software downloaded from the internet, fees and subscriptions for online gaming, licensing agreements and end-user fees associated with downloading applications, and sales and purchases of ownership rights of existing general use software. Transactions in noncustomized packaged software with a license for perpetual use are included in goods. Transactions in licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software are included in charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e. The cloud computing and data storage subcomponent includes data processing and hosting services, such as hosting web pages and other content. “Other computer services” includes hardware and software consultancy, installation, and maintenance and repair services.
- 12.109. **Information services.** Information services covers news agency services, which include the provision of news, photographs, and other content to the media. It also covers other types of information services, such as database services and web search portals.
- 12.110. Statistics for telecommunications, computer, and information services are based primarily on BEA survey data. The BEA surveys include the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and the Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). Specific definitions for the survey data items can be found in these surveys. For computer services imports from Canada, BEA uses counterpart data from Statistics Canada.

Other business services

- 12.111. “Other business services” consists of research and development services; professional and management consulting services; and technical, trade-related, and other business services. BEA publishes each component separately. Additional subcomponents of each component are published in the detailed annual international services statistics discussed in chapter 31.
- 12.112. **Research and development services.** R&D services consists of services associated with basic and applied research and experimental development of new products and processes. It covers work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge, which consists of the provision of customized and noncustomized R&D services and the sale of proprietary rights related to patents, processes, and trade secrets arising from R&D. It also covers other R&D services, mainly testing and other development activities.

- 12.113. **Professional and management consulting services.** Professional and management consulting services covers a variety of services grouped into two subcomponents: (1) legal, accounting, management consulting, and public relations services and (2) advertising and related services. Affiliated receipts and payments for general overhead expenses that are not separately identified with a particular service type are included in professional and management consulting services.
- 12.114. Legal, accounting, management consulting, and public relations services include legal services; accounting, auditing bookkeeping, and tax consulting services; and business and management consulting and public relations services.
- 12.115. Advertising and related services include advertising services, market research and public opinion polling services, and trade exhibition and sales convention services.
- 12.116. **Technical, trade-related, and other business services.** Technical, trade-related, and other business services covers a variety of services including architectural services; engineering services; scientific and other technical services; waste treatment and de-pollution services; services incidental to agriculture, forestry, and fishing; services incidental to mining, and oil and gas extraction; operating leasing services; trade-related services; and other business services n.i.e.
- 12.117. Statistics for research and development services, professional and management consulting services, and technical, trade-related, and other business services are based primarily on BEA survey data. The BEA surveys include the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). Specific definitions for the survey data items can be found in these BEA surveys.

Personal, cultural, and recreational services

- 12.118. Personal, cultural, and recreational services include services provided to individuals, business, or other groups. The main components in personal, cultural, and recreational services are audiovisual services; artistic-related services; and “other personal, cultural, and recreational services.”
- 12.119. **Audiovisual services.** Audiovisual services include audiovisual production services and other subcomponents covering rights to use and outright sales of proprietary rights to audiovisual originals of various types. Audiovisual production services cover the production of motion pictures, radio and television programs, and musical recordings. Rights to use audiovisual products and proprietary rights to audiovisual originals each cover products associated with (1) movies and television programming (including radio programming) and (2) books and sound recording. The rights to use audiovisual products and audiovisual originals are distinguished from licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual products; those licenses are included in “charges for the use of intellectual property, n.i.e.”

- 12.120. **Artistic-related services.** Artistic-related services include fees paid to performers, athletes, directors, and producers involved with live events, such as concerts, theatrical and musical productions, and sporting events. Excluded from artistic-related services are any payments made directly to employees; such payments are included in “compensation of employees” in primary income if either the employee or employer is a U.S. resident and the other is a foreign resident. Also excluded from artistic-related services are fees related to the recording of live events; these fees are included in audiovisual services.
- 12.121. **Other personal, cultural, and recreational services.** Other personal, cultural, and recreational services cover health services, education services, and heritage and recreational services. Health services include general and specialized human health services supplied by health care providers, as well as laboratory, diagnostic, and similar services. Educational services include instruction for any type of structured learning and related services, such as correspondence courses and online education provided across borders and instructional services by teachers and other instructors provided while in the economy of the customer. Heritage and recreational services include services associated with museums and other cultural, sporting, gambling, and recreational activities that are provided across borders or by suppliers while in the country of the customer. Gambling, including online gambling, includes service charges receivable or payable to the unit organizing the lottery or gambling.
- 12.122. All services in other personal, cultural, and recreational services may be provided remotely or by persons temporarily in the country of the customer. However, other personal, cultural, and recreational services exclude transactions that occur when the customer travels to the country of the service provider. Such services are instead included in travel (for all purposes including education). In travel, the primary purpose of the trip determines how a service is categorized. Education-related travel and health-related travel are shown separately; travel for cultural or recreational purposes are included in other personal travel.
- 12.123. Statistics for personal, cultural, and recreational services are primarily based on BEA survey data. The BEA surveys include the Quarterly Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-125) and Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property With Foreign Persons (BE-120). Specific definitions for the survey data items can be found in these BEA surveys. Education services for the second quarter 2020 to the second quarter of 2024 were supplemented with estimates of services provided to students who attended virtually from their home countries as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, based on Institute of International Education data.

Government goods and services n.i.e.

- 12.124. Government goods and services n.i.e. covers goods and services supplied by and to enclaves, such as embassies, military bases, and international organizations; goods and services acquired from the host economy by diplomats, consular staff, and military personnel located abroad and their

dependents; and services supplied by and to governments that are not included in other services categories. Services supplied by and to governments are classified to specific services categories when source data permit.

- 12.125. Statistics for government goods and services n.i.e. are based largely on data provided to BEA by other U.S. government agencies and are subdivided into military and nonmilitary components. Exports of government goods and services by the U.S. military include (1) sales of goods and services, excluding maintenance and repair services, through the Foreign Military Sales program, which are estimated using data reported by DOD as well as from press releases and other sources and (2) the delivery of services provided through military grant programs, which are estimated based on appropriations information from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and DOD.
- 12.126. Exports of government goods and services by nonmilitary entities include (1) fees collected from overseas consulates (such as visa application fees), which are estimated using data on the value of such fees provided by the U.S. Department of State (State Department) under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19; (2) exports of certain goods and services reported to BEA by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19; (3) expenditures by foreign governments (for example, for supplying diplomatic enclaves) and their workers stationed in the United States, both of which are calculated as a share (based on BEA research) of compensation paid to foreign government workers stationed in the United States (see paragraph 13.60 for more information on the estimation of earnings of U.S. residents employed by foreign governments in the United States); and (4) expenditures by international organizations based in the United States, which are calculated as a share (based on BEA research) of compensation paid to U.S. residents employed by international organizations in the United States (see paragraph 13.61 for more information on the estimation of earnings of U.S. residents employed by international organizations in the United States).
- 12.127. Imports of government goods and services supplied to the U.S. military include (1) expenditures on goods and services abroad by U.S. personnel stationed abroad in military enclaves, which are estimated using data on compensation paid to U.S. personnel stationed abroad reported to BEA by military departments within DOD, less an estimate of spending within U.S. enclaves, which are estimated using data on commissary sales from the Defense Commissary Agency and on military post office sales from the U.S. Military Postal Service; (2) payments to foreign nationals for goods (except petroleum) and services supplied to military enclaves, which are estimated using data provided by U.S. military departments within DOD;²⁸ (3) payments to international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which are estimated based on appropriations data from OMB and data reported to BEA by military departments within DOD; and (4) imports of other goods and services not separately identifiable in the source data (including spending by those

28. Petroleum purchases abroad by U.S. military enclaves are recorded in the ITAs as goods imports.

in military enclaves), which are estimated based on data reported to BEA by U.S. military departments within DOD and data reported by the U.S. Coast Guard under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19.

- 12.128. Imports of government goods and services to nonmilitary government entities include (1) goods and services acquired in the host economy that are supplied to nonmilitary enclaves, such as embassies, which are calculated as a share (based on BEA research) of the compensation paid to U.S. citizen and foreign national employees working at those facilities (from data provided by the State Department); (2) expenditures on goods and services abroad by U.S. citizens in nonmilitary enclaves, which are calculated as a share (based on BEA research) of the compensation paid to U.S. citizen employees working at those facilities (from data provided by the State Department); and (3) other imports of goods and services by the U.S. government, including goods and services provided to U.S. government enclaves, which are estimated from data reported to BEA by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19.

Chapter 13. Current-Account Primary Income

Concepts and coverage

- 13.1. Primary income represents the return that accrues to institutional units for their contribution to the production process or for the provision of financial assets and renting natural resources to other institutional units. The first-level published components are “investment income” and “compensation of employees.” Investment income is the return on holdings of financial assets and includes direct investment income, portfolio investment income, “other investment income,” and income on reserve assets. Unlike other functional categories, no primary income accrues to financial derivatives; any amounts that accrue under the contract are classified as revaluations. Compensation of employees is income for the contribution of labor inputs to the production process. Cross-border primary income flows provide a link between gross domestic product (GDP) and gross national income (GNI) as GNI equals GDP plus the primary income balance.
- 13.2. The presentation structure of investment income in the current account of the U.S. International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) is consistent with that for the corresponding financial flows in the financial account and positions in the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. Investment income receipts and payments are classified and presented by functional category. ITA table 4.1 presents investment income by functional category and by instrument type. The categories and instrument types in this table are shown below in table 13.a. ITA table 4.2 presents direct investment income by type and by industry. ITA tables 4.3 and 4.4 present portfolio investment income and other investment income by sector and by type of instrument. ITA table 4.5 presents direct investment income by country and industry, and ITA table 4.6 presents direct investment income in special purpose entities (SPEs).

Departures from BPM6

- 13.3. The coverage and presentation of primary income closely follow recommendations from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*, particularly in ITA tables 4.1–4.4. One departure is the absence of statistics for “other primary income,” which consists of rent for the use of natural resources and taxes less subsidies on products and production. Source data are not available that allow the separation of rental income from investment income. Cross-border taxes and subsidies on products and production are rare. In addition, statistics are not provided for investment income attributable to standardized guarantees and pension funds as these financial instruments are not captured in source data used by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis for international transactions and positions.

Table 13.a. Transactions Shown in ITA Table 4.1 U.S. International Transactions in Primary Income

Line	Receipts	Line	Payments
1	Primary income receipts	23	Primary income payments
2	Investment income	24	Investment income
3	Direct investment income	25	Direct investment income
4	Income on equity	26	Income on equity
5	Dividends and withdrawals	27	Dividends and withdrawals
6	Reinvested earnings	28	Reinvested earnings
7	Interest	29	Interest
8	U.S. parents' receipts	30	U.S. affiliates' payments
9	U.S. affiliates' receipts	31	U.S. parents' payments
10	Portfolio investment income	32	Portfolio investment income
11	Income on equity and investment fund shares	33	Income on equity and investment fund shares
12	Dividends on equity other than investment fund shares	34	Dividends on equity other than investment fund shares
13	Income attributable to investment fund shareholders	35	Income attributable to investment fund shareholders
14	Interest on debt securities	36	Interest on debt securities
15	Short term	37	Short term
16	Long term	38	Long term
17	Other investment income	39	Other investment income
18	Interest	40	Interest
19	Income attributable to insurance policyholders	41	Income attributable to insurance policyholders
20	Reserve asset income		
21	Interest		
22	Compensation of employees	42	Compensation of employees

Line	Balance
43	Balance on primary income

Line	Addenda
44	Other investment interest income receipts before adjusting for FISIM
45	Other investment interest income payments before adjusting for FISIM

FISIM Financial intermediation services indirectly measured

ITA International Transactions Accounts

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Data sources

- 13.4. BEA uses a variety of data sources to estimate primary income receipts and payments; these sources are listed in table 13.b.

Table 13.b. Sources of Data for Current-Account Primary Income

Source	Use	Note
BEA quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on direct investment	Direct investment income	The Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-577) collects data on U.S. direct investment abroad. The Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-605) collects data on foreign direct investment in the United States. Each year, the data from the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-11) and to the Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-15). Once every 5 years, the data from the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-10) and to the Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-12). (For more information on the reconciliation process, see paragraphs 32.11–32.19.) Annual and benchmark surveys are also used to identify SPEs.
BEA Fixed Assets Accounts	Direct investment income	BEA uses estimates from the Fixed Assets Accounts of current-cost and historical-cost structures and equipment for the U.S. domestic economy, along with current-cost depreciation, to calculate the current-cost adjustment to equity income.
Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) and Federal Reserve Board (FRB)	Other investment income	The FFIEC collects call report data on interest rates, which are adjusted by the FRB. Data on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate are also from the FRB.
Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY)	Other investment income receipts and reserve asset income	The FRBNY provides data on interest earned on U.S. reserves, central bank liquidity swaps, and FIMA repos.
Foreign counterparty data	Other investment income and compensation of employees	Information used to estimate other investment income includes data on U.S.-resident nonbank enterprises' loans from, and deposits with, foreign-resident banks from the point of view of the foreign-bank counterparties.
Institute of International Education, Open Doors report	Compensation of employees (payments)	The Open Doors report features data on funding for foreign students studying in the United States.
IMF	Reserve asset income	The IMF provides month-end position data and daily increases and decreases during each month, including interest flows, for the U.S. accounts at the IMF. The data include positions and transactions between the United States and the IMF for the Special Drawing Rights account and the General Resources (tranche) Account and its subaccounts covering securities, valuation adjustments, and IMF borrowing from the United States.
MSCI, S&P Dow Jones Indices, and Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Price Indexes	Portfolio investment income	These data include the dividend yield from the S&P 500, MSCI national and regional dividend yields for developed and emerging markets, and ICE bond prices indexes.

Table continues

Source	Use	Note
Pew Hispanic Center	Compensation of employees	
Statistics Canada	Compensation of employees	
U.S. Department of Agriculture, NASS, Farm Labor Survey	Compensation of employees (payments)	NASS conducts the Farm Labor Survey semiannually.
DHS, Office of Immigration Statistics	Compensation of employees	
DHS, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, SEVIS	Education-related travel	SEVIS is a web-based system for maintaining information on nonimmigrant students and exchange visitors in the United States.
U.S. Department of Labor, NAWS	Compensation of employees (payments)	The NAWS collects data biannually on the characteristics of temporary foreign workers in the United States.
U.S. Department of State, visa statistics	Compensation of employees (payments)	The statistics include data on counts of H-1B, H-1B1, E-3, H-2A, H-2B, L, Q, R, and TN visas issued.
U.S. Department of the Treasury, FCRS	Other investment income (receipts)	Data from the FCRS include U.S. government interest receipts from foreign residents.
U.S. Department of the Treasury, IRS	Compensation of employees	The IRS provides data from Form 2555 ("Foreign Earned Income") and data on earnings of foreign artists and athletes.
U.S. Department of the Treasury, TIC system	Portfolio investment income and other investment income	TIC SLT, C, and B forms collect monthly data on U.S. resident-nonresident transactions and positions. The related SHC(A) and SHL(A) annual and benchmark surveys also collect information on transactions and positions. Data from the SHL(A) survey provide information on current interest yields on U.S. corporate, federally sponsored agency, and Treasury long-term debt securities; data from the SHC(A) survey provide information on current interest yields on long-term foreign debt securities. (For more information on the TIC reporting forms, see table 3.b in chapter 3.)
U.S. government agencies	Other investment income	U.S. government operating agencies submit data quarterly under Office of Management and Budget Statistical Directive No. 19.

BEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
DHS	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FCRS	Foreign Credit Reporting System
FIMA	Foreign and international monetary authorities
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
NAWS	National Agricultural Workers Survey
SEVIS	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System
SHC	Report of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments
SHL	Foreign-Residents' Holdings of U.S. Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments
SLT	Aggregate Holdings of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents
SPE	Special purpose entity
TIC	Treasury International Capital

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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Estimation methods

- 13.5. Estimation methods vary significantly for the components of investment income and for compensation of employees. Direct investment income statistics are based largely on data reported on BEA's direct investment surveys. Portfolio investment income, other investment income, and reserve asset income statistics are primarily derived by type of asset and liability as the product of positions from the IIP Accounts and effective yields. Compensation of employees statistics are based on a wide variety of sources and methods, including direct reporting by foreign central banks, counterpart statistical organizations, and international organizations, supplemented by estimates from various sources on numbers of employees and average compensation. These sources and methods are described below. Unless otherwise noted, descriptions of methods for primary income apply to both receipts and payments.

Investment income: direct investment income

- 13.6. Direct investment income receipts and payments measure the return that parents and affiliates receive on their direct investment equity and debt investments abroad or in the United States. In the ITAs, direct investment income consists of the parents' shares of the earnings and losses from current operations of affiliates plus interest received and paid on intercompany debt. Income on equity, or earnings, includes both earnings distributed to parent companies and earnings reinvested in affiliates. The inclusion of reinvested earnings in direct investment income recognizes that the earnings of affiliates are income to parents, whether or not the earnings are distributed to parents. Interest is income received or paid on intercompany loans, trade credit, and other forms of debt between related parties.
- 13.7. Direct investment income is recorded on an asset/liability basis in the aggregate statistics. Recording direct investment income on an asset/liability basis is consistent with the recording of income for the other functional categories in the International Economic Accounts. It also facilitates balance sheet analysis and is consistent with other macroeconomic statistics. On an asset/liability basis, direct investment income statistics are organized according to whether the income is earned on an asset or paid on a liability.
- 13.8. Direct investment income statistics by country or by industry, however, are presented on a directional basis because that basis is better suited for analyzing certain aspects of direct investment, such as identifying the foreign countries in which U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) invest or the U.S. industries in which foreign direct investors invest. On the directional basis, direct investment statistics in the current account are organized according to whether the direct investment is outward or inward—that is, whether the investor is a domestic resident or a foreign resident.

- 13.9. ITA tables 1.2, 4.1, and 4.6 present direct investment income on an asset/liability basis, while ITA tables 1.3, 1.4, and 4.5, which provide bilateral statistics, present direct investment income on a directional basis. ITA table 4.2 presents the translation from the asset/liability basis to the directional basis. ITA tables 4.2 and 4.5 both also provide detail on direct investment income by industry of the affiliate.
- 13.10. On an asset/liability basis, U.S. receipts of direct investment income measure receipts on direct investment assets, whether those assets are held by U.S. parents or U.S. affiliates. Similarly, U.S. payments measure payments of direct investment income on liabilities, whether those liabilities are incurred by U.S. parents or U.S. affiliates. Thus, direct investment income receipts measure the return on U.S. direct investment assets. In contrast, on a directional basis, direct investment income receipts measure the return on U.S. direct investment abroad—that is, the U.S. parents’ return on their equity and debt investments in their foreign affiliates. On a directional basis, U.S. payments of direct investment income measure the return on foreign direct investment in the United States—that is, the foreign parents’ return on their equity and debt investments in their U.S. affiliates, plus the return of other members of the foreign parent group on their debt investments in their U.S. affiliates.
- 13.11. The published statistics represent the aggregation of income-related data items reported on BEA direct investment surveys by U.S. MNEs for U.S. direct investment abroad and by the U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs for foreign direct investment in the United States. The following sections describe the methods used for each component of the direct investment income statistics presented in the ITA tables.

Income on equity

- 13.12. Direct investment income on equity, or earnings, represents parents’ shares in the net income of their affiliates, after provision for income taxes and excluding extraordinary gains and losses. A parent’s share in net income is based on its directly held equity interest in the affiliate; a parent’s directly held debt in the affiliate is not considered in determining the parent’s share because debt is not an indication of ownership. Debt instruments are, however, a major component of direct investment. Direct investment income on equity is recorded as it accrues, in accordance with the accrual principles of accounting. Income on equity is recorded before deduction of withholding taxes on dividends. These taxes are treated as payable by the recipients of such income, even though as an administrative convenience, they may be withheld at the source.
- 13.13. Direct investment income on equity measures earnings from productive activities during the reference period. This concept of income on equity is sometimes referred to as net operating earnings or net operating surplus. Because income on equity is related to current production, it excludes several items that may be included in financial accounting statements. Examples of such exclusions are (1) parents’ shares of capital gains and losses of affiliates, such as realized or unrealized gains and losses that result from the sale or other disposition of affiliates’ assets and liabilities;

(2) realized gains or losses on plant and equipment that result from the closures of part or all of a business; (3) realized gains and losses on the sale or disposition of financial assets including investment securities, except in cases where the affiliate is a market maker; (4) goodwill impairment; (5) restructuring costs that reflect write-downs or write-offs of assets; and (6) gains and losses from changes in the dollar value of foreign-currency-denominated assets and liabilities, or from the translation of affiliates' financial statements from local currencies into dollars due to changes in exchange rates. These capital gains and losses are, however, included as valuation adjustments to outstanding assets and liabilities in the IIP Accounts.

- 13.14. A “current-cost adjustment” is made to measure direct investment income on equity at current (replacement) cost in the International Economic Accounts. The current-cost adjustment is also applied to the reinvested earnings component of income. The adjustment includes adjustments to the depreciation and depletion charges reported in the financial statements of affiliates. It adjusts depreciation to reflect current-period stocks of tangible capital and prices, and it excludes depletion charges. These adjustments are made primarily to ensure that these charges reflect current-period prices and to more closely align income earned in a given period with charges against income in the same period, as required by economic accounting principles. The current-cost adjustment converts depreciation charges valued for financial accounting purposes at historical cost (book value) to a current (replacement) cost valuation using depreciation rates implied for U.S. total structures and equipment in BEA's [Fixed Assets Accounts](#). The adjustment also adds charges for depletion of natural resources back to income because these charges are not treated as production costs in the U.S. National Economic Accounts. Estimates for the adjustments are available only on a global basis. Estimates by country or by industry are not available because of a lack of appropriate source data; however, for SPE statistics in ITA table 4.6, BEA apportions part of the global current-cost adjustment to SPEs based on the share of the unadjusted direct investment equity position for which SPEs account.
- 13.15. The two major components of direct investment income on equity are dividends and withdrawals and reinvested earnings.
- 13.16. ***Dividends and withdrawals.*** Dividends and withdrawals are distributed earnings allocated to the owners of a business for placing funds at the disposal of the business. For corporations, they represent the payment of dividends to the owners of equity. They are the returns to the shareholders or owners. Although dividends are notionally paid out of the reference period's earnings, corporations sometimes pay out more than the reference period's operating earnings by using the surplus earned in earlier periods and other times pay out less.
- 13.17. In addition to dividends from corporations, withdrawals from unincorporated affiliates are included in income on equity. These entities usually engage in the same type of economic and financial activities and maintain separate financial statements as do corporations, but they are not legally incorporated. Legally, they cannot distribute income as dividends. Nevertheless, the owner, or owners, may choose to withdraw some or all of the income earned by the affiliate. Some are entities formally

organized as trusts, partnerships, or other institutions that may formally distribute some or all of their earnings. From an economic point of view, the withdrawal of such income is equivalent to the distribution of corporate income through dividends and is treated the same way in the ITAs.

- 13.18. Stock dividends are excluded from dividends because they are not considered to represent the remittance of earnings; instead, they represent the capitalization of retained earnings and are an alternative to distributing cash dividends. Therefore, stock dividends are treated as income which is immediately reinvested. Liquidating dividends are also excluded from dividends because they represent a return of capital, not a remittance of earnings. Instead, liquidating dividends are treated as withdrawals of equity and are recorded in the financial account.
- 13.19. Dividends are recorded at the time they are either received from or entered into intercompany accounts with the affiliate, whichever occurs first. If all or part of the dividends are not transferred to the parent at the time they are entered into the intercompany accounts, the amount not transferred is added to the stock of the parent's debt instrument receivables. Withdrawals of income from unincorporated entities are recorded when they are withdrawn by their owners. Dividends and withdrawals of income are recorded before the deduction of withholding taxes. These taxes are treated as payable by recipients of such income.
- 13.20. **Reinvested earnings.** Reinvested earnings are the earnings that remain after distributions have been made to owners of the affiliate. Because reinvested earnings, or net savings, represent an addition to owners' capital, an offsetting entry of equal magnitude is made in the direct investment component of the financial account. The offsetting entry is presented as "reinvestment of earnings," and it is listed separately along with "other equity" and "debt instruments" as components of owners' investment in the affiliate.
- 13.21. Reinvested earnings are recorded in the period in which they accrue and are measured after deduction of income taxes charged on the income earned by the affiliate. Such taxes are payable by the affiliate and not by its owners. In the aggregate statistics, reinvested earnings are measured after the depreciation of fixed assets has been restated at current (replacement) cost and after the adjustments to depletion charges described above have been made.
- 13.22. Reinvested earnings can be negative when a direct investment affiliate has a loss on its operations or the dividends declared in a period are larger than net earnings in that period. If direct investment generates negative earnings, the entry is shown as negative income receipts by the direct investor.

Interest

- 13.23. On an asset/liability basis, interest receipts and payments are recorded on a gross basis. U.S. direct investment interest receipts consist of U.S. parents' receipts of interest from their foreign affiliates and U.S. affiliates' receipts of interest from their foreign parent group, both before the deduction

of withholding taxes. Likewise, U.S. interest payments on direct investment consist of U.S. parents' interest payments to their foreign affiliates and U.S. affiliates' interest payments to their foreign parent groups.

- 13.24. On a directional basis, interest receipts and payments are recorded on a net basis. Interest is income received by, or credited to, parents on intercompany debt owed to them by their affiliates, less interest paid or credited by parents on intercompany debt owed by them to their affiliates, both before the deduction of withholding taxes. Interest includes net interest on capitalized leases between parents and affiliates.
- 13.25. Table 13.c presents an example of the conversion of direct investment income on the asset/liability basis recommended by *BPM6* to income on the directional basis recommended for classifying direct investment income by partner country and by industry.

**Table 13.c. Direct Investment Income on the Asset/
Liability Basis and on the Directional Basis**

Receipts	Millions of dollars	Payments	Millions of dollars
Primary income on direct investment, asset/liability basis	130	Primary income on direct investment, asset/liability basis	90
Income on equity	100	Income on equity	50
Dividends and withdrawals	75	Dividends and withdrawals	30
Reinvested earnings	25	Reinvested earnings	20
Interest	30	Interest	40
U.S. parents' receipts	20	U.S. affiliates' payments	25
U.S. affiliates' receipts	10	U.S. parents' payments	15
Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	25	Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	25
U.S. parents' interest payments	15	U.S. parents' interest payments	15
U.S. affiliates' interest receipts	10	U.S. affiliates' interest receipts	10
<i>Equals:</i> Primary income for outward direct investment (U.S. direct investment abroad), directional basis	105	<i>Equals:</i> Primary income for inward direct investment (foreign direct investment in the United States), directional basis	65
Income on equity	100	Income on equity	50
Dividends and withdrawals	75	Dividends and withdrawals	30
Reinvested earnings	25	Reinvested earnings	20
Interest, net receipts	5	Interest, net payments	15
U.S. parents' receipts	20	U.S. affiliates' payments	25
U.S. parents' payments	15	U.S. affiliates' receipts	10

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- 13.26. Interest is recorded on an accrual basis—that is, interest is recorded as accruing continuously over time to the creditor on the amount of debt outstanding, in accordance with the principles of accrual accounting.
- 13.27. Interest received and paid on debt instruments excludes receivables and payables on intercompany debt between parents in the finance industry and affiliated financial institutions. This exclusion derives from the treatment in the financial accounts of intercompany debt transactions among certain financial institutions. Under this treatment, the transactions are classified as “other investment” claims and liabilities rather than direct investment claims and liabilities because the nature of the transactions is related to the underlying activity of financial intermediation rather than to activity typical of a direct investment relationship. Therefore, the related interest received and paid on the debt is excluded from direct investment interest and included in other investment interest.

Investment income: portfolio investment income

- 13.28. Portfolio investment income consists of income received by U.S. and foreign investors who own “equity and investment fund shares” and “debt securities” that are included in the portfolio investment functional category. The published components are “income on equity and investment fund shares” and “interest on debt securities.” U.S. portfolio income receipts are income received by U.S. residents who own equity or debt securities issued by foreign governments or business enterprises. U.S. portfolio income payments are income paid to foreign residents who own equity or debt securities issued by the U.S. government, U.S. federally sponsored agencies, or U.S. business enterprises.
- 13.29. Receipts and payments of income on holdings of equity and debt securities are largely estimated by multiplying average positions owned by investors by representative dividend or current interest yields. The methods for average positions and representative yields are described below.

Average positions

- 13.30. Average positions for U.S. and foreign short-term debt securities and for negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs) are based on the positions reported in the monthly and quarterly Treasury International Capital (TIC) B and C forms.²⁹ Average positions for U.S. and foreign equity and long-term debt securities are based on data from the monthly TIC SLT form. BEA uses data from the annual SHC(A) and SHL(A) surveys to review and, if necessary, revise the average positions that are based on the SLT form.

Interest yields

- 13.31. For interest on short-term debt securities and on NCDs, BEA uses representative U.S. money market and Eurodollar rates. Rates are matched to average positions estimated for these securities and NCDs based on the type of instrument.

29. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3.

- 13.32. For interest on long-term debt securities, BEA uses representative current yields that reflect coupon interest flows. This current yield is the same measure used for the U.S. National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs). It also meets IMF guidelines, which recommend estimating interest on debt securities on a debtor basis, or the actual coupon payments made by debtors. Current yields are derived from the annual SHC(A) and benchmark SHL(A) surveys by dividing the reported annual coupon interest by the market value of the U.S. or foreign holdings of long-term debt securities to obtain the current yield for the long-term debt securities reported in the surveys. In order to estimate a quarterly current yield between annual surveys when income data are not available, the most recent annual current yield is advanced by holding interest income constant and revaluing the market value of bond holdings by weighted average price indexes.
- 13.33. For income payments on U.S. Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS), BEA estimates inflation compensation income, which is added to the coupon interest payments. BEA compiles information on TIPS issues held by all (U.S. and foreign) investors from Treasury data and calculates the value of all TIPS issues and the total amount of inflation compensation received by all investors. BEA estimates the inflation compensation received by foreign residents by multiplying the total inflation compensation received by all investors by the ratio of foreign holdings of TIPS from the SHL(A) survey to total investor holdings of TIPS.
- 13.34. For U.S. holdings of both foreign-currency-denominated and dollar-denominated foreign bonds, Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) price indexes, stated in dollar terms for five major currencies and one broad global index, are used to advance the market value of U.S. holdings and, implicitly, the current yields for each quarter between two annual surveys. The indexes are weighted by the distribution of currencies on the latest annual or benchmark survey.
- 13.35. For foreign holdings of U.S. bonds, ICE price indexes for U.S. Treasury, federally sponsored agency, and corporate bonds (denominated in both U.S. dollars and foreign currencies) are used to advance the market value of foreign holdings and, implicitly, the current yields for each quarter between two annual surveys.

Dividend yields

- 13.36. For U.S. holdings of foreign equities, BEA uses market dividend yields by major country and area. The dividend yields are MSCI index dividend yields stated in dollar terms. Seven country and two regional indexes are used for developed markets abroad, and three regional indexes are used for emerging markets abroad. The nine developed market yields are combined to create a weighted average yield for the developed markets. The weighted yield is applied to holdings of foreign equities, averaged over two quarter-end positions, for all developed countries to estimate dividend receipts. The three emerging market yields are combined to create a weighted average yield for emerging markets. The weighted yield is applied to holdings of foreign equities, averaged over two quarter-end positions, for all emerging market countries to estimate dividend receipts. The

weights are based on the country distribution of holdings in the latest annual or benchmark TIC survey. Dividends on U.S. government holdings of foreign equities are based on reporting by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation.

- 13.37. For foreign holdings of U.S. equities, the dividend yield is the yield on the S&P 500 index. It is multiplied by an average of two quarter-end positions to estimate dividend payments. Only a single index is necessary because the composition of holdings in the annual and benchmark TIC surveys is very similar to the composition of equities included in the S&P 500 index.

Investment income: other investment income

- 13.38. “Other investment income” consists of income received by U.S. and foreign residents who own financial assets such as loans, deposits, insurance technical reserves, and trade credit and advances that are included in the other investment functional category. The published components are interest and “income attributable to insurance policyholders.” U.S. other investment income receipts include income received by U.S. residents on loans to foreign residents, including resale agreements; extensions of trade credit and advances to foreign residents; deposits in foreign banks, including resale agreements; and claims on insurance technical reserves of foreign-resident insurance companies. U.S. other investment income payments include income paid to foreign residents on loans to U.S. residents, including repurchase agreements; extensions of trade credit and advances to U.S. residents; deposits in U.S. banks, including repurchase agreements; and claims on insurance technical reserves of U.S.-resident insurance companies.
- 13.39. Other investment income is a broad category with statistics based on several sources and methods. Some components are from reports provided by the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and by U.S. government operating agencies under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Directive No. 19. Other components are derived by multiplying average positions by representative yields.
- 13.40. Income receipts and payments associated with loans, deposits, and trade credit and advances for which the U.S. party to the transaction is a business enterprise are mostly estimated by multiplying average positions held by investors by representative interest yields. U.S. financial and nonfinancial business enterprises report their claims and liabilities for these types of assets on the TIC B and C forms. Loans and deposits are reported on both the B and C forms. Trade credit and advances are separately identified in the TIC system only on the C forms (form CQ-2). BEA supplements TIC C form data on deposits and loans with partner country data on claims and liabilities of foreign banks and with loan claims of some U.S. special purpose entities on their foreign parents extrapolated from Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation data. Income receipts on U.S. government loans are reported to BEA via the Foreign Credit Reporting System.
- 13.41. The recognition that interest rates sometimes reflect a service charge component—as reflected by the fact that rates on some loans are typically higher than rates on some deposits—points to a divergence between the “monetary interest” paid and received on loans and deposits and the “pure

interest” that reflects interest without a service charge component. For loans, monetary interest typically exceeds pure interest; for deposits, pure interest typically exceeds monetary interest. The difference between monetary interest and pure interest reflects financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) (see paragraphs 12.91 and 12.92). Pure interest is measured using a reference rate representing the cost of funds to the lender or deposit-taker.

- 13.42. Prior to the 2020 annual update, BEA’s other investment income statistics reflected monetary interest for all interest income. With the 2020 annual update, interest income statistics reflect pure interest—that is, with an adjustment for FISIM—for loans provided by banks to nonbank customers and for deposits by nonbank customers at banks, except in cases where the customer and the bank are affiliated. (The use of monetary interest, and the related absence of an adjustment for FISIM, for loans provided by nonbank financial institutions and for deposits at such institutions departs from *BPM6* guidelines—see paragraph 12.92 for more information.) Other investment interest income before adjusting for FISIM is presented in the addenda section of ITA table 4.1.

Deposit, loan, and repurchase/resale agreement interest rates

- 13.43. For deposits and loans other than repurchase/resale agreements, BEA calculates “book” interest rates from call reports collected by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. The call report data are adjusted by the FRB to account for the impact on the data of bank mergers. The reference rate for deposits and loans is based on an average of the 5-year U.S. Treasury rate and a composite Treasury rate computed from the call reports.
- 13.44. For repurchase/resale agreements, interest rates are based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) from the FRB. The use of the SOFR reflects the short-term length of these contracts. For these contracts, the reference rate is the median SOFR. For repurchase/resale agreements reflecting deposits placed by a nonbank customer in a bank, the 25th percentile of the SOFRs reported by the FRB is used as the monetary interest rate. For agreements reflecting loans from a bank to a nonbank customer, the 75th percentile of the SOFRs is used as the monetary interest rate.

Interest on deposits, loans, and repurchase/resale agreements

- 13.45. Pure interest, instead of monetary interest, is included in other investment income when FISIM (reflecting services provided by a U.S. or foreign bank to an unaffiliated nonbank customer) is recorded in the trade in services accounts or when it is assumed that no financial service is charged because the debtor and the creditor are affiliated or are both banks. Monetary interest is included in other investment income when both the creditor and the debtor are nonbanks. For example, securities brokers reporting on the TIC B forms provide loans, deposit-like instruments (known as brokerage balances), and repurchase agreements to their customers. No FISIM is estimated for financial intermediation by securities brokers. The interest paid by customers to securities brokers and the interest received by customers from securities brokers is monetary interest.

- 13.46. Pure interest on deposits and loans is calculated using the reference rates described above. Pure interest receipts are estimated on bank-reported deposit, loan, and resale agreement claims from TIC B forms, on U.S. nonbank deposit and resale claims on foreign banks from TIC C forms, and on U.S. nonbank claims on foreign banks from partner country data. Pure interest payments are estimated on bank-reported deposit, loan, and repurchase agreement liabilities from TIC B forms, on U.S. nonbank loan and repurchase agreement liabilities to foreign banks from TIC C forms, and on U.S. nonbank liabilities to foreign banks from partner country data.
- 13.47. Monetary interest on deposits and loans other than repurchase/resale agreements is calculated by multiplying outstanding positions for these loans and deposits by their respective book rates. Monetary interest on repurchase/resale agreements included in deposits and loans is calculated by multiplying outstanding amounts of these agreements by their respective SOFRs (25th or 75th percentile rates).

Interest on trade credit and advances

- 13.48. U.S. nonfinancial enterprises report their claims and liabilities from trade credit and advances vis-à-vis unaffiliated foreign residents on the CQ-2 form. BEA statistics on receipts and payments of trade credit and advances are calculated by multiplying average positions from the CQ-2 form by the monetary loan rate.

Interest on U.S. government and central bank assets and liabilities

- 13.49. U.S. government interest income receipts earned on outstanding U.S. government credits extended to foreign residents are reported quarterly to BEA by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19. Receipts include capitalized interest, which is reported as having been realized through the recording of an additional credit utilization, which, in turn, increases principal indebtedness outstanding. Except for capitalized interest, receipts are recorded on a cash collection basis or when the debtor delivers goods or services to U.S. operating agencies. Collections of commitment fees for credits extended by U.S. government operating agencies are included indistinguishably with these interest receipts.
- 13.50. U.S. government debt is mainly in the form of debt securities, so it does not pay interest to foreign residents on loans, deposits, or trade credit and advances. The U.S. government does pay interest to the IMF on allocations of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), which are reserve-related liabilities on the books of the Exchange Stabilization Fund of the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department). Monthly reports of interest payments are made available to BEA through the IMF accounting department.
- 13.51. Beginning in December 2007, the FRB provided dollar funding to foreign central banks through temporary central bank liquidity swaps, which do not meet the definition of a reserve asset. Under these arrangements, foreign central banks sold their currencies to the FRB in exchange for dollars. The foreign currency received by the FRB remained on deposit at the foreign central bank until the

swap was reversed, creating a U.S. asset that earned interest. The foreign and international monetary authorities repurchase agreement facility (the FIMA repo facility) is a similar arrangement offered since March 2020 that allows foreign central banks to temporarily exchange U.S. Treasury security holdings at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY) for dollars. The FRBNY reports interest receipts earned on both liquidity swaps and FIMA repos monthly to BEA on a cash-received basis.

Income attributable to insurance policy holders

- 13.52. Other investment income attributable to insurance policy holders, which is also known as insurance premium supplements, is income that accrues to the owners of insurance policies from insurance company reserves (“technical reserves”) that are accumulated from premiums paid by insurance policy owners. Insurance policy owners benefit from the income on the reserves through lower premiums because of the investment income that insurance companies receive from holding reserves. These implicitly charged services are included in the insurance services component of services, and an offsetting entry is made in other investment income receipts or payments. Statistics for investment income paid to foreign policy owners by U.S. insurance companies and for investment income received by U.S. policy owners from foreign insurance companies are based on BEA insurance services surveys and industry data (see paragraphs 12.75–12.76 for more information).

Investment income: reserve asset income

- 13.53. U.S. monetary authorities invest U.S. foreign currency reserves in a variety of instruments that yield market rates of return and that have a high degree of liquidity and credit quality. To the greatest extent practicable, the investments are split evenly between the System Open Market Account of the FRB and the Treasury Department’s Exchange Stabilization Fund.
- 13.54. A significant portion of the U.S. monetary authorities’ foreign exchange reserves is usually invested on an outright basis in German, French, Dutch, and Japanese government securities. Foreign currency reserves are also invested at official institutions such as the Bank for International Settlements and foreign central banks. The FRBNY reports interest receipts from these reserve assets monthly to BEA.
- 13.55. U.S. reserve assets also include the U.S. reserve position at the IMF and SDRs held in the U.S. SDR account at the IMF. The IMF pays interest on these U.S. assets. Monthly reports of interest receipts are made available to BEA through the IMF accounting department.

Compensation of employees

- 13.56. Compensation of employees receipts cover earnings of (1) U.S. residents employed temporarily abroad, (2) U.S. residents employed by foreign governments in the United States, and (3) U.S. residents employed by international organizations in the United States.

- 13.57. Compensation of employees payments cover earnings of (1) Canadian and Mexican workers who commute to work in the United States, (2) foreign students studying at colleges and universities in the United States, (3) foreign professionals temporarily residing in the United States, (4) foreign temporary agricultural workers in the United States, (5) foreign temporary nonagricultural workers in the United States, and (6) foreign nationals working for U.S. diplomatic missions abroad.
- 13.58. Compensation receipts and payments, which are recorded before the deduction of U.S. and foreign income taxes, are based on a variety of methods and on source data from foreign statistical authorities, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and various demographic and labor market data from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the U.S. Department of State (State Department), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the U.S. Department of Labor (Labor Department).

Compensation receipts

- 13.59. ***U.S. residents employed temporarily abroad.*** Estimates for the earnings of U.S. residents employed in Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom are based on data from the Deutsche Bundesbank, Statistics Canada, and the United Kingdom's Office of National Statistics, respectively. Estimates of U.S. residents' earnings abroad for countries other than Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom are derived as a fixed ratio of total income earned in each country by U.S. citizens and resident aliens. The estimates of total income by country are based on data from IRS Form 2555 ("Foreign Earned Income").
- 13.60. ***U.S. residents employed by foreign governments in the United States.*** Earnings are estimated by multiplying the number of U.S. residents employed by average compensation, with the exception of Canada, for which Statistics Canada provides an estimate of earnings of U.S. residents employed by Canadian government installations in the United States. Estimates for countries other than Canada are based on data on the number of foreign diplomats in the United States from the State Department, on estimates of their average compensation, and on a study of the relationship between the number and compensation of foreign diplomats and U.S. residents employed by foreign embassies.
- 13.61. ***U.S. residents employed by international organizations in the United States.*** This item measures earnings of U.S. residents, including foreign nationals, employed by international organizations in the United States. Foreign nationals employed by international organizations in the United States are considered U.S. residents. Earnings are estimated by multiplying the number of U.S. residents employed by average compensation. Estimates are based on annual reports of international organizations.

Compensation payments

- 13.62. ***Canadian and Mexican workers who commute to work in the United States.*** This item measures the compensation of Mexican and Canadian residents who commute to jobs in the United States. Employment of Mexican residents who commute to work in the United States is generally limited to the U.S.-Mexican border area; employment of Canadian residents who commute to work in the United States is mostly along the U.S.-Canadian border. The proximity of households to places of employment permits daily trips to and from work across the border. Estimates of compensation of Mexican workers are based on academic and other studies and are extrapolated forward each year. Estimates of compensation of Canadian residents working in the United States are based on data provided to BEA by Statistics Canada that are extrapolated forward each year.
- 13.63. ***Foreign students studying in the United States.*** This item measures wages earned by foreign students studying in the United States. Compensation to foreign students is measured as the product of education-related travel exports (which use the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System as a primary data source—see paragraph 12.63) for a subset of travelers and an estimate of the share of students' spending that is funded by compensation. Education-related travel estimates used in the calculation of compensation to foreign students exclude exports to primary and secondary students because it is assumed these students are not employed while studying in the United States. The estimate of the share of spending funded by compensation is based on data on foreign students' primary sources of funding for studying in the United States from the Institute of International Education (IIE) *Open Doors* report.
- 13.64. ***Foreign professionals temporarily residing in the United States.*** This item measures the compensation of foreign professionals temporarily residing in the United States, including artists, athletes, managers, workers with specialized knowledge, consultants, and teachers. Estimates are based on State Department statistics on visas issued to foreign professionals and average wage rates reported by employers to the Labor Department's Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC), supplemented by data on earnings of foreign artists and athletes from the IRS.
- 13.65. ***Foreign temporary agricultural workers in the United States.*** This item measures the compensation of foreign temporary agricultural workers in the United States. Estimates cover both documented and undocumented workers—that is, workers who are in the United States with no work authorization—who are employed temporarily in the United States to assist in the growing and harvesting of crops. The primary residence of these workers is usually Mexico and other Latin American countries.
- 13.66. The estimates are based on biennial data from the Labor Department's National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS), H-2A visa counts from State Department visa statistics, and data from NASS's Farm Labor Survey. The NAWS is an employment-based, random-sample survey of U.S.

crop workers that collects demographic, employment, and health data in face-to-face interviews. The Farm Labor Survey is conducted semiannually in April and October, in all surveyed states except California, where it is conducted quarterly.

- 13.67. **Foreign temporary nonagricultural workers.** This item measures the compensation of foreign temporary nonagricultural workers in the United States, excluding foreign professionals. Estimates cover both documented and undocumented workers. The primary residence of these workers is usually Mexico and other Latin American countries. Compensation is calculated by multiplying the number of foreign temporary nonagricultural workers by their annual employment in hours and their average hourly wage.
- 13.68. The number of documented temporary nonagricultural workers is obtained from H-2B visa counts from State Department visa statistics. The number of undocumented temporary nonagricultural workers is calculated by adding (1) an estimate of the undocumented immigrant population in the U.S. civilian labor force based on data from the Office of Immigration Statistics and the Pew Hispanic Center and (2) an estimate of the share of those who are temporary workers based on information from the NAWS.
- 13.69. Annual employment is estimated at approximately 1,000 hours. The average wage rate for undocumented workers is based on wage rates for occupations commonly filled by this group and various studies about undocumented workers. The wage rate for documented workers is based on information on the occupational distribution of H-2B visa holders from the OFLC and wage rates from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for occupations filled by H-2B visa holders.
- 13.70. **Foreign nationals working for U.S. diplomatic missions abroad.** This item measures the compensation of foreign nationals employed directly by U.S. diplomatic missions abroad. Estimates are based on data reported to BEA quarterly by the State Department.
- 13.71. Tables 13.d and 13.e summarize the data sources and methods used to estimate the various components of receipts and payments of compensation of employees.

Table 13.d. Data Sources Used to Estimate Receipts of Compensation of Employees

Direct estimation	Estimation through multiplication ¹	
Earnings	Employee counts	Wages or average earnings
U.S. residents employed temporarily abroad		
- Deutsche Bundesbank - Statistics Canada - United Kingdom Office of National Statistics - Modeled estimates based on IRS Form 2555 data	n.a.	n.a.
U.S. residents employed by foreign governments in the United States		
Statistics Canada	Modeled estimates based on State Department data	Labor Department BLS Employment Cost Index
U.S. residents employed by international organizations in the United States		
n.a.	International organizations	International organizations

n.a. Not applicable

BLS Bureau of Labor Statistics

IRS Internal Revenue Service

1. Estimation through multiplication involves calculating earnings by multiplying an estimate of the number of employees by an estimate of the average earnings of employees.

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Table 13.e. Data Sources Used to Estimate Payments of Compensation of Employees

Direct estimation	Estimation through multiplication ¹	
Earnings	Employee counts	Wages or average earnings
Canadian and Mexican workers who commute to work in the United States		
- Extrapolated studies - Extrapolated data from Statistics Canada	n.a.	n.a.
Foreign students studying in the United States		
n.a.	DHS SEVIS	- DHS SEVIS - IIE <i>Open Doors</i> report
Foreign professionals temporarily residing in the United States		
n.a.	U.S. State Department	- U.S. Labor Department OFLC - IRS
Foreign temporary agricultural workers in the United States		
n.a.	- Labor Department NAWS - State Department - NASS Farm Labor Survey	NASS Farm Labor Survey
Foreign temporary nonagricultural workers		
n.a.	- State Department - Modeled estimates based on data from DHS Office of Immigration Statistics and Pew Hispanic Center - Modeled estimates based on NAWS data	- Modeled estimates based on studies - Modeled estimates based on data from Labor Department OFLC and BLS
Foreign nationals working for U.S. diplomatic missions abroad		
State Department	n.a.	n.a.

n.a. Not applicable

BLS U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

DHS Department of Homeland Security

IIE Institute of International Education

IRS Internal Revenue Service

NASS National Agricultural Statistical Service

NAWS National Agricultural Workers Survey

OFLC Office of Foreign Labor Certification

SEVIS Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

1. Estimation through multiplication involves calculating earnings by multiplying an estimate of the number of employees by an estimate of the average earnings of employees.

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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Chapter 14. Current-Account Secondary Income

Concepts and coverage

- 14.1. Secondary income presents current transfers between residents and nonresidents. Unlike an exchange, a transfer is a transaction in which a good, service, or asset is provided without a corresponding return of economic value. Current transfers directly affect the level of disposable income and savings and influence the consumption of goods or services in both the donor and recipient countries. Entries for current transfers in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) offset transactions with nonresidents that involve real resources or financial assets recorded in the goods, services, income, or financial accounts. Capital transfers are presented in the capital account.
- 14.2. Secondary income receipts and payments are further classified and presented in ITA table 5.1 and shown below in table 14.a. Both receipts and payments are distinguished between general government transfers and private transfers based on the type of U.S. entity receiving or providing the transfer. For some types of transfers, such as international cooperation, both receipts and payments are categorized in general government transfers because government entities receive and provide the transfer. For other types of transfers, such as insurance-related transfers, both receipts and payments are categorized in private transfers because private entities receive and provide the transfer. The remaining transfer types involve transfers between governments and private households or institutions such as “taxes on income, wealth, etc.” and social benefits (which are reported separately for payments but included indistinguishably as part of other private transfers for receipts); these transfer types are shown in general government transfers for receipts and in private transfers for payments or vice versa.

Table 14.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions Account
Table 5.1. U.S. International Transactions in Secondary Income

Line	Receipts	Line	Payments
1	Secondary income (current transfer) receipts	11	Secondary income (current transfer) payments
2	General government transfer receipts	12	General government transfer payments
3	Taxes on income, wealth, etc.	13	Social benefits
4	International cooperation	14	International cooperation
5	Fines and penalties	15	Contributions to international organizations
6	Other general government transfer receipts	16	Other general government transfer payments
7	Private transfer receipts	17	Private transfer payments
		18	Personal transfers
8	Insurance-related transfers	19	Insurance-related transfers
		20	Taxes on income, wealth, etc.
9	Fines and penalties	21	Fines and penalties
		22	Charitable donations
		23	Transfers to foreign students
10	Other private transfer receipts	24	Other private transfer payments

Line	Balance
25	Balance on secondary income

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Departures from BPM6

- 14.3. The coverage and presentation of secondary income closely follow recommendations from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*, although the presentation of detailed components in ITA table 5.1 differs somewhat from that proposed by *BPM6* because of the detail in the source data used for the U.S. statistics.

Data sources

- 14.4. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses a variety of data sources to estimate secondary income receipts and payments; these sources are listed in table 14.b.

Estimation methods

- 14.5. Estimation methods vary for the different components of secondary income. Statistics for some components are based directly on source data while statistics for other components reflect a combination of source data and models. Methods for the components presented in ITA table 5.1 are described below.

Table 14.b. Sources of Data for Current-Account Secondary Income

Source	Use	Note
BEA quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys on international trade in services	Insurance-related transfers	BEA collects data on its quarterly and benchmark surveys of insurance transactions (BE-45, BE-140) and on its quarterly and benchmark services surveys of transactions in selected services and intellectual property (BE-125, BE-120). See chapters 3 and 12 for more information on these surveys.
BEA quarterly surveys on direct investment	Taxes on income, wealth, etc.	BEA's quarterly direct investment surveys (BE-577, BE-605) provide data for withholding taxes on dividends.
Candid	Charitable donations	Candid, a nonprofit organization, is a leading authority on philanthropy that connects nonprofit institutions and grant-makers.
Institute of International Education, <i>Open Doors</i> report	Transfers to foreign students	The Open Doors report features data on the sources of funding of foreign students studying in the United States.
Partner country data	Other private transfer receipts	
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, ACE	Charitable donations	As required by law, exporters and importers or their agents file customs declarations with U.S. Customs and Border Protection through ACE. The Census Bureau compiles these data, which include cross-border donations of goods, and provides them to BEA through a Memorandum of Understanding.
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, demographic/labor surveys	Personal transfers	The Census Bureau conducts the American Community Survey to collect data on the income and characteristics of the U.S. population, including the U.S. resident immigrant population. In August 2008, the Census Bureau conducted a special migration supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey to collect data on the characteristics of the foreign-born population residing in the United States.
U.S. Department of Education, <i>Foreign Gift and Contract Report</i>	Other general government transfer receipts and other private transfer receipts	The Foreign Gift and Contract Report features a listing of all foreign gifts and/or contracts reported by Title IV institutions.
U.S. Department of the Treasury, IRS	Taxes on income, wealth, etc. and charitable donations	Data from IRS Form 1118 "Foreign Tax Credit-Corporations" are used to calculate the effective tax rates for estimating taxes withheld by foreign governments on primary income receipts and services exports transactions. Data from IRS Form 1042-S "Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding" are used to calculate the effective tax rates for estimating taxes withheld by the U.S. government on primary income payments and services imports transactions. Data from IRS Form 990 "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax" provide information on donations by U.S. private institutions.
U.S. Department of the Treasury, <i>Monthly Treasury Statement</i>	Taxes on income	

Table continues

Source	Use	Note
U.S. government agencies	General government transfers (payments) and fines and penalties (receipts)	U.S. government operating agencies submit data quarterly under Office of Management and Budget Statistical Directive No. 19 on grants provided by the U.S. government. U.S. government agencies that issue fines publish information on those fines.
USPS	Other private transfer payments	USPS provides data on cross-border postal money orders and parcel shipments.
SSA	Other private transfer receipts and payments	The SSA provides table 5.J11 Number and Total Monthly Benefits of Beneficiaries in Foreign Countries in its Annual Statistical Supplement.

ACE	Automated Commercial Environment
BEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
IRS	Internal Revenue Service
SSA	U.S. Social Security Administration
USPS	U.S. Postal Service

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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General government transfers receipts

- 14.6. This component includes “taxes on income, wealth, etc.”; “international cooperation”; “fines and penalties”; and “other general government transfer receipts.”

Taxes on income, wealth, etc.

- 14.7. “Taxes on income, wealth, etc.” represents withholding taxes collected by the U.S. government on interest and dividend income arising from nonresident holdings of portfolio investment assets in the United States and from the distribution of earnings on foreign direct investment in the United States, on services transactions, on foreign source income of nonresident U.S. citizens, and on compensation earned by nonresidents temporarily employed in the United States. Entries for transactions upon which these taxes are withheld are recorded prior to the withholding of taxes. That is, these primary income and services transactions are recorded gross of withholding taxes. The withholding taxes recorded in general government transfers serve to net out (or offset) the portion of the services imports and primary income payments not available for use by nonresidents. For securities, withholding taxes for both dividends and interest are based on data from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For direct investment, withholding taxes on dividends are reported on BEA direct investment surveys, and withholding taxes on interest and royalties are based on IRS data. For services and compensation, estimates are based on IRS data, BEA services surveys, and BEA research. For taxes on foreign source income of nonresident U.S. citizens, estimates are based on data from the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s *Monthly Treasury Statement*.

International cooperation

- 14.8. International cooperation represents cash settlements for (1) grants previously provided to foreign residents, (2) returns of equipment previously transferred, (3) foreign currencies provided to offset U.S. expenditures under foreign assistance programs, and (4) goods and services provided under mutual assistance programs that require the receiver to extend assistance to the United States or other countries to achieve a common objective. Statistics are based on data submitted quarterly by U.S. government agencies under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Directive No. 19.

Fines and penalties

- 14.9. Fines and penalties are monetary amounts paid by foreign corporations and individuals to the U.S. government for violations of U.S. laws including antitrust and environmental laws, the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, banking regulations, and others. Statistics are compiled by BEA using data from U.S. government agencies, U.S. courts, other public documents, and media reports.

Other general government transfer receipts

- 14.10. Other general government transfer receipts include foreign gifts to U.S. public institutions of higher learning. Source data for these gifts come from the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) *Foreign Gift and Contract Report*.

Private transfers receipts

- 14.11. Private transfers receipts include insurance-related transfers, fines and penalties, and other private transfer receipts.

Insurance-related transfers

- 14.12. The entry for insurance-related transfers is the offsetting entry to the adjustment for insurance claims volatility made to insurance services. (This adjustment is described in paragraph 14.33 as a component of secondary income payments.)

Fines and penalties

- 14.13. Fines and penalties represent amounts paid by foreign corporations and individuals to U.S. residents, mostly from class action settlements and other violations of U.S. laws. Statistics are compiled by BEA using data from U.S. government agencies, U.S. courts, other public documents, and media reports.

Other private transfer receipts

- 14.14. "Other private transfer receipts" covers (1) pensions, inheritances, and other benefits received by U.S. residents from residents and governments in Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom and personal transfers paid to U.S. residents by nonresidents; (2) foreign gifts to U.S. private institutions of higher learning; (3) transfers from Germany associated with World War II indemnification

claims of U.S. residents; and (4) personal transfers from U.S. expatriate retirees to U.S. residents. Source data for pensions, inheritances, and other benefits are from Statistics Canada, the Deutsche Bundesbank, and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom. Source data for these transfers from other countries are not available. Source data for foreign gifts are from the DOE's *Foreign Gift and Contract Report*. Source data for indemnification claims are from the Deutsche Bundesbank. Source data for personal transfers from U.S. expatriate retirees to U.S. residents are from the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) table 5.J11 Number and Total Monthly Benefits of Beneficiaries in Foreign Countries, published in SSA's *Annual Statistical Supplement*.

General government transfers (payments)

- 14.15. This component includes social benefits, international cooperation, contributions to international organizations, and “other general government transfer payments.” Statistics for these subcomponents are based on data submitted quarterly by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19.

Social benefits

- 14.16. Social benefits covers (1) payments of social security, railroad retirement, and other social insurance benefits to eligible persons residing abroad and (2) payments under retirement and compensation programs for former U.S. government civilian employees, military personnel, and veterans residing abroad, including the cost of providing medical services abroad under Veterans Benefits Administration programs.

International cooperation

- 14.17. International cooperation covers the use of U.S. government financing to transfer real resources or financial assets to foreigners, except international organizations, under programs enacted by the U.S. Congress for the provision of nonmilitary and military foreign assistance (grants) for which no repayment is expected. Also included are transfers under assistance programs for which repayment terms are indeterminate at the time of the transfer and subject to future settlement. These types of assistance are recorded as payments in the period rendered. Subsequently, when settlement for the assistance is agreed upon, the terms may call for a cash settlement, which are included as general government transfer receipts.
- 14.18. Excluded from international cooperation are investment grants. These are grants of capital equipment—such as transport equipment, machinery, and military weapons—and cash grants for purposes of gross fixed capital formation. Investment grants in the form of cash are often tied to specific investments projects, such as large construction projects. Investment grants represent capital transfers and are included in capital-account payments. The discussion of nonmilitary and military grants that follows describes both the noninvestment grants included in international cooperation payments and the investment grants included in capital transfer payments.

- 14.19. U.S. government nonmilitary grants payments measure the financing of goods delivered, services rendered, or cash disbursed by U.S. nonmilitary agencies to foreign countries under programs enacted by the U.S. Congress to authorize the provision of nonmilitary assistance for which no repayment is expected or for which repayment terms are indeterminate.
- 14.20. U.S. government nonmilitary grants payments include (1) funds advanced to finance sales to foreign governments and to release foreign governments from their contractual liabilities to pay for defense articles and services purchased under the Arms Export Control Act, (2) funds advanced by the State Department, (3) assistance for economic reconstruction and humanitarian relief abroad, (4) donations of food and other relief supplies and their transportation, (5) expenditures for international refugee assistance, (6) expenditures for the Peace Corps, and (7) contributions to the economic development of and subsidies for the Pacific Ocean islands that the United States holds in trusteeship for the United Nations.
- 14.21. The offsetting entries to the expenditures by the Peace Corps and the State Department are included, unless the specific type of goods or services can be identified, in exports of “government goods and services n.i.e.” where they represent the “export” of U.S. government goods and services to the aid-receiving countries. If the specific type of goods or services can be identified, the offsetting entries to the transfer payments from the Peace Corps and the State Department are included in the relevant export category.
- 14.22. U.S. government military grants payments measure the financing of goods delivered, services rendered, or cash disbursed by U.S. military services to foreign countries under programs enacted by the U.S. Congress to authorize the provision of military assistance for which no repayment is expected or for which repayment terms are indeterminate.
- 14.23. For recent time periods, military grants payments include primarily transfers of equipment, materials, supplies, and services for security forces in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (valued on the basis of the U.S. government financial records reflecting the expenditure of authorized funds). For earlier time periods, similar transfers made under various military assistance programs are also included here.
- 14.24. Military grants payments include transfers of goods and services purchased with dollar funds appropriated or with foreign currencies owned by the U.S. government and authorized by legislation for that use (valued on the basis of the U.S. government financial records reflecting the expenditure of authorized funds). Military grants payments also include transfers of goods under authorizations to deliver to foreign nations the equipment and material deemed excess to U.S. requirements and military drawdowns (valued according to the legislative authorization under which the transfer is made).

- 14.25. Military grants payments also include transfers for programs such as U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) narcotics in-country support, cooperative threat reduction, and humanitarian assistance for which DOD has been designated as the executive agent.
- 14.26. The value of goods and services financed by U.S. military grant programs offsets identical export entries for goods and for services in the current account, which reflect the military goods delivered and services rendered.
- 14.27. U.S. government grants statistics are based on data submitted quarterly by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19. Where necessary, the data reported through OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 are adjusted for timing. The adjustments are based on supplemental information, including published statements, Congressional submissions, and the financial and operating records of government agencies. For transactions that are reported only partially or not at all by the government agencies, BEA uses supplemental information.

Contributions to international organizations

- 14.28. Contributions to international organizations cover (1) contributions and special grants to international agencies carrying out humanitarian activities, (2) contributions to international peacekeeping activities, and (3) membership contributions (dues) to international nonfinancial organizations.

Other general government transfer payments

- 14.29. “Other general government transfer payments” covers miscellaneous transfers to nonresidents by the U.S. government that are not covered in the subcategories above. Such transfers are infrequent, and payments are zero in most periods.

Private transfer payments

- 14.30. Private transfer payments consist of personal transfers; insurance-related transfers; taxes on income, wealth, etc.; fines and penalties; charitable donations; transfers to foreign students; and “other private transfer payments.”

Personal transfers

- 14.31. Personal transfers, often called “remittances,” consist of all current transfers from households in cash or in kind sent by the foreign-born population resident in the United States to households abroad.³⁰ (This departs slightly from *BPM6* guidelines by not including household current transfers sent by U.S.-born U.S. residents. An estimate of household transfers from this population is included in other private transfer payments.) The foreign-born population resident in the United States is defined as that part of the total foreign-born population that has resided, or intends to reside, in the United States

30. “Remittance” is a flexible term, both in everyday discussion and in international statistical guidelines. *BPM6* identifies three progressively broader categories of remittances. The narrowest category—personal remittances—includes personal transfers as the largest of the three components. The other two categories include personal remittances along with other transactions. BEA does not provide estimates for any of these three remittance categories.

for more than one year. These transfers are estimated using a model that incorporates demographic and economic characteristics of the foreign-born population, including the income of the foreign-born population and the percentage of income remitted by the foreign-born population. The percentage of income remitted varies based on the demographic characteristics of the foreign-born population.

- 14.32. The demographic characteristics of the foreign-born population and their income are based on source data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey. The percentage of income remitted is a BEA estimate based on the Census Bureau's 2008 migration supplement to the Census Bureau Current Population Survey and various research and academic studies. The demographic characteristics in the model include duration of stay in the United States, family type (presence or absence of a spouse and presence or absence of roommates), and country of origin. The effects of country of origin in the model depend on the current circumstances of the country as measured by macroeconomic and governance data from the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators and World Development Indicators.

Insurance-related transfers

- 14.33. The entry for insurance-related transfers is the offsetting entry for adjustments for insurance claims volatility made to insurance services. The adjustments are calculated using data from BEA's surveys on international trade in services and replace actual losses payable on claims with expected losses so that insurance services are measured as premiums less expected losses. Expected losses consist of losses that occur regularly and a share of certain major catastrophic losses that occur at infrequent intervals. For regularly occurring losses, expected losses are measured as a 24-quarter moving average of the ratio of premiums to actual losses. Certain catastrophic losses are added in equal increments to the estimate of regularly occurring losses over the 80 quarters following the event to derive an estimate of total expected losses. The determination of which catastrophic losses are subject to 80-quarter spreading is made on a case-by-case evaluation of each major event or loss.
- 14.34. Expected losses are considered transfers from the policyholders to the insurance company. Claims payable (actual losses) are transfers from the insurance company to the policyholder. Payments of insurance-related transfers—that is, payments for the offset of the insurance claims volatility adjustment in insurance services—consist of expected losses associated with insurance contracts ceded to or sold by nonresidents and actual losses incurred on insurance contracts assumed from or sold to nonresidents. Receipts for insurance-related transfers consist of expected losses associated with insurance contracts assumed or sold to nonresidents and actual losses recovered from insurance contracts ceded to or sold by nonresidents.
- 14.35. An exception to the treatment of actual losses is for actual catastrophic losses, which BEA defines as events where the total impact, insured and uninsured, is greater than 0.1 percent of gross domestic product. For catastrophic losses, the full amount of the actual insured loss is entered as a transfer in the capital account in the quarter in which the event occurs. This treatment is consistent with the treatment of these losses in BEA's National Income and Product Accounts, and it avoids

having the loss affect current economic activity as it would if it were combined with regular losses in current transfers. The treatment also removes a significant source of volatility in the current-account balance.

- 14.36. The calculation of expected (“normal”) losses and the classification of various insurance-related transactions are illustrated in figures 12.a and 12.b, respectively.

Taxes on income, wealth, etc.

- 14.37. “Taxes on income, wealth, etc.” is measured by withholding taxes paid to foreign governments and represents taxes collected by foreign governments on U.S. residents’ interest and dividend receipts, on the distribution of earnings on U.S. direct investment abroad, and on services transactions. Entries for transactions upon which these taxes are withheld are recorded prior to the withholding of taxes. That is, these primary income and services transactions are recorded gross of withholding taxes. The withholding taxes paid to foreign governments serve to net out (or offset) the portion of these services exports and primary income receipts not available for use by U.S. residents. For securities, withholding taxes for both dividends and interest are based on IRS data. For direct investment, withholding taxes on dividends are reported on BEA surveys, and withholding taxes on interest and royalties are based on IRS data. For services, estimates are based on IRS data, BEA services surveys, and BEA research.

Fines and penalties

- 14.38. Fines and penalties represent monetary amounts paid by U.S. corporations and individuals to foreign governments, including the European Commission, for violations of foreign laws, including antitrust laws for participation in illegal international cartels. Estimates are from administrative records of foreign government agencies, foreign courts, and media reports.

Charitable donations

- 14.39. Statistics for charitable donations are obtained from data on cross-border charitable donations reported on IRS Forms 990 and 990-EZ, “Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax.” Form 990 is an annual return required to be filed with the IRS by most organizations exempt from income tax under section 501(a) and certain political organizations and nonexempt charitable trusts. Each year, more than 10,000 entities engaged in cross-border charitable donations complete Form 990. The data provide a universe count of U.S. charities and their foreign donations by country. The Form 990 data are supplemented by data reported by U.S. foundations to the nonprofit Candid and by cross-border donations of goods reported to U.S. Customs and Border Protection through the Automated Commercial Environment and compiled by the Census Bureau.

Transfers to foreign students

- 14.40. Transfers to foreign students include transfers, such as scholarships, to foreign students while studying in the United States. Transfers to foreign students are measured as the product of education-related travel exports (see paragraph 12.63) for a subset of travelers and an estimate of the share of students' spending that is funded by transfers. The education-related travel estimates used in the calculation of transfers to foreign students exclude exports to primary and secondary students because data on these students' funding are not available. The estimate of the share of spending funded by transfers is based on data on foreign students' primary sources of funding for study in the United States from the Institute of International Education's *Open Doors* report and assumptions about the share of each type of funding source that can be attributed to transfers (as opposed to compensation; see paragraph 13.63).

Other private transfer payments

- 14.41. Other private transfer payments include revenue sharing agreements between U.S. professional hockey teams and their counterparts in Canada, cross-border postal money orders processed by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), parcel shipments through USPS, and transfers from U.S.-born U.S. residents to U.S. citizens resident abroad. Source data for revenue sharing by hockey teams are from their annual reports. Estimates of money orders and parcel shipments are based on data from USPS. Transfers from U.S.-born U.S. residents to U.S. citizens resident abroad are primarily estimated based on data from SSA table 5.J11 Number and Total Monthly Benefits of Beneficiaries in Foreign Countries of the SSA's Annual Statistical Supplement.

Chapter 15. Capital Account

Concepts and coverage

- 15.1. The capital account presents capital transfers between residents and nonresidents and the cross-border acquisition and disposal of nonproduced nonfinancial assets. Capital transfers include debt forgiveness, investment grants payments, and nonlife insurance claims. Nonproduced nonfinancial assets include natural resources and contracts, leases, and licenses. Current transfers are presented in the current account.
- 15.2. Capital-account transactions are distinguished from current-account transactions in that capital-account transactions result in a change in the assets of one or both parties to the transaction without affecting the income or savings of either party. Thus, transactions in the components of the capital account do not affect measures of production, income, and savings of an economy, whereas transactions in the components of the current account do affect these measures.
- 15.3. Capital-account transactions are recorded in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) in lines 65 (receipts) and 66 (payments) of ITA table 1.2. ITA tables 1.1, 1.3, and 1.4 include the same capital-account categories as those included in ITA table 1.2. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis does not provide a dedicated ITA table focusing on the capital account.

Departures from BPM6

- 15.4. The coverage and presentation of the capital account largely follow the guidelines recommended by the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*, including the separate presentation of credits (receipts) and debits (payments). Transactions related to debt assumption are not included in the ITAs because of the lack of adequate source data. BEA combines capital transfers with other capital-account transactions in its presentation.

Data sources

BEA survey data

- 15.5. Statistics for sales or purchases of marketing assets (trademarks and franchises) are based on data collected on BEA's quarterly and benchmark services surveys of selected services and intellectual property (BE-125, BE-120).³¹ Some of the data used to estimate transfer agreements related to

31. See paragraph 3.14 for the full titles of trade in services survey forms.

sports players are also collected on these surveys. Estimates for the adjustments for disaster-related insurance claims are largely based on data collected on BEA's quarterly and benchmark surveys of insurance transactions (BE-45, BE-140).

Other data

- 15.6. **U.S. government agencies.** Estimates for grants provided by the U.S. government are based on data submitted quarterly to BEA by U.S. government operating agencies under Office of Management and Budget Statistical Directive No. 19.
- 15.7. **U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department).** Data for forgiveness of U.S. government loans are obtained from the Treasury Department.
- 15.8. **U.S. Department of State (State Department).** The State Department provides BEA with data on its sales and purchases of land abroad, which are recorded as transactions in nonproduced nonfinancial assets.
- 15.9. **Publicly available information.** Preliminary estimates of disaster-related claims are based on press releases issued by insurance companies and risk assessment firms or on information obtained from insurance company financial reports. These estimates are replaced with reported disaster-related losses from the BE-45 as they are available. Publicly available information, such as press releases and private industry reports, is also used to estimate certain acquisitions and disposals of nonproduced nonfinancial assets.

Estimation methods

- 15.10. Estimation methods differ between capital transfers and the acquisition and disposal of nonproduced nonfinancial assets. Each component is described below.

Capital transfers

- 15.11. Three major components of capital transfers are insured disaster-related (catastrophic) losses, debt forgiveness, and investment grants payments. Insured disaster-related losses are based on data collected on BEA's surveys of insurance transactions and on publicly available information (when survey data are not available). A single entry for the entire amount of the loss recovered from reinsurance and primary insurance companies is made in the quarter in which the disaster occurs. These transfers are separated from other insurance transactions to assure that insured disaster-related losses do not affect measures of income and savings in the National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs).
- 15.12. Debt forgiveness is the voluntary cancellation of all or part of a debt obligation within a contractual agreement between a creditor and debtor. With debt forgiveness, the contractual arrangement cancels or forgives all or part of the principal amount outstanding, including interest unpaid past

the due date (arrears) and other interest costs that have accrued. Currently, source data are available only for forgiveness of debt owed to the U.S. government; these data are from the Treasury Department.

- 15.13. Investment grants payments are similar to international cooperation in secondary income payments in that they cover the use of U.S. government financing to transfer real resources or financial assets to foreigners under programs enacted by the U.S. Congress for the provision of nonmilitary and military foreign assistance (grants) for which no repayment is expected. They are distinguished from grants covered by international cooperation by the purpose of the grant. Investment grants pertain to grants of capital equipment—such as transport equipment, machinery, and military weapons—and cash grants for purposes of gross fixed capital formation. Investment grants in the form of cash are often tied to specific investments projects, such as large construction projects. U.S. government grants—both investment grants and otherwise—are described at greater length in paragraphs 14.17–14.27.

Acquisition and disposal of nonproduced nonfinancial assets

- 15.14. Acquisitions and disposals of nonproduced nonfinancial assets include purchases and sales of rights to tangible assets, such as mineral rights, electromagnetic spectrum rights, and offshore drilling rights, and purchases and sales of certain intangible assets, such as trademarks and franchises. Source data are not available to separately identify and completely measure some of these transactions. Transactions are often intermittent and are recorded in the ITAs when large transactions are identified. Examples of intermittent transactions in nonproduced nonfinancial assets currently included in the capital account are receipts of U.S.-based sports leagues for the establishment of franchises abroad and receipts of the State Department for the sale of land abroad.
- 15.15. Data on certain acquisitions and disposals of nonproduced nonfinancial assets are collected, at least in part, on BEA's surveys of selected services and intellectual property. These include data on purchases and sales of trademarks and franchises and on the fee(s) paid by one sporting franchise to another for the transfer of a player. The transfer fee for players reflects the sale/purchase of an asset representing the exclusive right to employ an athlete. Estimates for other fees paid by sporting franchises for player transfers are based on publicly available information.

Chapter 16. Financial-Account Direct Investment

Concepts and coverage

- 16.1. Direct investment is a category of cross-border investment associated with a resident in one economy having control or a significant degree of influence on the management of a business enterprise resident in another economy. Generally, direct investment indicates a long-term relationship with the management of a foreign enterprise. Ownership or control of 10 percent or more of the nonresident entity's voting securities is the threshold for separating direct investment from other types of investment. (See paragraphs 9.44–9.64 for a further discussion of direct investment.)
- 16.2. Direct investment financial transactions include those transactions between entities in a direct investment relationship that change assets or liabilities of the parent or affiliate. The major published components in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) are “equity” and “debt instruments.” Equity transactions comprise “equity other than reinvestment of earnings” and “reinvestment of earnings.”
- 16.3. ITA table 6.1 (see table 16.a) presents direct investment financial transactions first on the “asset/liability basis” recommended by the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* for aggregate direct investment statistics and then on the “directional basis”—outward and inward, depending on whether the direct investor is a U.S. resident or a foreign resident—recommended for classifying direct investment by partner country and by industry. ITA table 6.1 also presents the conversion of direct investment on the asset/liability basis to the directional basis. ITA tables 1.3, 1.4, and 6.2 present financial transactions on a directional basis without current-cost adjustment for outward and inward direct investment by country; ITA tables 6.1 and 6.2 also present statistics by industry. For information on more detailed direct investment by country and industry statistics, see chapter 32. ITA table 6.3 presents direct investment financial transactions for special purpose entities (SPEs) on the asset/liability basis.

Table 16.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions Account
Table 6.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Direct Investment

Line	Acquisition of assets/ transactions for outward investment	Line	Incurrence of liabilities/ transactions for inward investment
1	Net U.S. acquisition of direct investment assets, asset/liability basis	46	Net U.S. incurrence of direct investment liabilities, asset/liability basis
2	Equity	47	Equity
3	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	48	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings
4	Reinvestment of earnings	49	Reinvestment of earnings
5	Debt instruments	50	Debt instruments
6	U.S. parents' claims	51	U.S. affiliates' liabilities
7	U.S. affiliates' claims	52	U.S. parents' liabilities
8	Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	53	Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis
9	U.S. parents' liabilities	54	U.S. parents' liabilities
10	U.S. affiliates' claims	55	U.S. affiliates' claims
11	Equals: Financial transactions for outward direct investment (U.S. direct investment abroad), directional basis	56	Equals: Financial transactions for inward direct investment (foreign direct investment in the United States), directional basis
12	Equity	57	Equity
13	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	58	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings
14	Increases	59	Increases
15	Decreases	60	Decreases
16	Reinvestment of earnings	61	Reinvestment of earnings
17	Reinvestment of earnings without current-cost adjustment	62	Reinvestment of earnings without current-cost adjustment
18	Current-cost adjustment	63	Current-cost adjustment
19	Debt instruments	64	Debt instruments
20	U.S. parents' claims	65	U.S. affiliates' liabilities
21	U.S. parents' liabilities	66	U.S. affiliates' claims
22	Financial transactions without current-cost adjustment for outward direct investment, directional basis	67	Financial transactions without current-cost adjustment for inward direct investment, directional basis
23	Manufacturing	68	Manufacturing
24	Wholesale trade	69	Wholesale trade
25	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance	70	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance
26	Holding companies except bank holding companies		
27	Other	71	Other
28	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	72	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings
29	Manufacturing	73	Manufacturing
30	Wholesale trade	74	Wholesale trade
31	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance	75	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance
32	Holding companies except bank holding companies		

Table continues

Line	Acquisition of assets/ transactions for outward investment	Line	Incurrence of liabilities/ transactions for inward investment
33	Other	76	Other
34	Reinvestment of earnings without current-cost adjustment	77	Reinvestment of earnings without current-cost adjustment
35	Manufacturing	78	Manufacturing
36	Wholesale trade	79	Wholesale trade
37	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance	80	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance
38	Holding companies except bank holding companies		
39	Other	81	Other
40	Debt instruments	82	Debt instruments
41	Manufacturing	83	Manufacturing
42	Wholesale trade	84	Wholesale trade
43	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance	85	Finance (including depository institutions) and insurance
44	Holding companies except bank holding companies		
45	Other	86	Other

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- 16.4. Like other financial-account components, direct investment transactions are measured and presented on a net basis. Net acquisition of direct investment assets represents net purchases (gross purchases less gross sales) of foreign direct investment assets by U.S. residents, and net incurrence of direct investment liabilities represents net direct investment purchases of U.S. assets by foreign residents.

Departures from BPM6

- 16.5. The coverage and presentation of direct investment including ITA table 6.1 closely follow *BPM6* recommendations, with an exception for the treatment of some investment by fellow enterprises that is due to limitations in source data collected by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. BEA surveys capture investment between majority-owned fellow enterprises but not with those fellow enterprises that are minority-owned as called for in *BPM6* and the *Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition*.
- 16.6. A second departure from the international guidelines concerns private funds (collective investment institutions). In BEA statistics, investments in, or by, private funds are excluded from direct investment and included in portfolio investment if the investor does not ultimately own at least 10 percent of the voting interest or equivalent of an “operating company” through the private fund. (An “operating company” is a U.S. or foreign business enterprise that is not a private fund or a holding company.) Under the international guidelines, any investment that meets the 10 percent threshold is considered direct investment whether or not it involves ultimate ownership of 10 percent of an operating company.

Data sources

- 16.7. **BEA survey data.** Statistics for direct investment financial transactions (assets and liabilities) presented in ITA tables 1.1–1.4 and in ITA table 6.1 are based largely on data collected on BEA’s quarterly, annual, and benchmark direct investment surveys. The quarterly surveys collect only information needed for the ITAs and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts—specifically, financial transactions and positions between parents and their affiliates and income flows between parents and their affiliates.
- 16.8. The Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE–577) collects quarterly data on U.S. direct investment abroad. The Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE–605) collects quarterly data on foreign direct investment in the United States. Each year, the data from the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE–11) and to the Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE–15). Once every 5 years, the data from the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE–10) and to the Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE–12). (See paragraphs 32.11–32.19 for a discussion of the reconciliation process.) Annual and benchmark surveys are also used to identify SPEs.

Estimation methods

- 16.9. Direct investment financial transactions represent the aggregation of data items reported on BEA’s direct investment surveys by U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) for U.S. direct investment abroad and by the U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs for foreign direct investment in the United States. The following sections describe the methods used for each of the direct investment components and classifications presented in ITA table 6.1.

Equity

Equity other than reinvestment of earnings

- 16.10. Parents’ equity in legally incorporated affiliates consists of the parents’ holdings of capital stock in, and other capital contributions to, their affiliates. Capital stock consists of all stock of affiliates, whether common or preferred, voting or nonvoting. Other capital contributions by parents, also referred to as “equity in additional paid-in capital,” consist of (1) capital, invested or contributed, that is not included in capital stock, such as amounts paid for stock in excess of its par or stated value and (2) capitalizations of intercompany accounts (conversions of debt to equity) that do not result in the issuance of capital stock. Direct investment equity does not include investment fund shares. Parents’ equity in unincorporated affiliates consists of the parents’ share of the affiliates’ total owners’ equity.

- 16.11. Equity investment other than reinvestment of earnings is the net of parents' equity increases and decreases in their affiliates. It excludes changes in equity that result from the reinvestment of earnings, which are recorded as a separate component of direct investment financial transactions. Increases in equity other than reinvestment of earnings result from: (1) the parents' establishment of new affiliates (that is, greenfield investment), (2) initial acquisitions of a 10-percent-or-more ownership interest in existing businesses, (3) acquisitions of additional ownership interests in existing affiliates, and (4) capital contributions to affiliates. Decreases in equity other than reinvestment of earnings result from liquidations of affiliates, from partial or total sales of ownership interests in affiliates, and from the return of capital contributions. Decreases also include liquidating dividends, which are a return of capital to parents. Decreases in equity investment other than reinvestment of earnings are netted against increases to derive net flows of equity other than reinvestment of earnings.

Reinvestment of earnings

- 16.12. Reinvestment of earnings of affiliates equals total earnings less dividends and withdrawals. Earnings are the parents' shares in the net income of their affiliates after provision for host country income taxes and excluding extraordinary items. Earnings are from the books of the affiliate. A parent's share in net income is based on its directly held equity interest in the affiliate.
- 16.13. Reinvestment of earnings is shown as a separate component of direct investment financial transactions, in recognition of the fact that the earnings of an affiliate are income to the parent, whether they are reinvested or remitted to the parent. However, because reinvested earnings are not actually transferred to the parent but increase the parent's investment in its affiliate, an entry of equal magnitude, but opposite direction, is made in the direct investment financial account, offsetting the entry made in direct investment income receipts or payments.
- 16.14. Reinvestment of earnings, as well as total earnings and total income in the current account, is measured at current cost (or replacement cost) rather than at historical cost (book value) to assure that fixed assets are valued at current-period prices and to assure that reported measures of earnings and income earned in a given period are properly aligned with charges against income in the same period (see paragraph 13.14 for more information). The adjustment is made at the global level because source data are not available to apply it at either the country level or industry level; reinvestment of earnings at country and industry levels is based on historical-cost assets. The total amount of the current-cost adjustment is entered in the "international organizations and unallocated" area in ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4 to assure that the geographic areas sum to the global total for reinvestment of earnings. For SPE statistics in ITA table 6.3, BEA apportions part of the global current-cost adjustment to SPEs based on the share of the unadjusted direct investment equity position for which SPEs account.

Debt instruments

- 16.15. Debt instrument transactions can involve transactions between a parent and its affiliates or between enterprises that are under the control or influence of the same direct investor (immediate or otherwise), but where neither enterprise controls nor influences the other enterprise (“fellow enterprises”). For example, debt instrument transactions for foreign direct investment in the United States cover transactions between U.S. affiliates and members of their foreign parent group other than their immediate foreign parent.
- 16.16. When a parent lends funds to its affiliate, the balance of the parent’s receivables (amounts due) from the affiliate increases; subsequently, when the affiliate repays the principal owed to its parent, the balance of the parent’s receivables from the affiliate is reduced. Similarly, when a parent borrows funds from its affiliate, the balance of the parent’s payables (amounts owed) to the affiliate increases; subsequently, when the parent repays the principal owed to its affiliate, the balance of the parent’s payables to the affiliate is reduced. Quarterly transactions in debt instruments are derived by subtracting the outstanding intercompany receivables and payables balances at the end of the previous quarter from the corresponding balances at the end of the reference quarter.
- 16.17. Debt investment transactions are recorded on an asset/liability basis in the aggregate statistics. However, statistics presented by country or by industry are presented on a directional basis because the directional basis is better for analyzing certain aspects of direct investment, such as identifying the foreign countries in which U.S. MNEs are investing or the U.S. industries in which foreign direct investors are investing.
- 16.18. On the asset/liability basis, debt instrument transactions that increase or decrease U.S. parents’ receivables (claims) from their foreign affiliates and transactions that increase or decrease U.S. affiliates’ receivables (claims) from their foreign parent groups are recorded under net U.S. acquisition of direct investment assets. Likewise, transactions that increase or decrease U.S. parents’ payables (liabilities) to their foreign affiliates and transactions that increase or decrease U.S. affiliates’ payables (liabilities) to their foreign parent groups are recorded under U.S. net incurrence of direct investment liabilities. On the directional basis, debt instrument transactions are recorded on a net basis. They consist of the change in parents’ net intercompany debt due from their affiliates during the quarter. The net balance at the end of a quarter or year is calculated as parents’ receivables less parents’ payables.
- 16.19. On the directional basis, increases in U.S. parents’ receivables from their foreign affiliates or reductions in U.S. parents’ payables to their foreign affiliates result in increases in U.S. parents’ net assets and give rise to outflows in debt instruments under outward direct investment. Reductions in U.S. parents’ receivables from their foreign affiliates or increases in U.S. parents’ payables to their foreign affiliates result in decreases in U.S. parents’ net assets and give rise to inflows in debt instruments under outward direct investment.

- 16.20. On the directional basis, increases in U.S. affiliates' payables to their foreign parents or reductions in U.S. affiliates' receivables from their foreign parents result in increases in U.S. affiliates' net liabilities and give rise to inflows in debt instruments under inward direct investment. Reductions in U.S. affiliates' payables to their foreign parents or increases in U.S. affiliates' receivables from their foreign parents result in decreases in U.S. affiliates' net liabilities and give rise to outflows in debt instruments under inward direct investment.
- 16.21. Table 16.b presents an example, for illustration purposes, of the conversion of direct investment financial-account transactions defined on the asset/liability basis recommended by *BPM6* to the directional basis recommended for classifying direct investment transactions by partner country and by industry.

Table 16.b. Direct Investment Financial Transactions on the Asset/Liability Basis and on the Directional Basis

Net U.S. acquisition of assets/ transactions for outward investment	Millions of dollars	Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities/ transactions for inward investment	Millions of dollars
Net U.S. acquisition of direct investment assets, asset/liability basis	460	Net U.S. incurrence of direct investment liabilities, asset/liability basis	255
Equity	400	Equity	200
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	50	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	90
Reinvestment of earnings	350	Reinvestment of earnings	110
Debt instruments	60	Debt instruments	55
U.S. parents' claims	20	U.S. affiliates' liabilities	45
U.S. affiliates' claims	40	U.S. parents' liabilities	10
Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	50	Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	50
U.S. parents' liabilities	10	U.S. parents' liabilities	10
U.S. affiliates' claims	40	U.S. affiliates' claims	40
Equals: Financial transactions for outward direct investment, directional basis	410	Equals: Financial transactions for inward direct investment, directional basis	205
Equity	400	Equity	200
Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	50	Equity other than reinvestment of earnings	90
Reinvestment of earnings	350	Reinvestment of earnings	110
Debt instruments	10	Debt	5
U.S. parents' claims	20	U.S. affiliates' liabilities	45
U.S. parents' liabilities	10	U.S. affiliates' claims	40

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- 16.22. Not all debt instrument transactions reflect actual flows of funds. For example, when distributed earnings or interest accrue to a parent from an affiliate, the full amount is included as a receipt or payment of direct investment income. If all or part of that amount is not actually transferred to the parent, the amount not transferred is entered into debt instruments as an increase in the parent's receivables from its affiliate.

Special issues

- 16.23. The following sections discuss special issues in the measurement of direct investment transactions. These special issues include financial intermediaries, leases lasting longer than one year, direct investment and portfolio investment, and reverse investment and investment in fellow enterprises.

Financial intermediaries

- 16.24. Complexities arise in the classification of intercompany debt transactions between parents (or other members of the foreign parent group) and affiliates that are both financial intermediaries. Direct investment entities are deemed to be financial intermediaries if they are classified in a finance industry, including banking but excluding insurance. In contrast to other intercompany debt transactions between parties in a direct investment relationship, transactions between two financial intermediaries are classified outside direct investment as "other investment." This exception is applied because the nature of these transactions is more closely related to the underlying activity of financial intermediation than to activity typical of a direct investment relationship. (By the same reasoning, related interest flows are also classified as other investment income rather than as direct investment interest.) The exception is not applied if only one party to the transaction is a financial intermediary.
- 16.25. For example, if a U.S. manufacturer borrows funds from its affiliate or its parent in a financial industry, the acquisition of those funds is recorded as an increase in debt instrument payables (a debt inflow) and the repayment of those funds as a decrease in debt instrument payables (a debt outflow), and both are included in direct investment financial transactions. However, if a U.S. financial firm acquires funds from or repays funds to a financial affiliate or parent, those financial transactions are classified as an incurrence or repayment of other investment liabilities.

Leases lasting longer than one year

- 16.26. Transactions in debt instruments include the initiation and changes in the value of leases with terms of more than one year between parents and their affiliates. When property is leased by a foreign affiliate from its U.S. parent, or leased by a foreign parent from its U.S. affiliate, the value of the leased property is recorded as an asset of the U.S. parent or U.S. affiliate because it increases its receivables (a debt instruments outflow). The subsequent payment of principal is a return of capital and is recorded as a reduction in the U.S. parent's or U.S. affiliate's assets because it reduces its receivables (a debt inflow).

- 16.27. Similarly, when property is leased to a U.S. parent by its foreign affiliate, or to a U.S. affiliate by its foreign parent, the value of the leased property is recorded as a liability of the U.S. parent or U.S. affiliate because it increases its payables (a debt instruments inflow). The subsequent payment of principal on the lease is a return of capital and is recorded as a reduction in the U.S. parent's or U.S. affiliate's liabilities because it reduces its payables (a debt outflow).

Direct investment and portfolio investment

- 16.28. Some transactions require a shift in classification between direct investment and portfolio investment. If a U.S. parent's voting interest in a foreign business enterprise, or a foreign parent's voting interest in a U.S. business enterprise, is originally less than 10 percent, and if additional purchases result in a greater than 10 percent voting interest, a direct investment financial transaction equal to the value of the additional equity interest is recorded.³² In addition, offsetting valuation adjustments are made to the direct investment position and the portfolio investment position to bring the original equity interest into the direct investment position. If a U.S. parent's voting interest in a foreign affiliate or a foreign parent's voting interest in a U.S. affiliate falls below 10 percent, a direct investment financial transaction equal to the value of the reduction in equity interest is recorded, and offsetting valuation adjustments are made to the direct investment position and the portfolio investment position to extinguish the remaining direct investment position. Related income flows are also reclassified.

Reverse investment and investment in fellow enterprises

- 16.29. A U.S. parent may have investment in a foreign affiliate that, in turn, has investment in the U.S. parent as a result of the affiliate's lending funds to, or acquiring voting securities or other equity interest in, the U.S. parent. Likewise, a foreign parent may have investment in a U.S. affiliate that, in turn, has investment in the foreign parent as a result of the affiliate's lending funds to, or acquiring voting securities or other equity interest in, the foreign parent. For cases in which affiliates have no voting power or less than 10 percent voting power in their parents, equity and debt investment by affiliates in their parent companies is known as "reverse investment." For cases in which affiliates have 10 percent or more voting power in their parent companies, investment by affiliates in parents is treated as separate direct investment in its own right.
- 16.30. *BPM6* calls for reverse equity investment to be separately identified in cases where it is significant. The results from the 2014 Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad and the 2017 Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States suggest that reverse equity investment is not significant for U.S. outward or inward direct investment, so BEA does not show this category in its accounts at this time. Reverse debt investment is separately identified in ITA table 6.1.

32. A direct investment relationship exists when a parent's voting interest in an affiliate is greater than 10 percent. Direct investment transactions and positions reflect the parent's equity interest in the affiliate. A parent's voting and equity interests are usually the same, but they can differ.

- 16.31. An affiliate may have debt investment in a fellow enterprise, another enterprise that is under the control or influence of the same direct investor (immediate or otherwise), but where neither enterprise controls nor influences the other enterprise. International guidelines call for such investment to be separately identified and labeled as “direct investment between fellow enterprises” in cases where it is significant. Because of the high level of consolidation of data collected for U.S. parent companies, BEA is not able to separately identify fellow enterprise transactions on outward investment. For this reason, these transactions are included with direct transactions between the U.S. parent company and its foreign affiliates on outward investment. For consistency, these transactions are included with direct transactions between U.S. affiliates and their foreign parent group on inward investment as well. On an asset/liability basis, the direction of equity ownership does not matter; an inflow of direct-investment-related debt funds represents an increase in U.S. debt liabilities and an outflow of direct-investment-related debt funds represents an increase in U.S. debt assets.

Chapter 17. Financial-Account Portfolio Investment

Concepts and coverage

- 17.1. Portfolio investment consists of cross-border transactions involving debt or equity securities, excluding those included in direct investment or reserve assets. The major published components in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) are “equity and investment fund shares” and “debt securities.” In ITA table 7.1, portfolio investment is presented by maturity and by type of instrument for debt securities, by sector of U.S. holder for assets, and by sector of U.S. issuer for liabilities; see table 17.a below. Transactions in portfolio investment liabilities to foreign official agencies are presented in ITA table 9.1.

Table 17.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions Accounts
Table 7.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Portfolio Investment

Line	Assets by instrument	Line	Liabilities by instrument
1	Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets	14	Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities
	By type of foreign security:		By type of U.S. security acquired by foreign residents:
2	Equity and investment fund shares	15	Equity and investment fund shares
3	Equity other than investment fund shares	16	Equity other than investment fund shares
4	Investment fund shares	17	Investment fund shares
5	Debt securities	18	Debt securities
6	Short term	19	Short term
		20	Treasury bills and certificates
		21	Federally sponsored agency securities
7	Negotiable certificates of deposit	22	Negotiable certificates of deposit
8	Commercial paper	23	Commercial paper and other securities
9	Other short-term securities		
10	Long term	24	Long term
11	Government securities	25	Treasury bonds and notes
		26	State and local government securities
		27	Federally sponsored agency securities
12	Corporate bonds and notes	28	Corporate bonds and notes
13	Negotiable certificates of deposit	29	Negotiable certificates of deposit

Table continues

Line	Assets by sector of U.S. holder	Line	Liabilities by sector of U.S. issuer
30	Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets	51	Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities
31	Deposit-taking institutions except central bank	52	Deposit-taking institutions except central bank
32	Equity and investment fund shares	53	Equity and investment fund shares
33	Debt securities	54	Debt securities
34	Short term	55	Short term
35	Long term	56	Long term
36	Other financial institutions	57	Other financial institutions
37	Equity and investment fund shares	58	Equity and investment fund shares
38	Debt securities	59	Debt securities
39	Short term	60	Federally sponsored agency securities
40	Long term	61	Short term
		62	Long term
		63	Other securities
		64	Short term
		65	Long term
41	Nonfinancial institutions except general government	66	Nonfinancial institutions except general government
42	Equity and investment fund shares	67	Equity and investment fund shares
43	Debt securities	68	Debt securities
44	Short term	69	Short term
45	Long term	70	Long term
46	General government	71	General government
47	Equity and investment fund shares		
48	Debt securities	72	Debt securities
49	Short term	73	U.S. Treasury securities
50	Long term	74	Short term
		75	Long term
		76	State and local government long-term securities

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- 17.2. Like other financial-account components, portfolio investment is measured and presented on a net basis. Net acquisition of portfolio investment assets represents net purchases (gross purchases less gross sales) of foreign securities by U.S. residents, and net incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities represents net purchases of U.S. securities by foreign residents.

Departures from BPM6

- 17.3. The coverage and presentation of portfolio investment closely follow recommendations from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses slightly different terminology and sector detail in some cases.

Data sources

- 17.4. **U.S. Department of the Treasury.** U.S. residents' net purchases of foreign-issued equity and long-term debt securities and foreign residents' net purchases of U.S.-issued equity and long-term debt securities are based on data collected monthly on the Treasury International Capital (TIC) SLT form.³³ The related annual and benchmark surveys cover equity and long- and short-term debt securities, including negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs), and are used to supplement the monthly and quarterly TIC data. The SHL(A) covers foreign holdings of U.S. securities and the SHC(A) covers U.S. holdings of foreign securities. Values on these surveys reflect the secondary market prices of the equity and long-term debt securities. See chapter 3 for more details on the TIC data.
- 17.5. Estimates of U.S. short-term debt securities and NCDs are based on the TIC B and C forms: BC, BL-2, BQ-1, BQ-2, and CQ-1. Values on the TIC B and C forms are reported at their original contractual values (face value).
- 17.6. Changes in reported values caused by the addition of new reporters, corrected reports, or changes to the reporting panels of these TIC surveys are reported to BEA and are categorized as other changes in position n.i.e. (not included elsewhere) in the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts.
- 17.7. The values of securities denominated in foreign currencies, including most foreign-issued securities and some U.S.-issued securities, are converted to U.S. dollars at exchange rates prevailing on the reporting date and are reported in U.S. dollars on the TIC surveys.
- 17.8. **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).** U.S. residents' net purchases of foreign-issued equity and foreign residents' net purchases of U.S.-issued equity can also include the acquisition of securities through stock swaps. Stock swaps, which are sometimes a component of merger and acquisition (M&A) transactions, consist of shares of the purchasing company's stock being offered to shareholders of the target company at an agreed-upon ratio. When stock swaps involve a large merger between a foreign company and a U.S. company ("cross-border" stock swaps) and when shareholders of those companies are presumed to include portfolio investors in the same country as the target company, the net purchases are incorporated in portfolio investment. BEA reviews the SEC's EDGAR database and public news releases to estimate the value of stock swaps in portfolio investment.
- 17.9. **U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).** The DFC invests in nonresident corporations under its equity investment program. These equity transactions, which do not meet the direct investment ownership threshold, are included in U.S. residents' net purchases of foreign-issued equity beginning with the first quarter of 2023. BEA estimates transactions from a public database of active DFC commitments.

33. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3.

Estimation methods

- 17.10. Estimation methods for portfolio investment statistics, including classifications by maturity and sector, are summarized below in tables 17.b, 17.c, and 17.d. Table 17.b summarizes transactions in short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity. Table 17.c summarizes transactions in equity and long-term debt securities, excluding long-term NCDs. Table 17.d summarizes methods used to derive detailed components by sector from aggregate components.

Short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity

- 17.11. Estimates of U.S. residents' net purchases of foreign short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity and of foreign residents' net purchases of U.S. short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity are based on changes in quarterly holdings of these securities reported on the TIC B and C forms. Transactions in short-term instruments and NCDs are equal to holdings reported at the end of the reference quarter, less holdings reported at the end of the preceding quarter, less changes in holdings not due to transactions.
- 17.12. Changes not due to transactions include changes in holdings caused by changes to reporting panels and changes in foreign-currency-denominated instruments caused by changes in exchange rates. (See paragraphs 24.17 and 24.18 for information on the estimation of exchange-rate changes.) Because holdings are reported at face value, reported values are not much affected by price changes in secondary markets, so no adjustment is made for changes in secondary market prices. Table 17.b shows the components published in ITA tables 7.1 and 9.1 derived by this method.

Table 17.b. Transactions in Short-Term Debt Securities and Negotiable Certificates of Deposit in ITA Tables 7.1 and 9.1, Directly Estimated from TIC B & C Holdings

Line	Item description
ITA Table 7.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Portfolio Investment	
Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets	
7+13	Negotiable certificates of deposit, any maturity
8	Commercial paper
9	Other short-term securities
Assets by sector of U.S. holder	
34	Short-term debt securities held by deposit-taking institutions except central bank ¹
39	Short-term debt securities held by other financial institutions ¹
44	Short-term debt securities held by nonfinancial institutions except general government ¹
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities	
22+29	Negotiable certificates of deposit, any maturity
20	Treasury bills and certificates
21	Federally sponsored agency securities, short term
23	Commercial paper and other short-term securities

Table continues

Line	Item description
Liabilities by sector of U.S. issuer	
55	Short-term debt securities issued by deposit-taking institutions except central bank ²
61	Federally sponsored agency securities, short term (equals line 21)
64	Short-term debt securities issued by other financial institutions
69	Short-term debt securities issued by nonfinancial institutions except general government
74	U.S. Treasury securities, short term (equals line 20)
ITA Table 9.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Liabilities to Foreign Official Agencies	
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities	
10+17	Negotiable certificates of deposit, any maturity
8	Treasury bills and certificates
9+11	Short-term federally sponsored agency securities plus commercial paper and other short-term securities

ITA International Transactions Accounts

TIC Treasury International Capital

1. Transactions in negotiable certificates of deposit directly estimated for this sector are allocated between short- and long-term maturities based on annual data from the SHC(A).
2. All transactions in U.S. negotiable certificates of deposit are allocated to deposit-taking institutions except central bank. Transactions are allocated between short- and long-term maturities based on annual data from the SHL(A).

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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- 17.13. The TIC B and C forms provide outstanding amounts for NCDs but do not provide long-term and short-term holdings for these instruments. BEA uses annual data from the SHC(A) and SHL(A) annual and benchmark surveys of portfolio investment on long- and short-term holdings of NCDs to allocate transactions computed for NCDs to long-term and short-term transactions for ITA tables 7.1 and table 9.1.
- 17.14. The SHL(A) annual and benchmark surveys of foreign portfolio investment in the United States provide complete holdings by foreign official agencies of all types of U.S.-issued short-term securities and short- and long-term NCDs. The TIC BL-2 form provides monthly holdings by foreign official agencies of short-term U.S. Treasury securities and the aggregate holdings of all other U.S. short-term securities plus NCDs of any maturity. Quarterly aggregate holdings by foreign official agencies from the BL-2 are combined with the detailed annual holdings by security type from the SHL(A) to estimate quarterly transactions by foreign official agencies of short-term U.S. federally sponsored agency securities, U.S. commercial paper and other U.S. short-term securities, and U.S. short- and long-term NCDs for ITA table 9.1. Also included in table 9.1 are transactions of foreign official agencies of U.S. Treasury bills and certificates, based on quarterly holdings reported in the BL-2.

Equity and long-term debt securities, excluding long-term NCDs

- 17.15. U.S. residents' net purchases of foreign equity and long-term debt securities and foreign residents' net purchases of U.S. equity and long-term debt securities reflect transactions reported on the TIC SLT form, as well as equity transactions from the DFC and stock swaps. Table 17c shows the components published in ITA tables 7.1 and 9.1.
- 17.16. Annually, BEA uses corresponding annual or benchmark survey data for cross-border securities holdings to reconcile positions and transactions by comparing the annual or benchmark survey results to data from the TIC SLT form for the same reporting date.

**Table 17.c. Transactions in Equity and Long-Term Debt Securities in
ITA Tables 7.1 and 9.1, Based on the TIC SLT Form**

Line	Item
ITA Table 7.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Portfolio Investment	
Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets	
2	Equity and investment fund shares ¹
	Debt securities
11+12	Long-term government securities plus corporate bonds and notes
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities	
15	Equity and investment fund shares ¹
	Debt securities
	Long term
25	Treasury bonds and notes
27	Federally sponsored agency securities
26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
Liabilities by sector of U.S. issuer	
	Debt securities
62	Federally sponsored agency securities, long term (equals line 27)
75	U.S. Treasury securities, long term (equals line 25)
ITA Table 9.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Liabilities to Foreign Official Agencies	
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities	
3	Equity and investment fund shares
	Debt securities
	Long term
13	Treasury bonds and notes
15	Federally sponsored agency securities
14+16	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities

ITA International Transactions Accounts

SLT Aggregate Holdings of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents

TIC Treasury International Capital

1. In addition to SLT data, equity and investment fund share assets also include DFC equity transactions. Assets and liabilities may also include transactions related to stock swaps.

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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- 17.17. Table 17.d presents the lines in ITA tables 7.1 and 9.1 that are estimated by allocating estimates of transactions in equity and long-term debt securities from the lines listed in table 17.c according to U.S. holdings of foreign assets at the end of the reference quarter or according to foreign holdings of U.S. liabilities at the end of the reference quarter. In table 17.d, the derived estimate described in column A is equal to the source estimate in column B multiplied by the ratio of column C holdings to column D holdings, at the end of the reference quarter. Transactions in long-term NCDs, estimated as described in the previous section, are added to selected lines listed in table 17.d covering long-term debt securities.

Table 17.d. Transactions in Equity and Long-Term Debt Securities from Valuation-Adjusted SLT Holdings and Ratios From SLT Holdings Detail

Derived transactions			Source transactions			Allocation ratio components from SLT holdings	
Table	Line	Item description	Table	Line	Item description	Numerator	Denominator
[A]			[B]			[C]	[D]
Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets							
Assets by type of foreign security							
Equity and investment fund shares¹							
7.1	3	Equity other than investment fund shares	7.1	2	Equity and investment fund shares	Equity other than investment fund shares	Equity and investment fund shares
7.1	4	Investment fund shares	7.1	2	Equity and investment fund shares	Investment fund shares	Equity and investment fund shares
Long-term debt securities							
7.1	11	Government securities	7.1	11+12	Long-term government securities <i>plus</i> corporate bonds and notes	Government securities	Long-term government securities <i>plus</i> corporate bonds and notes
7.1	12	Corporate bonds and notes	7.1	11+12	Long-term government securities <i>plus</i> corporate bonds and notes	Corporate bonds and notes	Long-term government securities <i>plus</i> corporate bonds and notes

Table continues

Derived transactions			Source transactions			Allocation ratio components from SLT holdings	
Table	Line	Item description	Table	Line	Item description	Numerator	Denominator
[A]			[B]			[C]	[D]
Assets by sector of U.S. holder							
Deposit-taking institutions except central bank							
7.1	32	Equity and investment fund shares held by deposit-taking institutions except central bank	7.1	2	Equity and investment fund shares held by all sectors	Equity and investment fund shares held by deposit-taking institutions except central bank	Equity and investment fund shares held by all sectors
7.1	35	Long-term debt securities held by deposit-taking institutions except central bank ²	7.1	10	Long-term debt securities held by all sectors	Long-term debt securities held by deposit-taking institutions except central bank	Long-term debt securities held by all sectors
Other financial institutions							
7.1	37	Equity and investment fund shares held by other financial institutions	7.1	2	Equity and investment fund shares held by all sectors	Equity and investment fund shares held by other financial institutions	Equity and investment fund shares held by all sectors
7.1	40	Long-term debt securities held by other financial institutions ²	7.1	10	Long-term debt securities held by all sectors	Long-term debt securities held by other financial institutions	Long-term debt securities held by all sectors
Nonfinancial institutions except general government							
7.1	42	Equity and investment fund shares held by nonfinancial institutions except general government	7.1	2	Equity and investment fund shares held by all sectors	Equity and investment fund shares held by nonfinancial institutions except general government	Equity and investment fund shares held by all sectors
7.1	45	Long-term debt securities held by nonfinancial institutions except general government	7.1	10	Long-term debt securities held by all sectors	Long-term debt securities held by nonfinancial institutions except general government	Long-term debt securities held by all sectors
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities							
Liabilities by type of U.S. security acquired by foreign residents							
Equity and investment fund shares acquired by all foreign residents ¹							
7.1	16	Equity other than investment fund shares	7.1	15	Equity and investment fund shares	Equity other than investment fund shares	Equity and investment fund shares
7.1	17	Investment fund shares	7.1	15	Equity and investment fund shares	Investment fund shares	Equity and investment fund shares

Table continues

Derived transactions			Source transactions			Allocation ratio components from SLT holdings	
Table	Line	Item description	Table	Line	Item description	Numerator	Denominator
[A]			[B]			[C]	[D]
Equity and investment fund shares acquired by foreign official agencies							
9.1	4	Equity other than investment fund shares	9.1	3	Equity and investment fund shares	Equity other than investment fund shares	Equity and investment fund shares
9.1	5	Investment fund shares	9.1	3	Equity and investment fund shares	Investment fund shares	Equity and investment fund shares
Long-term debt securities acquired by all foreign residents							
7.1	26	State and local government securities	7.1	26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	State and local government securities	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
7.1	76	State and local government long-term securities (equals line 26)	7.1	26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	State and local government securities	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
7.1	28	Corporate bonds and notes	7.1	26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	Corporate bonds and notes	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
Long-term debt securities acquired by foreign official agencies							
9.1	14	State and local government securities	9.1	14+16	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	State and local government securities	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
9.1	16	Corporate bonds and notes	9.1	14+16	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	Corporate bonds and notes	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
Liabilities by sector of U.S. issuer							
Deposit-taking institutions except central bank							
7.1	53	Equity and investment fund shares issued by deposit-taking institutions except central bank	7.1	15	Equity and investment fund shares issued by all sectors	Equity and investment fund shares issued by deposit-taking institutions except central bank	Equity and investment fund shares issued by all sectors
7.1	56	Long-term debt securities issued by deposit-taking institutions except central bank ³	7.1	26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	Long-term debt securities issued by deposit-taking institutions except central bank	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities

Table continues

Derived transactions			Source transactions			Allocation ratio components from SLT holdings	
Table	Line	Item description	Table	Line	Item description	Numerator	Denominator
[A]			[B]			[C]	[D]
Other financial institutions							
7.1	58	Equity and investment fund shares issued by other financial institutions	7.1	15	Equity and investment fund shares issued by all sectors	Equity and investment fund shares issued by other financial institutions	Equity and investment fund shares issued by all sectors
7.1	65	Long-term debt securities issued by other financial institutions	7.1	26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	Long-term debt securities issued by other financial institutions	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities
Nonfinancial institutions except general government							
7.1	67	Equity and investment fund shares issued by nonfinancial institutions except general government	7.1	15	Equity and investment fund shares issued by all sectors	Equity and investment fund shares issued by nonfinancial institutions except general government	Equity and investment fund shares issued by all sectors
7.1	70	Long-term debt securities issued by nonfinancial institutions except general government	7.1	26+28	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities	Long-term debt securities issued by nonfinancial institutions except general government	Corporate bonds and notes plus state and local government securities

SHC Report of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments

SHL Foreign-Residents' Holdings of U.S. Securities, Including Selected Money Market Instruments

SLT Aggregate Holdings of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents

1. In addition to SLT data, equity and investment fund share assets also include DFC equity transactions. Assets and liabilities may also include transactions related to stock swaps.
2. Transactions in negotiable certificates of deposit directly estimated for this sector are allocated between short- and long-term maturities based on annual data from the SHC(A).
3. All transactions in U.S. negotiable certificates of deposit are allocated to deposit-taking institutions except central bank. Transactions are allocated between short- and long-term maturities based on annual data from the SHL(A).

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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Chapter 18. Financial-Account Other Investment

Concepts and coverage

- 18.1. “Other investment” is a residual category that includes financial-account transactions other than those included in direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, and reserve assets. Other investment consists of a wide variety of financial instruments that are usually, but not always, issued and held by financial institutions. The major published components in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) are other equity, currency and deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, and trade credit and advances. Other investment liabilities also include allocations of special drawing rights (SDRs) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- 18.2. In ITA table 8.1 (see table 18.a below), other investment is classified and presented by type of instrument and by maturity for both assets and liabilities. In addition, assets and liabilities are classified and presented by the sector of the U.S. holder for assets and by the sector of the U.S. issuer for liabilities. For each sector, classification by type of instrument is also presented. Transactions in other investment liabilities to foreign official agencies are presented in ITA table 9.1.

Table 18.a. Transactions Shown in International Transactions Accounts
Table 8.1. U.S. International Financial Transactions for Other Investment

Line	Assets by instrument	Line	Liabilities by instrument
1	Net U.S. acquisition of other investment assets	15	Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities
	By type of claim on foreign residents:		By type of liability to foreign residents:
2	Other equity	16	Other equity
3	Currency and deposits	17	Currency and deposits
4	Currency (short term)	18	Currency (short term)
5	Deposits	19	Deposits
6	Short term	20	Short term
7	Long term	21	Long term
8	Loans	22	Loans
9	Short term	23	Short term
10	Long term	24	Long term
11	Insurance technical reserves	25	Insurance technical reserves
12	Trade credit and advances	26	Trade credit and advances
13	Short term	27	Short term
14	Long term	28	Long term
		29	Special drawing rights allocations

Table continues

Line	Assets by sector of U.S. holder
30	Net U.S. acquisition of other investment assets
31	Central bank
Line	Assets by sector of U.S. holder
32	Currency and deposits
33	Deposits
34	Short term
35	Deposit-taking institutions except central bank
36	<i>Of which:</i> Interbank transactions
37	Currency and deposits
38	Deposits
39	<i>Of which:</i> Resale agreements
40	Short term
41	Long term
42	Loans
43	Short term
44	Long term
45	Other financial institutions and nonfinancial institutions except general government
46	Currency and deposits
47	Deposits
48	Short term
49	Long term
50	Loans
51	<i>Of which:</i> Resale agreements
52	Short term
53	Long term
54	Insurance technical reserves
55	Trade credit and advances
56	Short term
57	Long term
58	General government
59	Other equity
60	Loans
61	Long term

Line	Liabilities by sector of U.S. issuer
62	Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities
63	Central bank
Line	Liabilities by sector of U.S. issuer
64	Currency and deposits
65	Currency (short term)
66	Deposits
67	Short term
68	Deposit-taking institutions except central bank
69	<i>Of which:</i> Interbank transactions
70	Currency and deposits
71	Deposits
72	<i>Of which:</i> Repurchase agreements
73	Short term
74	Long term
75	Loans
76	Short term
77	Long term
78	Other financial institutions and nonfinancial institutions except general government
79	Currency and deposits
80	Deposits
81	Short term
82	Long term
83	Loans
84	<i>Of which:</i> Repurchase agreements
85	Short term
86	Long term
87	Insurance technical reserves
88	Trade credit and advances
89	Short term
90	Long term
91	General government
92	Trade credit and advances
93	Long term
94	Special drawing rights allocations

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- 18.3. Like other financial-account components, other investment is measured and presented on a net basis. Net acquisition of other investment assets represents gross acquisitions less gross disposals of foreign financial instruments by U.S. residents, and net incurrence of other investment liabilities represents gross acquisitions less gross disposals of U.S. financial instruments by foreign residents.

Departures from BPM6

- 18.4. One component of other investment in the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* is “insurance, pension, and standardized guarantee schemes.” This component consists of insurance technical reserves (prepayments of premiums and reserves against outstanding insurance claims), pension entitlements (the claims of pensioners on their employers or pension funds), and provisions for calls under standardized guarantees (prepayments of net fees and provisions to meet outstanding calls under standardized loan guarantees). Because of a lack of source data, financial transactions and positions in the ITAs and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts are not separately reported for insurance technical reserves and do not include standardized guarantees.
- 18.5. While source data for transactions related to pension entitlements and standardized guarantee schemes are not sufficient for preparing statistics, cross-border transactions in pension entitlements and standardized guarantees are believed to be negligible.
- 18.6. Also, in some cases the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses slightly different terminology and slightly different sector detail. For example, BEA uses the term “trade credit and advances” because it is the only item for which source data are available under the *BPM6* component “other accounts receivable/payable.”
- 18.7. Currently, BEA is not able to provide separate estimates of certain transactions in “other equity.” Other equity is equity that is not in the form of securities. It can include equity in institutions such as branches, trusts, limited liability and other partnerships, unincorporated funds, and notional units for ownership of real estate and other natural resources. Source data for these types of transactions are not separately available and are partly commingled with equity reported in the Treasury International Capital (TIC) system, which is included in portfolio investment. The ownership of many international financial institutions is not in the form of securities and is thus classified as other equity. BEA’s estimates of transactions in other equity assets cover equity in these international financial institutions.
- 18.8. In BEA’s presentation, the sectors “other financial institutions” and “nonfinancial institutions excluding general government” are combined, mainly because counterparty data used to supplement TIC survey data do not distinguish between U.S. financial institutions and nonfinancial non-bank institutions.

Data sources

- 18.9. **U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department).** Claims and liabilities for deposits, loans, and insurance technical reserves are reported by financial institutions on the TIC B forms. Deposits, loans, and trade credit and advances are reported by nonfinancial institutions on the

TIC C forms beginning in December 2013.³⁴ (See chapter 3 for more details on the TIC data.) Administrative data from the *Monthly Treasury Statement* and the Treasury Department's Foreign Credit Reporting System are used to estimate other equity assets and to supplement estimates of loan assets.

- 18.10. Values on the TIC B and C forms are reported at their original contractual values (face value). Changes in prices in the secondary markets for assets and liabilities reported on the TIC B and C forms are assumed to have little or no impact on the reported positions. Write-offs of assets are reported on the TIC B forms and, if write-offs are significant, estimates of transactions are adjusted to exclude the impact of write-offs. Other known inconsistencies between reported quarterly balances, caused by the addition of new respondents or corrected reporting, are also reported to BEA so that the changes in quarterly balances caused by these inconsistencies can be removed from total changes in balances when estimating transactions.
- 18.11. **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).** Advance payments for sales of military goods to foreign governments are reported to BEA. U.S. government liabilities to foreign governments for these advance payments are classified as payments for “trade credit and advances” in the general government sector.
- 18.12. **U.S. government administrative data.** U.S. government agencies that engage in international transactions report these transactions quarterly to BEA as required under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Directive No. 19. Loans by the U.S. government to foreign residents are mostly made under programs enacted by the U.S. Congress for the provision of foreign assistance, requiring repayment over a period of years, usually with interest.
- 18.13. **Federal Reserve Board (FRB).** Net shipments of U.S. currency into and out of the United States are provided by the FRB to BEA to measure increases and decreases in foreign holdings of U.S. currency. These transactions are not captured elsewhere in statistical reporting systems.
- 18.14. **Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY).** The *Treasury and Federal Reserve Foreign Exchange Operations Report* from the FRBNY provides data for transactions in central bank liquidity swaps. The report of foreign central bank account balances at the FRBNY provides key data for central bank sector deposit transactions. BEA also uses FRBNY source data for foreign and international monetary authorities repurchase agreement (FIMA repo) transactions.
- 18.15. **International Monetary Fund (IMF).** The IMF issues press releases and posts information on its website when it implements significant decisions, such as allocating new SDRs to members or increasing member quotas. Recommendations by the IMF Executive Board for such actions must be ratified by member countries before they can be implemented.

34. Prior to December 2013, U.S. banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies, and securities brokers and dealers reported deposits and loans on the TIC B forms, and other types of financial intermediaries, nonfinancial institutions, and nonprofit institutions reported deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, and trade credit and advances on the TIC C forms.

- 18.16. **Supplemental counterparty data.** Bilateral comparisons between U.S. statistics and comparable statistics from foreign banks for loans and deposits show that U.S. statistics, collected directly from U.S. nonbank firms, understate the external claims and liabilities of U.S. nonbank firms vis-à-vis foreign banks. The foreign banking data are from the central banks of the United Kingdom and Germany; from the Bank for International Settlements for Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Spain; and from FRB reports for banks in the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands.

Estimation methods

- 18.17. Estimation methods are described below for each of the major published components. These components include other equity, currency, deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, trade credit and advances, and SDRs. Unless otherwise noted, methods are the same for U.S. asset transactions and U.S. liability transactions. Transactions equal the end-of-period financial position less the beginning-of-period position less exchange-rate and other changes. Beginning with statistics for 2022, maturity detail for transactions is estimated using ratios that separate exchange-rate changes and other changes into short- and long-term components, which are then subtracted from the short- and long-term components of the difference in positions.

Other equity

- 18.18. Transactions in other equity include financial transactions in equity that are not in the form of securities and that are not included in the direct investment or reserves functional categories. BEA's other investment statistics include transactions related to U.S. government equity stakes in international organizations other than the IMF that do not issue securities. BEA currently lacks source data to provide estimates related to financial transactions in other equity liabilities.
- 18.19. Statistics for transactions in other equity assets are based on U.S. government capital subscriptions and contributions to international financial institutions reported by the Treasury Department in the Monthly Treasury Statement. Transactions in these assets are recorded in the general government sector in ITA table 8.1.

Currency

- 18.20. Transactions in U.S. currency liabilities are equal to net shipments of U.S. currency into and out of the United States. Net disbursements of \$100 notes from FRB cash offices to foreign wholesale banks serve as the measure of currency flows. In a typical transaction, foreign wholesale banks purchase notes from the FRB for distribution to customers abroad. Foreign wholesale banks also sell back to the FRB notes unfit for further circulation or excess balances of notes.
- 18.21. U.S. currency liabilities are liabilities of the U.S. central bank, and transactions in U.S. currency liabilities are recorded in the central bank sector in ITA table 8.1. Transactions in these liabilities are excluded from ITA table 9.1 because they are not liabilities to foreign official agencies.

Deposits

- 18.22. U.S. deposit claims and liabilities with foreign residents include those reported by U.S. financial and nonfinancial institutions both for their own account and for their customers on the TIC B and C forms. Also included are the deposit claims and liabilities of the FRB with foreign central banks reported by the FRBNY.
- 18.23. Statistics for transactions in deposit claims and liabilities of U.S. financial and nonfinancial institutions are based on changes in quarterly holdings as reported on the TIC B and C forms, which are supplemented by changes in quarterly holdings of deposits placed in foreign banks by U.S. nonbank firms estimated from counterparty data from foreign banks. The computed changes in holdings are adjusted to remove the impact of any changes in holdings not caused by transactions, such as changes in exchange rates or reporting panels for the TIC surveys. (See paragraphs 26.35 and 26.36 for information about the estimation of exchange-rate changes.)
- 18.24. U.S. deposit claims in the central bank sector result from FRB transactions with foreign central banks in central bank liquidity swaps and FIMA repos. Both liquidity swaps and FIMA repos are recorded in other investment rather than in reserve assets because they do not meet the requirements for reserve assets. In the case of liquidity swaps, the deposits do not meet the requirement for availability because they are held until the swap is reversed and are not available for other purposes. FIMA repos do not meet the foreign currency requirements for reserve assets. Transactions in central bank deposit assets are equal to changes in liquidity swaps and FIMA repos balances reported by the FRBNY. The FRBNY also reports to BEA the FRB's deposit liabilities and its liabilities from repurchase agreements with foreign central banks. The liabilities from repurchase agreements are classified as deposits following *BPM6* guidelines. Transactions are equal to changes in the liability balances reported by the FRBNY.
- 18.25. Transactions in U.S. deposit liabilities for all U.S. sectors with foreign official agencies are estimated from changes in deposit liabilities to foreign official agencies available separately on the TIC BL-1 form. These liabilities include those of the FRB. These transactions are presented in ITA table 9.1.
- 18.26. U.S. deposit claims and liabilities by sector and maturity are presented in ITA table 8.1. Central bank deposit claims received by the FRB in central bank liquidity swaps and FIMA repos are short-term. Deposits placed in foreign banks by U.S. deposit-taking institutions except central bank are estimated from separate reports by deposit-taking institutions on the TIC B forms.
- 18.27. U.S. central bank deposit liabilities to foreign central banks include liabilities from repurchase agreements. Repurchase agreements are short-term and the other deposit liabilities are available to foreign central banks on short notice, so these are classified as short-term liabilities. Deposit liabilities of U.S. deposit-taking institutions except central bank with foreign residents are estimated from separate reports by deposit-taking institutions on the TIC B forms.

- 18.28. Securities brokers, classified in the other financial institutions sector, hold brokerage balances in brokerage accounts for their customers that are very similar to deposits. Many investors use their brokerage balances like deposit accounts and many brokers pay interest on the accounts and offer limited or unlimited check writing on the accounts. Because of the similarity of brokerage balances to deposits, BEA records transactions in brokerage balances in the deposit liability category. Transactions of U.S. securities brokers with foreign residents in brokerage balances are estimated from separate reports by securities brokers on the TIC B forms.

Loans

- 18.29. U.S. loan claims and liabilities with foreign residents include those reported by U.S. financial and nonfinancial institutions both for their own account and for their customers on the TIC B and C forms. Also included are loan claims on foreign residents reported by U.S. government agencies, mainly under foreign assistance programs, in administrative data.³⁵
- 18.30. Statistics for loan transactions between U.S. financial and nonfinancial institutions and foreign residents are based on changes in quarterly holdings as reported on the TIC B and C forms. TIC data are supplemented by loan liabilities of U.S. nonbank firms with foreign banks based on supplementary counterparty data from foreign banks. TIC data are also supplemented to account for transactions in asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP). The computed changes in holdings from the TIC data are adjusted to remove the impact of any changes in holdings not caused by transactions, such as changes in exchange rates or TIC survey reporting panels. (See paragraph 26.51 for information about the estimation of exchange-rate changes.) Loan transactions for this sector are reported separately in ITA table 8.1.
- 18.31. Statistics for transactions in U.S. government loan claims are based on data submitted by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19. BEA supplements these data with information from (1) quarterly statements of receipts, expenditures, and balances of foreign currency holdings provided by the Treasury Department; (2) published financial statements; (3) annual reports and other submissions to the U.S. Congress; and (4) the financial and operating records of other U.S. government agencies. Loan transactions for this sector are reported separately in ITA table 8.1.
- 18.32. Transactions in U.S. loan claims on foreign residents by U.S. deposit-taking institutions except central bank are estimated using separate reports from deposit-taking institutions on the TIC B forms. Loan liabilities of U.S. deposit-taking institutions except central bank with foreign residents are estimated using separate reports from deposit-taking institutions on the TIC B forms. Loan transactions for this sector are reported separately in ITA table 8.1.

35. Statistics through 2022 also include adjustments to the TIC data for transactions in owner's equity between financial institutions and unincorporated branches and for debt transactions between U.S. financial institutions and foreign nonfinancial affiliates. See paragraph B.10 in Appendix B for additional information on this adjustment.

- 18.33. U.S. loan liabilities of all U.S. sectors with foreign official agencies are estimated from changes in loan liabilities to foreign official agencies available separately on the TIC BL-1 and BL-2 forms. These loan transactions are presented in ITA table 9.1.

Insurance technical reserves

- 18.34. Source data for transactions in insurance technical reserves do not capture enough of the activity in these technical reserves to use the data to estimate these transactions separately; in ITA table 8.1 these transactions are commingled with transactions in loans. Insurance technical reserves are not liabilities to foreign official agencies and are therefore not relevant for inclusion in ITA table 9.1.

Trade credit and advances

- 18.35. Transactions in claims and liabilities with foreign residents from trade credit and advances include those reported by U.S. nonfinancial institutions on the TIC CQ-2 form. Also included are transactions in the liabilities of the U.S. government to foreign governments from advanced payments mainly for the purchase of military goods and services reported to BEA by DOD.
- 18.36. Trade credit and advances of U.S. nonfinancial institutions are estimated from changes in quarterly holdings reported on the TIC CQ-2 form. Transactions are estimated by computing changes in holdings from the TIC data and subtracting any changes in holdings not caused by transactions, such as changes in reporting panels, other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e., and, for transactions denominated in foreign currency, changes in exchange rates. (See paragraph 26.57 for information about the estimation of exchange-rate changes.) Claims and liabilities are reported in ITA table 8.1. The liabilities are not liabilities to foreign official agencies and are therefore not relevant for inclusion in ITA table 9.1.
- 18.37. U.S. government transactions in liabilities from advance payments for foreign purchases of goods and services that are mainly for military use are estimated directly from U.S. government administrative data. They are the sum of (1) U.S. government cash receipts from foreign governments for purchases of military goods and services and (2) the financing of military sales by U.S. government credits and grants. Netted against this gross total are (3) the part of the receipts from foreign governments that represents principal repayments on credits financing military agency sales contracts, (4) issues of special U.S. Treasury securities that are subject to redemption prior to maturity for the purpose of prepaying for military purchases in the United States, and (5) the counterpart to the value of deliveries of military goods and services recorded in the goods and services accounts. These liabilities are classified as long-term liabilities because contracts for the foreign purchases of goods and services are generally long-term arrangements. Estimates of these U.S. liabilities are presented in ITA tables 8.1 and 9.1.

Special drawing rights (SDR) allocations

- 18.38. SDR allocations to the United States and other countries through a collective decision of IMF-member governments are rare. The most recent allocations occurred in the third quarter of 2009 and were widely publicized in IMF and other publications. Data on future SDR allocations will continue to be obtained from IMF publications and databases.
- 18.39. By sector, SDR allocations are liabilities of the Treasury Department to other governments that participate in the SDR program and are classified in the general government sector. Transactions are presented in ITA tables 8.1 and 9.1.

Chapter 19. Financial-Account Reserve Assets

Concepts and coverage

- 19.1. Reserve assets are those external assets that are readily available to and controlled by monetary authorities for meeting balance of payments financing needs, for intervening in exchange markets to affect the currency exchange rate, and for other related purposes such as maintaining confidence in the currency and the economy and serving as a basis for foreign borrowing. The major published components in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) are monetary gold, International Monetary Fund (IMF) special drawing rights (SDRs), reserve position in the IMF, and “other reserve assets.”
- 19.2. Other reserve assets enable the United States to hold foreign currency balances that are highly liquid and that are available for intervention sales. U.S. foreign currency balances include deposits, debt securities, and repurchase agreements that are classified as “other.” The United States does not have financial derivatives in its reserve assets.
- 19.3. Excluded from transactions are changes in the value of reserve assets attributable to holding gains and losses, which are not considered to be international transactions. Thus, changes in the value of assets that arise from fluctuations in the market price of the instruments held as reserve assets and from fluctuations in the exchange market value of the dollar vis-à-vis foreign currencies and SDRs are excluded. Also excluded are reclassifications arising from monetizations and demonetizations of monetary gold by monetary authorities. These exclusions are, however, included in the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts as valuation adjustments.
- 19.4. Transactions in nonmonetary gold—gold exported or imported in forms such as ore, scrap and base bullion, refined bullion, and coins and medallions—are not included with transactions in monetary gold; they are included in goods exports and goods imports.
- 19.5. Transactions in reserve assets are recorded in lines 82–90 of ITA table 1.2. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis does not provide a dedicated ITA table focusing on reserve assets.

Departures from BPM6

- 19.6. The coverage and presentation of reserve assets closely follow recommendations from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*.

Data sources

- 19.7. **U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department).** Data on U.S. reserve assets are published by the Treasury Department in terms of holdings (outstanding amounts). BEA also uses Treasury Department source data on the gold stock.
- 19.8. **Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY).** The *Interest Collected and Rollforward Report* includes interest earned on U.S. reserves, central bank liquidity swaps, and foreign and international monetary authorities repurchase agreements (FIMA repos). This report records the net acquisition of reserves through interest receipts.
- 19.9. **International Monetary Fund (IMF).** The IMF provides month-end position data and daily increases and decreases during each month for the U.S. accounts at the IMF. The data include positions and transactions between the United States and the IMF for the SDR account and the General Resources (tranche) Account and its subaccounts covering securities, valuation adjustments, and IMF borrowing from the United States.

Estimation methods

- 19.10. Descriptions are provided below for each published reserve asset component and classification.

Monetary gold

- 19.11. Transactions in monetary gold are rare. Such transactions can only take place with another monetary authority or with an international institution such as the IMF that is authorized to hold monetary gold. If transactions were to take place, BEA would obtain from the Treasury Department data for the quantity of gold transferred out or received from the counterparty, either in ounces or in dollars at a known price. If daily data were available, BEA would value the daily gold transactions using the afternoon (PM) fix in the London market for each day. If transactions occurred over a period of time and daily data were not available, the transactions over the period would be valued at an average price of gold over that period. Transactions valued using the PM fix for the gold price in London would be aggregated and reported quarterly. BEA checks the gold stock report from Treasury monthly to determine if monetary gold stocks have changed.

Special drawing rights (SDRs)

- 19.12. The SDR is an international reserve asset, created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries' official reserves. Its value is based on a basket of four key international currencies, and SDRs can be exchanged for freely usable currencies. The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. In addition to its role as a supplementary reserve asset, the SDR serves as the unit of account of the IMF and some other international organizations. The value of the SDR in terms of the U.S. dollar is

determined daily and posted on the IMF's website. It is calculated as the sum of specific amounts of the four basket currencies valued in U.S. dollars on the basis of exchange rates quoted at noon each day in the London market.

- 19.13. Transactions in SDRs can take place with the IMF, which uses the SDR as a common unit of account for transactions with member countries, or with other countries and institutions that subscribe to the SDR. Generally, all U.S. transactions in SDRs are conducted through the U.S. SDR account at the IMF with the IMF as the immediate foreign counterparty.
- 19.14. BEA converts daily increases or decreases caused by transactions in the U.S. SDR account from SDRs to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect on that date. These daily transactions are aggregated into quarterly financial flows for the ITAs.

Reserve position in the IMF

- 19.15. The U.S. reserve position in the IMF is comprised of the U.S. General Resources (tranche) Account plus any borrowing by the IMF from the United States through the General Arrangements to Borrow, the New Arrangements to Borrow, or other borrowing facilities. The U.S. General Resources Account is equal to the U.S. quota in the IMF less IMF holdings of dollars, excluding dollar holdings in IMF administrative and subsidiary accounts. Thus, the reserve position is affected by changes in the U.S. quota, changes in IMF holdings of U.S. dollars, and changes in balances borrowed from the United States by the IMF. Transactions in the reserve position in the IMF are equal to transactions in the General Resources Account plus transactions from IMF borrowings or repayments.
- 19.16. Transactions from IMF borrowings or repayments are provided for each day of the reporting month to BEA by the IMF. BEA converts daily increases or decreases from SDRs to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect on that date. These daily transactions are aggregated into quarterly financial flows for the ITAs.
- 19.17. Transactions in the General Resources Account are computed by deducting valuation changes from the total change in the U.S. position in the account. The valuation changes are computed from the change in the SDR/U.S. dollar conversion rate and valuation adjustments to IMF holdings of U.S. dollars. The SDR/U.S. dollar conversion rate and valuation adjustments to IMF holdings of U.S. dollars are provided to BEA by the IMF.

Other reserve assets

- 19.18. Other reserve assets can include currency and deposits, securities, financial derivatives, and other claims, such as repurchase agreements that are readily redeemable in foreign currencies to enable the monetary authorities to carry out timely interventions in the foreign exchange market or to facilitate balance of payments financing. The United States does not have financial derivatives in its reserve assets.

- 19.19. The U.S. monetary authorities invest their foreign currency reserves in a variety of instruments that yield market rates of return and have a high degree of liquidity and credit quality. To the greatest extent practicable, the investments are split evenly between the System Open Market Account at the Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and the Exchange Stabilization Fund at the Treasury Department.
- 19.20. A significant portion of the U.S. monetary authorities' foreign exchange reserves is invested on an outright basis in German, French, Dutch, and Japanese government securities. Foreign currency reserves are also invested at official institutions such as the Bank for International Settlements and foreign central banks.
- 19.21. Intervention in the foreign exchange market by U.S. monetary authorities is relatively rare. It is much more common for transactions in other reserve assets to reflect income earned on the deposits, securities, and repurchase agreements. The interest receipts on these investments are reported by the FRBNY to BEA. This interest is entered by type of investment into the U.S. reserve assets as an increase in assets and into investment income on U.S. reserve assets.
- 19.22. BEA also estimates transactions in the instruments categorized as other reserve assets. BEA estimates transactions in currency and deposits and other claims as the exchange-rate-adjusted difference in positions. Transactions in securities are based on the observation that except in rare circumstances (normally involving foreign exchange intervention), any purchase or sale of securities is fully offset by a corresponding decrease or increase in currency and deposits. Only transactions related to interest receipts increase the aggregate position of the combination of securities and currency and deposits. BEA estimates transactions in securities by subtracting transactions in currency and deposits from interest receipts. Intervention purchases and sales of assets are also reported to BEA by type of investment by the Federal Reserve Board so that the appropriate increase or decrease in deposits, securities, or repurchase agreements can be recorded in the accounts. Purchases or sales of foreign currency would be recorded in nominal U.S. dollar amounts at the exchange rates in effect at the time of the transactions. The impact of changes in exchange rates on the value of reserve assets is excluded from transactions and is reflected in price and exchange-rate changes recorded in the IIP Accounts.

Chapter 20. Financial-Account Financial Derivatives Other Than Reserves

Concepts and coverage

- 20.1. Financial derivatives contracts are financial instruments whose value is derived from the value of one or more underlying security, equity index, debt instruments, commodity, other derivative instrument, or any agreed upon pricing index or arrangement. Financial derivatives include futures, options, and swaps, and they can be traded on exchanges or in over-the-counter markets. Cross-border transactions in financial derivatives consist of U.S. cash receipts and payments arising from the sale, purchase, periodic settlement, or final settlement of financial derivatives contracts. Financial derivatives are a type of financial instrument and “financial derivatives other than reserves” is a functional category. Transactions in financial derivatives were introduced into the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) beginning with statistics for the first quarter of 2006.
- 20.2. Transactions are reported in the source data on a net settlements basis as U.S. cash receipts less payments on individual contracts grouped into reporting categories. Because of the difficulty in characterizing transactions as arising from assets (contracts with positive fair values) or from liabilities (contracts with negative fair values), transactions for assets and liabilities are not separately reported. Thus, net settlements are presented in the ITAs in ITA table 1.2 on a single line (line 107), separate from net U.S. acquisition of assets and net U.S. incurrence of liabilities.

Departures from BPM6

- 20.3. The coverage of financial derivatives other than reserves follows recommendations from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* for the net reporting of transactions when gross reporting is not feasible. However, *BPM6* also recommends that (1) employee stock options be included with financial derivatives other than reserves and (2) when financial derivatives are reported net they should be reported as a component of assets. BEA does not follow the first recommendation because source data are not available for employee stock options. For the second recommendation, BEA prefers to present transactions in U.S. assets and U.S. liabilities excluding financial derivatives for analytical purposes. The functional category, “financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions,” is presented as a component of the financial account separately from transactions in U.S. assets and U.S. liabilities.

Data sources

- 20.4. **U.S. Department of the Treasury.** Comprehensive data on financial derivatives are collected on Treasury International Capital (TIC) Form D, “Report of Holdings of, and Transactions in, Financial Derivatives Contracts.” Data are collected quarterly from U.S. banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies, securities dealers, and all other firms with worldwide holdings of financial derivatives, for their own and their customers’ accounts combined, in excess of \$400 billion in notional value or in excess of \$400 million in total net settlements. Trading in financial derivatives is highly concentrated among a small number of large firms.
- 20.5. Survey respondents provide net settlements data following specific steps. Receipts of cash by U.S. residents from foreign residents are treated as positive amounts, and payments of cash by U.S. residents to foreign residents are treated as negative amounts. The receipts and payments for all contracts are summed for each reporting category. A net settlement cash receipt or payment occurs only when cash is received or paid for the purchase or sale of a derivative, or a settlement payment (such as the periodic settlement under a swap agreement or the daily settlement of an exchange-traded contract) is received or paid.

Estimation methods

- 20.6. Published statistics are equal to net settlements from the TIC D form with the sign reversed. The sign is reversed because net settlements from TIC D form have a positive sign when U.S. receipts of cash from foreign residents exceed U.S. payments of cash to foreign residents, and these net U.S. receipts, which represent net U.S. borrowing from financial-account transactions, are recorded with a negative sign in the ITAs. Similarly, net U.S. payments have a negative sign in the TIC source data, and net U.S. payments, which represent net U.S. lending from financial-account transactions, are recorded with a positive sign in the ITAs.

Chapter 21. Statistical Discrepancy and Balances

Statistical discrepancy

- 21.1. The statistical discrepancy is the amount that balances the sum of the recorded credits and debits underlying the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs).
- 21.2. The statistical discrepancy is the difference between total debits and total credits recorded in the current, capital, and financial accounts. A positive value indicates that recorded debits (inflows) exceed recorded credits (outflows), and a negative value indicates that recorded credits exceed recorded debits. The statistical discrepancy can be calculated as the difference between net lending/borrowing as measured by transactions recorded in the current and capital accounts and as measured by transactions recorded in the financial account.
- 21.3. Errors and omissions in recorded transactions may exist in any account or component and may arise for many reasons. Statistical reporting systems may be inaccurate in their measurement or may be incomplete in their coverage. Such systems may overlap in their coverage of transactions or completely miss transactions that do not fall clearly under one reporting system or the other. Statistical reporting systems, which are often independent of each other, must capture opposite sides of the same transaction identically for net errors and omissions to be zero. For example, the total value for U.S. purchases of goods measured in one reporting system must be the same as the total value for the payments for those goods measured in another system. Finally, some ITA components do not lend themselves to direct measurement and must be estimated indirectly from economic data series; these statistics depend critically on the adequacy of source data and estimation methods.
- 21.4. The greatest challenges for statistical reporting systems often result from rapid changes in economic and financial markets. During the economic cycle of 1997–2002, numerous and large mergers and acquisitions were difficult to track and measure accurately. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s, the evolution and development of complex financial derivatives were incompletely recorded in the accounts for nearly the entire period. The rapid expansion in 2003–2008 of hedge funds, many of which operated from offshore locations, proved especially difficult to track because of the inability to locate officials responsible for reporting transactions. The securitization of assets in 2003–2008 and the establishment of special investment vehicles abroad to borrow funds in the United States for distribution abroad escaped tracking by traditional reporting systems. Difficulties in recording the process of securitization were compounded by the rapid run up in leveraging and then deleveraging of these activities.

- 21.5. It is not unreasonable to expect that the size and volatility of fluctuations in the statistical discrepancy might increase in times of heightened uncertainty and increased activity in the financial markets. In fact, such a tendency has been demonstrated in the past. The statistical discrepancy increased sharply in absolute value about the time of the 1997–1998 financial crisis that started in East Asia as well as during the 2008 global financial crisis. However, the relationship is not strong, and the discrepancy may also be large in periods of relative stability in financial markets. If both sides of a transaction are absent from the statistical reporting systems, the statistical discrepancy is unaffected, but the accounts will still contain errors, inaccuracies, or gaps in coverage.
- 21.6. Analysis of the statistical discrepancy could identify data problems, such as gaps in coverage or misreporting. A consistently positive or negative sign may indicate a bias in one or more of the underlying components. For example, a positive statistical discrepancy indicates that credit entries, such as exports or income receipts, are understated or omitted, or that debit entries, such as imports or income payments, are overstated. However, the ability to use analysis of the statistical discrepancy to identify data problems is limited by the fact that measurement errors in opposite directions offset each other.
- 21.7. At the global level, the statistical discrepancy represents net errors and omissions in recorded transactions. For individual partner countries and areas, in addition to errors and omissions, it also reflects discrepancies that arise when transactions with one country or area are settled through transactions with another country or area. These transfers of funds between foreign areas often occur because the dollar is used extensively in settling international transactions and forms a large part of the foreign currency reserves of many countries. Therefore, changes in dollar balances held by one country often cannot be accounted for by U.S. transactions with that country. Consequently, the statistical discrepancies included in the country and area statistics of the International Economic Accounts cannot be interpreted as a measure of the area distribution of global errors and omissions. Instead, they reflect a combination of errors and omissions and third-country settlements.

Balances

- 21.8. ITA table 1.2 includes a section with balances on the current account, on major current-account components, and on the capital account. It also includes closely related measures of net lending or net borrowing. In the current and capital accounts, a balance is defined as credits less debits for some category of transactions.

Balance on current account

- 21.9. The balance on the current account is the featured net measure in the ITAs of transactions between the United States and the rest of the world. The current-account balance is the difference

between credits (exports of goods and services and income receipts) and debits (imports of goods and services and income payments) in the current account. A positive balance indicates a current-account surplus. A negative balance indicates a current-account deficit.

- 21.10. ITA table 1.2 includes balances on major current-account components, namely the balance on goods and services, the balance on goods, the balance on services, the balance on primary income, and the balance on secondary income. Although in principle balances can shift from surplus to deficit or vice versa, in practice the quarterly balances on goods and services, goods, and secondary income have been in deficit, and the quarterly balances on services and primary income have been in surplus, since 1999 or earlier.

Balance on capital account

- 21.11. The balance on the capital account has been in deficit in most quarters, but it occasionally shifts to surplus in quarters for which capital transfer receipts for large disaster-related insurance losses are recorded, as foreign insurance companies indemnify customers for catastrophes in the United States.

Net lending or net borrowing from current- and capital-account transactions

- 21.12. The combined balance on the current and capital accounts is a measure of U.S. net lending to foreign residents or net borrowing from abroad. Net lending or net borrowing measures the balance of funds supplied to the rest of the world. Net lending means that, in net terms, the U.S. economy supplies funds to the rest of the world. Net borrowing means the opposite. A combined surplus on the current and capital accounts indicates that the United States is a net lender; a combined deficit indicates that the United States is a net borrower. The net lending or net borrowing terminology reflects the accounting identity that deficits in the current and capital accounts must be financed by inflows of borrowing from abroad and that surpluses in these accounts are offset by outflows of lending to nonresidents.

Net lending or net borrowing from financial-account transactions

- 21.13. Net lending or net borrowing can also be measured from financial-account transactions; such transactions more directly reflect lending and borrowing activities. In the financial account, net lending or net borrowing is measured as net acquisition of financial assets less net incurrence of liabilities (including transactions in financial derivatives). Conceptually, the financial-account measure of net lending or net borrowing equals the measure from the current and capital accounts. In practice, the two measures differ by the statistical discrepancy.

Part IV.

Statistical Methodology of

International Investment

Position Accounts

Chapter 22. Introduction to the International Investment Position Accounts

- 22.1. The [International Investment Position \(IIP\) Accounts](#) are a statistical summary produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis of the dollar value of accumulated stocks of U.S. financial assets and liabilities with respect to foreign residents at a specific point in time. The U.S. net international investment position is the value of U.S. financial assets less the value of U.S. liabilities. The IIP Accounts are classified and presented for each of the five functional categories of investment discussed in chapter 9, which is the same organizational structure used for primary income in the current account of the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and for transactions in the financial account of the ITAs.
- 22.2. This chapter presents an overview of the IIP Accounts. The remaining chapters in part IV present the methodologies for statistics published in the IIP Accounts organized by major functional category. Chapter 23 covers direct investment, chapter 24 covers portfolio investment, chapter 25 covers financial derivatives other than reserves, chapter 26 covers other investment, and chapter 27 covers reserve assets.
- 22.3. Included in the chapters in part IV are descriptions of concepts and coverage, including departures from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* data sources, and estimation methods for the published components. For many of the accounts, the data sources identified in part III are available only with a lag—that is, not in time to be used for the most recent reference period(s). Appendix D outlines the sources and methods BEA uses to estimate the IIP Accounts when the source data described in part IV are not yet available.

- 22.4. The IIP Accounts are prepared and released quarterly and annually. Quarterly statistics are presented without seasonal adjustment, except as noted in paragraph 22.5. Statistics in the IIP Accounts are presented in current dollars.
- 22.5. The IIP tables are composed of five main tables (tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, and 2.2) and two addenda tables (3.1 and 4.1), which are available on the BEA website.
- Table 1.1 presents the end-of-quarter U.S. net international investment position and positions for assets and liabilities by functional category.
 - Table 1.2 covers the end-of-quarter U.S. net international investment position and positions for assets and liabilities for the same functional categories as table 1.1 with expanded detail by type of instrument.
 - Table 1.3 presents end-of-quarter positions classified the same way as in IIP table 1.2 but also disaggregates the change in position for the quarter or year by financial-account transactions and by “other changes in position.” Other changes in position are further disaggregated into “price changes,” “exchange-rate changes,” and “changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.” (not included elsewhere). In addition, a version of table 1.3 is available with seasonal adjustment to direct investment transactions.
 - Table 2.1 presents end-of-quarter direct investment positions at market value on an asset/liability basis and converts these positions to a directional basis and, in turn, to positions at historical cost (book value) on a directional basis.
 - Table 2.2 presents annual direct investment positions in special purpose entities (SPEs) at market value on an asset/liability basis.
 - Table 3.1 presents the end-of-quarter IIP for U.S. liabilities to foreign official agencies.
 - Table 4.1 presents end-of-quarter U.S. debt positions, aggregated across functional categories, by currency, sector, and maturity for assets and liabilities.
- 22.6. In part IV, each category and its published components are discussed in the order that they are presented in IIP table 1.2 as shown in table 22.a below.

Table 22.a. Positions Shown in International Investment Position Table 1.2. U.S. Net International Investment Position at the End of the Period, Expanded Detail

Line	Net positions
1	U.S. net international investment position
2	Net international investment position excluding financial derivatives
3	Financial derivatives other than reserves, net

Table continues

Line	Asset positions
4	U.S. assets
5	Assets excluding financial derivatives
6	Financial derivatives other than reserves, gross positive fair value
	By functional category:
7	Direct investment at market value
8	Equity
9	Debt instruments
10	Portfolio investment
11	Equity and investment fund shares
12	Debt securities
13	Short term
14	Long term
15	Financial derivatives other than reserves, gross positive fair value
16	Over-the-counter contracts
17	Single-currency interest rate contracts
18	Foreign exchange contracts
19	Other contracts
20	Exchange-traded contracts
21	Other investment
22	Other equity
23	Currency and deposits
24	Loans
25	Insurance technical reserves
26	Trade credit and advances
27	Reserve assets
28	Monetary gold
29	Special drawing rights
30	Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund
31	Other reserve assets
32	Currency and deposits
33	Securities
34	Financial derivatives
35	Other claims

[illegible]

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- 22.7. In the IIP Accounts, functional categories are further classified by type of financial instrument, similar to the detail for primary income and financial-account transactions in the ITAs. The IIP Accounts and the financial account of the ITAs are closely related: the position at the end of a reference period equals the position at the start of the period plus financial-account transactions for the reference period plus other changes in position (detailed below) that occur during the period.
- 22.8. Price changes apply to equity asset and liability positions for direct investment and portfolio investment, long-term debt asset and liability positions for portfolio investment, and monetary gold and securities positions for reserve assets. Exchange-rate changes represent the gain or loss on foreign-currency-denominated assets and liabilities due to changes in the values of foreign currencies relative to the value of the U.S. dollar. These changes apply to direct investment equity assets, portfolio investment assets and some corporate debt security liabilities, “other investment” assets and liabilities, and reserve assets. “Changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.” include changes in assets and liabilities that are not due to transactions, price changes, or exchange-rate changes or that cannot be separately identified as transactions, price changes, or exchange-rate changes.
- 22.9. IIP table 4.1 disaggregates U.S. debt positions by currency—U.S. dollars, euros, yen, and other foreign currencies—and by sector—central bank, general government, deposit-taking institutions, other financial institutions, nonfinancial institutions, and intercompany lending. The intercompany lending sector corresponds to debt instruments in the direct investment functional category. Reserve asset positions are presented as addenda lines and are excluded from the all-sector total. Positions are distinguished by maturity as short term (one year or less) or long term (more than one year). Due to source data limitations, a mixture of original and remaining maturities are used for deposit-taking institutions, other financial institutions, and nonfinancial institutions. Source data on portfolio investment debt are available by original maturity, but data on other investment debt are usually only available by remaining maturity. Intercompany lending is assumed to be long term in nature.
- 22.10. In addition to the statistics in the IIP tables, BEA publishes related statistics annually for direct investment positions at historical cost (book value) on a directional basis that provide additional country and industry detail. These statistics differ from the featured measure of direct investment positions in the IIP Accounts that are presented at market value on an asset/liability basis. For more information on these statistics, see chapter 32. The connection between the IIP Accounts and the positions in the direct investment by country and industry statistics, along with the connection between the IIP Accounts and the ITAs, is illustrated in figure A.1 in appendix A.

Chapter 23. Direct Investment

Concepts and coverage

- 23.1. Direct investment is a category of cross-border investment associated with a resident in one economy having control or a significant degree of influence on the management of a business enterprise resident in another economy. Ownership or control of 10 percent or more of the nonresident entity's voting securities is the threshold for separating direct investment from other types of investment. Generally, direct investment indicates a long-term relationship with a nonresident enterprise. (See paragraphs 9.44–9.64 for further discussion of the direct investment functional category.)
- 23.2. Direct investment positions represent the accumulated stock of investment between entities in a direct investment relationship. For both assets and liabilities, the major published components of direct investment positions in International Investment Position (IIP) tables 1.1–1.3 and 2.1 are equity and debt instruments. Debt positions, which comprise parents' and affiliates' claims and liabilities, are also included in IIP table 4.1, where they are presented by currency.
- 23.3. IIP table 2.1 covers all U.S. direct investment positions, and IIP table 2.2 covers U.S. direct investment positions of special purpose entities (SPEs). Both tables present positions on the asset/liability basis recommended by the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. IIP table 2.1 also presents positions on the directional basis—outward and inward depending on whether the direct investor is a U.S. resident or a foreign resident. Direct investment positions on the directional basis can be viewed as the equity and debt financing provided by parent companies to their affiliates or as the parents' net financial claims on their affiliates.³⁶
- 23.4. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports statistics on direct investment positions at historical cost (book value), at market value, and at current cost. IIP table 2.1 shows the conversion of direct investment positions from the asset/liability basis to the directional basis and the conversion from market-value positions to historical-cost positions. Current-cost positions are shown as alternative current-price positions in IIP table 2.1. Country and industry information on direct investment positions at historical cost (book value) are available in the direct investment by country and industry statistics—see chapter 32 and figure A.1 in appendix A for more information.
- 23.5. The asset/liability direct investment positions at market value are featured in the IIP Accounts—in IIP tables 1.1–1.3 and 2.2, along with IIP table 2.1—because market valuation is used for other

36. For inward investment, the direct investment position data measure the U.S. affiliate's positions with its foreign parent and other members of its foreign parent group.

functional categories in these accounts. However, market values are often not available for direct investment because the equity for many direct investment enterprises is not listed on stock exchanges. Consequently, as described below, the market values of the direct investment positions are estimated using historical-cost (book value) data collected on BEA's direct investment surveys and information from stock price indexes.

Departures from BPM6

- 23.6. The coverage and presentation of direct investment in the IIP Accounts closely follow *BPM6* recommendations, with an exception for the treatment of some fellow enterprises that is due to limitations in BEA's survey data. BEA surveys capture debt investments between majority-owned fellow enterprises but not with those fellow enterprises that are minority-owned, as called for in *BPM6* and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition (BD4)*.
- 23.7. Another departure from the international guidelines is that in BEA's statistics investments in or by private funds (collective investment institutions) are excluded from direct investment, and included in portfolio investment, if the investor does not ultimately own at least 10 percent of the voting interest or equivalent of an "operating company"—that is, a U.S. or foreign business enterprise that is not a private fund or a holding company—through the private fund. Under the international guidelines, any investment that meets the 10 percent threshold is considered direct investment whether or not it involves ultimate ownership of 10 percent of an operating company.

Data sources

BEA data

- 23.8. **Survey data.** Statistics for the historical-cost (book value) direct investment position are based largely on data collected on BEA's quarterly, annual, and benchmark direct investment surveys. The Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-577) and the Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-605) collect the information on financial transactions and positions between parents and their affiliates needed to construct the IIP Accounts.
- 23.9. Each year, the data from the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-11) and to the Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-15). Once every 5 years, the data from the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-10) and to the Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-12). (See paragraphs 32.11–32.19 for more information.)

- 23.10. **Other BEA data.** Ratios obtained from applying the BEA Fixed Assets Perpetual Inventory Model to domestic fixed-asset investment are used along with other domestic BEA data to revalue parents' share of their affiliates' investment in plant and equipment from historical cost (book value) to current-period prices for the current-cost valuation.

Other data

- 23.11. **MSCI foreign stock market indexes and S&P Dow Jones Indices.** MSCI foreign stock market indexes, and industry-specific indexes of S&P Dow Jones, are used to revalue the equity portion of the historical-cost (book value) outward and inward direct investment positions, respectively, to a market value basis.

Estimation methods

- 23.12. This section begins with estimation methods for the direct investment position at historical cost (book value) and then describes the estimation methods for the market value and current cost measures of the position, which are derived from historical-cost (book value) data. BEA's direct investment surveys collect direct investment position data valued at historical cost (book value) because that is the primary basis used for valuation in company accounting records. Therefore, it is the basis on which companies can most easily report data on BEA's direct investment surveys. The historical-cost (book) value reflects the values in the accounting records of the affiliate during the reference period. It is also the only basis for which detailed estimates of the position are available by country, by industry, and by component. Discussions below apply to both the equity and debt instrument components of direct investment asset and liability positions.

Historical cost

- 23.13. The direct investment position in an affiliate equals the parent's equity in and debt with its affiliates. Parents' equity in affiliates can be broken down into parents' holdings of capital stock in, and other capital contributions to, their affiliates and parents' equity in the retained earnings of their affiliates. Capital stock consists of all the stock of the affiliates—both common and preferred and voting and nonvoting. Other capital contributions by parents, also referred to as the "parents' equity in additional paid-in capital," consist of the invested and contributed capital that is not included in capital stock, such as cash contributions, the amount paid for stock in excess of its par or stated value, and the capitalization of intercompany accounts (conversions of debt to equity) that do not result in the issuance of capital stock. Parents' equity in retained earnings is the parents' shares of the cumulative undistributed earnings of their affiliates.
- 23.14. Parents' debt with their affiliates, also called intercompany debt, consists of trade accounts and trade notes payable, other current liabilities, and long-term debt owed. On the asset/liability basis, debt instrument positions that U.S. parents hold in their foreign affiliates and that U.S. affiliates

hold in their foreign parent groups are recorded as U.S. assets. Likewise, debt instruments that U.S. parents issue to their foreign affiliates or that U.S. affiliates issue to their foreign parent groups are recorded as U.S. liabilities. (The term “foreign parent group” is defined in paragraph 9.57.)

- 23.15. On the directional basis, the outward debt instrument position consists of the debt foreign affiliates owe to their U.S. parents net of the debt owed to foreign affiliates by their U.S. parents. The inward debt instrument position consists of the debt U.S. affiliates owe to their foreign parent groups net of the debt owed to U.S. affiliates by their foreign parent groups.
- 23.16. Table 23.a provides an example, for illustration purposes, of the conversion of the direct investment position on an asset/liability basis to a directional basis.

Table 23.a. Direct Investment Position on the Asset/Liability Basis and on the Directional Basis

U.S. assets/outward investment	Millions of dollars	U.S. liabilities/inward investment	Millions of dollars
U.S. direct investment assets, asset/liability basis	1,120	U.S. direct investment liabilities, asset/liability basis	920
Equity	1,000	Equity	800
Debt	120	Debt	120
U.S. parents' claims	80	U.S. affiliates' liabilities	95
U.S. affiliates' claims	40	U.S. parents' liabilities	25
Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	65	Less: Adjustments to convert to directional basis	65
U.S. parents' liabilities	25	U.S. parents' liabilities	25
U.S. affiliates' claims	40	U.S. affiliates' claims	40
Equals: Outward direct investment position, directional basis	1,055	Equals: Inward direct investment position, directional basis	855
Equity	1,000	Equity	800
Debt	55	Debt	55
U.S. parents' claims	80	U.S. affiliates' liabilities	95
U.S. parents' liabilities	25	U.S. affiliates' claims	40

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- 23.17. The direct investment position at the end of the period equals the position at the end of the previous period plus the change in the position during the period. The change during the period is the sum of direct investment financial transactions and “other changes in position.” Other changes in position are broadly defined to include all changes in the position other than financial transactions.³⁷

37. The level of detail presented for the components of other changes in position differs between the IIP Accounts and the direct investment by country and industry statistics discussed in chapter 32. The differences partly reflect differences in the significance of the individual components for outward and inward direct investment.

- 23.18. For the historical-cost (book value) position, other changes in position are derived from BEA's direct investment survey data and consist of translation adjustments, capital gains and losses, and other changes in volume and valuation, n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). Translation adjustments result from changes in exchange rates used to translate the foreign-currency-denominated assets and liabilities of affiliates into U.S. dollars. Capital gains and losses of affiliates comprise changes in asset values that generate revenues or expenses that are not related to current production. "Other" changes in volume and valuation primarily reflect differences between transactions values, which are used to record direct investment financial transactions, and the book values in affiliates' accounting records, which are used to record the position. Other changes in volume and valuation also include changes in coverage and the reclassification of investment positions between direct investment and portfolio investment as the 10-percent threshold criterion for direct investment is crossed.
- 23.19. Several issues related to definition and classification are important to address as part of developing the historical-cost (book value) estimates of direct investment positions. These issues include financial intermediaries, leases lasting longer than one year, shifts between direct investment and portfolio investment, and reverse investment and investment in fellow enterprises. Each issue is described separately below.

Financial intermediaries

- 23.20. Complexities arise in the classification of intercompany debt positions involving parents and affiliates in financial industries, including banking but excluding insurance. For example, if a U.S. manufacturer borrows funds from its affiliate or its parent in a financial industry, that debt position is included in the direct investment position. However, if a U.S. financial firm acquires funds from a financial affiliate, that debt position is classified in the "other investment" position because the nature of the transaction is more closely related to the underlying activity of financial intermediation than to activity typical of a direct investment relationship. Debt positions between financial intermediaries, such as in the latter example, are classified in other investment even though they represent positions between firms in a direct investment relationship (that is, between U.S. parents and their foreign affiliates or between U.S. affiliates and their foreign parent groups). To qualify as a debt position between financial intermediaries, both the U.S. and foreign firm must be classified in a finance industry (excluding insurance).

Leases lasting longer than one year

- 23.21. Positions in debt instruments include the value of leases with terms of more than one year between parents and their affiliates. When property is leased by a foreign affiliate from its U.S. parent, or leased by a foreign parent from its U.S. affiliate, the value of the leased property is recorded as an asset of the U.S. parent or U.S. affiliate because it increases its receivables. The subsequent payment of principal is a return of capital and lowers the U.S. parent's or U.S. affiliate's assets accordingly.

- 23.22. Similarly, when property is leased to a U.S. parent by its foreign affiliate, or to a U.S. affiliate by its foreign parent, the value of the leased property is recorded as a liability of the U.S. parent or U.S. affiliate because it increases its payables. The subsequent payment of principal on the lease is a return of capital and lowers the U.S. parent's or U.S. affiliate's liabilities accordingly.

Direct investment and portfolio investment

- 23.23. Some transactions require a shift in classification between direct investment and portfolio investment. If a U.S. parent's voting interest in a foreign business enterprise, or a foreign parent's voting interest in a U.S. business enterprise, is originally less than 10 percent, and if additional purchases result in a voting interest of 10 percent or more, offsetting adjustments are made to the direct investment position and to the portfolio investment position to bring the original equity interest into the direct investment position. If a U.S. parent's voting interest in a foreign affiliate or a foreign parent's voting interest in a U.S. affiliate falls below 10 percent, offsetting adjustments are made to the direct investment position and the portfolio investment position to extinguish the remaining direct investment equity interest.³⁸

Reverse investment and investment in fellow enterprises

- 23.24. A U.S. parent may have investment in a foreign affiliate that, in turn, has investment in the U.S. parent as a result of the affiliate's lending funds to, or acquiring voting securities or other equity interest in, the U.S. parent. Likewise, a foreign parent may have investment in a U.S. affiliate that, in turn, has investment in the foreign parent as a result of the affiliate's lending funds to, or acquiring voting securities or other equity interest in, the foreign parent. For cases in which affiliates have no voting power or less than 10 percent voting power in their parents, equity and debt investment by affiliates in their parent companies is known as "reverse investment." BEA includes reverse debt investment in the direct investment position statistics. For cases in which affiliates have 10 percent or more voting power in their parent companies, investment by affiliates in parents is treated as separate direct investment in its own right.
- 23.25. International guidelines call for reverse equity investment to be separately identified in cases where it is significant. The results from the 2014 Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad and the 2017 Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States indicate that reverse investment is negligible for U.S. outward and inward direct investment, so BEA has decided to not show this category in its accounts at this time.
- 23.26. An affiliate may have debt investment in a fellow enterprise, another enterprise that is under the control or influence of the same direct investor (immediate or otherwise), but where neither enterprise controls nor influences the other. International guidelines call for such investment to be separately identified in the IIP Accounts and labeled as "direct investment in fellow enterprises."

38. A direct investment relationship exists when a parent's voting interest in an affiliate is greater than 10 percent. Direct investment transactions and positions reflect the parent's equity interest in the affiliate. A parent's voting and equity interests are usually the same but can differ.

Because of the high level of consolidation of data collected for U.S. parent companies, BEA is not able to separately identify positions between fellow enterprises for outward investment. For this reason, these positions are treated as direct positions between the (consolidated) U.S. parent company and its foreign affiliates for outward investment. Inward investment positions between U.S. affiliates and foreign affiliates of the foreign parent are collected separately on BEA's survey but for consistency with outward investment are treated as direct positions between affiliates and their foreign parent group in published statistics. Positions with foreign affiliates of the foreign parent are not separately identified in BEA's publications, but such positions are separately recorded by the country of the foreign affiliate, which is typically not the same as the country of the foreign parent. On an asset/liability basis, debt instruments that U.S. parents hold in their foreign affiliates and that U.S. affiliates hold in their foreign parent groups are recorded as assets, and debt instruments that U.S. parents issue to their foreign affiliates or that U.S. affiliates issue to their foreign parent groups are recorded as U.S. liabilities.

Market value

- 23.27. The market value estimates of the direct investment position revalue parents' equity investment in their affiliates from historical cost (book value) to market value using stock market indexes. The market value estimates revalue only the equity portion of the direct investment position because it is assumed that there is no difference between market and book value for the debt. The revaluation method excludes the portion of the movements in stock prices due to the reinvestment of earnings. This avoids the double-counting of retained earnings that would result from the inclusion of reinvested earnings in direct investment financial transactions.
- 23.28. The outward investment position is revalued using a weighted average of stock market indexes from MSCI. If a stock market index is available for a country, that index is used. For countries where a stock market index is not available, the MSCI World Index is used. The stock market data are first converted into U.S. dollars so that exchange-rate effects are reflected in the market indexes. The key assumption of this method is that using general stock market price indexes produces, on average, a reasonable estimate of the aggregate value of the equity in affiliates in a country. For inward investment, industry-specific index components from S&P Dow Jones, weighted to align with the industry composition of the historical-cost equity positions, are used as the basis for revaluation.
- 23.29. The change in the market value position presented in IIP table 1.3 equals financial transactions including reinvestment of earnings with the current cost adjustment plus other changes in position. Other changes in position consist of price changes, exchange-rate changes, and changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). For the market value position, price changes represent changes in the local currency value of stock market indexes after removing the effects of reinvested earnings. Exchange-rate changes represent gains or losses on

foreign-currency-denominated assets and liabilities due to their revaluation at end-of-period exchange rates. Changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. include changes in coverage and other changes in value, such as the capital gains and losses of affiliates discussed above.

- 23.30. For SPE statistics in IIP table 2.2, BEA apportions part of the global revaluation to market value to SPEs based on the share of the unadjusted direct investment equity position for which SPEs account.

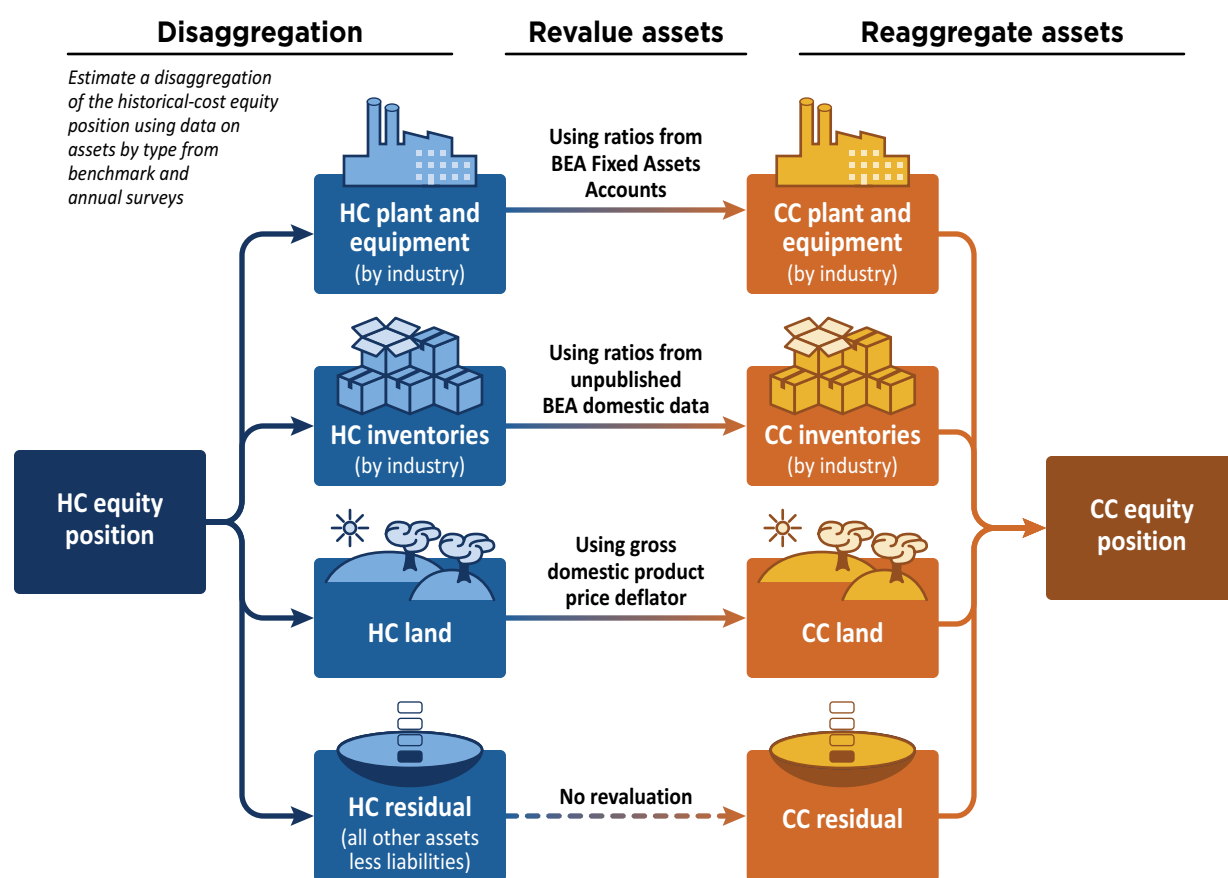
Current cost

- 23.31. The current-cost estimates of the direct investment position revalue parents' equity claims in their affiliates' tangible assets from historical cost (book value) to current cost. The current-cost estimates revalue affiliates' plant and equipment using ratios from a perpetual inventory model applied to domestic investment data, land using general price indexes, and inventory stocks using estimates of current replacement cost. The estimates do not revalue mineral or other natural resource rights.
- 23.32. The ratios used to revalue plant and equipment from historical cost (book value) to current cost are derived from BEA's Fixed Assets Accounts. These accounts construct estimates of total U.S. stocks of structures and equipment using investment flows and a perpetual inventory model.³⁹ The perpetual inventory model produces estimates of net stocks at historical cost (book value) by cumulating past investment in plant and equipment and deducting the accumulated plant and equipment that has been used up (using a depreciation formula) or discarded (using estimated average service lives and retirement patterns). To estimate net stocks at current cost, the model first revalues each year's investments from historical cost (book value) to constant cost using U.S. capital goods price indexes. It then cumulates past constant-cost investments in a manner similar to that for historical-cost (book value) investments, deducting used-up and discarded assets. The resulting constant-cost net capital stock is then revalued to current cost using the appropriate price indexes for capital goods.
- 23.33. To revalue direct investment plant and equipment, BEA multiplies industry-level ratios of current-cost net stocks to historical-cost (book value) net stocks from the Fixed Assets Accounts by industry-level estimates of direct investment stocks of plant and equipment from BEA's annual and benchmark direct investment surveys. The resulting products are summed over industries, yielding a current-cost estimate of the net capital stock of affiliate plant and equipment.
- 23.34. The current-cost value of the net capital stock of plant and equipment derived by this method is added to the current-cost estimate of the parents' share of their affiliate's land and inventories. Land is revalued using a U.S. gross domestic product price index. Inventories are revalued using ratios of current-cost to historical-cost (book values) for U.S. inventory stocks. The sum of the revalued plant and equipment, land, and inventories produce a current-cost replacement value of tangible assets.

39. For a description of the model, see "[Methodology, Fixed Assets and Consumer Durables, 1925-1997](#)," September 2003.

- 23.35. The direct investment equity position at current cost is equal to the direct investment equity position at historical cost (book value) adjusted by the difference between current-cost value of tangible assets and the historical-cost (book value) of tangible assets. Figure 23.a illustrates the revaluation of certain assets from historical cost (book value) to current cost.

Figure 23.a. Translating Historical-Cost Equity Positions to Current-Cost Equity Positions



BEA Bureau of Economic Analysis
 CC Current-cost
 HC Historical-cost

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Chapter 24. Portfolio Investment

Concepts and coverage

- 24.1. Portfolio investment consists of cross-border positions in debt or equity securities, excluding those included in direct investment or reserve assets. (See paragraphs 9.65 and 9.66 for further discussion of the portfolio investment functional category.) The major published components of portfolio investment positions are “equity and investment fund shares” and “debt securities.” Debt securities are classified by maturity (short term versus long term). Short-term debt security liabilities are further classified as U.S. Treasury bills and certificates and other short-term securities, and long-term debt security liabilities are further classified as U.S. Treasury bonds and notes and other long-term debt securities. Other short- and long-term U.S. debt securities include securities issued by federally sponsored agencies, corporations, and state and local governments.

Departures from BPM6

- 24.2. The coverage and presentation of portfolio investment positions closely follow recommendations from the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses slightly different terminology in some cases.

Data sources

- 24.3. **U.S. Department of the Treasury.** U.S. residents’ holdings of foreign-issued equity and long-term debt securities and foreign residents’ holdings of U.S.-issued equity and long-term debt securities are based on data collected monthly on the Treasury International Capital (TIC) SLT form.⁴⁰ The related annual and benchmark surveys cover equity, long-term debt, and short-term debt, including negotiable certificates of deposit (NCDs). These surveys are also used to supplement the other TIC data sources. The SHL(A) survey covers foreign holdings of U.S. securities and the SHC(A) survey covers U.S. holdings of foreign securities. Values on these surveys reflect the secondary market prices of the equity and long-term debt securities. Cross-border holdings of short-term debt securities and NCDs are based on the TIC B and C forms: BC, BL-2, BQ-1, BQ-2, and CQ-1. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3.

40. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3.

- 24.4. Details on the primary sources of portfolio investment positions for lines presented in International Investment Position (IIP) tables 1.2 and 3.1 are provided in table 24.a. Positions for all long-term securities are taken directly from the SLT beginning with statistics for the fourth quarter of 2022 for foreign stocks and bonds and for the second quarter of 2025 for private holdings of U.S. stocks and corporate bonds.⁴¹
- 24.5. Valuation changes reported on the SLT form are used to estimate price changes and exchange-rate changes in equity shares and in long-term debt securities.
- 24.6. **U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).** BEA adjusts equity asset positions from DFC source data using a fair value position reported separately by the DFC in annual financial statements. For more information on the DFC and its impact on transactions estimates, see paragraph 17.9.

Table 24.a. Portfolio Investment Source Data for the International Investment Position

IIP table	Line	Type of investment	Primary source of investment positions
1.2	4	U.S. assets	
1.2	10	Portfolio investment	
1.2	11	Equity and investment fund shares	SLT
1.2	12	Debt securities	
1.2	13	Short term	BC, BQ-1, BQ-2, and CQ-1
1.2	14	Long term	SLT
1.2	36	U.S. liabilities to all foreign residents	
1.2	42	Portfolio investment	
1.2	43	Equity and investment fund shares	SLT
1.2	44	Debt securities	
1.2	45	Short term	
1.2	46	Treasury bills and certificates	BL-2
1.2	47	Other short-term securities	BL-2, BQ-2 and CQ-1
1.2	48	Long term	
1.2	49	Treasury bonds and notes	SLT
1.2	50	Other long-term securities	SLT
3.1	1	U.S. liabilities to foreign official agencies	
3.1	2	Portfolio investment	
3.1	3	Equity and investment fund shares	SLT
3.1	4	Debt securities	
3.1	5	Short term	

Table continues

41. Positions for foreign stock and bonds were projected from the annual (SHCA) and benchmark (SHC) surveys for statistics through the third quarter of 2022. Positions for private holdings of U.S. stocks and corporate bonds were projected from the annual (SHLA) and benchmark (SHL) surveys for statistics through the first quarter of 2025.

IIP table	Line	Type of investment	Primary source of investment positions
3.1	6	Treasury bills and certificates	BL-2
3.1	7	Other short-term securities	BL-2
3.1	8	Long term	
3.1	9	Treasury bonds and notes	SLT
3.1	10	Other long-term securities	SLT

BC Report of U.S. Dollar Claims of Financial Institutions on Foreign Residents (monthly)

BL-2 Report of Customers' U.S. Dollar Liabilities to Foreign Residents (monthly)

BQ-1 Report of Customers' U.S. Dollar Claims on Foreign Residents (quarterly)

BQ-2 Part 1: Report of Foreign Currency Liabilities and Claims of Financial Institutions and of Their Domestic Customers' Foreign Currency Claims With Foreign Residents and Part 2: Report of Customers' Foreign Currency Liabilities to Foreign Residents (quarterly)

CQ-1 Report of Financial Liabilities to, and Financial Claims on, Unaffiliated Foreign Residents (quarterly)

SLT Aggregate Holdings of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents

Notes. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

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Estimation methods

- 24.7. The presentation of portfolio investment positions for “equity and investment fund shares” and “debt instruments” in the IIP Accounts includes statistics for positions at the end of the quarter or year and for changes in position during a quarter or year. Changes in position consist of financial-account transactions and “other changes in position,” which include changes due to price changes, exchange- rate changes, and changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). IIP table 1.2 presents portfolio investment position levels at quarter end. IIP table 1.3 presents portfolio investment position levels at quarter-end and a decomposition of quarterly changes in position. IIP table 4.1 includes portfolio investment debt positions by currency, sector, and maturity. These statistics are derived using the methods described below.

Short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity

Positions

- 24.8. U.S. holdings of short-term foreign debt securities equal positions reported on TIC BC, BQ-1, BQ-2, and CQ-1 forms. U.S. holdings of foreign-issued NCDs are reported on the TIC B and C forms.
- 24.9. Foreign holdings of short-term U.S. debt securities equal positions reported on TIC BL-2, BQ-2, and CQ-1 forms. Foreign holdings of U.S.-issued NCDs are reported on the TIC B and C forms.
- 24.10. **By currency.** U.S. holdings of short-term foreign debt securities and foreign-issued NCDs denominated in U.S. dollars are estimated from the TIC BC, BQ-1, and CQ-1 claims data. U.S. holdings denominated in foreign currency are reported on the BQ-2 and CQ-1 forms. Claims from the BQ-2 form are estimated by currency using data from the SHC(A) survey.

- 24.11. Foreign holdings of short-term U.S. debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars are from the BL-2 and CQ-1 liabilities data; foreign holdings of U.S.-issued NCDs denominated in U.S. dollars are from the BL-1 and BL-2 liabilities data. Foreign holdings of short-term U.S. debt securities and U.S.-issued NCDs denominated in foreign currency are from the BQ-2 and CQ-1 forms. Liabilities from the BQ-2 are estimated by currency using data on short-term debt securities from the SHL(A) survey.
- 24.12. **By maturity.** Positions in foreign-issued NCDs are allocated between short- and long-term holdings based on data reported on the SHC(A) survey. Positions in U.S.-issued NCDs are allocated between short- and long-term holdings based on holdings data reported on the SHL(A) survey.
- 24.13. **By sector.** Positions of deposit-taking institutions come from own-account reports on the BC, BL-1, and BQ-2 forms. Positions of other financial institutions come from their own-account reports on the BC, BL-1, and BQ-2 forms and from customer assets and liabilities on the BQ-1 and BL-2 forms attributed to nonbank financial institutions. Positions of nonfinancial institutions come from CQ-1 data and data reported on behalf of customers on the BL-2, BQ-1, and BQ-2 forms, except for the portion attributed to other financial institutions.

Total change in position

- 24.14. Total change in position of U.S. residents' holdings of foreign short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity and in foreign residents' holdings of U.S. short-term debt securities and NCDs of any maturity equals the changes in quarterly holdings of these securities reported on the TIC B and C forms.

Financial-account transactions

- 24.15. As noted in chapter 17, portfolio investment transactions are compiled from transactions directly reported on the TIC SLT, along with adjustments related to stock swaps and to transactions by the DFC.

Price changes

- 24.16. Values on the TIC B and C forms are reported at their original contractual values (face value). Changes in prices in the secondary markets for short-term securities and for NCDs are assumed to have little or no impact on transactions estimated from the reported values. Price changes are not presented for short-term securities and NCDs.

Exchange-rate changes

- 24.17. Claims and liabilities of U.S. residents with foreign residents that are denominated in foreign currencies are reported on TIC BQ-2 and CQ-1 forms, separately from U.S.-dollar-denominated

holdings. Claims and liabilities of U.S. financial companies and those of their customers with foreign residents that are denominated in foreign currencies are reported on BQ-2 form. Claims and liabilities of U.S. nonfinancial companies with foreign residents that are denominated in foreign currencies are reported on the CQ-1 form.

- 24.18. Total holdings are reported in U.S. dollars with additional detail on the currency composition of the holdings. The exchange-rate change for each currency denomination is calculated by subtracting the exchange-rate-adjusted change in position from the total change in position. The exchange-rate-adjusted change is computed by converting the change in the amount of each foreign currency held into U.S. dollars using each currency's average exchange rate for the period. The total change in position is calculated by converting the foreign-currency-denominated positions to U.S. dollars and computing the change from those dollar-equivalent positions. Exchange-rate changes are computed for each currency and summed to obtain the total exchange-rate change.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 24.19. Changes in TIC reporting caused by the addition of new reporters, corrected reporting, or other changes to the reporting panels are reported to BEA so that quarterly changes in positions that are not caused by transactions, price changes, and exchange-rate changes can be removed from total changes in positions when estimating transactions.

Equity and long-term debt securities, excluding long-term NCDs

Positions

- 24.20. Portfolio investment positions for equity and long-term debt securities are compiled from the monthly SLT form. Investment positions from the SLT form are reported at market value.⁴²
- 24.21. **By currency and maturity.** Positions by currency, presented for long-term debt securities excluding long-term NCDs, are based on data from the SHC(A) and SHL(A) surveys. These long-term securities have original maturities of more than 1 year.
- 24.22. **By sector.** The sectors for debt securities claims are based on the U.S. holders of foreign debt securities, and the sectors for debt securities liabilities are based on the U.S. issuers of U.S. debt securities. Breakdowns for both come from SLT form data.

Total change in position

- 24.23. Total changes in position for U.S. residents' holdings of foreign equity and long-term debt securities and for foreign residents' holdings of U.S. equity and long-term debt securities are equal to changes in quarterly holdings of these securities reported on the SLT form.

42. For periods prior to December 2022 and June 2025, positions for assets and liabilities, respectively, were projected by adding the quarterly change in the SLT positions to the most recent TIC annual or benchmark survey positions. Investment positions from the annual and benchmark TIC surveys are reported at market value.

Financial-account transactions

- 24.24. As noted in chapter 17, portfolio investment transactions are compiled from transactions directly reported on the TIC SLT, with some adjustments (see 17.8 – 17.9).

Price changes and exchange-rate changes

- 24.25. Beginning with statistics for 2023, price changes of U.S. and foreign equity shares and U.S. and foreign long-term debt securities reflect valuation changes reported on the TIC SLT form.⁴³
- 24.26. For foreign-currency-denominated equity and debt securities, changes in value caused by changes in exchange rates are included in the valuation changes reported on the SLT form. Exchange-rate changes for a given period are equal to the holdings of securities of a particular currency at the beginning of the period multiplied by the percent change in the relevant exchange rate over the period. These exchange-rate changes are then subtracted from the total reported valuation changes in dollar terms to obtain price changes exclusive of changes due to exchange rates.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 24.27. Changes in SLT reporting caused by the addition of new reporters, corrected reporting, or other changes to the reporting panels. Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. (not included elsewhere) reflect quarterly changes in positions that are not caused by transactions, price changes, or exchange-rate changes.

43. For earlier periods, price indexes from MSCI, S&P Dow Jones Indices, and ICE denominated in U.S. dollars are used to measure changes in prices and exchange rates. U.S.-dollar-denominated securities have no exchange-rate change component as part of the total price change. Price changes in statistics for these earlier periods are equal to the holdings at the beginning of the period multiplied by the percent change over the period in the appropriate price index.

Chapter 25. Financial Derivatives Other Than Reserves

Concepts and coverage

- 25.1. “Financial derivatives other than reserves” consist of cross-border positions arising from financial contracts that are linked to underlying financial instruments, commodities, or indicators. (See paragraphs 9.72–9.74 for further discussion of the financial derivatives other than reserves functional category.) Positions in financial derivatives consist of contracts with positive fair values that are assets of U.S. residents and contracts with negative fair values that are liabilities of U.S. residents. Statistics for both gross positive fair value and gross negative fair value are presented in international investment position table 1.2. Financial derivatives are a type of financial instrument and “financial derivatives other than reserves” is a functional category. Positions in financial derivatives were introduced into the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts beginning with statistics for the end of the fourth quarter of 2005.

Departures from BPM6

- 25.2. The coverage and presentation of positions in financial derivatives other than reserves closely follow the guidelines recommended by the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*. However, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis does not include employee stock options with financial derivatives other than reserves because of a lack of source data. BEA provides some detail on risk categories of financial derivatives that is not required by *BPM6* but is not able to provide other detail recommended by *BPM6* because of source data limitations.

Data sources

- 25.3. **U.S. Department of the Treasury.** Comprehensive data on financial derivatives are collected on Treasury International Capital (TIC) Form D, “Report of Holdings of, and Transactions in, Financial Derivatives Contracts.” (See paragraph 20.4 for more information.) Trading in financial derivatives is highly concentrated among a small number of large firms. Classifications by risk category are also available from the TIC D forms. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3.

Estimation methods

- 25.4. Estimation methods for quarterly and annual statistics, including the risk category classifications of over-the-counter contracts and exchange-traded contracts, are the same.

Positions

- 25.5. Positions equal the reported gross positive fair values from the TIC D forms for assets and the reported gross negative fair values from the TIC D forms for liabilities.

Financial-account transactions

- 25.6. As described in chapter 20, published statistics equal net settlements from the TIC D forms with the sign reversed. Because financial-account transactions are not available separately for gross positive fair values and gross negative fair values, BEA does not present a decomposition for gross positive fair values and for gross negative fair values.

Other changes

- 25.7. Data are not available from the TIC D forms to provide separate estimates of price changes, exchange-rate changes, and other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). Total other changes in position, which equal total change in position less financial-account transactions, are presented as other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e. for U.S. net holdings of derivatives.

Chapter 26. Other Investment

Concepts and coverage

- 26.1. “Other investment” is a residual category that includes positions other than those included in direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives, and reserve assets. Other investment consists of a wide variety of financial instruments that are usually, but not always, issued and held by financial institutions. (See paragraphs 9.67–9.69 for further discussion of the other investment functional category.) The major published components of other investment positions are other equity, currency and deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, and trade credit and advances. Other investment liabilities also include allocations of special drawing rights (SDRs) by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Departures from BPM6

- 26.2. The components of other investment in the IMF *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* include “insurance, pension, and standardized guarantee schemes.” This component consists of insurance technical reserves (prepayments of premiums and reserves against outstanding insurance claims), pension entitlements (the claims of pensioners on their employers or pension funds), and provisions for calls under standardized guarantees (prepayments of net fees and provisions to meet outstanding calls under standardized loan guarantees). While source data for positions related to insurance technical reserves, pension entitlements, and standardized guarantee schemes are not sufficient for preparing statistics, cross-border positions in pension entitlements and standardized guarantees are believed to be negligible.
- 26.3. Also, in some cases the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses slightly different terminology and slightly different sector detail. For example, BEA uses the term “trade credit and advances” because it is the only item for which source data are available under the *BPM6* component “other accounts receivable/payable.”
- 26.4. Currently, BEA is unable to provide separate estimates of certain types of positions in other equity. Other equity is equity that is not in the form of securities. It can include equity in institutions such as branches, trusts, limited liability and other partnerships, unincorporated funds, and notional units for ownership of real estate and other natural resources. The ownership of many international financial institutions is not in the form of shares and is thus classified as other equity. BEA’s estimates of positions in other equity cover equity in these international institutions. Other types of other equity are commingled in BEA’s source data with equity in the form of securities and are included in portfolio investment.

Data sources

- 26.5. **U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department).** Claims and liabilities for deposits, loans, and insurance technical reserves are reported by financial institutions on the Treasury International Capital (TIC) B forms. Deposits, loans, and trade credit and advances are reported by nonfinancial institutions on the TIC C forms beginning in December 2013.⁴⁴ For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3. Administrative data from the *Monthly Treasury Statement* and the Treasury Department's Foreign Credit Reporting System are used to estimate other equity assets and to supplement estimates of loan assets.
- 26.6. Values on the TIC B and C forms are reported at their original contractual values (face value). Changes in prices in the secondary markets for assets and liabilities reported on the TIC B and C forms are assumed to have little or no impact on the reported positions.
- 26.7. **U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).** Advance payments for sales of military goods to foreign governments are reported to BEA. U.S. government liabilities to foreign governments for these advance payments are classified as trade credit and advances in the general government sector.
- 26.8. **U.S. government administrative data.** U.S. government agencies that engage in international transactions report these transactions quarterly to BEA. Quarterly statistics for transactions in U.S. government loan claims are based on transactions data submitted by U.S. government operating agencies under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Directive No. 19. Positions are projected from the transactions.
- 26.9. **Federal Reserve Board (FRB).** Net shipments of U.S. currency into and out of the United States are provided by the FRB to BEA to measure increases and decreases in foreign holdings of U.S. currency. The holdings projected from these transactions are not captured elsewhere in statistical reporting systems.
- 26.10. **Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY).** The *Treasury and Federal Reserve Foreign Exchange Operations Report* from the FRBNY provides data for positions in central bank liquidity swaps. The report of foreign central bank account balances at the FRBNY provides key data for central bank sector positions. BEA also uses FRBNY source data for foreign and international monetary authorities repurchase agreement (FIMA repo) transactions.
- 26.11. **International Monetary Fund.** The IMF issues press releases and posts information on its website when it implements significant decisions, such as allocating new SDRs to members or increasing member quotas. Recommendations by the IMF Executive Board for such actions must be ratified by member countries before they can be implemented.

44. Prior to December 2013, U.S. banks, bank holding companies, financial holding companies, and securities brokers and dealers reported deposits and loans on the TIC B forms, and other types of financial intermediaries, nonfinancial institutions, and nonprofit institutions reported deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, and trade credit and advances on the TIC C forms.

- 26.12. **Supplemental counterparty data.** Bilateral comparisons between U.S. statistics and comparable statistics from foreign banks for loans and deposits show that U.S. statistics, collected directly from U.S. nonbank firms, understate the external claims and liabilities of these firms vis-à-vis foreign banks. The foreign banking data are from the central banks of the United Kingdom and Germany, from the Bank for International Settlements for Austria, Belgium, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Spain, and from FRB reports for banks in the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands.

Estimation methods

- 26.13. The presentation of the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts includes statistics for positions at the end of the period and for changes in position. Changes in positions consist of financial-account transactions and changes due to price changes, exchange-rate changes, and changes in value and volume n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). Estimation methods for financial-account transactions are described in chapter 18. IIP table 1.2 presents other investment position levels at quarter end. IIP table 1.3 presents other investment position levels at yearend and a decomposition of changes in position. The published position and decomposition-of-change statistics for other investment in these tables, along with position statistics by currency, sector, and maturity for IIP table 4.1, are derived using the methods described below. Unless otherwise noted, methods are the same for both U.S. asset positions and U.S. liability positions.

Other equity

Positions

- 26.14. “Other equity” assets include U.S. government equity stakes in international organizations other than the IMF that do not issue securities. BEA currently lacks source data to provide estimates for positions in “other equity” liabilities.
- 26.15. Statistics for positions in other equity assets are projected based on an estimate of holdings in 1976 brought forward by adding transactions, and, beginning with statistics for 2021, the effect of exchange-rate changes on positions and transactions. Transactions are based on U.S. government capital subscriptions and contributions to international financial institutions reported by the Treasury Department in the *Monthly Treasury Statement*. Exchange-rate changes are estimated for positions and transactions in international financial institutions that are denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar.

Financial-account transactions

- 26.16. As described in chapter 18, quarterly statistics for transactions in U.S. other equity claims are based on U.S. government capital subscriptions and contributions to international financial institutions reported by the Treasury Department in the *Monthly Treasury Statement*.

Price changes

- 26.17. Source data are not available for this category.

Exchange-rate changes

- 26.18. Exchange-rate changes equal the total change in position less transactions.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 26.19. Source data are not available for this category.

Currency*Positions*

- 26.20. Foreign holdings of U.S. currency abroad are projected based on an estimate of holdings in 1973 brought forward by adding quarterly net shipments using data from the FRB, which are used to measure transactions. Foreign holdings of U.S. currency are not liabilities to foreign official agencies and are thus not included in IIP table 3.1.
- 26.21. **By currency, sector, and maturity.** Foreign holdings of U.S. currency abroad are categorized as U.S. dollars; they are liabilities of the central bank and are categorized as short term.

Financial-account transactions

- 26.22. As described in chapter 18, transactions in U.S. currency liabilities are equal to net shipments of U.S. currency into and out of the United States.

Price changes

- 26.23. The U.S. dollar value of U.S. currency held abroad is not affected by changes in prices.

Exchange-rate changes

- 26.24. The U.S. dollar value of U.S. currency held abroad is not affected by changes in exchange rates.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 26.25. Source data are not available for this category.

Deposits*Positions*

- 26.26. U.S. deposit claims and liabilities with foreign residents include (1) deposits reported by U.S. financial institutions and nonfinancial institutions for their own account and for their customers on the TIC B and C forms, (2) the deposit claims and liabilities of the FRB with foreign central banks reported by FRBNY, and (3) additional deposits placed in foreign banks by U.S. nonbank

firms based on counterparty data from foreign banks. Brokerage balances held by securities brokers for their customers that are very similar to deposits, and that are reported in the deposit category on the TIC B forms, are also classified as deposits. The deposit claims of the FRB include those obtained through central bank liquidity swaps and FIMA repos.

- 26.27. Positions in deposit claims and liabilities in the IIP Accounts equal the positions reported on the TIC B and C forms, the administrative data from the FRB, and the supplemental balances computed from the counterparty data from foreign banks. U.S. deposit liabilities to foreign official agencies are estimated from reported deposit liabilities to foreign official agencies available separately on the TIC BL-1 form.
- 26.28. **By currency.** Positions in U.S. dollar deposit claims come from TIC BC, BQ-1, and CQ-1 claims data, supplemental counterparty data, and FRB data on FIMA repos. Positions, by currency, in foreign currency deposit claims come from the TIC BQ-2 and CQ-1 claims data, supplemental counterparty data, and FRB liquidity swaps. Positions in U.S. dollar deposit liabilities come from TIC BL-1 data and FRB data. Positions, by currency, in foreign currency deposit liabilities come from BQ-2 data.
- 26.29. **By sector.** Positions of deposit-taking institutions come from own-account reports on the BC, BL-1, and BQ-2 forms. Positions of other financial institutions come from their own-account reports on the BC, BL-1, and BQ-2 forms and from customer assets and liabilities on the BQ-1 form attributed to nonbank financial institutions. Positions of nonfinancial institutions come from (1) deposit claims on the CQ-1 form; (2) deposit claims reported on behalf of customers on the BQ-1 and BQ-2 form, except for the portion attributed to other financial institutions; and (3) deposit claims of U.S. nonbanks estimated from the supplemental counterparty data. FRB asset and liability positions are included in the central bank sector.
- 26.30. **By maturity.** Short-term and long-term positions, by instrument, are distinguished using ratios calculated from the BQ-3 form on remaining maturity for reporters' own deposits. Ratios are computed separately for deposit-taking institutions and for all other reporters. These ratios are used to estimate maturity detail for deposits for the TIC B forms and the supplementary counterparty data. The maturity of positions based on CQ-1 data comes from information collected on that form. FRB liquidity swaps and FIMA repo deposit assets and FRB deposit liabilities are short term in nature.

Financial-account transactions

- 26.31. As described in paragraphs 18.22–18.28, transactions in deposit claims and liabilities of U.S. financial institutions and nonfinancial institutions are based on changes in quarterly holdings as reported on the TIC B and C forms. These estimates are supplemented by changes in quarterly holdings of deposits placed in foreign banks by U.S. nonbank firms based on counterparty data from foreign banks.

- 26.32. Transactions in deposits denominated in foreign currency equal the change in holdings, less exchange-rate changes, less changes due to changes in reporting panels classified as other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e
- 26.33. Transactions in deposits denominated in U.S. dollars equal the reported dollar-denominated change in holdings, less changes due to changes in reporting panels classified as other changes. Transactions in deposits abroad held by the FRB acquired through central bank liquidity swaps equal changes in quarterly swap balances reported by the FRB.

Price changes

- 26.34. The U.S. dollar value of U.S. deposit claims and liabilities with foreign residents is not affected by changes in prices.

Exchange-rate changes

- 26.35. The calculation of exchange-rate changes for foreign-currency-denominated deposits, excluding those acquired by the FRB through central bank liquidity swaps, applies the percentage changes in various exchange rates to the average of beginning and end of period positions.
- 26.36. Deposits abroad held by the FRB acquired through central bank liquidity swaps are denominated in foreign currency. However, these holdings are not affected by changes in exchange rates because the swaps are reversed at prearranged exchange rates specified in the swap agreement and the same amounts of U.S. dollars are always returned as were originally swapped. The FRB carries these assets on its balance sheet at constant U.S. dollar-equivalent values.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 26.37. Changes in TIC reporting caused by the addition of new reporters, corrected reporting, or other changes to the reporting panels are reported to BEA so that the changes in quarterly balances not caused by transactions or exchange-rate changes can be removed from total changes in holdings when estimating transactions.

Loans

Positions

- 26.38. U.S. loan claims and liabilities with foreign residents include (1) loans reported by U.S. financial institutions and nonfinancial institutions both for their own account and for their customers on the TIC B and C forms, (2) loan claims on foreign residents reported in the Foreign Credit Reporting System, and (3) additional loans to or from U.S. nonbank firms with foreign banks based on counterparty data from foreign banks.⁴⁵

45. Loan claims with foreign residents reported by the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation are included in statistics on claims through 2021

- 26.39. Quarterly statistics for positions in U.S. government loan claims are projected based on an estimate of holdings in 1976 brought forward by adding transactions. Transactions are based on data submitted by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19; data are summarized by country and by agency.
- 26.40. Other positions in loan claims and liabilities in the IIP Accounts are equal to the positions reported on the TIC B and C forms supplemented by the balances computed from the counterparty data from foreign banks. U.S. loan liabilities to foreign official agencies are estimated from reported loan liabilities to foreign official agencies available separately on the TIC BL-1 and BL-2 forms.⁴⁶
- 26.41. **By currency.** Positions in U.S. dollar loan claims come from TIC BC, BQ-1, and CQ-1 data and supplemental counterparty data; positions, by currency, in foreign currency loan claims come from the TIC BQ-2 and CQ-1 forms. U.S. government loan claims are assumed to be denominated in U.S. dollars except for a relatively small amount of foreign-currency denominated claims reported by administrative sources. Positions in U.S. dollar loan liabilities come from TIC BL-1, BL-2, and CQ-1 data and supplemental counterparty data. Positions, by currency, in foreign currency loan liabilities come from BQ-2 and CQ-1 data and supplemental counterparty data.
- 26.42. **By sector.** Positions of deposit-taking institutions come from own-account reports on the BC, BL-1, and BQ-2 forms. Positions of other financial institutions come from own-account reports on the BC, BL-1, and BQ-2 forms and from customer assets and liabilities on the BQ-1 and BL-2 forms attributed to nonbank financial institutions. Positions of nonfinancial institutions come from (1) loan claims and liabilities on the CQ-1 form; (2) loan claims and liabilities reported on behalf of customers on the BL-2, BQ-1, and BQ-2 forms, except for the portion attributed to other financial institutions; and (3) loan liabilities of U.S. nonbanks from supplemental counterparty data. U.S. government loan claims are included in the general government sector.
- 26.43. **By maturity.** Short-term and long-term positions, by instrument, are distinguished using ratios calculated from the BQ-3 form on remaining maturity for reporters' own loans. Ratios are estimated separately for deposit-taking institutions and for all other reporters. These ratios are used to estimate maturity detail for loans for the TIC B forms and the supplementary counterparty data. The maturity of positions based on CQ-1 data comes from information collected on that form. U.S. government loan claims are considered long term.

Financial-account transactions

- 26.44. As described in paragraphs 18.29–18.33, transactions in loans of U.S. financial institutions and nonfinancial institutions with foreign residents are based on changes in quarterly holdings as reported on the TIC B and C forms. Transactions are estimated by computing changes in holdings from the TIC data and subtracting any changes in holdings not caused by transactions, such as changes in

46. Prior to 2023, positions in loan claims and liabilities computed from the TIC B forms were adjusted to remove selected debt positions and positions in owner's equity between financial institutions and unincorporated branches and to remove debt positions between U.S. financial institutions and nonfinancial foreign affiliates. For more details, see Appendix B.

exchange rates or changes in TIC survey reporting panels. These estimates are supplemented to account for transactions in asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP) and by estimates of loan liabilities of U.S. nonbank firms with foreign banks based on counterparty data from foreign banks.

⁴⁷Quarterly statistics for transactions in U.S. government loan claims are based on transactions data submitted by U.S. government operating agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19.

26.45. Transactions in loans denominated in foreign currency equal the change in holdings, less exchange-rate changes, less changes due to changes in reporting panels classified as other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

26.46. Transactions in loans denominated in U.S. dollars equal the reported dollar-denominated change in holdings, less changes due to changes in reporting panels classified as other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

Price changes

26.47. The value of U.S. loan claims and liabilities with foreign residents is assumed to be unaffected by changes in prices in secondary markets.

Exchange-rate changes

26.48. The calculation of exchange-rate changes for foreign-currency-denominated loans applies the percentage changes in various exchange rates to the average of beginning and end of period positions.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

26.49. Changes in TIC reporting caused by the addition of new reporters, corrected reporting, or other changes to the reporting panels are reported to BEA so that the changes in quarterly balances not caused by transactions or exchange-rate changes can be removed from total changes in holdings when estimating transactions.

Insurance technical reserves

26.50. Positions for insurance technical reserves are based on quarterly holdings as reported on the TIC B forms. Source data for insurance technical reserves are currently not sufficient for the preparation of statistics.

26.51. Although not published separately, insurance technical reserves are included in the estimates of U.S. debt positions by currency, sector, and maturity shown in IIP table 4.1. Insurance technical reserves are not liabilities to foreign official agencies and are therefore not included in IIP table 3.1.

⁴⁷ Estimates to account for transactions in nonbank ABCP data are carried forward from the first quarter of 2021 based on data from the Depository Trust and Clearing Corporation.

Trade credit and advances

Positions

- 26.52. Holdings of claims and liabilities with foreign residents from trade credit and advances include (1) those reported by U.S. nonfinancial institutions on the TIC CQ-2 form and (2) the liabilities of the U.S. government to foreign governments from funds advanced mainly for the purchase of military goods and services reported to BEA by DOD.
- 26.53. The trade credit and advances of U.S. nonfinancial institutions equal the quarterly holdings as reported on the TIC CQ-2 form. The liabilities are not liabilities to foreign official agencies and are not included in IIP table 3.1.
- 26.54. U.S. government liabilities from advance payments for foreign purchases of goods and services that are mainly for military use are projected based on an estimate of holdings in 1976 brought forward by adding quarterly transactions to the latest position estimate. Transactions are based on U.S. government administrative data. These U.S. government liabilities to foreign governments are also included in trade credit and advances in IIP table 3.1.
- 26.55. **By currency and maturity.** Positions by currency and remaining maturity in trade credit and advances come from the CQ-2 form. Advance payments for military-related goods and services liabilities are denominated in U.S. dollars and are considered long term.
- 26.56. **By sector.** Trade credit and advances positions reported on the CQ-2 form are assigned to nonfinancial institutions because only nonfinancial institutions report on this form. Advance payments for military-related goods and services are included in the general government sector.

Financial-account transactions

- 26.57. As described in paragraphs 18.35–18.37, transactions in claims and liabilities with foreign residents in trade credit and advances include those reported by nonfinancial institutions on the TIC CQ-2 form and transactions in liabilities of the U.S. government to foreign governments from advanced payments mainly for the purchase of military goods and services reported to BEA by DOD.

Price changes

- 26.58. The value of U.S. trade credit and advances with foreign residents is assumed to be unaffected by changes in prices in secondary markets.

Exchange-rate changes

- 26.59. Exchange-rate changes are equal to the unadjusted total change in holdings of foreign-currency-denominated trade credit and advances less the sum of transactions and any changes in reporting panels that would be classified as other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 26.60. Changes in TIC reporting caused by the addition of new reporters, corrected reporting, or other changes to the reporting panels are reported to BEA so that the changes in quarterly balances not caused by transactions or exchange-rate changes can be removed from total changes in holdings when estimating transactions.

*Special drawing rights (SDR) allocations**Positions*

- 26.61. SDR allocations to the United States are available in an IMF public database with values denominated in SDRs. The position in the IIP Accounts equals the amount reported by the IMF as of the end of the period converted from SDRs to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect at the end of the period. SDR allocations are also included in IIP table 3.1.
- 26.62. **By currency, sector, and maturity.** SDR allocations are categorized as other foreign currencies; they are included in the general government sector and are considered long term.

Financial-account transactions

- 26.63. As described in chapter 18, changes in SDR allocations to the United States are available in IMF public releases and databases with values denominated in SDRs.

Price changes

- 26.64. The value of SDR allocations to the United States is not affected by changes in prices.

Exchange-rate changes

- 26.65. The exchange-rate change for a period when the SDR allocation is unchanged equals holdings in U.S. dollars at the end of the period less holdings in U.S. dollars at the beginning of the period, with the holdings converted to U.S. dollars from SDRs at the conversion rates in effect at the beginning and end of the period. If the SDR allocation changed during the period, exchange-rate changes for each level and duration of the allocation would be computed and summed to obtain the exchange-rate change for the period.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 26.66. Increases or decreases in SDR allocations to the United States are always transactions as defined in BPM6. As a result, other changes in volume and valuation do not apply to this component.

Chapter 27. Reserve Assets

Concepts and coverage

- 27.1. Reserve assets are those external assets that are readily available to, and controlled by, monetary authorities for meeting balance of payments financing needs, for intervening in exchange markets to affect the currency exchange rate, and for other related purposes such as maintaining confidence in the currency and the economy, and serving as a basis for foreign borrowing. (See paragraphs 9.70 and 9.71 for further discussion of the reserve assets functional category.) The major published components of the reserve assets position are monetary gold, International Monetary Fund (IMF) special drawing rights (SDRs), reserve position in the IMF, and “other reserve assets.”
- 27.2. Other reserve assets enable the United States to hold foreign currency balances that are highly liquid and that are available for intervention sales. U.S. foreign currency balances include deposits, debt securities, and repurchase agreements that are classified as “other claims.” The United States does not have financial derivatives in its reserve assets.

Departures from BPM6

- 27.3. The coverage and presentation of reserve assets closely follow recommendations from the IMF *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)*.

Data sources

- 27.4. **U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury Department).** Data on U.S. reserve assets are published by the Treasury Department in terms of holdings (outstanding amounts). The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis also uses Treasury Department source data on the gold stock.
- 27.5. **Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY).** The *Treasury and Federal Reserve Foreign Exchange Operations Report* from the FRBNY provides data for transactions in central bank liquidity swaps. The FRBNY also provides the report of *Foreign Fair Value Summary* with data on the outstanding amounts of foreign currencies in U.S. reserve assets. Other data for interest earned on reserves, liquidity swaps, and foreign and international monetary authorities repurchase agreements (FIMA repos) and on claims and liabilities with foreign central banks are provided to BEA for estimates of reserve assets and central bank sector transactions.
- 27.6. **International Monetary Fund.** The IMF provides month-end position data and daily increases and decreases during each month for the U.S. Accounts at the IMF. The data include positions

and transactions between the United States and the IMF for the SDR account and the General Resources (tranche) Account and its subaccounts covering securities, valuation adjustments, and IMF borrowing from the United States.

Estimation methods

- 27.7. The presentation of the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts includes statistics for positions at period end and for changes in position. Changes in positions consist of financial-account transactions and changes due to price changes, exchange-rate changes, and changes in value and volume n.i.e. (not included elsewhere). Estimation methods for financial-account transactions in reserve assets are described in chapter 19. IIP table 1.2 presents reserve assets position levels at quarter end. IIP table 1.3 presents reserve assets position levels at yearend and a decomposition of annual changes in position. The published position and decomposition-of-change statistics for reserve assets in these tables, along with position statistics by sector for the addenda of IIP table 4.1, are derived using the methods described below.⁴⁸

Monetary gold

Positions

- 27.8. Positions in monetary gold are equal to the amount of gold in ounces in the monthly Treasury Department report on the U.S. gold stock at the end of the quarter, multiplied by the price of gold from the afternoon price quoted in the London gold market (“the London gold afternoon (PM) fix”) at the end of the quarter. If the London gold market is closed on the afternoon of the last day of the quarter, then the last fixing for the quarter is the price used.
- 27.9. Monetary gold is valued at the market price in London, following recommendations from *BPM6* that the investment position should be valued at market prices. The value of monetary gold in the IIP Accounts is different from the valuation used by the Treasury Department in the official statement of the value of U.S. reserve assets. The price used to value gold in the Treasury Department report on the U.S. gold stock and in the official statement of the value of U.S. reserve assets is fixed by U.S. law at \$42.2222 per ounce. Official valuations of U.S. gold are made pursuant to the Par Value Modification Act (Public Law 92–268) and its amendment (Public Law 93–110).
- 27.10. **By sector.** Monetary gold is categorized as general government.

Financial-account transactions

- 27.11. As described in chapter 19, if transactions were to occur, BEA would obtain from the Treasury Department data for the quantity of gold transferred out or received from the counterparty, either in ounces or in dollars at a known price. If daily data were available, BEA would value the daily

48. Reserve assets are presented as addenda to IIP table 4.1, which shows U.S. debt positions by currency, sector, and maturity. Instead of listing positions in reserve assets by U.S. dollar and selected foreign currencies, the addenda distinguish between positions in the special drawing rights (SDR) basket and those not in the SDR basket, following the currency breakdown recommended by *BPM6*.

gold transactions using the afternoon (PM) fix in the London market for each day. If transactions were to occur over a period of time and daily data were not available, the transactions over the period would be valued at an average price of gold for that period.

Price changes

- 27.12. Price changes for a given period equal the holdings in ounces at the beginning of the period multiplied by the change in the gold price. If the holdings of gold change during the period, price changes for each level and duration of holdings would be computed and summed to obtain the price change for the period. A significant change in gold holdings would be unusual; accurate price changes can usually be computed based on the holdings at the beginning of the period.

Exchange-rate changes

- 27.13. The value of the gold stock is not affected by changes in exchange rates.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 27.14. The value of changes in the gold stock caused by the monetization or demonetization of gold would be recorded in this category, based on the price on the date of the monetization or demonetization.

Special drawing rights (SDRs)

Positions

- 27.15. Positions in SDRs equal the amount in the U.S. SDR account reported by the IMF as of the end of the period, converted to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect at the end of the period.
- 27.16. **By sector.** SDR holdings are categorized as general government.

Financial-account transactions

- 27.17. As described in chapter 19, BEA converts daily increases or decreases caused by transactions in the U.S. SDR account from SDRs to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect on that date. These daily transactions, which include the change in accrued interest not yet paid, are aggregated into quarterly financial transactions in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs).

Price changes

- 27.18. The value of U.S. holdings of SDRs is not affected by changes in prices.

Exchange-rate changes.

- 27.19. Exchange-rate changes equal the total change in U.S. SDR holdings, less financial-account transactions computed from reported increases and decreases.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 27.20. Increases or decreases in the value of U.S. SDR holdings are completely accounted for by transactions and by exchange-rate changes. As a result, other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e do not apply to this component.

Reserve position in the IMF*Positions*

- 27.21. The U.S. reserve position in the IMF equals the amount in the U.S. General Resources (tranche) Account plus any borrowing by the IMF from the United States through the General Arrangements to Borrow, the New Arrangements to Borrow, or other borrowing facilities, converted to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect at the end of the period. Interest accrued but not yet paid at period end is included in outstanding positions.
- 27.22. **By sector.** The reserve position in the IMF is categorized as general government.

Financial-account transactions

- 27.23. As described in chapter 19, transactions from IMF borrowings or repayments are provided for each day of the reporting month to BEA by the IMF. The IMF reports these values in terms of SDRs. BEA converts daily increases or decreases from SDRs to U.S. dollars at the conversion rate in effect on that date. These daily transactions are aggregated into quarterly financial transactions for the ITAs.
- 27.24. Transactions in the General Resources Account are computed by deducting valuation changes from the total change in balance of the account, which is equal to the U.S. position at the end of the reference quarter converted to U.S. dollars, less the U.S. position at the end of the previous quarter converted to U.S. dollars. The valuation changes are computed from the change in the SDR/U.S. dollar conversion rate and from valuation adjustments to IMF holdings of U.S. dollars recorded by the IMF in their accounting records. The SDR/U.S. dollar conversion rate and valuation adjustments to IMF holdings of U.S. dollars are provided to BEA by the IMF.

Price changes

- 27.25. The value of the U.S. reserve position in the IMF is not affected by changes in prices.

Exchange-rate changes

- 27.26. Exchange-rate changes equal the total change in the U.S. reserve position in the IMF, less financial-account transactions.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 27.27. Increases or decreases in the value of the U.S. reserve position in the IMF are completely accounted for by transactions and exchange-rate changes. As a result, changes in volume and valuation n.i.e do not apply to this component.

Other reserve assets*Positions*

- 27.28. Positions in other reserve assets including accrued interest not yet paid are reported by the FRBNY and IMF to BEA as of the end of the quarter. These reports include holdings of foreign-currency-denominated deposits, securities, and other claims such as repurchase agreements, all converted to U.S. dollars at exchange rates in effect at the end of the quarter.
- 27.29. **By sector.** “Currency and deposits” and securities are categorized in the general government sector if they are held in the Treasury Department’s Exchange Stabilization Fund and in the central bank sector if they are held in the FRBNY’s System Open Market Account.

Financial-account transactions

- 27.30. As described in paragraphs 19.18–19.22, transactions are estimated for currency and deposits and other claims as the exchange-rate-adjusted difference in positions. Transactions in securities are calculated as interest receipts less transactions in currency and deposits.

Price changes

- 27.31. BEA estimates price changes for securities, but not for deposits and other claims, because the impact of secondary market prices for deposits and other claims is assumed to be minimal. Price changes for securities equal the exchange-rate-adjusted difference of total changes in securities positions less transactions.

Exchange-rate changes

- 27.32. Exchange rate changes are equal to the unadjusted total change in holdings of foreign-currency-denominated securities and deposits less the sum of transactions and any price changes.

Other changes in volume and valuation n.i.e.

- 27.33. Other changes for each instrument equal total changes less the sum of financial transactions, price changes, and exchange-rate changes.

Part V.

Methodology of Statistics on the Activities of Multinational Enterprises

Chapter 28. Statistics on the Activities of Multinational Enterprises

Concepts and coverage

- 28.1. Statistics produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE) provide a comprehensive and integrated data set for empirical analysis of multinational enterprises (MNEs) and their effects on home and host country economies. These annual statistics provide an additional perspective on the impact of direct investment beyond that provided by the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. AMNE statistics provide insights into the overall activities of [U.S. MNEs](#)—both U.S. parents and their foreign affiliates—and [U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs](#) using a wide variety of indicators of their financial structure and operations. The statistics on foreign affiliates and U.S. affiliates cover the entire operations of the affiliate, regardless of the share of ownership by the parent companies.
- 28.2. The following are some of the key indicators included in BEA's AMNE statistics:
- Balance sheets and income statements
 - Sales by type (goods supplied, services supplied, or other sales)
 - Value added
 - Employment and employee compensation
 - U.S. trade in goods
 - Research and development (R&D)
 - Expenditures for property, plant, and equipment (PP&E)
 - Taxes

- 28.3. Each of these categories includes additional related individual data items. For example, detailed balance sheet components, such as inventories and net PP&E, are available annually for majority-owned affiliates. The amount of additional detail available for some of the categories is greater in benchmark survey years (every 5 years) than in other years.
- 28.4. BEA's AMNE statistics are compiled for all direct investment enterprises and, separately, for a subset of direct investment enterprises in which direct investors directly or indirectly hold or control a majority of the voting power (more than 50 percent). In BEA's AMNE statistics, these controlled direct investment enterprises are referred to as majority-owned affiliates. BEA provides separate tabulations for foreign affiliates that are majority-owned by their U.S. parent(s) and for U.S. affiliates that are majority-owned by their foreign parent(s).⁴⁹ The focus on majority ownership facilitates analysis of the behavior of MNEs according to a conceptual framework in which the direct investor or the ultimate owner controls and coordinates the global activities of affiliated businesses.
- 28.5. BEA goes beyond guidance from the IMF *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* by not excluding from the scope of AMNE statistics the activities of minority-owned affiliates, which are business entities that are owned between 10 and 50 percent by another business entity.⁵⁰ However, fewer statistics are compiled for the broader set of all affiliates than for the subset that excludes minority-owned affiliates. BEA compiles AMNE statistics for both foreign enterprises resident in the U.S. economy ("inward AMNE") and foreign affiliates owned by U.S. residents ("outward AMNE"). In addition, selected AMNE statistics are compiled for the domestic activities of U.S. MNE parent companies, a component of outward AMNE.⁵¹
- 28.6. Closely related to AMNE statistics are foreign affiliates statistics (FATS). Whereas AMNE statistics provide information on the overall operations of MNEs in their home country and of their affiliates in host countries, FATS exclude the operations of the affiliate's ultimate parent enterprise and operations of minority-owned affiliates. FATS provide data on goods produced and services provided by affiliates in foreign markets and provide information on other economic variables, such as sales or output, employment, value added, exports and imports of goods and services, and number of enterprises. FATS represents a subset of AMNE statistics. BEA does not explicitly label any of its AMNE statistics as FATS. However, FATS are emphasized in certain contexts in international statistical guidelines, and BEA's AMNE statistics on majority-owned affiliates can be compared with FATS produced by statistical agencies in other countries.

49. BEA shifted from a focus on all affiliates to one on majority-ownership for foreign affiliates starting with statistics for 1994 and for U.S. affiliates starting with statistics for 2002. BEA began presenting statistics on only majority-owned foreign affiliates and majority-owned U.S. affiliates for statistics covering 2023 and subsequent annual survey years. For statistics on minority-owned affiliates, such data will only be included for benchmark survey years (every five years) beginning with statistics for U.S. multinationals in 2024.

50. BEA includes entities that are owned exactly 50 percent by another business entity in "minority-owned affiliates."

51. *BPM6* and other international statistical guidelines use the term "associates" to describe minority-owned affiliates and the term "subsidiaries" to describe majority-owned affiliates. BEA does not use these terms in its presentation of AMNE statistics.

- 28.7. BEA's AMNE statistics on U.S. parents are published by industry. Statistics on U.S. affiliates and foreign affiliates are published by country and by industry, and some statistics on U.S. affiliates are published by U.S. state. (See paragraphs 28.53–28.61 for more information on classification of the AMNE statistics.) Typically, U.S. parent and U.S. affiliate statistics are compiled at the enterprise—or company—level.⁵²
- 28.8. AMNE statistics provide insight into the finances and operations of MNEs, the effects of increased globalization of economic activity, and the continued growth of services trade. The growth of services trade has led to the need for a more complete picture of the international supply of services that considers not only resident-nonresident transactions as recorded in the ITAs but also those services delivered via physical commercial presence by foreign affiliates that are not included in ITA statistics. Commercial presence is one of the four modes of supply for services (mode 3) identified in the General Agreement on Trade in Services. Chapter 34 provides more information on modes of supply.
- 28.9. AMNE statistics are important for understanding the impact of direct investment on a broad set of activities in an economy rather than just the investment transactions and positions that are the focus of direct investment statistics in BEA's ITA and IIP statistics. AMNE statistics are also important for the analysis of the performance of direct investment enterprises, both in absolute terms and relative to the larger domestic and foreign populations of enterprises. For example, direct investment enterprises may be involved in activities such as R&D that have important impacts in the domestic economy but that may not be recorded as international transactions.

Statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises and BPM6

- 28.10. *BPM6* includes an appendix that endorses and provides guidance for the compilation of AMNE statistics as a supplement to the direct investment statistics compiled for the ITAs and the IIP Accounts. Detailed discussion and guidance for both AMNE statistics and FATS are found in the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS)*, specifically in chapter IV. Additional guidance is found in the *Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Handbook on Economic Globalization Indicators* and in the *OECD Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition (BD4)*. BEA's AMNE statistics exceed the standards recommended by these guidelines. BEA's statistics also cover a broader set of MNEs than recommended in *BPM6*, one that includes minority-owned affiliates.

52. Statistics compiled at the establishment—or plant—level are also available for selected years as a result of several projects linking BEA's enterprise data on foreign direct investment in the United States with more detailed establishment data from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). These statistics do not exactly match the statistics compiled from the enterprise level, as they are primarily based on data collected by the Census Bureau or BLS. The data can be [accessed from BEA's website](#).

Data sources

- 28.11. **BEA survey data.** BEA's AMNE statistics are based almost entirely on data collected on BEA's mandatory benchmark and annual direct investment surveys. Benchmark surveys, which are conducted once every 5 years, are censuses of all U.S. MNEs and all U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs. Annual surveys, conducted between benchmark surveys, are size-cutoff sample surveys. Outward AMNE statistics are based on the Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-11) and the Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-10). Inward AMNE statistics are based on the Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-15) and the Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-12).
- 28.12. In most cases, U.S. MNEs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs are required to report data as they would for stockholder's reports rather than for tax or other purposes. Thus, unless otherwise indicated by the survey instructions, survey reporters are asked to report using U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The survey instructions depart from GAAP in cases where the departure would result in data that are conceptually or analytically more useful or appropriate for MNE analysis. One major departure from GAAP is in the area of consolidation rules.
- 28.13. U.S. parents and U.S. affiliates are required to report on a fully consolidated domestic (U.S.) basis. The fully consolidated U.S. domestic business enterprise is defined as (1) the U.S. business enterprise whose voting securities are not owned more than 50 percent by another U.S. business enterprise and (2) proceeding down each ownership chain from that U.S. business enterprise, any U.S. business enterprise whose voting securities are more than 50 percent owned by the U.S. business enterprise above it. This consolidation excludes all other U.S. business enterprises, foreign branches, and all foreign business enterprises.
- 28.14. Each foreign affiliate is required to be reported separately. However, consolidation of foreign affiliates in the same country is permitted if the affiliates are in the same four-digit industry or are integral parts of the same business operation. BEA's U.S. MNE statistics cover all foreign affiliates owned by U.S. parents, either directly or indirectly through other affiliates. The inclusion of all the tiers of foreign affiliates is needed to reflect the countries in which goods and services are ultimately produced and where inputs to production such as labor and capital are located.
- 28.15. U.S. MNEs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs are required to report on a fiscal-year basis. The fiscal year is defined as the financial reporting year that ended during the calendar year covered by the survey.
- 28.16. The data for each of the surveys are collected using a series of survey forms. The survey form required to be reported depends on the size of the reporting firm and whether the foreign affiliate or U.S. affiliate is majority owned. The size is determined by the total assets, sales, or net income (or loss) of the reporting firm, and smaller and minority-owned firms are required to provide less detailed information. (For more detailed information on BEA's survey methods, see chapter 3.)

Estimation methods

- 28.17. BEA's AMNE statistics represent the aggregation of financial and operating data items reported by U.S. MNEs for their U.S. operations and for their foreign affiliates and by the U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs operating in the United States. Published statistics cover the universes of U.S. MNEs and U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs. These statistics represent the sum of (1) values reported by firms that exceed asset, sales, or net income reporting thresholds and (2) values estimated for firms below the thresholds and for firms that fail to report. For items with higher reporting thresholds (that is, for items collected only on the most detailed survey forms), BEA generally bases estimates on relationships among data items reported for above-threshold firms. For other items, estimates are based on values reported for the firm in a previous year (possibly the benchmark year) extrapolated by the year-to-year movement in the data reported by a selection of firms in similar industries (and countries, if applicable).
- 28.18. The following sections highlight some concepts, definitions, and statistical issues for selected AMNE data items. Most of the concepts and definitions used for other data items in BEA's AMNE statistics can be found in the instructions for BEA surveys available on the BEA website.

Number of entities

- 28.19. Estimates of the numbers of U.S. affiliates and foreign affiliates of U.S. parents, included in BEA's AMNE publications, exclude very small affiliates that file an abbreviated version of the survey form; estimates of the number of U.S. parents excludes parents that own only very small affiliates. Parent and affiliate counts are difficult to interpret precisely because each report covers a consolidated business enterprise, which may consist of multiple companies. The number of consolidated business enterprises varies according to the degree of consolidation used and differences in the organizational structure of the enterprises. In addition, comparisons of the counts over time should be performed cautiously because MNEs not previously known to be part of the direct investment universe are often identified in benchmark survey years. This process, while eliminating gaps in coverage that arise in annual survey years, often results in larger increases in entity counts in benchmark survey years than in annual survey years.

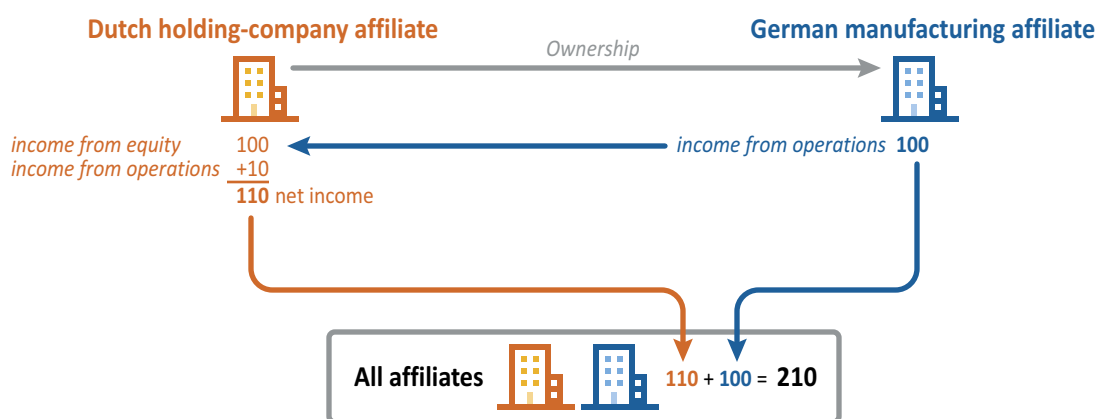
Balance sheets and income statements

- 28.20. Balance sheets and income statements are required to be reported as they would have been for stockholders' reports, preferably according to U.S. GAAP. For most parents and affiliates, the income statement includes all types of income, both ordinary and extraordinary.
- 28.21. Many U.S. MNEs have complex ownership structures in which one foreign affiliate owns other foreign affiliates, and ownership of a lower-tier affiliate is included as an asset in the balance sheet of each foreign affiliate up the ownership chain to its U.S. parent. This characteristic of the data allows for analysis of the complete financial structure of U.S. MNEs and provides a window into the overall degree of complexity of MNE ownership structures. Consequently, however, the

aggregate balance sheet statistics reflect the cumulative balance sheets of each foreign affiliate (both the top and lower tiers), so that assets of the lower-tier affiliates are counted at least twice. Statistics covering the income statement are similarly affected.

- 28.22. An example of double counting of income is illustrated in figure 28.a. In this example, a U.S. parent owns a holding-company affiliate in the Netherlands, which in turn owns a German manufacturing affiliate. The German affiliate generates \$100 million in net income from its manufacturing operations. The affiliate in the Netherlands generates \$110 million in net income: \$10 million from its own operations to go along with the \$100 million of equity income from its investment in the German affiliate. BEA's foreign-affiliate income statement statistics would show \$100 million in Germany and \$110 million in the Netherlands for a total net income of \$210 million. The aggregated data overstates the income of the MNE by \$100 million, but the subtotals for Germany and the Netherlands accurately reflect the net income of those affiliates.

Figure 28.a. Double Counting Income in Ownership Chain



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- 28.23. BEA separately shows the value of income from equity investments in other foreign affiliates (in this example, \$100 million) as a component of the aggregated income statement statistics, allowing data users to exclude these values for analytical purposes. Excluding this double-counted income leaves a total operational net income of \$110. Similarly, in the balance sheet statistics, the item *equity investments in other foreign affiliates* is separately shown and can be excluded. Balance sheet and income statistics for U.S. affiliates are also affected by complex organizational structures but to a lesser extent because there is much more consolidation in the U.S. affiliate survey reporting compared to foreign affiliates.⁵³

53. Some other items in the AMNE statistics are not affected in the same way by complex ownership structures. For example, the statistics count each employee of a foreign affiliate and each dollar of research and development spending exactly once. BEA's statistics on direct investment transactions and positions are also not affected in the same way because, for these statistics, only direct transactions and positions are included.

Sales by type and destination

- 28.24. BEA surveys collect data on sales or gross operating revenues disaggregated into goods, services, and investment income. Sales are further disaggregated according to whether the customer is affiliated or unaffiliated with the seller and whether the customer is a resident of the country of the seller or another country. For purposes of distributing sales or gross revenues into goods, services, and investment income on BEA AMNE surveys, “goods” are generally defined to be economic outputs that are tangible and “services” are generally defined to be economic outputs that are intangible. In finance and insurance, companies include investment income in sales because it is generated by a primary activity of the firm. In other industries, most companies consider investment income an incidental source of gross operating revenues and include it in the income statement in an “other income” category rather than in sales.
- 28.25. In BEA’s statistics, total sales are distributed by type of sale into categories that roughly correspond to goods, sales, and investment income but more closely approximate measures of output, namely goods supplied, services supplied, and other sales. For sales in industries other than banking, insurance, and wholesale and retail trade, goods and services supplied are equal to the reported values of sales of goods and services, and other sales, which is calculated as the residual of total sales less goods and services supplied, is equal to investment income. For banking, insurance, and wholesale and retail trade, adjustments are made to the reported values of sales of services.

Adjustments for banking, insurance, wholesale trade, and retail trade

- 28.26. For sales in banking, services supplied include not only the explicit fees and commissions reported as sales, but also BEA’s estimate of the value of implicit services provided by banks, often referred to as financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM). The adjustment of other sales for entities with sales in banking subtracts FISIM. For entities with sales in insurance, the adjustment for services supplied subtracts BEA’s estimate of the premiums set aside for expected or “normal” losses from sales of services and adds BEA’s estimate of premium supplements, which represent income earned on funds that insurers hold on policyholders’ behalf. The adjustment for other sales for entities with sales in insurance adds normal losses less premium supplements. For sales in wholesale and retail trade, services supplied includes BEA’s estimate of the value of the distributive services provided by selling, or arranging for the sales of, goods. This estimate of distributive services is subtracted from the reported value of sales of goods to produce a measure of goods supplied that includes only the value of the goods resold.
- 28.27. The following formulas show the general relationships between goods supplied and sales of goods, between services supplied and sales of services, and between other sales and investment income.
- Goods supplied = reported sales of goods + adjustments
 - Services supplied = reported sales of services + adjustments
 - Other sales = reported investment income + adjustments

The adjustments in banking, insurance, and wholesale and retail trade are shown in table 28.a and described in more detail in paragraphs 28.28–28.31. The adjustments affect the distribution of sales or operating revenues among goods supplied, services supplied, and other sales, but they do not affect the value of total sales or operating revenues.

Table 28.a. Adjustments to Produce Estimates of Goods and Services Supplied and Other Sales

Adjustments due to sales in...	Adjustments in converting...		
	Sales of goods to goods supplied	Sales of services to services supplied	Investment income to other sales
Banking	<i>None</i>	<i>+ FISIM</i>	<i>- FISIM</i>
Insurance carriers, except life insurance carriers	<i>None</i>	<i>- Normal losses + Premium supplements</i>	<i>+ Normal losses - Premium supplements</i>
Life insurance carriers	<i>None</i>	<i>- Normal losses</i>	<i>+ Normal losses</i>
Wholesale and retail trade	<i>- Distributive services</i>	<i>+ Distributive services</i>	<i>None</i>

FISIM Financial intermediation services indirectly measured

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- 28.28. *Financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM).*** FISIM measures the value of implicit services provided by banks. Banks are compensated for some such services by paying lower interest rates on deposits, and charging higher interest rates on loans, than their cost of funds. BEA estimates these services as the difference between reported net interest earned in banking and BEA's estimate of the cost of providing funds calculated as reported net assets multiplied by a reference rate.
- 28.29. *“Normal” losses.*** Normal losses are a proxy measure for the claims that insurers expect to pay in a given period. A measure of claims is subtracted in the calculation of insurance services supplied because claims represent resources that are allocated to policyholders and thus are not available to an insurance company to cover costs and provide an operating surplus. Normal losses are used as an alternative to the actual claims paid in a single period because actual claims paid are subject to high volatility and their use could result in an erratic, or even negative, measure of insurance services that would inadequately reflect long-term insurance output. Normal losses are calculated as reported premiums in a given year multiplied by a moving average of the ratio of reported losses to premiums.
- 28.30. *Premium supplements.*** Premium supplements represent income earned on the insurance technical reserves that insurers hold on the behalf of policyholders. Insurance companies hold and manage these assets as an integral part of their business. Because the income generated on these assets serves to decrease the premiums that insurance companies charge, it is treated as being payable to the policyholders, who then pay it back to the insurer as a second means of compensation for the insurance services provided. Premium supplements are estimated by BEA by multiplying reported

investment income earned by the share of investment income attributable to technical reserves for the domestic insurance industry.⁵⁴ Premium supplements are not calculated for life insurance companies because for permanent (or “whole”) life insurance the investment income earned on these policies is allocated to actuarial reserves to meet the capital sums guaranteed to individual policyholders and is thus unavailable to defray insurers’ expenses. While this allocation does not apply to term life insurance, it is not possible to separately distinguish permanent and term life insurance in BEA’s data, and most of the investment income reported in life insurance is presumed to be attached to permanent life policies.

- 28.31. ***Distributive services.*** Distributive services measure the value of services provided by wholesalers and retailers through selling, or arranging for the sales of, goods. Companies report all of their wholesale and retail sales as goods, but the reported value includes both the cost of the goods to the seller and remuneration for the seller’s distributive services. BEA therefore estimates the distributive services component in order to recategorize these sales as services supplied. The services component is calculated by multiplying the reported value of sales in goods by wholesale and retail margin rates that are estimated by extrapolating rates collected by BEA on past benchmark surveys using information on domestic activity from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Value added

- 28.32. Value added is a useful summary measure of MNE operations derived primarily from several data items collected on the surveys. MNE value added measures the value of goods and services produced by MNEs and represents the firm’s direct contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), either in the United States (U.S. parent value added or majority-owned U.S. affiliate value added) or abroad (majority-owned foreign affiliate value added). Compared with sales, value added is a preferable measure of production because it indicates the extent to which a firm’s output results from its own production and excludes output resulting from production that originates elsewhere (that is, it excludes the value of output embodied in inputs purchased from other firms). Value added also more precisely reflects production in a specific reference period than does sales, which may include production from earlier periods.
- 28.33. BEA’s value added estimates are calculated as the sum of costs incurred (except for intermediate inputs) and profits earned in production; this method of calculating value added is known as the income method. Under the income-method calculation, the costs incurred fall into four major categories: compensation of employees, net interest paid, taxes on production and imports, and capital consumption allowances. The costs incurred exclude intermediate inputs (goods and services purchased from other firms) because these costs reflect production by other firms. In principle, a firm’s value added could also be measured as gross output (revenue) less its intermediate inputs, but BEA’s surveys do not collect specific information on intermediate inputs used in production.

54. This share comes from AM Best. See AM Best Company, *Best’s Aggregates and Averages: Property/Casualty*, and *Best’s Aggregates and Averages: Life/Health*.

- 28.34. Data for two of the cost categories used in calculating value added—"compensation of employees" and "taxes on production and imports"—come directly from the surveys. "Capital consumption allowances" represents depreciation and are estimated using survey reports of depreciation and depletion.⁵⁵
- 28.35. "Net interest paid" consists of "net monetary interest paid" and "net imputed interest paid." Each of the measures of net interest is calculated as the difference between interest paid and interest received. Interest paid is one of the costs incurred in production. Interest received is netted out of value added because it adds to profits without representing production. Data for monetary interest paid and received come directly from the surveys. Data for imputed interest are estimated using both reported related data items and external data.
- 28.36. "Imputed interest" represents different types of activities for different types of entities. For insurers, imputed interest paid represents the premium supplements (or, for life insurance, the allocations to actuarial reserves) that belong to policyholders (see paragraph 28.30). In accounting for premium supplements and allocations to actuarial reserves as imputed interest paid, a notional payment of interest from insurers to policy holders is recognized.
- 28.37. In banking, imputed interest represents FISIM—services produced by banks and supplied to borrowers and depositors without explicit charge (see paragraph 28.28). Loan FISIM is enabled by banks charging higher loan rates than their cost of funds, and deposit FISIM is enabled by banks paying lower deposit rates. For deposit FISIM, a notional payment of imputed interest from the bank to the depositor is recognized; this imputed interest payment is the extra amount of interest required to bring the monetary interest paid on deposits to pure interest (see paragraph 13.41 for more on pure interest). For loan FISIM, a negative notional receipt of imputed interest to the bank from the borrower is recognized; this negative imputed interest receipt is the amount required to bring monetary interest received to pure interest.⁵⁶
- 28.38. Outside of banking, imputed interest also represents premium supplements and FISIM, but from the perspective of insurance and banking customers. For the FISIM portion, for example, imputed interest paid is a negative notional payment representing the amount required to bring monetary interest paid by borrowers on bank loans to pure interest. FISIM-related imputed interest received is a positive notional receipt representing the amount required to bring monetary interest received by nonbanks on bank deposits to pure interest. Both FISIM values enter the net imputed interest paid calculation (and, therefore, the value-added calculation) with a minus sign. The minus sign is consistent with the exclusion of FISIM from nonbank value added because FISIM represents the cost of an intermediate input in production for nonbanks.

55. BEA's annual surveys collect only the combination of depreciation and depletion. However, the benchmark surveys collect each item separately, so to calculate capital consumption allowances for nonbenchmark years BEA removes an estimate of depletion from the annual reports using the relative values of depletion and depreciation on benchmark surveys.

56. Because net imputed interest paid equals imputed interest paid less imputed interest received, recognizing loan FISIM as negative interest received for this imputed transaction is equivalent to recognizing loan FISIM as positive imputed interest paid. Both treatments serve to raise net interest paid above net monetary interest paid in accounting for loan FISIM.

- 28.39. Imputed interest is estimated in different ways for different entities. For imputed interest in insurance, estimates of premium supplements and allocations to actuarial reserves are consistent with those described in paragraph 28.30. For imputed interest in banking, estimates of FISIM are consistent with those described in paragraph 28.28. For entities in other industries, imputed interest paid is based on reported monetary interest paid, and imputed interest received is based on reported assets. For U.S. parents and U.S. affiliates, BEA estimates the imputed interest transactions by multiplying the reported monetary interest paid and assets data by ratios—imputed interest paid to monetary interest paid and imputed interest received to assets, respectively—from domestic data used by BEA’s National Economic Accounts. For foreign affiliates, the calculations are similar, but monetary interest paid and assets are multiplied by ratios from (partly imputed) U.S. parent data instead of by ratios from domestic data.
- 28.40. The profits-earned-in-production component of value added is also called “profit-type return.” Profit-type return starts with reported net income. To this, BEA adds reported income taxes and an estimate of depletion (see paragraph 28.34.). From this sum, BEA subtracts reported capital gains (or adds capital losses), reported income from equity investments, and (for U.S. affiliates only) an estimate of holding gains (or losses) on inventories sold that do not represent income from current production. The last of these—the “inventory valuation adjustment”—is estimated by multiplying reported inventories by the domestic ratio (from data used for BEA’s National Economic Accounts) of the inventory valuation adjustment to inventories.

Employment and employee compensation

- 28.41. Employment represents the number of full-time and part-time employees on the payroll at the end of the fiscal year. However, some respondents provide a count taken during the year if it is a reasonable proxy for the end-of-year number. In addition, if employment at the end of the year was unusually high or low because of temporary factors, such as seasonal variations or a strike, respondents may provide a number reflecting normal operations. Employee compensation includes wages and salaries and supplements, such as fringe benefits.

U.S. trade in goods

- 28.42. The concepts and definitions underlying the data collected in the BEA surveys on trade in goods are very similar to those used for the statistics on total U.S. trade in goods compiled by the Census Bureau (referred to as “Census-basis” statistics in chapter 10 and elsewhere in this volume). In the AMNE statistics, trade between U.S. parents and their foreign affiliates or between U.S. affiliates and their foreign parent group is referred to as affiliated trade. All other U.S. trade in goods involving U.S. MNEs is referred to as unaffiliated trade.
- 28.43. On BEA’s MNE surveys, data on U.S. trade in goods are requested to be reported on a “shipped” basis—that is, on the basis of when, where, and to (or by) whom the goods were shipped—to make the AMNE statistics comparable with Census-basis trade in goods statistics. However, unlike the Census-basis statistics, which are based on data compiled from export and import documents

filed by shippers with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on individual transactions, the AMNE statistics are compiled from survey data based primarily on company records. Most firms keep their accounting records (which is the source of most information provided on BEA's MNE surveys) on a "charged" basis—that is, on the basis of when, where, and to (or by) whom the goods were charged.

- 28.44. The two bases are usually the same, but they can differ substantially. For example, if a firm buys goods from country A and sells them to country B and if the goods are shipped directly from country A to country B, the firm's books would show a purchase from country A and a sale to country B. Because the goods never entered or left the United States, on a shipped basis, they would not be recorded as either U.S. imports or U.S. exports. However, if the firm's trade data were reported on a charged basis, the purchase would appear as a U.S. import, and the sale would appear as a U.S. export.
- 28.45. BEA believes most firms report on a shipped, rather than on a charged, basis, even though doing so usually requires using shipping department invoices rather than accounting records. However, some firms have difficulty providing data on a shipped basis; if BEA determines that the data are reported on a charged basis and that these data are likely to differ materially from data reported on a shipped basis, it requires revised reports to be filed.
- 28.46. Because BEA's MNE trade statistics are based on company records, they may not fully align with Census-basis trade data, even if they are based on shipping invoices. In particular, the timing, valuation, origin or destination, shipper, and product involved in a given transaction may be recorded differently on company records than on the export and import documents filed with CBP.
- 28.47. A further reason that the MNE trade statistics may not fully align with the Census-basis statistics is that the MNE statistics reflect trade on a fiscal-year basis, whereas the Census-basis statistics reflect trade on a calendar-year basis.

Research and development (R&D)

- 28.48. Data on R&D expenditures are collected annually for R&D performed by the parent or the affiliate, whether for its own use or for use by others. BEA provides statistics for R&D expenditures by U.S. parents, by their foreign affiliates, and by U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs. Every 5 years on its benchmark surveys, BEA collects data on R&D expenditures funded by the parent or affiliate, whether performed internally or by others.

Expenditures for property, plant, and equipment (PP&E)

- 28.49. Expenditures for PP&E are sometimes called capital expenditures in the AMNE statistics, but they exclude expenditures for most types of intangible capital recognized by *BPM6*. Expenditures for PP&E include expenditures for land, timber, mineral and like rights owned; structures; machinery, equipment, special tools, and other depreciable property; construction in progress; and capitalized

and expensed tangible and intangible exploration and development costs.⁵⁷ They exclude expenditures for other types of intangible assets (such as R&D expenditures), and expenditures on land held for resale.

Taxes

- 28.50. BEA's MNE surveys collect two types of tax data: income taxes and "taxes other than income and payroll taxes" (also referred to as indirect business taxes). Both types of taxes exclude payroll taxes. Payroll taxes are included in employee compensation, but they are not separately identified.
- 28.51. Income tax statistics for U.S. parents and U.S. affiliates cover provision for federal, state, and local income taxes. For foreign affiliates, income taxes also cover all such taxes regardless of the level of government at which they are imposed.
- 28.52. Indirect business taxes include a wide variety of taxes such as sales taxes, value-added taxes, and excise taxes; property taxes; import and export duties; license fees; and various other taxes, fines and penalties. Also included indistinguishably are nontax payments to government, although these are likely quite small compared to the taxes in this category. Indirect business taxes for outward AMNE statistics (U.S. parents and their foreign affiliates) exclude production royalty payments made to governments for natural resources, but such taxes for inward statistics (U.S. affiliates) include production royalty payments.

Classification

- 28.53. AMNE statistics are classified in several ways. One key classification is geographical, which involves determining the country where foreign-affiliate production occurs for outward statistics or the country of the owner of the U.S. affiliate for inward statistics. Select data items for U.S. affiliates, including employment and gross PP&E, are also collected and published by U.S. state. Another key classification is based on the primary industrial activity or product of the producer.

Classification by country

Inward activities of multinational enterprises

- 28.54. For U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs, BEA attributes AMNE statistics to the country of incorporation (or of residence if an individual) of the ultimate investor or "ultimate beneficial owner" (UBO). Usually the immediate investor (first foreign parent) and the ultimate investor are the same, but in certain cases they differ. Apart from practical considerations, attributing variables concerning production to the country of the ultimate investor is preferred because that country controls and derives most of the benefits from controlling the direct investment enterprise. While BEA follows international guidelines by attributing most inward AMNE statistics to the country of the UBO, it

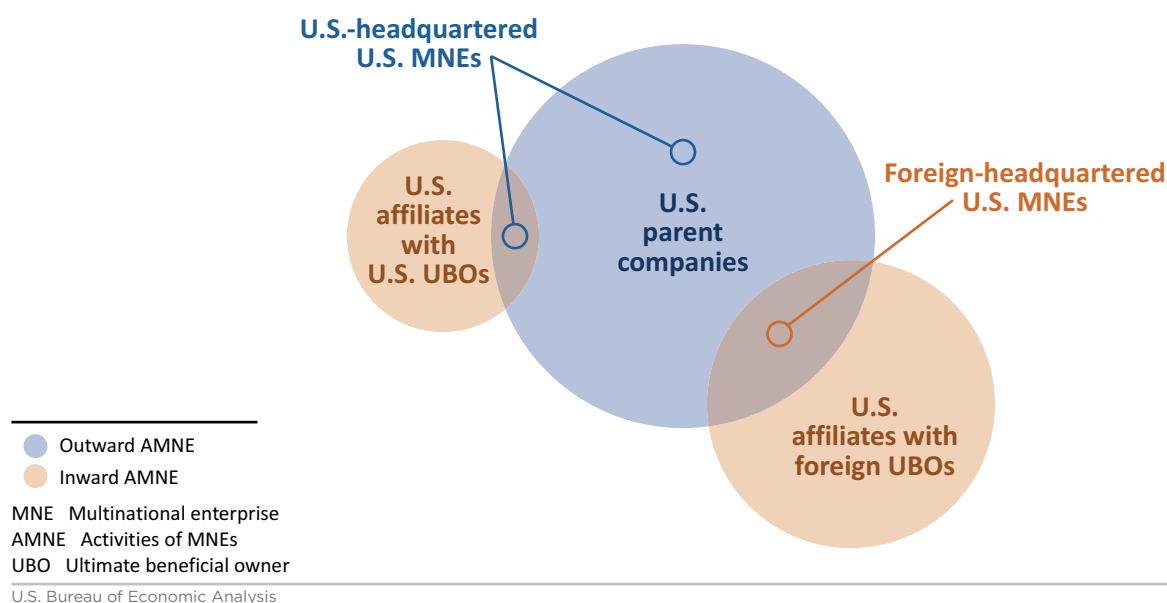
57. BEA includes expensed exploration and development costs in expenditures for PP&E even though the assets obtained through such expenditures are not included as PP&E in firms' balance sheets.

also provides selected tabulations by the country of the first foreign parent. For U.S. affiliates with more than one UBO or foreign parent, the statistics are classified by the country of the UBO or foreign parent with the largest ownership share in the affiliate.

Outward activities of multinational enterprises

- 28.55. Following international guidelines, BEA attributes outward AMNE statistics to the country of the affiliate whose operations are described by the statistics; that is, to the country in which the foreign direct investor's commercial presence exists and where the various activities covered by the statistics are conducted. This may differ from the country of incorporation of the foreign affiliate, which may be a third country or the United States. This may also differ from the country of the first directly held foreign affiliate in the U.S. parent's chain of ownership of an indirectly held affiliate.
- 28.56. For outward AMNE, most statistics do not distinguish between U.S. parents that are owned by a foreign direct investor and those that are not, and they do not distinguish between foreign affiliates of the former type of U.S. parent and the latter. However, BEA presents a limited set of statistics on U.S.-headquartered MNEs. This set of statistics excludes activities by U.S. parents that are ultimately owned by a foreign MNE, and it excludes the activities of foreign affiliates of these parents; see figure 28.b. The set removes the overlap in the inward and outward AMNE statistics.

Figure 28.b. U.S.- and Foreign-Headquartered U.S. MNEs Among Entities Covered by AMNE Statistics



Classification by U.S. state

- 28.57. BEA classifies (1) employment, (2) manufacturing employment, and (3) gross PP&E by U.S. state for statistics on U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs. These classifications reflect the U.S. state, territory, or possession in which the employee is permanently employed (in the case of employment) or in which the PP&E is physically located and to which property taxes, if any, on such assets are paid. Statistics for U.S. parents are not published by U.S. state.

Classification by industry or product

- 28.58. International guidelines recommend classification of AMNE statistics by activity (that is, by industry) according to the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC). BEA has developed its own enterprise industry classification system for AMNE statistics that is comparable to ISIC categories. U.S. parents and their foreign affiliates and U.S. affiliates are classified according to [International Surveys Industry](#) (ISI) classifications. The classifications and their code numbers are adapted by BEA from the most recent North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). For the most part, the ISI classifications are equivalent to NAICS four-digit industries; at its most detailed level, NAICS classifies industries at a six-digit level. The ISI classification system is less detailed than NAICS because it is designed for classifying enterprises rather than establishments. Foreign parents and UBOs are classified using a classification scheme that is based on two-digit codes.
- 28.59. Each U.S. parent or foreign affiliate and each U.S. affiliate is classified by industry on the basis of its sales (or for holding companies, on the basis of its total income) in a three-step procedure. First, a given parent or affiliate is classified in the NAICS sector that accounts for the largest percentage of its sales. Second, within the sector, the parent or affiliate is classified in the three-digit subsector in which its sales are largest; a three-digit subsector consists of all four-digit industries that have the same first three digits in their four-digit ISI code. Third, within its three-digit subsector, the parent or affiliate is classified in the four-digit industry in which its sales are largest. This procedure ensures that the affiliate or U.S. parent is not assigned to a four-digit industry outside either its primary sector or its primary three-digit subsector.
- 28.60. As an example of the three-stage classification procedure, suppose that an entity's sales are distributed as shown in table 28.b, where industry codes 3341, 3342, 3344, and 3353 are in the manufacturing sector and code 4236 is in the wholesale trade sector. Because 55 percent of the sales are in manufacturing and only 45 percent are in wholesale trade, the entity's sector is manufacturing. Because the largest share of its sales within manufacturing is in the three-digit subsector 334 (computers and electronic products, which includes industry codes 3341, 3342, and 3344), the affiliate's three-digit subsector is 334. Finally, because its sales within subsector 334 are largest in industry 3344, the entity's four-digit industry is 3344 (semiconductors and other electronic components). Thus, the entity is assigned to industry 3344, even though its sales in that industry are smaller than its sales in either industry 4236 or industry 3353.

Table 28.b. Industry Distribution of Sales and Classification of Entity by Industry

Industry	Percentage of total sales	Sector	Sector percentage of total sales	Three-digit industry	Three-digit industry percentage of total sales
3341	5	Manufacturing	55	334	30
3342	10				
3344	15				
3353	25			335	25
4236	45	Wholesale trade	45	423	45

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- 28.61. For statistics covering 2022 and prior years, BEA published tabulations of AMNE sales and employment by “industry of sales.” These statistics used a supplementary classification system designed by BEA to approximate classification on an establishment basis rather than on an enterprise basis. Establishment-level classification at detailed industry levels provides insights into the types of products produced and sold. The supplementary classification is based on survey questions asking respondents to report their sales broken down by four-digit ISI codes. AMNE statistics classified on this basis can be compared to establishment-based statistics for the U.S. economy because an enterprise that has an operating unit in an industry usually also has sales in that industry. However, if two (or more) operating units of a consolidated enterprise are in different industries and if one of the units provides all of its output to the other one, then, by the logic of consolidation, the enterprise will not have sales in the industry of the first unit. In addition, a company that retails or wholesales a product that it extracted, manufactured, developed, or otherwise transformed in another establishment within the consolidated enterprise would not assign a retail or wholesale classification code to its sales of the product.⁵⁸

58. NAICS descriptions for the wholesale and retail trade sectors specify that these are comprised of businesses that sell merchandise “generally without any transformation.”

Part VI.

Statistical Methodologies of Other International Accounts

Chapter 29. Introduction to Other International Accounts

- 29.1. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis produces several other international economic statistical products that supplement the three core International Economic Accounts. These other accounts provide additional detail in various dimensions for the core accounts or focus on related economic topics. The information they provide offers policymakers and other data users a fuller picture of U.S. economic engagement with the rest of the world.
- 29.2. The four chapters that follow discuss a selection of these other accounts. Chapter 30 discusses monthly statistics on trade in goods and services, a joint product of BEA and the U.S. Census Bureau. Chapter 31 discusses the international services statistics, which is an annual statistical product that provides more detail on trade in services than the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs); covers services provided internationally through affiliates of multinational enterprises (MNEs); and includes services trade by enterprise characteristics. Chapter 32 discusses the direct investment by country and industry statistics. These statistics provide more detail than the ITAs and International Investment Position Accounts on the income, financial transactions, and positions associated with direct investment. Chapter 33 discusses statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States. Covered in these statistics are acquisitions of existing U.S. enterprises and greenfield investment by foreign direct investors, which includes the establishment of new U.S. businesses along with expansions of existing U.S. affiliates.

- 29.3. BEA also produces other international economic statistical products, either on a regular basis or periodically, that are not discussed at length in this volume. In addition, BEA produces templates, when appropriate, to help users estimate discontinued series using statistics available on BEA's website. For example, BEA published an annual article in the *Survey of Current Business* on an ownership-based framework of the U.S. current account from 1995 to 2022.⁵⁹ This framework presented the current account of the ITAs along ownership lines and provided additional detail on direct investment income to show how that income is derived from the production and sales of affiliates. The series was discontinued in 2022, but the historical statistics and a template to assist users in extending the series forward are available on the BEA website.

59. For the last article in the series, see Kassu W. Hossiso, "[An Ownership-Based Framework of the U.S. Current Account, 2020](#)," *Survey of Current Business* 102 (February 2022). The statistics covered from 1982 through 2020.

Chapter 30. Monthly Trade in Goods and Services

- 30.1. Monthly statistics on trade in goods and services provide more frequent information on transactions in two particular current-account categories in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs)—see figure A.1 in appendix A for an illustration. The monthly statistics are released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis jointly with the U.S. Census Bureau and are available on both the [BEA website](#) and the [Census Bureau website](#). A joint news release presents the statistics, highlights outcomes for the most recent reference month, and provides considerable detail on estimation methodologies used. The monthly balance on goods and services (also known as the “trade balance”), like the quarterly balance on the current account in the ITAs, is designated as a Principal Federal Economic Indicator.
- 30.2. The monthly trade in goods and services statistics include measures that are conceptually consistent with the ITAs.

Trade in goods

- 30.3. For trade in goods, the monthly statistics are presented on two bases: the Census basis, which is compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, and the balance of payments (BOP) basis. The Census-basis statistics reflect the value recorded in monthly trade data collected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and compiled by the Census Bureau. The Census-basis data require several adjustments to align them with the coverage, valuation, definitions, and concepts featured in the ITAs and in BEA’s National Economic Accounts. (For more information on the adjustments to the Census-basis data to align them with the BOP basis, see paragraphs 11.29–11.52.) The monthly statistics presented on a BOP basis are fully consistent with those featured in the quarterly ITAs.
- 30.4. BEA also publishes detailed statistics on monthly trade in goods, which are released concurrently with the joint monthly news release. The statistics include monthly goods trade by detailed end-use category and commodity on both a BOP basis and a Census basis.⁶⁰

Trade in services

- 30.5. Monthly statistics on trade in services are based on quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys and on information obtained from government and private sector reports. For categories for which monthly data are not available, monthly statistics are derived from quarterly statistics through temporal distribution, or interpolation. The interpolation methodology used by BEA is the modified Denton proportional first difference method.

60. For additional information, including a concordance between BOP-basis goods categories and end-use categories, see [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis End-Use Codes: A Primer](#).

- 30.6. Monthly trade in services statistics cover the same broad services categories as shown in ITA table 1.2. The additional services detail published in ITA table 3.1 is not available in the monthly release.

Seasonal adjustment

- 30.7. Monthly Census-basis trade in goods statistics are presented on both a seasonally adjusted basis and a not seasonally adjusted basis. Seasonal adjustment is applied using the X-11 ARIMA functionality within the Census Bureau's X-13-ARIMA-SEATS seasonal adjustment software, which estimates monthly movements as percentages above or below the general level of the series. The Census Bureau performs seasonal adjustment at the level of end-use commodities, which classify goods according to their principal uses (see exhibits 7 and 8 of the monthly news release). (For more information on the end-use commodity classification system, see paragraphs 11.24–11.26.)
- 30.8. Monthly trade in services statistics are presented on a seasonally adjusted basis only. However, quarterly trade in services statistics on a not seasonally adjusted basis are available, along with statistics on a seasonally adjusted basis, in the ITAs.
- 30.9. In addition, statistics on trade in goods and services for selected countries and areas are seasonally adjusted. Unlike seasonal adjustment by commodity or by service type, the geographic seasonal adjustments are developed and applied directly at the country and world area level. Consequently, seasonally adjusted statistics by geography do not sum to the same totals as statistics based on seasonal adjustment by commodity or service type. Seasonally adjusted statistics by geography are presented in exhibit 19 of the monthly news release for Census-basis goods, and in exhibits 20, 20a, and 20b of the release for BOP-basis goods and services.

Chapter 31. International Services

- 31.1. To supplement the trade in services statistics in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the services supplied through affiliates statistics in the statistics on activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE), the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis publishes a collection of more detailed annual statistics known as the [international services statistics](#). Figure A.1 in appendix A illustrates the connections between these statistics. The international services statistics provide detail on U.S. trade in services by type and by country and area or affiliation as well as a complementary set of aggregations that focus on trade in information and communications technology (ICT) services and digitally deliverable services, which covers trade in services that is potentially enabled by ICT technologies. The international services statistics also feature services supplied through affiliates by industry and by country and area as well as services trade by enterprise characteristics (STEC) statistics.
- 31.2. The detailed trade in services statistics, trade in ICT services and digitally deliverable services statistics, and STEC statistics are released in July of the year after the reference year. Statistics on services supplied through affiliates are released in October of the second year after the reference year, although selected statistics may be released earlier in the year as part of the AMNE statistics. An article published every October in the *Survey of Current Business* discusses the international services statistics.
- 31.3. BEA's international services statistics bring together information on all services provided to international customers or procured from international sources in its trade in services and services supplied through affiliates statistics. Trade in services statistics approximately cover modes of supply 1, 2, and 4, and services supplied through affiliates statistics approximately cover mode 3.⁶¹ Trade in services statistics cover (1) U.S. trade in services in greater service-type and geographic detail than in the ITAs and (2) U.S. trade in ICT services and digitally deliverable services. Statistics on services supplied through affiliates cover (1) services supplied to foreign persons by U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) through their majority-owned foreign affiliates and (2) services supplied to U.S. persons by foreign MNEs through their majority-owned U.S. affiliates.
- 31.4. Both trade in services and services supplied through affiliates statistics are largely based on surveys conducted by BEA. For trade in services, the statistics are based on the sources described for the ITAs in chapter 12, including BEA's quarterly and benchmark trade in services surveys, other government surveys, and data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, private sources, and partner countries. For services supplied through affiliates, the statistics are based on the same annual and benchmark direct investment surveys, as adjusted using other data sources, that are used to prepare the AMNE statistics; these sources are described in chapter 28.

61. The four modes of supply for international services delivery identified in the General Agreement on Trade in Services include (1) cross-border supply, (2) consumption abroad, (3) commercial presence, and (4) presence of natural persons. The modes are discussed further in chapter 34.

- 31.5. STEC statistics cover trade in services for a subset of international services trade categories, tabulated by characteristics of the U.S. traders. They are based on a dataset constructed by linking BEA's services surveys with BEA's surveys of MNEs.

Trade in services

- 31.6. The trade in services component of the international services statistics covers the same twelve broad categories as the trade in services component of the ITAs: manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others; maintenance and repair services n.i.e. (not included elsewhere); transport; travel (for all purposes including education); construction; insurance services; financial services; charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.; telecommunications, computer, and information services; other business services; personal, cultural, and recreational services; and government goods and services n.i.e. However, the international services statistics offer more service-type detail within some of these broad categories (see table 31.a below) than the ITAs for worldwide exports and imports of services and offer considerably more service-type detail than the ITAs for statistics cross-classified by geography.
- 31.7. The international services tables also feature more geographic detail for trade in services statistics than the ITAs. Total services exports, imports, and the balance are separately available for more than 225 countries and areas. Trade in services by detailed service type are cross-classified by geography for 90 countries and areas.

Table 31.a. Service Types in International Transactions Accounts Table 3.1 for Which Components are Shown Only in International Services Tables

Trade in services detail in ITA table 3.1	Extra component detail in international services tables 2.1-2.3
Transport	
Other modes of transport	Postal services
	Road and other transport
Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.	
Franchises and trademarks licensing fees	Trademarks
	Franchise fees
Licenses to reproduce and/or distribute audiovisual products	Movies and television programming
	Books and sound recordings
	Broadcasting and recording of live events
Telecommunications, computer, and information services	
Computer services	Computer software, including end-user licenses and customization
	Cloud computing and data storage services
	Other computer services
Information services	News agency services
	Database and other information services

Table continues

Trade in services detail in ITA table 3.1	Extra component detail in international services tables 2.1-2.3
Other business services	
Research and development services	Work undertaken on a systematic basis to increase the stock of knowledge
	Provision of customized and noncustomized research and development services
	Sale of proprietary rights arising from research and development
	Other research and development services
Professional and management consulting services	Legal, accounting, management consulting, and public relations services
	Legal services
	Accounting, auditing, bookkeeping, and tax consulting services
	Business and management consulting and public relations services
	Advertising and related services
	Advertising services
	Market research and public opinion polling services
Technical, trade-related, and other business services	Trade exhibition and sales convention services
	Architectural, engineering, scientific, and other technical services
	Architectural services
	Engineering services
	Scientific and other technical services
	Waste treatment and de-pollution, agricultural, and mining services
	Waste treatment and de-pollution services
	Services incidental to agriculture, forestry, and fishing
	Services incidental to mining, and oil and gas extraction
	Operating leasing services
	Trade-related services
	Other business services n.i.e.
Personal, cultural, and recreational services	
Audiovisual services	Audiovisual production services
	Rights to use audiovisual products
	Movies and television programming
	Books and sound recordings
	Audiovisual originals
	Movies and television programming
	Books and sound recordings
Other personal, cultural, and recreational services	Health services
	Education services
	Heritage and recreational services

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

ITA International Transactions Accounts

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- 31.8. In addition to providing more detail by service type and geography, the trade in services statistics break out trade by service type into affiliated and unaffiliated transactions. Affiliated trade consists of intrafirm trade within MNEs—trade between U.S. parent companies and their foreign affiliates and trade between U.S. affiliates and their foreign parent or other members of their foreign parent groups. Unaffiliated trade is with foreigners that neither own, nor are owned by, the U.S. party to the transaction. For most types of services trade, affiliation detail is available by type of service for the total of trade with all countries; for trade in charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e., detail is available by affiliation and by country and area.
- 31.9. Not all transactions that flow through affiliated channels are recorded as or considered to be affiliated transactions. In particular, all insurance services are recorded as unaffiliated in BEA's statistics. Direct insurance transactions between a U.S. (foreign) company that is not an insurance company and an affiliated foreign (U.S.) insurance company, such as a captive foreign (U.S.) insurance affiliate, and certain auxiliary insurance services between affiliated companies are considered to be affiliated, but data on these affiliated insurance services are not separately available. All other insurance services transactions are treated as unaffiliated. Most insurance services transactions between affiliated insurance companies are treated as unaffiliated because the services are considered to be provided to the policyholders who pay the insurance premiums and who are unaffiliated with either company.
- 31.10. The trade in services component in the international services statistics also includes supplemental statistics on insurance transactions that are not included in the ITAs. The supplemental statistics include premiums received and paid and losses paid and recovered that underlie the trade in insurance services statistics. The statistics are separately available for direct insurance and reinsurance.
- 31.11. BEA introduced statistics on trade in ICT and digitally deliverable services (the latter of which was at the time called potentially ICT-enabled services) in 2016. These statistics closely follow a 2015 proposal by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that was motivated, in part, by a desire to understand whether and how technological advances and reductions in costs for ICT over time have led to more remote provision and procurement of services across international borders. These statistics are calculated as the sum of subsets of services types included in BEA's statistics on trade in services. ICT services consist of telecommunications services, computer services, and charges for the use of licenses to reproduce and/or distribute computer software. In 2024, BEA changed the name of these statistics from trade in potentially ICT-enabled services to digitally deliverable services to conform to new international guidelines.
- 31.12. Although it is not yet possible to precisely identify services trade that is digitally delivered, BEA measures a related, but more broadly defined, concept: digitally deliverable services. Digitally deliverable services include services that can predominantly be delivered remotely over ICT networks. Digitally deliverable services are composed of insurance services; financial services; charges

for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.; telecommunications, computer, and information services; research and development services; professional and management consulting services; architectural, engineering, scientific, and other technical services; trade-related services; audio-visual services; and other personal, cultural, and recreational services. ICT services are a part of digitally deliverable services.⁶²

Services Supplied Through Affiliates

- 31.13. Services supplied through majority-owned foreign affiliates of U.S. MNEs mostly correspond to services supplied through the commercial presence mode of supply (mode 3) to the host country of the affiliate and to services supplied by the affiliate to other foreign markets. Services supplied through majority-owned U.S. affiliates of foreign MNEs mostly correspond to services supplied through mode 3 to the U.S. market. The services supplied statistics in the international services statistics provide geographic and industry detail beyond that provided in the main AMNE statistics.
- 31.14. For industries other than wholesale and retail trade, insurance, and banking, services supplied through affiliates are the sales of services reported by MNEs on BEA's annual and benchmark direct investment surveys. For wholesale and retail trade, insurance, and banking, adjustments are made to reported sales of services to better capture the value of services supplied. More specifically, these adjustments add 1) wholesalers' and retailers' distributive services, 2) insurers' premium supplements, and 3) banks' implicitly charged services; they subtract a proxy measure of insurers' expected, or "normal," losses. (See paragraphs 28.26–28.31 and table 28.a for more information on the reallocation of sales reported as goods sales, services sales, and investment income into goods supplied, services supplied, and "other" sales.)
- 31.15. Sales of services generally consist of intangible outputs; therefore, they exclude most of the sales by establishments in manufacturing; mining (except support activities); agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting (except support activities); and construction, which typically produce and sell tangible goods.⁶³ However, services supplied through affiliates can be classified in any affiliate industry because the classification of an affiliate reflects the affiliate's primary industry of sales, and affiliates classified in industries that typically produce goods may have secondary activities in services industries. In cases where a sale consists of both tangible and intangible output that cannot be unbundled, sales are classified based on whichever accounts for the majority of the value.

62. For more information, see Alexis N. Grimm, "[Trends in U.S. Trade in Information and Communications Technology \(ICT\) Services and in ICT-Enabled Services](#)," *Survey of Current Business* 96 (May 2016).

63. The treatment of outputs of construction establishments as mostly goods in MNE sales data contrasts with the treatment of such outputs in the trade in services statistics. In the trade in services statistics, these outputs are considered to be services.

Comparing U.S. Trade in Services and Services Supplied Through Affiliates

- 31.16. Differences in coverage and classification make it difficult to precisely compare trade in services with services supplied through affiliates. An example of a difference in coverage is the inclusion of distributive services (wholesale and retail trade services) in services supplied through affiliates but not in the trade in services statistics. The distributive services associated with importing and exporting goods are included, but are not separately identifiable, in the value of trade in goods. The differences in classification arise because the statistics on trade in services are collected and published by type of service, but those on services supplied through affiliates are collected and published by the affiliate's primary industry.

Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC)

- 31.17. STEC statistics provide insight on characteristics, such as the primary industry of firm activity, firm ownership type (whether the firm is an MNE and, for MNEs, whether ownership of the MNE is ultimately in the United States or abroad), and firm size class (based on the number of employees) of U.S. firms that trade services.⁶⁴ They are limited to a subset of “selected” international services trade categories collected on BEA surveys, and they cover most international services traded between businesses. Specifically, STEC statistics cover trade in the following “selected” service types: construction; insurance services; financial services; charges for the use of intellectual property, n.i.e; telecommunications, computer, and information services; other business services; and personal, cultural, and recreational services. STEC statistics are prepared by linking BEA's trade in services data to BEA's extensive data on the finances and operations of MNEs. The linking allows for the identification of firm ownership type and provides a fuller view of the characteristics of MNEs that trade services. STEC statistics on industry and firm ownership type cover all U.S. traders of selected services; STEC statistics on employment size class cover only U.S. traders of selected services that are MNEs.

64. Technical details on how STEC statistics are compiled are available in the FAQ [“What information does the Bureau of Economic Analysis publish on services trade by enterprise characteristics \(STEC\)?”](#)

Chapter 32. Direct Investment by Country and Industry

- 32.1. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis produces detailed quarterly and comprehensive annual statistics on direct investment financial transactions and income, as well as comprehensive annual statistics on direct investment positions. These statistics are known as statistics on [direct investment by country and industry](#), and they supplement the direct investment financial transactions and income statistics presented in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the direct investment position statistics in the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. The detailed quarterly statistics for recent years on financial transactions and income are published in tables 6.2 and 4.5, respectively, of the ITAs; the detailed quarterly statistics for earlier years are published separately on the BEA website.⁶⁵ The comprehensive annual statistics are published with the earlier-year detailed quarterly statistics on the BEA website. Figure A.1 in appendix A shows the connections among the various U.S. International Economic Accounts.
- 32.2. The statistics on direct investment by country and industry are based on data collected on BEA's quarterly, annual, and benchmark direct investment surveys. These surveys are also the main source of the statistics on direct investment income and financial transactions in the ITAs and statistics on direct investment positions in the IIP Accounts. For more information on these surveys, see chapter 3.
- 32.3. The direct investment by country and industry statistics are generally consistent with the counterpart measures featured in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts, but with two important differences in terms of valuation and presentation.⁶⁶ First, in the ITAs, the featured measures of direct investment financial transactions and income include a current-cost adjustment. The current-cost adjustment is made only on a global basis because appropriate source data are not available at the country or industry level. Therefore, financial transactions and income in the direct investment by country and industry statistics are without current-cost adjustment. (For more information on the current-cost adjustment, see paragraph 13.14.) Similarly, in the IIP Accounts, the featured measure of direct investment position is presented at market value, whereas in the direct investment by country and industry statistics, positions are available only at historical cost (or book value). Positions are presented at historical cost (or book value) because the data underlying the direct investment by country and industry statistics are only available on a historical-cost (book value) basis. For more information on alternative valuations of direct investment positions, see chapter 23. Second, the featured presentation of direct

65. The quarterly statistics published as direct investment by country and industry statistics overlap for 2011 through 2018 with the statistics in ITA tables 4.5 and 6.2. The description of direct investment by country and industry statistics in this chapter applies to both the comprehensive annual statistics and the detailed quarterly statistics, including those published in ITA tables 4.5 and 6.2.

66. Both the consistency of the direct investment by country and industry statistics with the direct investment portion of the ITAs and the fact that both sets of statistics are drawn from data from the same surveys are reflected by the use of the term "balance of payments data" to represent some of these statistics on the BEA website.

investment statistics on a global basis in both the ITAs and the IIP Accounts is on an asset/liability basis, rather than on a directional basis, which is used in the direct investment by country and industry statistics.⁶⁷

- 32.4. Notwithstanding these differences, the presentations of direct investment by country and industry statistics complement the featured statistics presented in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts by providing more detailed statistics. See table 32.a for a summary of the available detail.

Table 32.a. Summary of Detail Available on Direct Investment Transactions, Income, and Positions by Source

Characteristic	ITAs	IIP Accounts	Detailed Quarterly Direct Investment by Country and Industry Statistics ¹	Comprehensive Annual Direct Investment by Country and Industry Statistics
Featured valuation measure	Transactions and income with current-cost adjustment	Positions at market value	Transactions and income without current-cost adjustment	Transactions and income without current-cost adjustment; positions at historical cost (book value)
Featured presentation	Asset/liability basis	Asset/liability basis	Directional basis	Directional basis
Detail by country	Income and financial transactions for 35 countries and areas	Not available	Financial transactions and income for more than 50 countries and areas	Position, financial transactions, and income for more than 225 countries and areas
Detail by industry	Income and financial transactions for 5 industry groups for outward statistics and 4 industry groups for inward statistics	Not available	Financial transactions and income for more than 15 major industry groups	Position, financial transactions, and income for more than 250 industries
Detail by country and industry	Not available	Not available	Not available	Position, income, and financial transactions for more than 55 countries and areas each cross-classified by more than 15 major industry groups ²

IIP International investment position

ITA International transactions account

1. Detailed quarterly statistics on direct investment income and financial transactions by country and industry are published in ITA tables 4.5 and 6.2, respectively. The statistics in ITA tables 4.5 and 6.2 overlap the historical quarterly statistics published as direct investment by country and industry for 2011 through 2018.
2. In addition, statistics for equity position, debt receivables position, debt payables position, equity increases, equity decreases, increases in debt receivables, increases in debt payables, and other changes in position are available by each major region, Canada, and the United Kingdom, cross-classified by nine major industry groups. For statistics covering 2023 and earlier, detailed statistics by region and selected country were also published for income on equity, dividends and withdrawals, interest receipts, and interest payments.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

67. Two ITA tables that do not use the featured direct investment measures are ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4, which use measures of income and financial transactions without current-cost adjustment and on a directional basis by area and selected country. As such, the statistics in ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4 are fully consistent with the direct investment by country and industry statistics discussed in this chapter. ITA tables 4.2 and 6.1 present adjustments necessary to convert from the asset/liability basis to the directional basis at the global level. IIP table 2.1 includes positions at current cost and historical cost and presents adjustments necessary to convert from the asset/liability basis to the directional basis at the global level.

- 32.5. The direct investment by country and industry statistics are presented on a directional basis to better enable analysis of certain aspects of direct investment, such as identifying the foreign countries in which U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) invest or the U.S. industries in which foreign MNEs invest. On a directional basis, statistics are categorized as “outward” if they pertain to U.S. direct investment abroad or “inward” if they pertain to foreign direct investment in the United States. For more information on the presentation of direct investment statistics on a directional basis versus an asset/liability basis, see the relevant discussions of primary income in paragraphs 13.7–13.11, financial transactions in paragraphs 16.17–16.21, and positions in paragraphs 23.3–23.4.
- 32.6. At the country and industry level, in particular, financial transactions and positions are sometimes negative. For transactions, this reflects the fact that direct investment financial transactions are the (net) sum of positive and negative components. Transactions between parent and affiliate in either (or both) equity and debt can be negative if the combined negative components are larger in magnitude than the combined positive components. Figure 32.a illustrates the various positive components—also called “increases” because, in isolation, they increase the parent’s direct investment position in the affiliate—and the various negative components (“decreases”).
- 32.7. Negative positions can occur because direct investment positions are, in large part, the cumulative sum of prior financial transactions.⁶⁸ For instance, loans from an affiliate to its parent decrease the parent’s net investment in the affiliate, and losses by an affiliate result in negative reinvestment of earnings. If loans to the parent are large, or if losses are large or sustained, cumulative decreases in the position may more than offset the parent’s other investments in the affiliate, and the position may turn negative.

Quarterly statistics

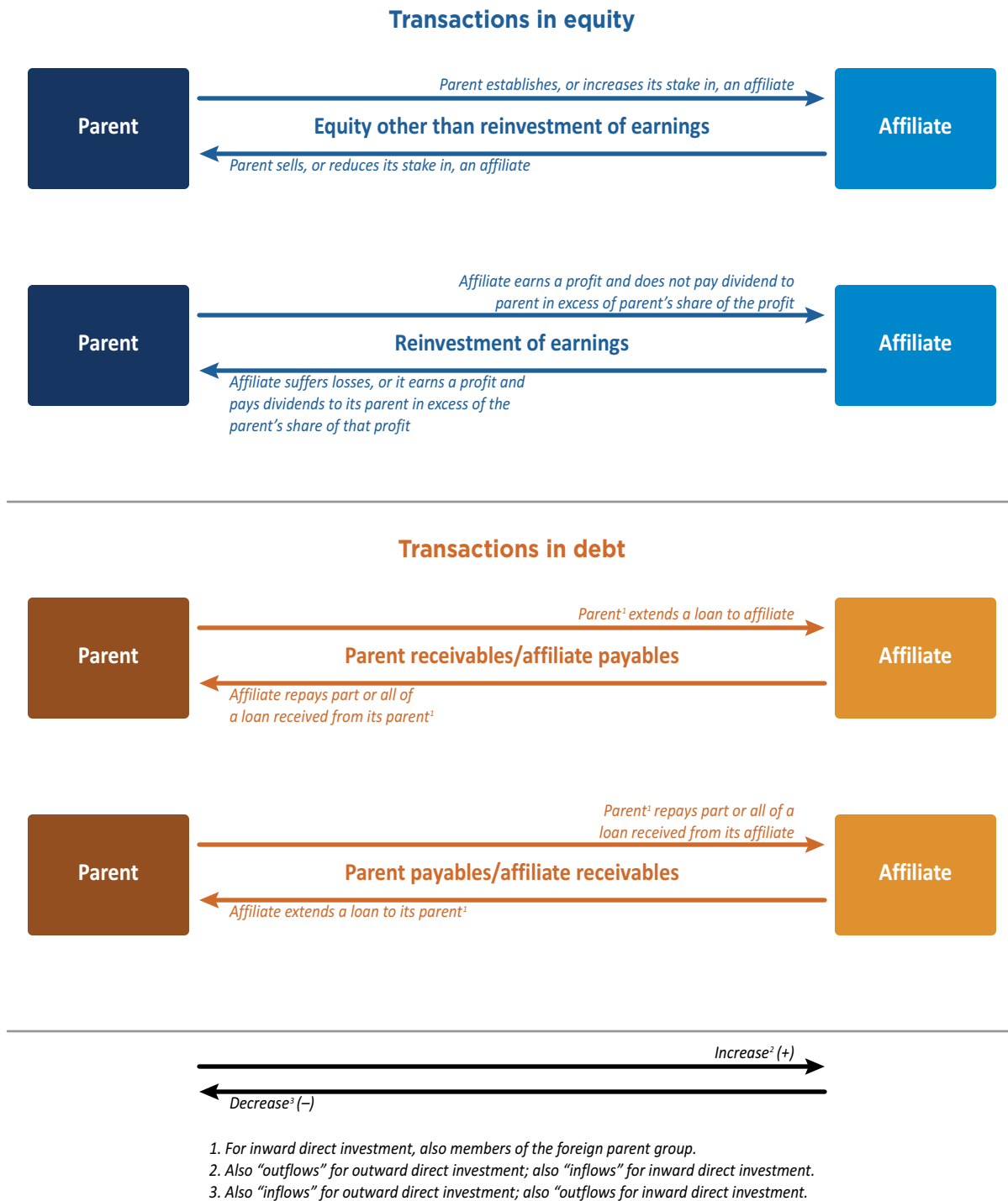
- 32.8. The detailed quarterly direct investment by country and industry statistics on income and financial transactions are published in ITA tables 4.5 and 6.2, respectively, beginning with data for 2011. Historical quarterly statistics through 2018 are included with the comprehensive annual direct investment by country and industry statistics on the BEA website. The statistics are presented without seasonal adjustment and in current dollar, not real, terms. These tables include more countries and areas than in ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4. In addition, the tables include greater information on financial transactions and income by industry.

Annual statistics

- 32.9. The comprehensive annual statistics on direct investment by country and industry are released each July and highlighted in a news release. These detailed statistics are also highlighted in a recurring *Survey of Current Business* article each August.

68. Apart from financial transactions, other flows affecting direct investment positions are termed “other changes in position.” These comprise translation adjustments, capital gains or losses of affiliates, and other changes in volume and valuation.

Figure 32.a. Components of Financial Transactions in Direct Investment



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- 32.10. The more comprehensive annual statistics on direct investment by country and industry provide even greater detail than the quarterly statistics, and they include country and industry cross-tabulations for financial transactions, positions, and income.

Reconciliation of quarterly, annual, and benchmark surveys of direct investment

- 32.11. Data from the quarterly direct investment surveys (Quarterly Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-577) and Quarterly Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-605)) are regularly reconciled with data collected on BEA's benchmark and annual surveys of direct investment. Once every 5 years, data from the quarterly surveys are benchmarked to the data collected on the benchmark direct investment surveys, which are BEA's most comprehensive surveys on such investment in terms of both the number of companies covered and the amount of information gathered. In nonbenchmark years, the quarterly surveys are reconciled to the Annual Survey of U.S. Direct Investment Abroad (BE-11) and to the Annual Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-15). The annual reconciliation process resolves discrepancies among firms reporting on both quarterly and annual surveys.
- 32.12. For benchmarking the quarterly surveys, the basic procedures are the same for both U.S. direct investment abroad and for foreign direct investment in the United States. For U.S. direct investment abroad, BE-577 quarterly data on foreign affiliates of U.S. MNEs are benchmarked to data from the Benchmark Survey of U.S. Direct Investment abroad (BE-10). For foreign direct investment in the United States, data on U.S. affiliates from the BE-605 quarterly survey are benchmarked to data from the Benchmark Survey of Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-12). The benchmarking process resolves discrepancies among firms reporting on both quarterly and benchmark surveys, replaces some data estimated by universe estimation (see paragraphs 3.18–3.21) with information reported on the benchmark survey, and updates the survey frame of affiliates to reflect entries and exits to the direct investment universe that occur between benchmark years.

Discrepancies

- 32.13. For affiliates that reported on both the quarterly survey and the benchmark or annual survey, data reported on the two surveys are compared and any significant discrepancies are investigated and resolved. This process typically favors the benchmark or annual survey data, which are generally considered more accurate because they are reported later than the quarterly survey data when companies typically have already prepared their annual financial statements. Additionally, because the benchmark or annual survey data are more comprehensive, they can be more thoroughly cross-checked.

- 32.14. As part of this reconciliation process, any timing differences between data from the benchmark survey, which are reported on a fiscal year basis, and data from the quarterly surveys, which are compiled on a calendar-year basis, must be resolved.⁶⁹ The calendar-year basis is used to compile the ITAs and the IIP Accounts and the statistics on direct investment by country and industry.

Replacement of imputed and other estimated data

- 32.15. For both U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in the United States, statistics on the direct investment position and related financial transactions and income flows are derived from data reported quarterly for all affiliates above a size-based exemption level. For affiliates that are not reported in the quarterly surveys because of size or failure to file a report, data items are estimated using data collected from the most recent benchmark survey or from a previous quarterly survey for those specific affiliates and data for a country by industry sample of affiliates that are reported in surveys of both the previous and the reference quarters.
- 32.16. This imputation procedure is used for all data items except for intercompany debt investment and equity investment increases and decreases. BEA does not impute transactions in debt instruments for nonrespondents because they can be infrequent, can switch from inflows to outflows, and can vary considerably in size from quarter-to-quarter and thus do not provide a good basis for imputation. The equity increases and decreases of nonreporting affiliates are estimated at the global level by using a ratio of reference-quarter reported increases and decreases to the preceding-quarter equity position of all affiliates that reported in the reference quarter. This ratio is multiplied by the equity position in the preceding quarter for affiliates that did not report in the reference quarter. The result is added to the reference quarter's reported flows to derive total equity increases and decreases. This method is based on the assumption that the relationship between equity transactions and equity position is the same for nonreporting affiliates as it is for reporting affiliates. The estimated equity increases and decreases are then allocated to countries and industries based on their relative size in terms of equity position.
- 32.17. During the benchmarking process, data from the benchmark survey replace the quarterly imputations or other estimates for affiliates that reported on the benchmark survey but did not report on the quarterly surveys. Because the benchmark survey data are annual, not quarterly, data from the benchmark survey are distributed across quarters, where appropriate, in the quarterly statistics.

Updates to the survey frame

- 32.18. Estimates are removed from the quarterly statistics for affiliates that the benchmark survey indicates have either left the direct investment universe or have been consolidated with another affiliate since the prior benchmark survey, and whose exit or consolidation has not already been captured by BEA's quarterly and annual surveys.

69. On the quarterly surveys, affiliates report each quarter for their fiscal quarter that ends closest the calendar quarter. BEA sums the four quarters that most closely correspond to the calendar year to compile statistics on a calendar-year basis. For the majority of affiliates, the fiscal year ends on December 31, so no reconciliation for timing differences is needed.

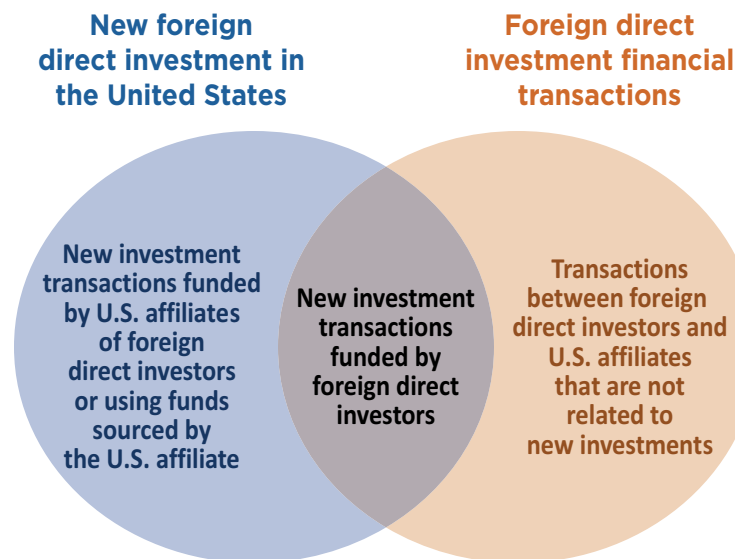
- 32.19. Benchmark surveys also enable updates to the survey frame because of new reporting by firms not previously known to BEA to be a part of the direct investment universe. Improvements to the survey frame can be especially large in benchmark years for two main reasons. First, reporting on the benchmark is required of all firms that meet the reporting requirements of the survey, whether or not they are contacted by BEA (in contrast to the annual and quarterly surveys, which are only required for those contacted by BEA). Second, BEA undertakes concerted efforts in benchmark years to ensure complete coverage, including additional outreach to potential respondents, sharing of survey frame information by other government agencies, and mining of commercial datasets.

Chapter 33. New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States

Concepts and Coverage

- 33.1. Statistics produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis on [new foreign direct investment in the United States](#) provide information on the acquisition, establishment, and expansion of U.S. business enterprises by foreign direct investors.
- 33.2. A U.S. business enterprise is considered to be *acquired* if a foreign entity acquires 10 percent or more of the voting securities of the U.S. business enterprise if it is legally incorporated, or an equivalent interest if it is unincorporated, either directly or indirectly through an existing U.S. affiliate. A U.S. business enterprise is considered to be *established* if a foreign entity, or an existing U.S. affiliate of a foreign entity, establishes a new legal entity in the United States in which the foreign entity owns 10 percent or more of the new business enterprise's voting securities if incorporated, or an equivalent interest if it is unincorporated. A U.S. business enterprise is considered to be *expanded* if an existing U.S. affiliate of a foreign parent expands its operations to include a new facility where business is conducted.
- 33.3. The statistics on new foreign direct investment complement other statistics on foreign direct investment in the United States (FDIUS) and allow for a deeper analysis beyond that provided by the statistics on FDIUS transactions and positions and by the statistics on the activities of U.S. affiliates of foreign multinational enterprises. Figure A.1 in appendix A shows the connections between these “new investment” statistics and the various other U.S. International Economic Accounts.
- 33.4. Measures of expenditures for new investments in the new FDIUS statistics partly overlap FDIUS financial transactions in the direct investment by country and industry statistics. The new investment statistics include the total cost of the new investment, regardless of whether the funds were obtained from domestic or foreign sources. In the financial transactions statistics, only funds obtained from the foreign parent group are included. Financial transactions statistics measure net direct investment transactions between foreign direct investors and U.S. entities and include new investment costs paid by foreign entities. However, these statistics also include transactions not related to new investments, such as full or partial selloffs of equity, purchases of additional equity in existing U.S. affiliates, reinvestment of earnings, and intercompany lending transactions related to ongoing operations; see figure 33.a. The new investment statistics also provide information on the employment of the newly acquired, established, or expanded U.S. businesses. These employment statistics cover many of the same items covered in the statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE) that are published annually for all U.S. affiliates.

Figure 33.a. Comparison of the Statistics on New Investment and the Financial Transactions Statistics



U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

33.5. BEA's statistics on new foreign direct investment include the following:⁷⁰

- Expenditures by foreign direct investors to acquire, establish, or expand U.S. business enterprises.
- Employment of the newly acquired, established, or expanded U.S. business enterprises.

33.6. Expenditures are categorized as “first-year expenditures” and “planned total expenditures.” First-year expenditures include expenditures in the year in which the acquisition, establishment, or expansion occurred. Planned total expenditures include first-year expenditures for all investments plus planned future expenditures (and expenditures from past years, if any) for establishments and expansions that are multiyear investments. Planned total expenditures for newly established or expanded U.S. affiliates are broken out by the year in which the expenditures are expected to be incurred and by the class of expenditure, including expenditures for land, plant and equipment, intellectual property rights, and fees, taxes, permits, and licenses.

33.7. The statistics on new investments allow for separate identification of greenfield investment. Greenfield investment includes establishments of new U.S. business enterprises by foreign investors and expansions of existing U.S. affiliates.

70. For data through 2023, the statistics also include balance sheet and income statement items of the newly acquired or established U.S. affiliate. These items were discontinued beginning with data for 2024.

- 33.8. Statistics on greenfield investments also compare planned expenditures that were reported when the investment was initiated with actual expenditures that are realized in the three years after the year of project initiation. Statistics on actual expenditures are presented to facilitate comparison with statistics on planned expenditures reported in the year the investments were initiated. These statistics can help answer questions about whether greenfield projects are completed and whether there are significant differences between planned and actual costs.
- 33.9. Employment includes all full-time and part-time employees on the payroll and excludes contract workers and other workers not carried on the payroll of the U.S. business enterprise. Employment is further categorized as “current employment” and “planned employment.” Current employment includes the employment of established or expanded U.S. affiliates at the time the investments were initiated or at the end of the most recently completed fiscal year for acquired entities. Planned employment includes the current employment for acquisitions and the projected number of employees for establishments or expansions once they are fully operational.
- 33.10. The statistics for each year cover the universe of transactions in which a foreign investor acquires a direct investment interest in a U.S. business, establishes a U.S. business enterprise in which it has a direct investment interest, or expands a U.S. business enterprise in which it already has a direct investment interest.

Data sources

- 33.11. BEA’s statistics on new foreign direct investment are based on data collected on BEA’s mandatory Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States (BE-13). The survey is filed by U.S. business enterprises when (1) they are first acquired or established by a foreign direct investor or (2) when a foreign-owned U.S. business enterprise is expanded. U.S. businesses that are established or expanded and that expect to have new investment expenditures for several years provide cost updates annually for three years after the year in which the investment is initiated, or until the investment is completed if within those three years.
- 33.12. **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).** Data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) is used in the allocation of employment of larger acquired companies, beginning with statistics for 2018.

Estimation methods

- 33.13. BEA uses an abbreviated form to collect data on expenditures for new investments below a size-exemption level. BEA prepares estimates to account for data items not collected on abbreviated forms and combines them with data collected on full reports. Businesses that file abbreviated forms generally have a negligible impact on the published aggregates.

Classification

Classification by country

- 33.14. The statistics on new foreign direct investment in the United States are primarily classified by country of ultimate beneficial owner, but BEA also presents expenditures by country of foreign parent.

Classification by industry

- 33.15. The statistics on new investments are classified by the primary industry of the affiliate, which is based on the industry distribution of the affiliate's sales. As a result, any affiliate activities that take place in secondary industries are classified as activities in the primary industry.

Classification by U.S. state

- 33.16. The statistics on new investments are classified by U.S. state. This classification indicates the U.S. state in which the newly acquired, established, or expanded U.S. affiliate is located. Except for statistics on employment after 2017, if the newly acquired U.S. affiliate operates in more than one state, then the state where the greatest number of the employees are based is used. This is frequently, but not always, the state in which the U.S. affiliate's headquarters is located. If there are no employees, then the state of incorporation is used.
- 33.17. Beginning with statistics for 2018, the employment of larger acquired companies (3,000 or greater employees) is distributed among states using establishment-level data from the BLS QCEW.⁷¹ This leads to more accurate state-level employment data for larger acquired U.S. businesses, which tend to operate in multiple states. For these transactions, BEA uses QCEW establishment-level employment to distribute the employment of newly acquired foreign-owned companies to participating states. Because the remaining states have not agreed to allow BLS to share establishment information with BEA, BEA apportions the remaining employment of the acquired company using state-by-industry level QCEW statistics. For acquired companies with fewer than 3,000 employees, BEA continues to assign all employment to the state where the greatest number of employees are based. Data on greenfield investment (that is, establishments and expansions) collected on any single survey response typically covers activity at a single location, so no procedures are needed to distribute greenfield-investment employment among states.

71. Data are limited to data from states that have agreed to allow BLS to share establishment-level information with BEA for statistical purposes. Participating states may vary over time, but typically, the majority of states allow data sharing.

Part VII.

Special Topics

Chapter 34. Modes of Supply for International Services

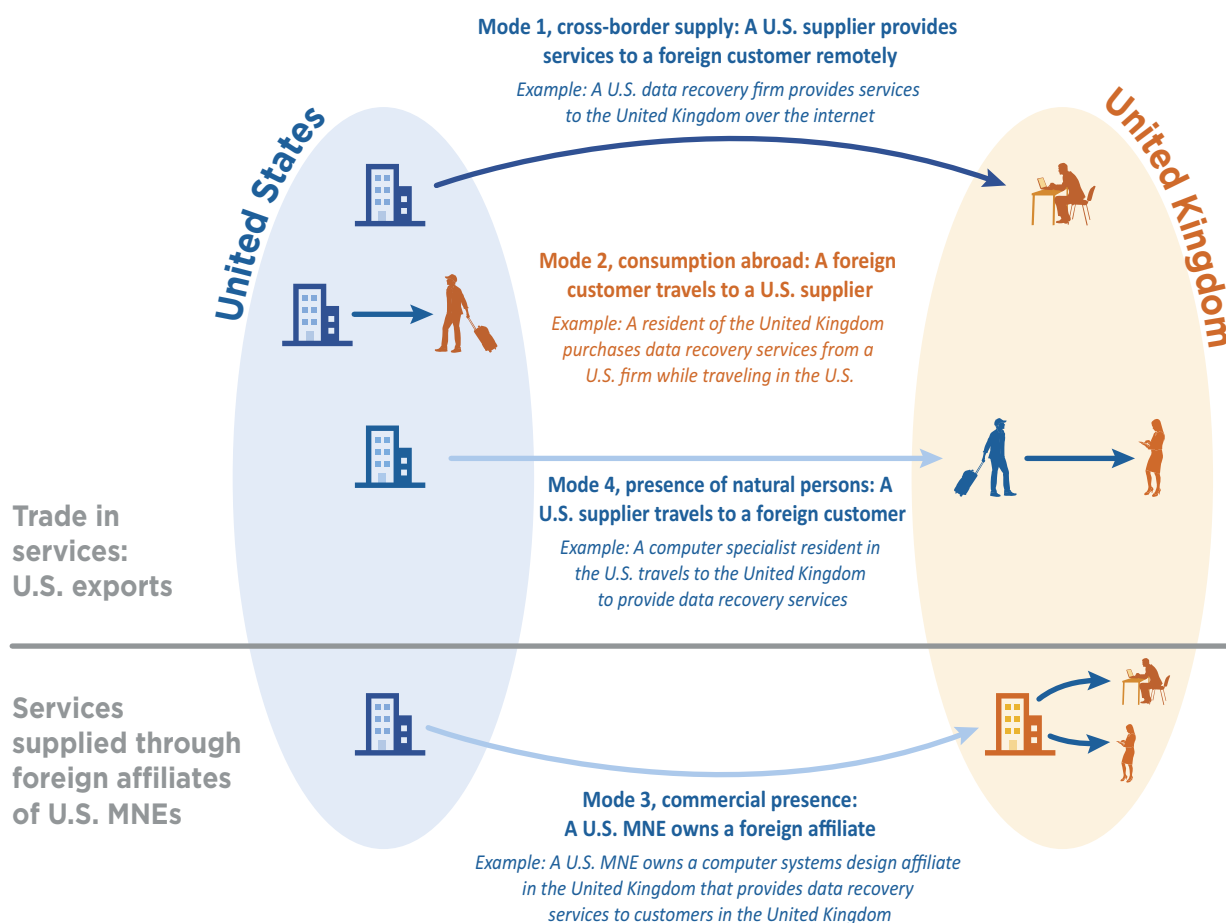
- 34.1. A key initiative of the international community in response to the rapid expansion of international trade and investment was the creation in 1995 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) following the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The WTO provides a common framework for the conduct of trade relations among its members. Its main functions are facilitating the implementation, administration, and operation of the multilateral trade agreements; providing a forum for further negotiations; reviewing national trade policies; and securing solutions to trade disputes.
- 34.2. The three principal WTO agreements are the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994 (GATT), the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. GATS constitutes the first set of legally enforceable disciplines and rules at the multilateral level established to cover international trade in services. GATS defines the “supply of a service” to include the production, distribution, marketing, sale, and delivery of that service.
- 34.3. GATS defines international trade in services in terms of four modes of supply. The definition of services trade under GATS depends on the territorial presence and residence of the supplier and the consumer at the time of the transaction. The four modes include (1) cross-border supply, (2) consumption abroad, (3) commercial presence, and (4) presence of natural persons. This definition is broader than the balance of payments (BOP) concept of services trade, which is concerned only with transactions between residents of a given country and nonresidents generally corresponding to modes 1, 2, and 4.
- 34.4. Technological advances and reductions in costs for information and communications technology (ICT) over time have led to a greater opportunity for the remote provision and procurement of services through the channel of cross-border transactions. Nonetheless, the supply of many services is possible only through the simultaneous physical presence of both producer and consumer. As a result, trade is often facilitated by movements of the consumer, the establishment of a commercial presence within a market, or the temporary movement of the individual service provider.

- 34.5. The four GATS modes of supply are defined as follows:
- 34.6. **Cross-border supply (mode 1).** Mode 1 covers services flows from the territory of one country into the territory of another country (such as banking or architectural services transmitted via telecommunications or mail).
- 34.7. **Consumption abroad (mode 2).** Mode 2 refers to situations where a service consumer (such as tourist or patient) moves into another country's territory to obtain a service.
- 34.8. **Commercial presence (mode 3).** Mode 3 occurs when a service supplier of one country establishes a territorial presence, including through ownership or lease of premises, in another country's territory to provide a service (such as domestic subsidiaries of foreign insurance companies or hotel chains).
- 34.9. **Presence of natural persons (mode 4).** Mode 4 refers to persons of one country entering the territory of another country to supply a service (such as accountants, doctors, or teachers). This mode includes self-employed persons and employees on temporary assignment (intra-corporate transferees). The terminology "natural persons" is used to differentiate between individuals and the generic use of "persons," which covers individuals, branches, partnerships, associated groups, associations, estates, trusts, government agencies, and others.
- 34.10. Some of the published service categories in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis are generally supplied via a single mode of supply. For example, telecommunications services generally correspond to cross-border supply (mode 1) and most travel services involve consumption abroad (mode 2). In addition, services supplied through affiliates to the host country, which are recorded in BEA's statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE), generally correspond with commercial presence (mode 3) regardless of the type of service provided.
- 34.11. However, statistics for many trade in services categories may include services delivered via multiple modes of supply. Most of the published ITA service categories correspond at least in part to cross-border supply (mode 1) but may also include services provided via the presence of natural persons (mode 4). For example, statistics for trade in research and development services may include both services provided via mode 1 and mode 4. In addition, a few types of ITA trade in services transactions can also involve an element of mode 3 through a nonresident commercial presence such as through a site office on a construction site that does not qualify as an affiliate. Such transactions would be reflected in statistics from the BEA on trade in services and not in the AMNE statistics.

Services delivered via multiple modes of supply: the case of data recovery services

- 34.12. The example of provision of data recovery services to foreign markets by U.S. residents and foreign affiliates demonstrates how the same service may be delivered via each of the different modes of supply and how the mode of delivery determines how the transaction is recorded in BEA's statistics. Data recovery services provide a means to retrieve data from electronic storage media when the data cannot be accessed in a normal way because of damage to electronic devices, operating system failures, or other malfunctions. The following paragraphs describe how this service is supplied via each of the four modes, and figure 34.a illustrates these modes for the cases of services supplied by the United States to the United Kingdom.

**Figure 34.a. How Data Recovery Services are Supplied
by the United States to the United Kingdom**



MNE Multinational enterprises

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

- 34.13. Sales by a U.S. business enterprise remotely, such as via ICT networks, to a nonresident who remains in their home country would be classified as mode 1, cross-border supply, and would be recorded in the ITAs as an export of computer services.
- 34.14. The provision of data recovery services to foreign residents visiting the United States would be classified as mode 2, consumption abroad, and would be recorded in the ITAs as an export of travel services. For example, if while visiting the United States a foreign visitor procures data recovery services for data stored on a damaged laptop, the transaction would be included in travel.
- 34.15. Sales of data recovery services to foreign residents through the foreign affiliates of U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) would be classified as mode 3, reflecting the commercial presence of the affiliate abroad. BEA's AMNE statistics for services supplied through affiliates are classified by the primary industry of the affiliate rather than by type of service. The industry associated with data recovery services is computer systems design and related services.
- 34.16. Data recovery by employees of U.S. business enterprises and certain self-employed persons who travel to their nonresident customer's location to provide the service would be classified as mode 4, presence of natural persons. These exports would be classified in the ITAs as computer services.

Estimates of modes of supply for international services

- 34.17. International statistical guidelines for services recommend publishing estimates of services by mode of supply and by partner country. Chapter V of the *Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS)* 2010 provides a framework for compiling services statistics by mode of supply based on published ITA and AMNE services statistics. Using these statistics, BEA has developed exploratory estimates for 2016 of international services classified by mode of supply.⁷² These estimates cross-classify international services by mode of supply and service type but not by partner country.
- 34.18. The exploratory estimates of modes of supply for international services make use of questions on BEA's 2017 Benchmark Survey of Transactions in Selected Services and Intellectual Property with Foreign Persons (BE-120) for a subset of service types about the share of services performed remotely by the supplier of the service. For that subset, the reported share of services performed remotely was imputed to mode 1 (cross-border supply). The residual share was imputed to modes 2 (consumption abroad) or 4 (presence of natural persons), depending on the service type using guidance from *MSITS* and informed judgment. Most of the ITA services types not covered by the questions on the share of services performed remotely were imputed to modes 1, 2, or 4 based on *MSITS* guidance and informed judgment. One exception was construction services, which was divided between mode 3 (commercial presence) and mode 4. In certain cases, such as travel

72. See [Michael A. Mann, "Measuring Trade in Services by Mode of Supply," Bureau of Economic Analysis working paper WP2019-7 \(Washington, DC: BEA, August 2019\).](#)

services, BEA's trade in services statistics indistinguishably include goods sold with the services. An adjustment was made to remove these goods from travel services. An adjustment was also made to include the distribution services associated with wholesale trade activities that are included in GATS trade in services but not in BOP trade in services; these services were included in mode 1.

- 34.19. Services supplied through majority-owned affiliates were mostly imputed to mode 3. For services supplied by U.S. MNEs through foreign affiliates, only services supplied to foreign persons in the host country were included; services supplied to other foreign persons, which are covered by the services supplied through affiliates featured in BEA's international services statistics, are beyond the scope of the GATS definition of mode 3. In certain cases, such as construction, BEA's AMNE statistics classify as "goods supplied" some products included in GATS trade in services. An adjustment was made to include these goods supplied by affiliates in construction in the estimates of modes of supply for international services. BEA's AMNE statistics do not provide information on the specific service activity covered in services supplied through affiliates, so services from these statistics were assigned to service types based on BEA's International Surveys Industry code, which identifies the primary industry of sales for affiliates.
- 34.20. The BEA benchmark survey of financial services (BE-180) now includes questions on the share of services performed remotely. These shares, along with information from other sources, will be used to continue refining estimates of modes of supply for international services.

Chapter 35. Bilateral Statistics

- 35.1. One of the most important classifications of statistics from the U.S. International Economic Accounts are partner country or geographic classifications, which provide the basis for compiling bilateral statistics. U.S. bilateral statistics provide important measures of trade and investment between the United States and other countries and world regions. Bilateral statistics provide critical information for understanding economic relationships among countries, developing trade and investment policy, managing exchange rates, and aiding business and government decisionmaking. Bilateral statistics are also a useful tool for improving international economic statistics by facilitating cooperation among statistical agencies through bilateral reconciliation exercises.
- 35.2. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis provides several levels of geographic detail for its bilateral statistics. Major published components from the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) are provided in ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4 for 35 areas that reflect a combination of individual countries and regional groupings.⁷³ Greater partner country detail for trade in goods, for services trade, and for direct investment income, transactions, and positions at historical cost (book value) is available in more detailed ITA tables and in other tables published by BEA. Statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE) are classified by country at a level of detail similar to that for direct investment by country and industry. BEA's International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts do not provide partner country detail.
- 35.3. While international guidelines do not provide specific recommendations for partner country detail, compiling countries are encouraged to provide detail relevant to their economies. When new countries emerge or when countries cease to exist, BEA makes changes to the individual country detail and related regional groupings. These changes are made consistently for all of the major components, and statistics are provided for earlier periods when sufficient source data are available.
- 35.4. The basic principle for determining the partner country in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts is the location of the residence of the counterparty to the transaction or financial position. The same principles for determining residence discussed in chapter 6 apply, but they are often more difficult to implement because location information is not necessarily known by the resident counterparty. Most of the key data sources used by BEA, however, include information needed to determine the counterparty country. For example, merchandise trade statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau, source data from the Treasury International Capital (TIC) reporting system, and BEA's direct investment and services surveys all include partner country information.

73. For more information on the countries and areas for which selected ITA statistics are available quarterly, see the [interactive tables](#) on the BEA website.

- 35.5. For inward AMNE statistics, country classification is based on the residence of the ultimate owner of the U.S. affiliate rather than the direct counterparty. For outward AMNE statistics, BEA attributes the activities of each foreign affiliate to the country of residence of that affiliate.
- 35.6. Following the general principle of change of ownership that underlies the recording of international transactions, the partner country classification of goods is based on the country of the new owner for exports and the country of the former owner for imports. While BEA has attempted to follow the International Monetary Fund *Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6)* change of ownership principle, it has not been able to implement the recommended treatment of goods-for-processing because of source data limitations. As a result, some goods with no ownership change are treated as though their ownership did change because of their inclusion in the Census-basis merchandise trade statistics. For services transactions, the geographic classification is based on the residence of the service purchaser for exports and the service provider for imports. For primary income receipts, the geographic classification is based on the debtor country that pays income on its liabilities to U.S. residents, and for investment income payments, the creditor country that receives income on its U.S. assets. For secondary income (current transfers), country classifications are based on the residence of the donor and the recipient.
- 35.7. The country attribution of financial-account transactions is based on the country of residence of the foreign creditor for the net incurrence of liabilities and the country of residence of the foreign debtor for the net acquisition of foreign assets. In practice, identification of the counterparty country for securities positions, income, and transactions is not always straightforward for various reasons, including that (1) the issuer is not always aware of current holders of securities, (2) transactors in securities markets may not be aware of the identity of the counterparty, and (3) security holders may be unaware that income on securities positions may be payable by a financial intermediary that created a “short” or reverse position in the security rather than by the issuer of the security.
- 35.8. In the TIC reporting system, data are generally classified by the foreign country or geographical area in which the foreign transactor or intermediary is located, as shown in the records of the U.S. reporting institution. The geographic distribution of the reported data may not necessarily reflect the nationality of the ultimate foreign owner of U.S. securities or the country of issue of foreign securities. Thus, securities transactions between U.S. and foreign residents effected in countries that are international financial centers—such as the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Cayman Islands, the Bahamas, the Netherlands, and Hong Kong—are recorded for those countries, regardless of the country of issue of the foreign security or of the nationality of the ultimate foreign owners of U.S. securities.

- 35.9. BEA provides additional geographic detail in addition to the standard 35 countries and areas for merchandise trade transactions, for services trade transactions, for direct investment transactions, positions, and income, and for AMNE statistics, because the requisite detail is available in the source data for these components. These sources include the merchandise trade statistics compiled by the Census Bureau and the direct investment and services surveys conducted by BEA. Each of the components with expanded geographic detail is further described below.

Merchandise trade

- 35.10. Additional partner country detail is available in the merchandise trade statistics published by the Census Bureau and provided by BEA in the detailed ITA table on U.S. trade in goods (ITA table 2.3).⁷⁴ As described above, the geographic attribution of merchandise trade exports is the country where the goods are to be consumed, further processed, or manufactured, as known to the shipper at the time of exportation. If the shipper does not know the country of ultimate destination, the shipment is credited to the last country the shipper knows that the goods will be in the same form as when exported. The geographic attribution of merchandise trade imports is the country of origin. When goods are produced in several countries and shipped through one or more countries before final shipment to the United States, the country of attribution may, in practice, be the last country of shipment.⁷⁵
- 35.11. The country of destination for goods may frequently differ from the country of payment for the goods. For example, when a foreign resident purchases an aircraft in the United States but leases it to an airline in another country, the country of destination shown on the export declaration may be that of the lessee, not that of the lessor (the owner of the equipment). In this case, the goods accounts include the commodity flow by the country of destination, and the financial accounts record the financial flow by the country of payment. In line with the change of ownership principle, the residence of the seller or purchaser of the good is the preferred concept. In practice, available data may be based on the economy of origin, consignment, destination, or other criteria that may differ from the economy of the seller or purchaser. This is especially likely in cases of merchanting and goods processed on a fee basis.

74. ITA table 2.3, like ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4, provides bilateral statistics that are not seasonally adjusted. ITA table 2.2 provides seasonally adjusted bilateral trade in goods statistics for a much smaller group of countries. The monthly goods and services statistics also include some limited bilateral detail for trade in goods at monthly frequencies—see chapter 30 for more information on these statistics.

75. For more detail, see Census Bureau's [Foreign Trade Guide](#).

Services trade

- 35.12. Partner country detail for services trade is available in the detailed ITA table on U.S. trade in services (ITA table 3.3).⁷⁶ In addition, more detailed partner country detail for services trade at annual frequencies is provided in the international services statistics—see chapter 31 for more information.

Direct investment and AMNE statistics

- 35.13. According to international guidelines, direct investment transactions and positions by country should be reported according to the immediate host or investing economy, based on the direct relationships between the parties, rather than according to the ultimate owner or host countries. Supplementary data on direct investment positions may be prepared according to ultimate owner and host economy (destination). Such data are useful when direct investment is channeled through intermediate entities, such as holding companies or other special purpose entities.
- 35.14. BEA provides statistics on bilateral direct investment transactions and positions in the statistics on direct investment by country and industry (see chapter 32). In addition, for a subset of these countries, ITA tables on bilateral transactions (ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4) include statistics on direct investment transactions. BEA's bilateral direct investment statistics include supplemental statistics by ultimate owner but not by ultimate host country.
- 35.15. For BEA's inward AMNE statistics, the primary classification is by the country of the ultimate owner, with some tabulations by the immediate investing country (that is, by the country of the foreign parent). For outward AMNE statistics, BEA attributes the activities of each foreign affiliate to the country of residence of that affiliate.
- 35.16. For U.S. direct investment abroad in both the direct investment and AMNE statistics, each foreign affiliate is classified by its country of location—that is, the country in which the affiliate's physical assets are located or in which its primary activity is carried out. In most cases, the country of location of a business enterprise is the same as its country of organization or incorporation. In some cases, though, a business enterprise is incorporated in one country, but part or all of its physical assets are located, or its activities are carried out, in a second country. If all its physical assets or operations are located in a single foreign country outside its country of incorporation, the enterprise is treated as an incorporated foreign affiliate in the country where its physical assets and operations are located. However, if an enterprise has some physical assets or operations in each country, it is considered two affiliates—an incorporated affiliate located in the country of incorporation and an unincorporated affiliate located in the other country.

76. ITA table 3.3, like ITA tables 1.3 and 1.4, provides bilateral statistics that are not seasonally adjusted. ITA table 3.2 provides seasonally adjusted bilateral trade in services statistics for a much smaller group of countries. The monthly services and services statistics also include some limited bilateral detail for trade in services at monthly frequencies—see chapter 30 for more information on these statistics.

- 35.17. International transactions and positions between U.S. parents and foreign affiliates are classified in the country of the affiliate with which the U.S. parent has a direct transaction or position, even if the transaction or position may reflect indirect claims on, liabilities to, or income from indirectly held affiliates in third countries. For example, if a U.S. parent company acquires all of the equity in a German manufacturer for \$100 million and channels the purchase through its holding company affiliate in the Netherlands, then both the direct investment financial transaction and the direct investment position would be classified in the Netherlands, because that is the country of the affiliate with which the U.S. parent had a direct transaction. By contrast, AMNE statistics—such as employment and research and development expenditures—of the newly acquired affiliate would be classified in Germany because that is where the operations are located.
- 35.18. For foreign direct investment in the United States, both the foreign parent and ultimate beneficial owner (UBO) of a U.S. affiliate are each classified by country of incorporation. For most U.S. affiliates, the country of the UBO is the same as the country of the foreign parent. However, for some UBO countries, the country of foreign parent of most affiliates differs from that of their UBO. For these countries, much of the foreign direct investment in the United States is conducted through intermediaries located in other countries. By comparing BEA's foreign parent-based statistics with its UBO-based statistics, data users can analyze corporate structures and identify both (1) countries that often invest in the United States through intermediaries and (2) countries that are often used as intermediaries to invest in the United States.
- 35.19. Classification by country of UBO typically is used for AMNE statistics because the country that ultimately owns or controls a U.S. affiliate and therefore derives benefits from owning or controlling the affiliate is generally considered most important for analyzing these data. In supplemental tables in the direct investment by country and industry statistics, income and positions are also classified by country of UBO. In contrast, statistics in the ITAs and in the primary presentation of foreign direct investment in the United States in the direct investment by country and industry statistics are classified by the country of each member of the foreign parent group with which there are direct transactions or positions.
- 35.20. Some U.S. affiliates have more than one foreign parent, more than one foreign parent group, and more than one UBO. In the AMNE statistics, an affiliate's data is classified by the country of the UBO or foreign parent with the largest ownership share in the affiliate. In the direct investment statistics in the ITAs and the primary direct investment by country and industry statistics, an affiliate's data is classified by country according to its transactions and positions with each member of each foreign parent group. In supplemental tables, its income and positions are classified by country of the UBO associated with that income and those positions.

International Trade and Investment Country Facts

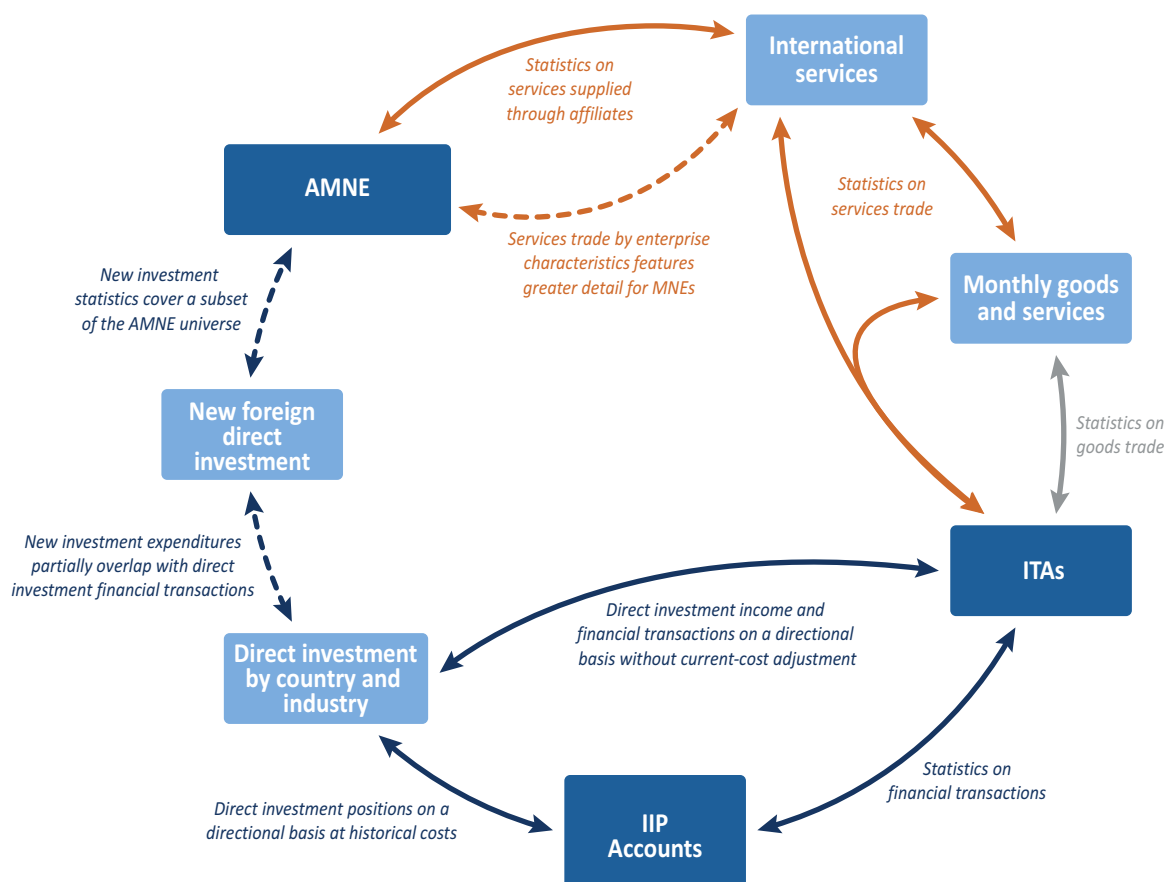
- 35.21. BEA provides an application—[International Trade and Investment Country Facts](#)—on its website that presents annual U.S. bilateral statistics with all countries for which International Economic Account statistics are produced. Data users select a country and are provided an overview page, or “factsheet,” with a time series of selected annual statistics from across the International Economic Accounts with that country. If statistics are available for an individual country, the overview page includes overall trade in goods and services, a list of the top goods and services categories, outward and inward direct investment positions, and sales and employment of majority-owned affiliates of U.S. multinational enterprises (MNEs) in that country and majority-owned U.S. affiliates of MNEs from that country. Fewer statistics may be available for smaller countries.
- 35.22. Statistics with more detail on trade, direct investment, AMNE, and new foreign direct investment in the United States are also available. This application allows users interested in bilateral economic relationships between the United States and partner countries to quickly assemble key statistics on the extent of each relationship across several dimensions, and to assess trends in each dimension.

Part VIII.

Supplemental Information

Appendix A. U.S. International Economic Accounts: Internal and External Relationships

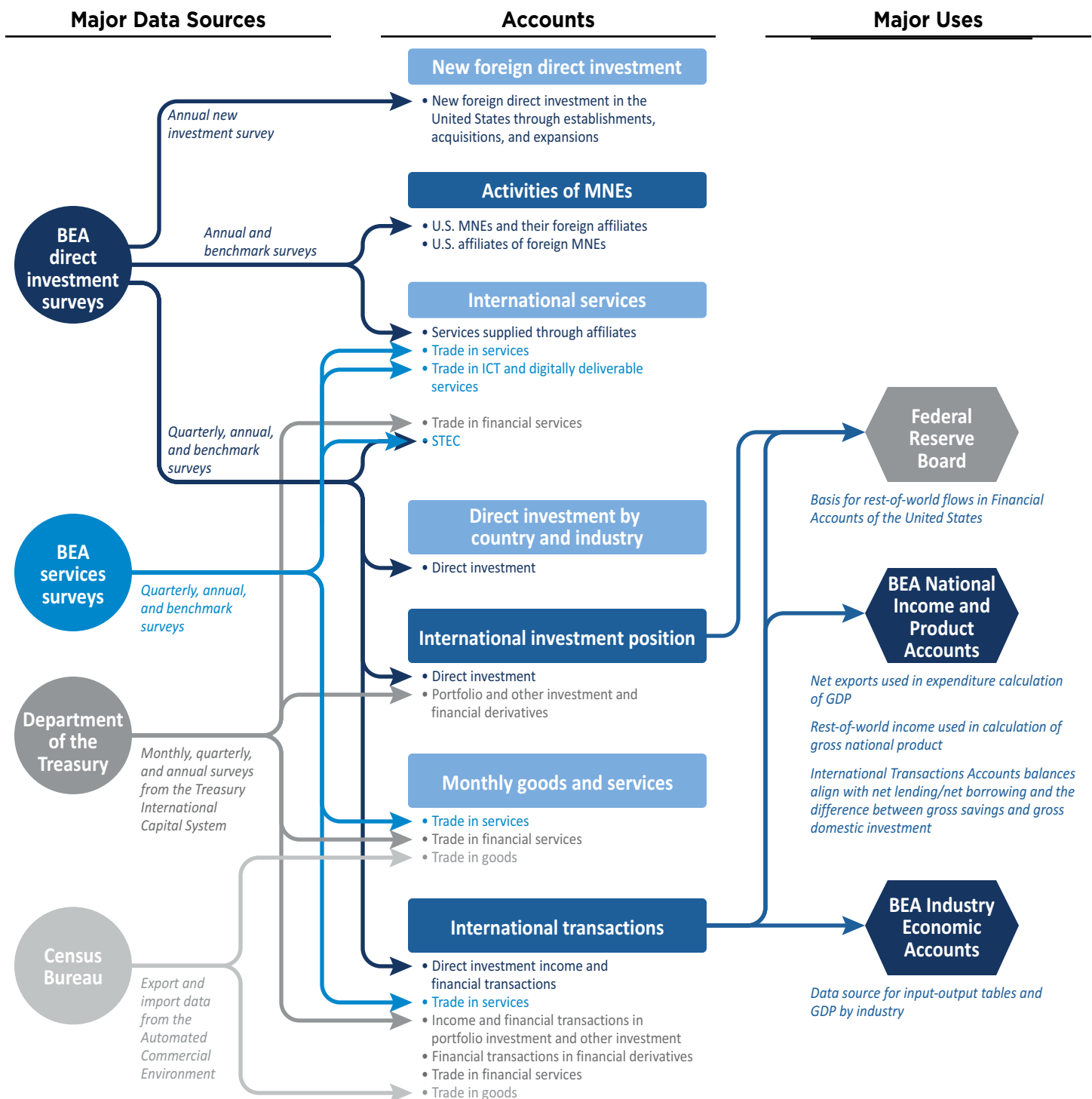
Figure A.1. Statistics in Common Among the U.S. International Economic Accounts



AMNE Activities of multinational enterprises
 IIP International investment position
 ITAs International transactions accounts
 MNE Multinational enterprises

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Figure A.2. Major Data Sources of, and Other Statistics that Depend on, the U.S. International Economic Accounts



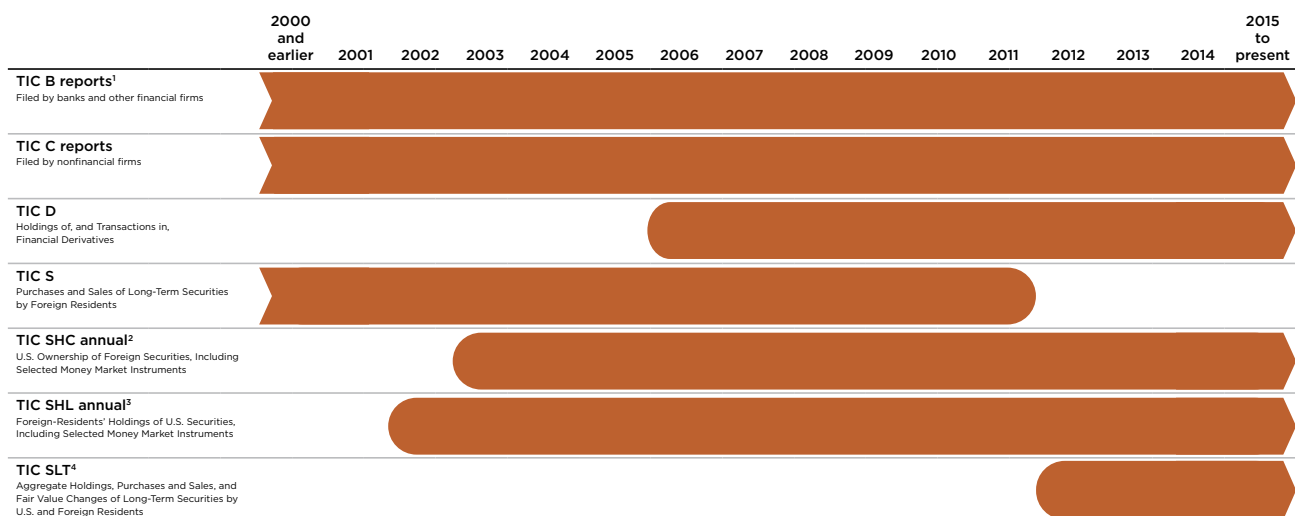
BEA U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis
 GDP Gross domestic product
 ICT Information and communications technology
 MNEs Multinational enterprises
 STEC Services trade by enterprise characteristics

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Appendix B. The Treasury International Capital Reporting System

- B.1.** Significant changes have been made to the Treasury International Capital (TIC) reporting system over the years in response to innovation in financial activity and changes to international statistical compilation guidelines. This appendix describes changes in the TIC reporting system, its use as a major data source, and adjustments to align concepts with those in the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs).

Figure B.1. Inclusion of Treasury International Capital (TIC) Source Data in BEA's International Accounts by Year



1. Coverage of the B reports expanded in 2003 and 2013.
2. The SHC benchmark was conducted in 1994, 1997, and 2001, before annual collections began in 2003.
3. The SHL benchmark was conducted in 1989, 1994, and 2000, before annual collections began in 2002.
4. Includes source data from the expanded SLT beginning in 2023.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Equity and long-term debt securities

- B.2.** The expansion of the TIC SLT in 2022 was the most recent change to the group of surveys that the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses to measure international transactions in equity and long-term debt securities.⁷⁷ The expanded TIC SLT source data provided directly reported transactions with corresponding positions, for the first time. BEA incorporated the newly available transactions data into portfolio investment statistics beginning with March 2023 data.
- B.3.** Prior to March 2023 and beginning in 2011 with the introduction of the TIC SLT form that consisted of only positions data, BEA elected to impute transactions based on positions reported on

77. For more information on TIC reporting data, see table 3.b in chapter 3.

the TIC SLT rather using transactions data from the monthly TIC S form.⁷⁸ These transactions statistics were based on (1) changes in quarterly holdings of equity and long-term debt securities reported on the TIC SLT form; (2) changes in the value of the holdings based on broad market price indexes from Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI), S&P Dow Jones Indices, and Intercontinental Exchange; and (3) other changes in reported holdings not due to transactions or valuation, such as changes in reporting panels.

- B.4. Prior to the introduction of the SLT form in 2011, the annual and benchmark surveys SHC and SHL were introduced in their current formats, covering equity and short- and long-term debt securities, in December 2001 and June 2002, respectively. The annual surveys provided more frequent checks on position estimates and on the S form transactions.⁷⁹
- B.5. Table B.1. provides an example, for illustration purposes, of the primary adjustments BEA makes to the TIC SLT source data in preparing ITA statistics for portfolio investment. BEA supplements transactions reported on the TIC SLT with transactions in short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit of any maturity (table B.1., lines 9 and 20). The holdings of these types of portfolio investment are collected in the TIC system with “other investment” instruments, such as loans and deposits. Paragraphs 17.11–17.14 describe how transactions in short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit are estimated.
- B.6. Lines 3–7, 15–18, and 26–29 show how BEA imputed transactions for years 2022 and prior by removing from the total quarterly change in holdings the quarterly changes in holdings that do not result from transactions.
- B.7. Lines 12, 23, and 34 show coverage adjustments between imputed transactions used in BEA’s published statistics and transactions reported on the now discontinued TIC S form. Beginning with estimates for 2023, BEA no longer imputes transactions based on positions data and coverage adjustments between BEA’s statistics and the transactions directly reported in the expanded TIC SLT form are limited because BEA no longer imputes transactions based on positions data; however, BEA incorporates adjustments to include cross-border stock swaps in portfolio investment equity transactions, as the TIC system does not capture these transactions.⁸⁰ Since price and exchange-rate changes are also comingled and reported on the TIC SLT along with transactions and positions, other changes in volume and value not included elsewhere on lines 7, 18, and 29 are now computed as a residual.

78. The S form, which was often inconsistent with annual positions reported on the annual TIC surveys on U.S. Residents’ Portfolio Holdings of Foreign Securities (SHC) and on Foreign Residents’ Portfolio Holdings of U.S. Securities (SHL), was discontinued in February 2023, following the expansion of the SLT form.

79. Prior to the introduction of the annual SHL and SHC, the TIC system conducted benchmark surveys of foreign portfolio holdings of U.S. long-term securities every five years, and of U.S. portfolio holdings of foreign long-term securities every three years (see paragraphs 3.30–3.34 for more information about these surveys).

80. BEA reviews the Security and Exchange Commission’s EDGAR database and public news releases to estimate stock swap transactions in the ITAs and adds these estimates to the reported SLT transactions data.

Table B.1. Relation of Transactions in Portfolio Investment Assets and Liabilities in the U.S. ITAs to TIC Reporting System Data

[Millions of dollars]

Line	Net increase in assets or liabilities (+); net decrease in assets or liabilities (-).	2022 and earlier	2023 to present
Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets			
1	Total claims (foreign stocks and bonds held by U.S. residents) outstanding, beginning of year, TIC ¹	150	100
2	Total claims (foreign stocks and bonds held by U.S. residents) outstanding, end of year, TIC ¹	100	140
3	Change in claims, TIC (line 2 - line 1)	-50	40
4	<i>Minus: Changes in foreign stocks and bonds held as reserve assets</i>	-10	-10
5	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by price changes</i>	-20	10
6	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by exchange rate changes</i>	-10	20
7	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by other changes in volume and value n.i.e.²</i>	30	10
8	Equals: Net U.S. acquisition of foreign stocks and bonds, ITAs	-40	10
9	<i>Plus: Net U.S. acquisition of foreign short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit of any maturity, ITA table 7.1, lines 6 and 13</i>	-10	-20
10	Equals: Net U.S. acquisition of portfolio investment assets, ITA table 1.1, line 21	-50	-10
11	Net U.S. acquisition of foreign stocks and bonds, TIC ³	-20	10
12	Coverage difference for net U.S. acquisition of foreign stocks and bonds, ITAs less TIC (line 8 less line 11)	-20	0
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities			
13	Total liabilities (U.S. stocks and bonds held by foreign residents) outstanding, beginning of year, TIC ⁴	250	200
14	Total liabilities (U.S. stocks and bonds held by foreign residents) outstanding, end of year, TIC ⁴	200	230
15	Change in liabilities, TIC (line 14 - line 13)	-50	30
16	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by price changes</i>	-40	20
17	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by exchange rate changes</i>	-10	10
18	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by other changes in volume and value n.i.e.⁵</i>	10	-10
19	Equals: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. stocks and bonds, ITAs	-10	10
20	<i>Plus: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit of any maturity, ITA table 7.1 lines 19 and 29</i>	20	10
21	Equals: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities, ITA table 1.1, line 26	10	20
22	Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. stocks and bonds, TIC ³	10	10
23	Coverage difference for net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. stocks and bonds, ITAs less TIC (line 19 less line 22)	-20	0

Table continues

Line	Net increase in assets or liabilities (+); net decrease in assets or liabilities (-).	2022 and earlier	2023 to present
Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities through U.S. Treasury securities⁶			
24	Total liabilities (U.S. Treasury bonds held by foreign residents) outstanding, beginning of year, TIC ⁴	50	30
25	Total liabilities (U.S. Treasury bonds held by foreign residents) outstanding, end of year, TIC ⁴	30	40
26	Change in liabilities, TIC (line 25 - line 24)	-20	10
27	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by price changes</i>	-10	10
28	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by exchange rate changes</i>	...	...
29	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by other changes in volume and value n.i.e.</i>	10	-10
30	Equals: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. Treasury bonds, ITAs	-20	10
31	<i>Plus: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through short-term U.S. Treasury securities, ITA table 7.1 line 20</i>	-10	10
32	Equals: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities through U.S. Treasury securities, ITA table 1.1, part of line 26	-30	20
33	Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. Treasury bonds, TIC ³	10	10
34	Coverage difference for net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities through U.S. Treasury bonds, ITAs less TIC (line 30 less line 33)	-30	0

.... Not applicable

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

ITAs International transactions accounts

TIC Treasury international capital

1. Total claims are reported in the monthly TIC survey Aggregate Holdings, Purchases and Sales, and Fair Value Changes of Long-Term Securities by U.S. and Foreign Residents (TIC SLT). BEA uses the TIC SLT and the TIC annual and benchmark survey of assets—Report of U.S. Ownership of Foreign Securities, including Selected Money Market Instruments (SHC(A))—to compile the ITAs and the U.S. International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts.
2. Includes changes such as (1) changes caused by differences between SLT positions and SHC(A) positions, (2) deviations in BEA IIP positions from SLT positions because of series breaks in the SLT, and (3) the other changes in volume and value reported in IIP table 1.3.
3. For 2022 and years prior, TIC data for net U.S. acquisition of portfolio assets (line 11) and net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities (lines 22 and 33) are based on Purchases and Sales of Long-term Securities by Foreign-Residents (TIC S) with adjustments to add net acquisitions from stock swaps and to subtract estimated principal repayments of U.S. asset-backed securities, as appropriate. Beginning in 2023, TIC data for net U.S. acquisition of portfolio assets (line 11) and net U.S. incurrence of portfolio liabilities (lines 22 and 33) reflect gross purchases and gross sales data from the expanded monthly TIC SLT report, replacing transactions data previously available on TIC S, which is now discontinued.
4. Total liabilities are reported in the monthly TIC SLT. BEA uses the TIC SLT and the TIC annual and benchmark survey of liabilities—Foreign-Residents' Holdings of U.S. Securities, including Selected Money Market Instruments (SHL(A))—to compile the ITAs and the U.S. International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts.
5. Includes changes such as (1) changes caused by differences between SLT positions and SHL(A) positions, (2) deviations in BEA IIP positions from SLT positions because of series breaks in the SLT, and (3) the other changes in volume and value reported in IIP table 1.3.
6. The net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities through U.S. Treasury securities is included in lines 13-23. Adjustments for U.S. Treasury securities are described separately in lines 24-34 because of the interest in this market by users of BEA data.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Other investment and short-term debt securities

- B.8. Changes to the TIC B forms in February 2003 and in December 2013 increased the coverage of claims and liabilities of U.S.-resident financial enterprises with respect to their financial affiliates. These changes are noteworthy because they affect the way BEA compiles other investment statistics for loans and deposits. The current coverage of most U.S.-resident financial enterprises with respect to their financial affiliates on the B forms that began in December 2013 is described in chapter 3.

- B.9. Prior to December 2013 and beginning in February 2003, U.S. banks, bank and financial holding companies, and securities brokers and dealers reported vis-à-vis affiliates and non-affiliates on the B forms, and all other companies, including some important financial enterprises such as investment banks and insurance companies, reported only vis-à-vis unaffiliated foreign residents on the TIC C forms.⁸¹
- B.10. Table B.2. provides an example, for illustration purposes, of the adjustments BEA makes to source data from the TIC B and C forms in preparing ITAs statistics for other investment. BEA aligns the data with balance-of-payments concepts by removing changes in holdings that are recorded in other functional categories. Changes in short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit of any maturity that are reported with the other investment instruments in the TIC data are removed in (lines 5 and 16) and recorded in portfolio investment. Prior to June 2026 and beginning with March 2003, BEA removed changes covered in BEA's direct investment surveys from data reported on the TIC B forms. Starting with statistics published in June 2026, these adjustments were discontinued because they were determined to be no longer necessary.
- B.11. BEA closes gaps in the coverage of U.S. nonfinancial institutions' claims and liabilities by supplementing TIC data with estimates of these institutions' claims on, and liabilities to, foreign banks based on partner country counterparty data from foreign banking authorities shown on table B.2. (lines 8 and 19). BEA also removes from the total quarterly change in holdings, the quarterly changes in holdings that do not result from transactions: (1) changes in exchange rates and (2) changes in volume and value not included elsewhere (lines 6, 7, 17, and 18).⁸²

Financial derivatives

- B.12. Until the introduction of the TIC D form in March 2005, the United States did not have a comprehensive survey dedicated to the measurement of financial derivatives transactions and positions for the ITAs and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. Derivatives were included as a separate component in the ITAs and the IIP Accounts for positions beginning in December 2005 and for transactions beginning in the first quarter of 2006. Prior to the introduction of statistics from the D form, BEA included transactions in exchange-traded derivatives based on data obtained from exchanges, and some derivatives were reported on BEA's direct investment surveys.

81. Prior to February 2003, only U.S. banks and bank and financial holding companies reported vis-à-vis affiliates on the B forms. U.S. securities brokers and dealers reported only vis-à-vis unaffiliated foreign residents on the B forms while all other financial and nonfinancial enterprises reported only vis-à-vis unaffiliated foreign residents on the C forms.

82. As noted in chapter 26, most instruments in other investment are unaffected by changes in prices. For select instruments that are not price invariant, source data are not available for price change.

**Table B.2. Relation of Transactions in Other Investment Assets and Liabilities
in the ITAs to TIC Reporting System Data**

[Millions of dollars]

Line	Net increase in assets or liabilities (+); net decrease in assets or liabilities (-).	2023 to present
Net U.S. acquisition of other investment assets		
1	Total claims outstanding, beginning of year, TIC ¹	40
2	Total claims outstanding, end of year, TIC ¹	60
3	Change in claims, TIC (line 2–line 1)²	20
4	<i>Minus: Net U.S. acquisition of foreign short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit of any maturity, ITA table 7.1, lines 6 and 13</i>	-20
5	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by exchange-rate changes</i>	10
6	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by changes in volume and value n.i.e.</i>	20
7	<i>Plus: Supplemental source data³</i>	20
8	Equals: Net U.S. acquisition of other investment assets, excluding U.S. central bank and general government assets	20
9	Plus: Net U.S. acquisition of other investment assets by the U.S. central bank and general government	10
10	Equals: Net U.S. acquisition of other investment assets, ITA table 1.1, line 22	30
Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities		
11	Total liabilities outstanding, beginning of year, TIC ¹	70
12	Total liabilities outstanding, end of year, TIC ¹	80
13	Change in liabilities, TIC (line 14–line 13)²	10
14	<i>Minus: Net U.S. incurrence of portfolio investment liabilities through U.S. short-term securities and negotiable certificates of deposit of any maturity, ITA table 7.1 lines 19 and 29</i>	60
15	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by exchange-rate changes</i>	10
16	<i>Minus: Changes in value caused by other changes in volume and value n.i.e.</i>	-50
17	<i>Plus: Supplemental source data³</i>	50
18	Equals: Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities, excluding liabilities of general government and liabilities from U.S. currency held abroad	30
19	Plus: Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities by general government and liabilities from U.S. currency held abroad ITA table 8.1 lines 65 and 91	20
20	Equals: Net U.S. incurrence of other investment liabilities, ITA table 1.1, line 27	50

n.i.e. Not included elsewhere

ITAs International transactions accounts

TIC Treasury international capital

1. TIC data are reported in the TIC B and C forms. The TIC B forms (BC, BL-1, BL-2, BQ-1, and BQ-2) are reports by financial institutions of liabilities to, and claims on, foreign residents by U.S. residents. The TIC C forms (CQ-1 and CQ-2) are reports of liabilities to, and claims on, unaffiliated foreign residents by U.S. resident non-financial institutions.

2. For periods prior to 2023, transactions covered in direct investment were removed from TIC source data.

3. Includes supplemental transactions from the Bank of England, the Deutsche Bundesbank, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and the Federal Reserve Board.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Appendix C. Reliability of the Statistics

- C.1. Based on analyses of revisions, early estimates by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis present a consistent and accurate picture of economic activity between U.S. and foreign residents.⁸³ Early estimates closely track later estimates, particularly for key aggregates. Revisions are small relative to the estimates themselves or relative to quarter-to-quarter variability in the estimates. Revisions rarely change the direction of movement in the accounts, and early estimates of key aggregates closely track turning points identified in later estimates.
- C.2. Among the findings of the latest revisions analysis of the quarterly International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) (2014–2023) are the following:
- The first estimates of the balance on goods and services show the same direction of change as the latest estimates 90 percent of the time and correctly identify a majority of turning points.
 - Revisions to major components of the ITAs are generally small in magnitude, with a tendency for the first estimates of certain components to be revised upward in subsequent updates.
 - Revisions to both exports and imports of services tend to be larger, on a relative basis, than revisions to exports and imports of goods.
 - Revisions to secondary income receipts tend to be among the largest, on a relative basis, among the major ITA series.
 - Later vintages of the statistical discrepancy are centered closer to zero than earlier vintages.
- C.3. Among the findings of the revisions analysis of the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts (2013 to 2022 or 2023) are the following:
- The first estimates of the direction of the annual change in the net international investment position consistently show the same direction as the estimates updated the following June.
 - Revisions to most components of the quarter-end and yearend position tend to be small.
 - Revisions for direct investment debt instruments are the largest, in relative terms, among both U.S. assets and U.S. liabilities.
 - Estimates of direct investment debt instruments also exhibited the least directional reliability.

83. For details see Ryan Howley, “[An Analysis of the Reliability of BEA’s International Transactions Accounts](#),” *Survey of Current Business* 97 (February 2017) and Thomas Anderson, “[Reliability of the International Accounts](#),” *Survey of Current Business*, (December 17, 2024). The former analysis examines revisions to the 1999–2015 quarterly International Transactions Accounts (ITA) statistics and the latter examines revisions to the 2014–2023 quarterly ITAs and quarter-end and yearend estimates of the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts from 2013 to 2022 or 2023. The small variations in the time periods in the latter analysis are due to data availability. For the ITA statistics, the period of analysis begins with the 2014 comprehensive restructuring of the accounts and ends with the estimates released in June of 2024, which updated the 2023 estimates. For IIP statistics, the latest year of available statistics was 2023 for the first June annual update and 2022 for the second June annual update.

C.4. Among the findings of the earlier revisions analysis of the quarterly ITAs (1999–2015) are the following:

- First estimates of the quarterly current-account balance show the same direction of change as the third estimates (those estimates released with the annual update in June of the year after the reference year) 94 percent of the time and identify a significant majority of the turning points identified in the latest estimates.
- The comprehensive restructuring of the ITAs in 2014 led to large revisions to the levels of several accounts, including the top-line current-account aggregates. However, quarterly changes were largely unaffected.
- Seasonal factor revisions have a larger impact on revisions to quarterly changes than on revisions to levels.
- Revisions in the financial account are larger in dollar terms than those in the current account but are of similar or smaller magnitude relative to the quarterly variability of both of these accounts.

C.5. An older study analyzed revisions to the components of the IIP, along with revisions of statistics on the activities of multinational enterprise (AMNE) for the 1999–2011 period.⁸⁴ The range of revisions for components of the IIP Accounts and AMNE statistics for this period is similar, on a relative basis, to the range of ITA current-account revisions. AMNE statistics are available only annually and the IIP Accounts were available only annually at the time of the 2012 revision study.

84. For details, see Daniel R. Yorgason and Sarah P. Scott, “[An Analysis of Revisions to BEA’s International Economic Accounts](#),” *Survey of Current Business* 92 (November 2012).

Appendix D. Source Data Availability and Projections

- D.1. Parts III–VI (chapters 10–33) of this volume detail the data sources and estimation methods that the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis uses to produce the U.S. International Economic Accounts. For the estimation process, some of the source data are available to cover the most recent reference period (the “current period”⁸⁵), but other source data typically are not. BEA uses a variety of projection methods to estimate its accounts in the absence of up-to-date source data for the current (or other) periods. For some accounts, more timely “indicator” series are used to project the estimates; these series have been found to move in similar ways to the missing primary source data. For other accounts, time-series methods are used to project estimates. For still others, prior periods of primary source data are used in place of the missing primary source data; this is referred to as the prior-period data being “carried forward with no change.”
- D.2. Table D.1 summarizes source data availability and projection methods for the International Transactions Accounts (ITAs) and the International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts. For statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises and on new foreign direct investment in the United States, estimates are not released until BEA has collected and processed most of the underlying survey data. For statistics on direct investment by country and industry, data availability is the same as described in table D.1 for the direct investment accounts. For the trade in services part of the international services statistics, data availability can be mostly inferred from services accounts descriptions in table D.1; for the services supplied through affiliates part of the international services statistics, estimates are not released until BEA has collected and processed the underlying survey data. For the monthly statistics on goods and services, much of the source data for goods is available for the current-month estimate; see paragraph 30.5 for information on projection of the monthly services estimates.
- D.3. The projection methods described in table D.1 are the methods typically used. In certain cases, BEA assesses that the typically used methods are unlikely to provide accurate estimates. In such cases, BEA adjusts the projection procedures as necessary using available information from sources such as press reports and indicator series and based on analyst judgement. For instance, during the COVID–19 pandemic, international travel patterns changed in ways that rendered moving averages of past data an unsuitable basis for projecting certain travel and air passenger transport accounts.

85. “Current period” is a bit of a misnomer because the most recent reference period covered by BEA statistics never includes the date the statistics are released. For example, International Transactions Accounts (ITA) statistics covering the first quarter of each year (January–March) are first released in June of the same year. Despite the fact that the June release date is in the second quarter of the year, the statistics covering the first quarter are considered to be current-quarter statistics in the June ITA release.

**Table D.1. Availability of Source Data for Current Quarter ITAs and IIP
Accounts and Projection Methods Used When Source Data are Unavailable**

The numbering in this table refers to the line number in ITA table 1.2. Lines with letters in their numbering are not separately included in ITA table 1.2 but are subcomponents of accounts in ITA table 1.2. For the financial account and IIP, primary numbering refers to the line number in ITA table 1.2 and the number in parentheses refers to the line number in IIP table 1.2. Accounts italicized in gray are included to provide context; the status of source data and projection methods for these accounts are described in their subaccounts.

Current Account
1. Exports of goods and services and income receipts (credits)
2. Exports of goods and services
3. Goods
4. General merchandise
5. Foods, feeds, and beverages Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.
6. Industrial supplies and materials Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. BEA survey data (BE-9) on fuel procured in U.S. ports by foreign airlines are available for the current quarter. Census Bureau data on fuel procured in U.S. ports by foreign vessels are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. Data from UN Comtrade on exports of electric energy to Mexico are lagged one quarter; they are carried forward with no change.
7. Capital goods except automotive Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.
8. Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines Census-basis data on goods trade from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.
9. Consumer goods except food and automotive Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.
10. Other general merchandise Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. Data from Statistics Canada on mail orders to Canada are available for the current quarter. Historical data from the USPS are carried forward with no change. Data from the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Department of Defense for exports of military goods through grant programs are available for the current quarter.
11. Net exports of goods under merchanting BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.
12. Nonmonetary gold Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. FRBNY data, used to supplement Census Bureau data on nonmonetary gold, are available for the current quarter.
13. Services
14. Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others <i>BEA does not currently provide estimates for this data item.</i>
15. Maintenance and repair services n.i.e. BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. Census Bureau data on the cross-border movement of equipment and other goods for repair are available for the current quarter. DOD data on repairs related to the Foreign Military Sales program are typically lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average.
16. Transport
16a. Transport: Sea freight CBP data on export tonnages are available for the current quarter. BEA survey data (BE-30) on freight rates and on receipts for carrying goods between foreign ports and for operating leases of transportation equipment with crew for limited periods are available for the current quarter.

Table continues

Current Account**16b. Transport: Sea port**

CBP data on export and import tonnages carried by foreign-operated vessels are typically available for the current quarter; if they are not available, they are projected using Census Bureau data on goods exports and imports as an indicator series. BEA survey data (BE-29) on port expense rates are collected annually and incorporated during the annual update; prior to their incorporation, the previous year's rate is used.

16c. Transport: Air passenger

BTS Origin and Destination Survey data on average fares and flight patterns are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. BTS data on ancillary fees are lagged one quarter; the prior quarter's value is carried forward with no change. CBP passenger counts are available for the current quarter. Data from Statistics Canada are lagged one quarter; exports to Canada are projected using counts of air passengers from Statistics Canada and from APIS as an indicator series.

16d. Transport: Air freight

BEA survey data (BE-37) are available for the current quarter. BTS Airline Passenger and Freight Traffic Form (T-100) data are lagged 1 month; they are projected using a moving average.

16e. Transport: Air port

BEA survey data (BE-9) on the expenses incurred by foreign air carriers in the United States are available for the current quarter.

16f. Transport: Postal services

Data from USPS are lagged 2 years; they are projected using a moving average and annual data are interpolated into quarters.¹

16g. Transport: Road and other transport

BTS data on revenues of U.S. truck carriers for transporting goods across the U.S.-Canada border are lagged 2 months; they are projected using Census Bureau data on goods exports and imports as an indicator series. Surface Transportation Board data for rail freight exports are lagged 1 year; they are projected using analyst judgment, and annual data are interpolated into quarters.¹ Statistics Canada data for rail port exports are lagged 1 year; they are projected using moving averages and annual data are interpolated into quarters.¹ DOT FAA data on space transport are available for the current quarter. Industry reports on space transport imports are available for the current quarter.

17. Travel (for all purposes including education)**17a. Travel: Other business and other personal travel**

SIAT data, used for average expenditures, are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. CBP traveler counts are available for the current quarter. Statistics Canada data are lagged one quarter; they are projected using monthly traveler counts from Statistics Canada, which are forecast with an ARIMA model for periods when the counts are not available, as an indicator series. Bank of Mexico and National Institute of Statistics and Geography data are lagged one quarter; they are projected using monthly traveler counts from the same sources as an indicator series or based on analyst judgment for periods when the traveler-count data are not available.

17b. Travel: Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers

Consumer Expenditure Survey-based estimates of the propensity to spend earnings are carried forward with no change. See the entry for compensation of employees payments (line 63) for status of other data sources.

17c. Travel: Health related

SIAT data, used for average expenditures, are typically lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. CBP traveler counts are available for the current quarter.

17d. Travel: Education related

SEVIS education-related traveler counts and average expenditures data are obtained intermittently. Counts are projected using student counts from the IIE *Open Doors* report as an indicator series for periods for which IIE data are available; for quarters beyond which IIE data are available, education-related traveler counts are projected using an ARIMA model. Average expenditures on tuition are projected using the BLS Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: U.S. city average for college tuition and fees as an indicator series, and average expenditures on living expenditures are projected using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: U.S. city average for all items.

18. Construction

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

19. Insurance services

BEA survey data (BE-45) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. AM Best's Aggregates & Averages: Property/Casualty data are lagged 18 months; they are projected using a moving average.

Table continues

Current Account**20. Financial services**

BEA survey data (BE-185) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. TIC data, used to estimate transactions volumes for brokerage services on debt transactions, are lagged 1 month; they are projected using Nasdaq exchange market trading volume as an indicator series. Industry sources, used to estimate bid-ask spreads for brokerage services on debt transactions, are available for the current quarter. TIC data, used to estimate transactions volumes for market-making services, are lagged 1 month; they are carried forward with no change. Industry sources, used to estimate bid-ask spreads for market-making services, are available for the current quarter. A volume adjustment factor estimated from BE-185 and TIC data is lagged two quarters; it is carried forward with no change. TIC data, used to estimate the value of loans, deposits, and repurchase agreements for FISIM, are mostly available for the current quarter; values that are not available are projected using the most recent value. Call report data, used to estimate loan and deposit interest rates and the reference rate, are lagged one quarter; rates are projected using real-time trading information of indicator series. Interest rates, used to estimate FISIM on repurchase securities, are available for the current quarter.

21. Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

22. Telecommunications, computer, and information services

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

23. Other business services

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

24. Personal, cultural, and recreational services

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

25. Government goods and services n.i.e.

DOD data on sales of goods and services through the Foreign Military Sales program are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. Appropriations data from OMB, used to estimate the delivery of services provided through military grant programs, are typically available for the current quarter; when the data are not available, they are projected using a moving average. State Department data provided under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 on fees collected from overseas consulates are available for the current quarter. Data reported by government agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 on exports of certain goods and services by U.S. government operating agencies are mostly available for the current quarter; reports that are not available are carried forward with no change. Expenditures in the United States by foreign governments, foreign government employees, and international organizations are each calculated as a share of compensation of employees payments; the shares are periodically updated based on BEA research. For information on how compensation of employees payments data sources are projected, see line 63.

26. Primary income receipts**27. Investment income****28. Direct investment income**

Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. AMNE data, used to estimate the current cost adjustment, are lagged up to 3 years; data from the BEA Fixed Assets Accounts are incorporated only for periods when AMNE data are available; for periods beyond the availability of the AMNE data, the current cost adjustment is projected using quarterly direct investment survey data and recent quarterly trends.

29. Portfolio investment income

TIC data on positions are available for the current quarter. Financial services industry data on dividend yields and price indexes (from MSCI, S&P, and Merrill Lynch ICE) are available for the current quarter.

30. Other investment income

TIC data on transactions and positions are available for the current quarter. FRBNY data on interest earned on central bank liquidity swaps and FIMA repos are available for the current quarter. FCRS data are lagged one quarter; U.S. government interest receipts from foreign residents are projected using a moving average. Some partner country data are lagged one quarter; positions are carried forward with no change. Interest rates from various sources are available for the current quarter. For information on the TIC, call report, partner country, and interest rate data, used to estimate the FISIM adjustment to other investment income, see the FISIM imports data sources in the entry for financial services imports (line 52).

Table continues

Current Account**31. Reserve asset income**

IMF data and FRBNY data on income receipts are available for the current quarter.

32. Compensation of employees

Data on compensation of employees from NIPA table 1.12, used to carry forward data from IRS Form 2555 in estimating the earnings of U.S. residents employed temporarily abroad, are available for the current quarter. State Department data on the number of foreign diplomats in the United States, used to estimate earnings of U.S. residents employed by foreign governments, are lagged up to 1 year; they are carried forward with no change. Partner country statistics on earnings of U.S. residents employed abroad or U.S. residents employed by foreign governments are received and processed on a flow basis; they are projected using a variety of methods, including a moving average and analyst judgment. Data from international organizations on the number of U.S. residents they employ are lagged up to 3 years; they are projected using analyst judgment.

33. Secondary income (current transfer) receipts**33a. Secondary income: general government transfer receipts****33b. Secondary income, general government transfer receipts: taxes on income, wealth, etc.**

IRS data, used to estimate taxes for securities, withholding taxes on direct investment, services, and compensation are lagged up to 3 years; they are projected using analyst judgement. Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605), used to estimate withholding taxes on dividends, are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. BEA services survey data are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. The U.S. Treasury Department's Monthly Treasury Statement, used to estimate taxes on foreign source income of nonresident U.S. citizens, is available for the current quarter.

33c. Secondary income, general government transfer receipts: international cooperation

Data submitted by the Treasury Department under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 are available for the current quarter.

33d. Secondary income, general government transfer receipts: fines and penalties

Data from U.S. government agencies, U.S. courts, other public documents, and media reports are available for the current quarter.

33e. Secondary income, general government transfer receipts: other general government transfer receipts

DOE's Foreign Gift and Contract Report is lagged three quarters; it is projected using a moving average.

33f. Secondary income: private transfer receipts**33g. Secondary income, private transfer receipts: insurance-related transfers**

For the status of source data used for insurance-related transfers, see the description for insurance services imports (line 51).

33h. Secondary income, private transfer receipts: fines and penalties

Data from U.S. government agencies, U.S. courts, other public documents, and media reports are available for the current quarter.

33i. Secondary income, private transfer receipts: other private transfer receipts

Partner country data from Statistics Canada, Deutsche Bundesbank, and the Office for National Statistics of the United Kingdom, used to estimate pensions, inheritances, and other benefits, are lagged one quarter; they are projected using moving averages. The DOE's Foreign Gift and Contract Report, used to estimate foreign gifts to U.S. private institutions of higher learning, is lagged three quarters; it is projected using a moving average. Data from Deutsche Bundesbank, used to estimate transfers from Germany associated with World War II indemnification claims of U.S. residents, are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. SSA data on benefits paid to beneficiaries in foreign countries are lagged up to 3 years; they are projected using a moving average.

34. Imports of goods and services and income payments (debits)**35. Imports of goods and services****36. Goods****37. General merchandise****38. Foods, feeds, and beverages**

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.

Table continues

Current Account**39. Industrial supplies and materials**

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. BEA survey data (BE-37) on fuel procured in foreign ports by U.S. airlines are available for the current quarter. Census Bureau data on fuel procured in U.S. ports by foreign vessels, used to estimate fuel procured in foreign ports by U.S. vessels, are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. BEA survey data (BE-30) on port expenditures by U.S. vessels in foreign ports, used to estimate fuel procured in foreign ports by U.S. vessels, are available for the current quarter. BEA survey data (BE-29) on port expenditures by foreign vessels in U.S. ports, used to estimate fuel procured in foreign ports by U.S. vessels, are collected annually and incorporated during the annual update; prior to their incorporation, the previous year's rate is used. Data from UN Comtrade on imports of electric energy from Mexico are lagged one quarter; they are carried forward with no change. DOD data on petroleum purchased abroad by U.S. military agencies are available for the current quarter.

40. Capital goods except automotive

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. Data from Statistics Canada on imports of locomotives and railcars from Canada are available for the current quarter. Data from UN Comtrade on imports of locomotives and railcars from Mexico are lagged one quarter; they are projected using the most recent estimate for which source data are available. CBP import declaration data and private source data, used to estimate U.S. airlines' purchases of foreign-manufactured aircraft delivered outside of the United States, are available for the current quarter.

41. Automotive vehicles, parts, and engines

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.

42. Consumer goods except food and automotive

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.

43. Other general merchandise

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. DOD data on nonpetroleum purchases abroad by U.S. military agencies are lagged up to 3 years; they are projected using time-series methods and analyst judgment.

44. Nonmonetary gold

Census-basis data on goods trade and data on selected balance of payments adjustments from the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter. FRBNY data, used to supplement Census Bureau data on nonmonetary gold, are available for the current quarter.

45. Services**46. Manufacturing services on physical inputs owned by others**

BEA does not currently provide estimates for this data item.

47. Maintenance and repair services n.i.e.

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. Census Bureau data on the cross-border movement of equipment and other goods for repair are available for the current quarter.

48. Transport**48a. Transport: Sea freight**

CBP data on import freight and insurance charges are available for the current quarter. BEA survey data (BE-30) on freight rates and on payments for operating leases of transportation equipment with crew for limited periods are available for the current quarter.

48b. Transport: Sea port

CBP data on export and import tonnages carried by U.S.-operated vessels are available for the current quarter. BEA-survey data (BE-30) on port expense rates are available for the current quarter.

48c. Transport: Air passenger

ARC data on average fares and flight patterns are available for the current quarter. BTS data on ancillary fees are lagged one quarter; the prior quarter's value is carried forward with no change. CBP passenger counts are available for the current quarter. Data from Statistics Canada are lagged one quarter; imports from Canada are projected using counts of air passengers from Statistics Canada and from APIS as indicator series.

Table continues

Current Account**48d. Transport: Air freight**

Census Bureau data on import freight and insurance charges received by foreign air carriers are available for the current quarter.

48e. Transport: Air port

BEA survey data (BE-37) on the expenses incurred by U.S. air carriers in foreign countries are available for the current quarter.

48f. Transport: Postal services

Data from USPS are lagged 2 years; they are projected using a moving average, and annual data are interpolated into quarters.¹

48g. Transport: Road and other transport

BTS data on revenues of Canadian truck carriers for transporting goods across the U.S.-Canada border are lagged 2 months; they are projected using U.S. Census Bureau data on goods exports and imports as an indicator series. Surface Transportation Board data for rail freight imports are lagged 1 year; they are projected using analyst judgment, and annual data are interpolated into quarters.¹ Statistics Canada data for rail port exports are lagged 1 year; they are projected using moving averages and annual data are interpolated into quarters.¹ FAA data on space transport are available for the current quarter. Industry reports on space transport imports are available for the current quarter.

49. Travel (for all purposes including education)**49a. Travel: Other business and other personal travel**

SIAT data, used for average expenditures, are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. CBP traveler counts are available for the current quarter. Statistics Canada data are lagged one quarter; they are projected using monthly traveler counts from Statistics Canada, which are forecast with an ARIMA model for periods when the counts are not available, as an indicator series. Bank of Mexico and National Institute of Statistics and Geography data are lagged one quarter; they are projected using monthly traveler counts from the same sources as an indicator series or based on analyst judgment for periods when the traveler-count data are not available.

49b. Travel: Expenditures by border, seasonal, and other short-term workers

Consumer Expenditure Survey-based estimates of the propensity to spend earnings are carried forward with no change. See the entry for compensation of employees receipts (line 32) for status of other data sources.

49c. Travel: Health related

SIAT data, used for average expenditures, are typically lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. CBP traveler counts are available for the current quarter.

49d. Travel: Education related

Counts of study-abroad students from IIE's *Open Doors* report are lagged up to 10 quarters; they are projected using an ARIMA model and analyst judgment. SEVIS average expenditures data are obtained intermittently; average expenditures on tuition are projected using the BLS Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: U.S. city average for college tuition and fees as an indicator series, and average expenditures on living expenditures are projected using the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: U.S. city average for all items.

50. Construction

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

51. Insurance services

BEA survey data (BE-45) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. AM Best's Aggregates & Averages: Property/Casualty data are lagged 18 months; they are projected using a moving average.

Table continues

Current Account**52. Financial services**

BEA survey data (BE-185) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. TIC data, used to estimate transactions volumes for brokerage services on debt transactions, are lagged 1 month; they are projected using Nasdaq exchange market trading volume as an indicator series. Industry sources, used to estimate bid-ask spreads for brokerage services on debt transactions, are available for the current quarter. TIC data, used to estimate transactions volumes for market-making services, are lagged 1 month; they are carried forward with no change. Industry sources, used to estimate bid-ask spreads for market-making services, are available for the current quarter. A volume adjustment factor estimated from BE-185 and TIC data is lagged two quarters; it is carried forward with no change. TIC data, used to estimate the value of loans, deposits, and repurchase agreements for FISIM, are mostly available; values that are not available are projected using the most recent value. Call report data, used to estimate loan and deposit interest rates and the reference rate, are lagged one quarter; rates are projected using real-time trading information of indicator series. Interest rates, used to estimate FISIM on repurchase securities, are available for the current quarter. Partner country data, used to estimate FISIM for selected countries, are lagged one to two quarters; they are carried forward with no change.

53. Charges for the use of intellectual property n.i.e.

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

54. Telecommunications, computer, and information services

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. Statistics Canada data on computer services imports from Canada are lagged up to five quarters; they are projected using a moving average.

55. Other business services

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

56. Personal, cultural, and recreational services

BEA survey data (BE-125) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

57. Government goods and services n.i.e.

Data from the Defense Commissary Agency on commissary sales and from the U.S. Military Postal Service on military post office sales are both lagged by one quarter; they are carried forward with no change. Reporting by U.S. military departments within DOD is lagged by one quarter for: 1) compensation paid to U.S. personnel stationed abroad, 2) payments to foreign nationals for goods (except petroleum) and services supplied to military enclaves, and 3) imports of other goods and services not separately identifiable in the source data; it is projected using a moving average. Historical appropriations data from OMB on payments to international organizations are carried forward with no change. Data reported by U.S. Government agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 are mostly available for the current quarter; reports that are not available for the current quarter are carried forward with no change. State Department data on compensation paid to U.S. citizens and foreign nationals, used to estimate goods and services acquired in the host economy to supply nonmilitary enclaves, are available for the current quarter.

58. Primary income payments**59. Investment income****60. Direct investment income**

Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. AMNE data, used to estimate the current cost adjustment, are lagged up to 3 years; data from the BEA Fixed Assets Accounts are incorporated only for periods when AMNE data are available; for periods beyond the availability of the AMNE data, the current cost adjustment is projected using quarterly direct investment survey data and recent quarterly trends.

61. Portfolio investment income

TIC data on positions are available for the current quarter. Financial services industry data on dividend yields and price indexes (from MSCI, S&P, and Merrill Lynch ICE) are available for the current quarter.

62. Other investment income

TIC data on transactions and positions are available for the current quarter. Some partner country data are lagged one quarter; positions are carried forward with no change. Interest rates from various sources are available for the current quarter. For information on the TIC, call report, partner country, and interest rate data, used to estimate the FISIM adjustment to other investment income, see the FISIM imports data sources in the entry for financial services imports (line 52).

Table continues

Current Account

63. Compensation of employees

Estimates of compensation of Mexican workers are based on BEA research and are projected using analyst judgment. Historical partner country data from Statistics Canada on compensation of Canadian residents working in the United States are projected using analyst judgment. For the availability of SEVIS data to estimate compensation of foreign students studying in the United States, see the entry for education-related travel exports (line 17d). IIE *Open Doors* report data, used to estimate the share of payments to foreign students that are classified as compensation, are lagged up to six quarters; they are carried forward with no change. State Department data on the number of foreign professionals, agricultural, and nonagricultural workers temporarily residing in the United States are lagged up to 1 year; they are carried forward with no change. Data from the OFLC on wages of foreign professionals and nonagricultural workers are typically lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average or using the most recent estimate for which source data are available. Historical IRS data on earnings by foreign artists and athletes are projected using a moving average. NAWs data, used to estimate the share of agricultural and nonagricultural workers that are not U.S. residents, are lagged up to 5 years; they are carried forward with no change. NASS Farm Labor Survey data, used to estimate compensation of agricultural workers, are lagged one quarter; they are projected using a moving average. State Department data on the number of foreign nationals employed by U.S. diplomatic missions abroad are typically available for the current quarter; when they are not, they are projected using a moving average.

64. Secondary income (current transfer) payments**64a. Secondary income: general government transfer payments****64b. Secondary income, general government transfer payments: social benefits**

Data submitted by U.S. government agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 are received and processed on a flow basis; reports not received in time for the current quarter are projected using a moving average.

64c. Secondary income, general government transfer payments: international cooperation

Data submitted by U.S. government agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 are received and processed on a flow basis; reports not received in time for the current quarter are projected using a moving average.

64d. Secondary income, general government transfer payments: contributions to international organizations

Data submitted by U.S. government agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 are received and processed on a flow basis; reports not received in time for the current quarter are projected using data from the Budget of the U.S. Government for the relevant fiscal year, published by OMB, as an indicator series.

64e. Secondary income, general government transfer payments: other general government transfer payments

Transactions in this category are rare; there is no projection made for these transactions in a typical quarter.

64f. Secondary income: private transfer payments**64g. Secondary income, private transfer payments: Personal transfers**

Data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey are lagged up to 2 years; they are projected using analyst judgement. The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators are lagged up to 1 year; they are projected using analyst judgement. The World Bank's World Development Indicators are lagged up to 1 year; they are projected using analyst judgement.

64h. Secondary income, private transfer payments: insurance-related transfers

For the status of source data used for insurance-related transfers, see the description for insurance services exports (line 19).

64i. Secondary income, private transfer payments: taxes on income, wealth, etc.

IRS data, used to estimate taxes for securities, withholding taxes on direct investment, services, and compensation, are lagged up to 3 years; they are projected using analyst judgement. Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605), used to estimate withholding taxes on dividends, are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. BEA services survey data are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses.

64j. Secondary income, private transfer payments: fines and penalties

Data from foreign government agencies, foreign courts, and media reports are available for the current quarter.

64k. Secondary income, private transfer payments: charitable donations

IRS Form 990 data are lagged up to 2 years; reports that have been received are processed on a flow basis and those that have not been are projected using data from the Foundation Center as an indicator series. Data reported by U.S. foundations to Candid, an information service that specializes in U.S. nonprofit companies, are lagged up to 1 year; they are projected using analyst judgement. Data on cross-border donations of goods reported to CBP through the ACE and compiled by the Census Bureau are available for the current quarter.

Table continues

Current Account**64l. Secondary income, private transfer payments: transfers to foreign students**

For the status of source data used for transfers to foreign students, see the description for education-related travel exports (line 17d).

64m. Secondary income, private transfer payments: other private transfer payments

Annual reports from professional hockey teams are lagged up to 1 year; they are projected using a moving average. Historical USPS data on parcel post shipments are projected using a moving average. USPS data on postal money orders are available for the current quarter. SSA data on benefits paid to beneficiaries in foreign countries are lagged up to 3 years; they are projected using a moving average.

Capital account**65. Capital transfer receipts and other credits**

BE-125 data on outright sales of trademarks and franchises and on transfer fees paid by one sporting franchise to another for the transfer of a player are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. BE-45 and BE-125 data on disaster-related (catastrophic) insurance claims are lagged two quarters; they are projected based on press releases and other publicly available sources.

66. Capital transfer payments and other debits

BE-125 data on outright purchases of trademarks and franchises and on transfer fees paid by one sporting franchise to another for the transfer of a player are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. BE-45 and BE-125 data on disaster-related (catastrophic) insurance claims are lagged two quarters; they are projected based on press releases and other publicly available sources. The Treasury Department's Monthly Treasury Statement, used to measure forgiveness of U.S. government loans, is available for the current quarter.

Financial account (and IIP Accounts)**67 (5). Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets excluding financial derivatives (ITA)/Assets excluding financial derivatives (IIP)****68 (7). Direct investment assets****69 (8). Equity**

Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. ITA only:² AMNE data, used to estimate the current cost adjustment, are lagged up to 3 years and data from the BEA Fixed Assets Accounts are incorporated only for periods when AMNE data are available; for periods beyond the availability of the AMNE data, the current cost adjustment is projected using quarterly direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) and recent quarterly trends.

70 (9). Debt instruments

Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are carried forward with no change.

71 (10). Portfolio investment assets**72 (11). Equity and investment fund shares**

TIC data on U.S. residents' claims of foreign-issued equity are available for the current quarter. MSCI indexes are available for the current quarter.

73 (12). Debt securities**74 (13). Short term**

TIC data on U.S. residents' claims of short-term debt securities, including negotiable certificates of deposit, are available for the current quarter.

75 (14). Long term

TIC data on U.S. residents' claims of long-term debt securities, including negotiable certificates of deposit, are available for the current quarter. Merrill Lynch ICE price indexes are available for the current quarter.

76 (21). Other investment assets**77 (22). Other equity**

Treasury Department data from the Monthly Treasury Statement are available for the current quarter.

Table continues

Financial account (and IIP Accounts)**78 (23). Currency and deposits**

TIC data on claims for deposits are available for the current quarter. FRBNY data on positions in central bank liquidity swaps and FIMA repos are available for the current quarter. Some partner country data from foreign sources are lagged one quarter; no projection is made for these transactions.

79 (24). Loans

TIC data on claims for loans are available for the current quarter. U.S. Treasury Department data from the Monthly Treasury Statement are available for the current quarter. Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605), used to remove transactions in owner's equity covered by direct investment assets, are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. Data submitted by U.S. government agencies under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19 via the FCRS, used to estimate loans by the U.S. government to foreign residents, are received and processed on a flow basis; reports not received in time for the current quarter are projected using a moving average.

80 (25). Insurance technical reserves

BEA does not currently provide estimates for this data item.

81 (26). Trade credit and advances

TIC data on trade credit and advances are available for the current quarter.

82 (27). Reserve assets**83 (28). Monetary gold**

Treasury Department data on U.S. positions in monetary gold are available for the current quarter.

84 (29). Special drawing rights

IMF data on the positions and transactions in the U.S. SDR account are available for the current quarter.

85 (30). Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund

IMF data on positions and transactions between the United States and the IMF for the General Resources (tranche) Account and on any borrowing by the IMF are available for the current quarter.

86 (31). Other reserve assets**87 (32). Currency and deposits**

FRBNY data are available for the current quarter.

88 (33). Securities

FRBNY data are available for the current quarter.

89 (34). Financial derivatives

FRBNY data are available for the current quarter.

90 (35). Other claims

FRBNY data are available for the current quarter.

91 (37). Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities excluding financial derivatives (ITA)/Liabilities excluding financial derivatives (IIP)**92 (39). Direct investment liabilities****93 (40). Equity**

Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. ITA only:² AMNE data, used to estimate the current cost adjustment, are lagged up to 3 years and data from the BEA Fixed Assets Accounts are incorporated only for periods when AMNE data are available; for periods beyond the availability of the AMNE data, the current cost adjustment is projected using quarterly direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) and recent quarterly trends.

94 (41). Debt instruments

Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605) are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are carried forward with no change.

95 (42). Portfolio investment liabilities**96 (43). Equity and investment fund shares**

TIC data on U.S. residents' liabilities for U.S.-issued equity are available for the current quarter. S&P Dow Jones indexes are available for the current quarter.

97 (44). Debt securities**98 (45). Short term**

TIC data on U.S. residents' liabilities for U.S.-issued short-term debt securities, including negotiable certificates of deposit, are available for the current quarter.

Table continues

Financial account (and IIP Accounts)**99 (48). Long term**

TIC data on U.S. residents' liabilities for U.S.-issued long-term debt securities, including negotiable certificates of deposit, are available for the current quarter. Merrill Lynch ICE price indexes are available for the current quarter.

100 (57). Other investment liabilities**101 (58). Other equity**

BEA does not currently provide estimates for these data items.

102 (59). Currency and deposits

TIC data on liabilities for deposits are available for the current quarter. FRB data on net shipments of U.S. currency into and out of the United States are available for the current quarter.

103 (60). Loans

TIC data on liabilities for loans are available for the current quarter. Direct investment survey data (BE-577 and BE-605), used to remove transactions in owner's equity covered by direct investment liabilities, are received and processed on a flow basis; survey responses not yet received are estimated using a matched sample based on received survey responses. Some partner country data from foreign sources are lagged one quarter; no projection is made for these transactions.

104 (61). Insurance technical reserves

BEA does not currently provide estimates for these data items.

105 (62). Trade credit and advances

TIC data on trade credit and advances are available for the current quarter. Data submitted by the DOD under OMB Statistical Directive No. 19, used to estimate advance payments for sales of military goods, are available for the current quarter.

106 (63). Special drawing rights allocations

IMF information on special drawing rights are available for the current quarter.

107 (3, 6, 15-20, 38, and 51-56). Financial derivatives other than reserves, net transactions

TIC data on financial derivatives are available for the current quarter.

Addendum**Seasonal adjustment factors**

Seasonal adjustment factors are projected annually using the Census X-13 ARIMA-SEATS program during the annual update.

1. The interpolation methodology used by BEA is the modified Denton proportional first difference method.
2. Source data used for estimating the ITA but not the IIP entry are labeled as "(ITA only)".

Note. To ensure the most accurate, complete, and consistent picture of the U.S. economy as possible, BEA makes adjustments to address inconsistencies in the concepts, coverage, timing, or quality of source data on a case-by-case basis.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

n.i.e.	Not included elsewhere	IIP	International Investment Position
ACE	Automated Commercial Environment	IMF	International Monetary Fund
AMNE	Activities of multinational enterprises	IRS	Internal Revenue Service
APIS	Advance Passenger Information System	ITA(s)	International Transactions Account(s)
ARIMA	Auto regressive integrated moving average	NASS	National Agricultural Statistics Service
BEA	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis	NAWS	National Agricultural Workers Survey
BLS	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics	NIPA(s)	National Income and Product Account(s)
BTS	Bureau of Transportation Statistics	OFLC	Office of Foreign Labor Certification
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
Census Bureau	U.S. Census Bureau	SDR	Special drawing rights
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense	SEVIS	Student and Exchange Visitor System
DOE	U.S. Department of Education	SIAT	Survey of International Air Travelers
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration	SSA	U.S. Social Security Administration
FCRS	Foreign Credit Reporting System	State Department	U.S. Department of State
FISIM	Financial intermediation services indirectly measured	TIC	Treasury International Capital
FRBNY	Federal Reserve Bank of New York	Treasury Department	U.S. Department of the Treasury
ICE	Intercontinental Exchange	USPS	United States Postal Service
IIE	Institute of International Education		

Glossary

Term	Definition
Accrual accounting	Accounting method that matches the time of recording with the timing of the events giving rise to economic flows. Revenues and expenses are reflected in the accounts in the period earned or expensed rather than when cash receipts or disbursements occur (cash accounting). Accrual accounting is used to compile the International Transactions Accounts, the International Investment Position Accounts, and the statistics on activities of multinational enterprises.
Activities of multinational enterprises (AMNE)	AMNE statistics relate to the operations and finances of multinational enterprises such as sales, employment, expenditures for property, plant, and equipment, balance sheets, and value added. These statistics include closely related foreign affiliates statistics (FATS). The Bureau of Economic Analysis publishes inward AMNE statistics, which pertain to foreign-owned business enterprises resident in the United States (U.S. affiliates), and outward AMNE statistics, which pertain to foreign affiliates and their U.S. parents.
Affiliate	Business enterprise that is directly or indirectly owned or controlled by an entity in another country to the extent of 10 percent or more ownership of the voting stock for a legally incorporated business or an equivalent interest for an unincorporated business.
Affiliated trade	Resident-nonresident trade between entities that have a direct investment relationship with each other, such as between a parent and its affiliate. Also known as intrafirm trade or related-party trade.
Asset/liability basis	Method of presenting direct investment statistics under which the financial transactions, positions, and income are organized according to whether the investment relates to an asset or liability without any offsetting adjustments for reverse investment or investment by fellow enterprises. An alternative presentation is the directional principle.
Balance	Net measure of transactions between the United States and the rest of the world. It is calculated as credits less debits for some category of transactions. The International Transactions Accounts include balances on the current account and major current account components as well as on the capital account. A positive balance indicates a surplus and a negative balance indicates a deficit.
Balance of payments	Statistical statement that summarizes, for a specific reference period, the economic transactions of an economy with the rest of the world. The U.S. balance of payments is referred to as the International Transactions Accounts.
Balance of payments adjustments	Additions and subtractions to goods exports and imports compiled on a customs basis (merchandise trade statistics) to meet balance of payments requirements. Adjustments are made for coverage, timing, valuation, residence, and other factors.
BD4	The <i>Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, Fourth Edition</i> , published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. This manual contains guidelines for the preparation of statistics related to direct investment financial transactions, positions, and income.
Bilateral statistics	International Economic Accounts statistics disaggregated according to partner-country classifications. Bilateral statistics provide important measures of trade and investment between the United States and other countries and world regions.

Term	Definition
BPM6	The <i>Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition</i> , published by the International Monetary Fund. This manual contains guidelines for the preparation of International Economic Accounts.
Branch	Business entity that is not legally incorporated and is owned by another business entity.
Business enterprise	Any organization, association, branch, or venture that exists for profit-making purposes or to otherwise secure economic advantage, including ownership of real estate held for these purposes.
Call Reports— FFIEC 031, 041, 051— Reports of Condition and Income	Quarterly regulatory reports that U.S.-chartered commercial banks are required to file with the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC). The reports collect a different level of detail depending on bank structure and size; though for all sizes, though, the call report is a thorough description of a bank's balance sheet and income statement.
Capital account	Major account of the International Transactions Accounts that records resident-nonresident transactions for capital transfers and for the acquisition or disposal of nonproduced nonfinancial assets.
Capital gains and losses of direct investment affiliates	The portion of the parent share of affiliate net income that is not the result of the affiliates' primary activities and is excluded from direct investment income on equity (earnings). Capital gains and losses include gains and losses resulting from the sale or disposition of assets, excluding inventories; certain holding gains and losses on financial assets; goodwill impairment; write-downs and write-offs of assets and liabilities associated with restructuring; disposals of discontinued operations; extraordinary, unusual, and infrequently occurring items that are material, including losses from accidental damages or natural disasters after insurance reimbursement but excluding fines, penalties, and settlements; and changes in accounting principles.
Capital transfers	Component of the capital account treated as the offsetting entry to financial claims or nonfinancial assets acquired or provided without a corresponding return of economic value (<i>quid pro quo</i>).
Center of economic interest	Location of an institutional unit from which it engages, or intends to engage, in economic activities and transactions on a significant scale for one year or more. Determines the country of residence for International Economic Accounts.
Change in ownership	Basic principle in <i>BPM6</i> for determining international transactions. Occurs when a good, nonproduced nonfinancial asset, or financial asset has been received or a service has been provided. It is generally deemed to have occurred when the two parties (resident and nonresident) record a transaction in their respective accounts.
Change in volume and valuation n.i.e. (not included elsewhere)	Change in the value of an asset or a liability in the International Investment Position Accounts from the beginning to the end of a period due to changes other than financial transactions, price changes, and exchange-rate changes.
Compensation of employees	Comprises wages, salaries, and other benefits earned by employees for work performed.
Counterparty	The nonresident participant in a U.S. international transaction.
Credit	Transaction that records revenue earned (for example, exports of goods and services), receipt of income, a liquidation of U.S. assets, or an incurrence of U.S. liabilities. Treated as a positive value when calculating balances and as a negative value when calculating the statistical discrepancy.

Term	Definition
Currency and deposits	Currency consists of notes and coins with fixed nominal values that are issued or authorized by central banks or governments. Deposits include all claims on deposit-taking institutional units that are represented by evidence of deposit.
Current account	Major account of the International Transactions Accounts that covers resident-nonresident transactions (that is, exchanges of economic values and transfers of current economic value without a quid pro quo) in goods, services, primary income, and secondary income.
Current cost	Valuation of assets based on the prices prevailing at the time of valuation. It incorporates the effects of both depreciation and changes in market prices.
Current-cost adjustment	Adjustment to direct investment earnings that converts depreciation reported for financial accounting purposes to a measure more consistent with economic accounting principles. The adjustment converts depreciation valued at historical cost to current (replacement) cost and adds depletion of natural resources back to earnings for consistency with National Economic Accounts.
Current transfers	Component of the current account treated as the offsetting entry to current economic value acquired or provided without a corresponding return of economic value (quid pro quo).
Customs value	Valuation method used in the U.S. International Economic Accounts for U.S. imports of goods. The value is generally defined as the price actually paid or payable for goods at the foreign port of export, excluding U.S. import duties, freight, insurance, and other charges incurred in bringing the goods to the United States.
Debit	Transaction that records expense incurred (for example, imports of goods and services), payment of income, an acquisition of U.S. assets, or a repayment of U.S. liabilities. Treated as a negative value when calculating balances and as a positive value when calculating the statistical discrepancy.
Debt	Financial claim that refers to lending of funds by a creditor (lender) to a debtor (borrower). Debt comprises securities that are generally marketable and other instruments that are generally not marketable.
Debt forgiveness	Component of capital transfers in the capital account whereby a government creditor entity in one economy formally agrees with a debtor entity in another economy to extinguish all or part of the obligations of the debtor to that creditor.
Debt securities	Negotiable instruments that serve as evidence of debt including bills, bonds, notes, negotiable certificates of deposit, commercial paper, debentures, asset-backed securities, money market instruments, and similar instruments traded in financial markets.
Debtor/creditor principle	Type of geographic attribution in the International Economic Accounts whereby financial assets (claims) of the compiling economy are attributed to the country of residence of the nonresident debtor and financial liabilities are attributed to the country of residence of the nonresident creditor. An alternative approach is the transactor principle.
Deficit	A negative balance of credits less debits for some category of transactions.

Term	Definition
Direct investment	A category of cross-border investment associated with a resident in one economy having control or a significant degree of influence on the management of a business enterprise resident in another economy. Ownership or control of 10 percent or more of the voting securities of an entity in another economy is the threshold for separating direct investment from other types of investment. Direct investment is a functional category for primary income and the financial account of the International Transactions Accounts and for the International Investment Position Accounts. Also refers to investment transactions or positions between entities involved in a direct investment relationship. Its major components are equity investment and debt instruments investment.
Direct investment enterprise	A business enterprise in which a direct investor, who is a resident entity in another economy, owns 10 percent or more of the ordinary shares or voting power (for a corporation) or the equivalent (for enterprise that is not incorporated). Equivalent to an affiliate in the U.S. International Economic Accounts.
Direct investment debt instruments	A component of direct investment that reflects parents' lending to and borrowing from their affiliates. For inward investment, it also covers transactions between U.S. affiliates and members of their foreign parent group other than the immediate foreign parent. Also known as intercompany debt.
Direct investment financial transactions	Transactions that change financial claims (assets) and liabilities between U.S. parents and their foreign affiliates or between U.S. affiliates and their foreign parents. Financial outflows result from transactions that increase U.S. assets or decrease U.S. liabilities. Financial inflows result from transactions that decrease U.S. assets or increase U.S. liabilities. Direct investment financial transactions consist of reinvestment of earnings, equity investment other than reinvestment of earnings, and debt instruments investment.
Direct investment position	The value of investment for the functional category of direct investment. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) presents direct investment positions on both an asset/liability basis and on a directional basis. On an asset/liability basis, the position equals the value of equity claims and outstanding loans between entities involved in direct investment relationships. On a directional basis, the position equals parents' equity in, and net outstanding loans to, their affiliates. BEA reports statistics for positions at historical cost (book value), current cost, and market value.
Direct investor	An entity resident in one economy that owns 10 percent or more of the ordinary shares or voting power (for a corporation) or the equivalent (for a business enterprise that is not incorporated) of a business enterprise resident in another economy. A business enterprise may have one or more direct investors, either through a single chain of ownership or through multiple chains. In the U.S. economic accounts, U.S. parents are direct investors in all of their foreign affiliates and immediate direct investors in some of their foreign affiliates; foreign parents are immediate direct investors in their U.S. affiliates. Ultimate beneficial owners of U.S. affiliates are sometimes direct investors in those affiliates, and some members of U.S. affiliates' foreign parent groups may be direct investors in the affiliates.
Directional principle	Method of presenting direct investment statistics under which the financial flows and positions are organized according to the direction of the direct investment relationship (outward versus inward). Reverse investment and certain types of investment in fellow enterprises are subtracted from gross outward and inward flows and positions. An alternative presentation is the asset/liability principle. The directional principle is used for classifying direct investment financial transactions, positions, and income by country and by industry.
Dividends and withdrawals	Distributed earnings to equity holders of incorporated private enterprises, cooperatives, and public corporations that are paid from after-tax profits, and distributed income from unincorporated entities, such as branches.

Term	Definition
Double-entry accounting	Basic accounting convention whereby each recorded transaction is represented by at least two corresponding entries (credit and debit) with equal values in the accounts of the transactor. This convention is used for compiling the International Transactions Accounts.
Economic assets	Resources over which ownership rights are enforced and from which future economic benefits may accrue to the owner. They include fixed assets, inventories, valuables, nonproduced assets, and financial assets.
Economic ownership	Economic ownership, which may differ from legal ownership, accrues to the party that bears the risks and enjoys the rewards of ownership.
End-use system	System of classification of merchandise trade data developed by the Bureau of Economic Analysis for publishing U.S. goods trade statistics according to analytically meaningful categories. It is based on the Harmonized System.
Enterprise	An institutional unit engaged in production that may be a business enterprise, a nonprofit institution, or a part of a household or government unit engaged in production.
Equity and investment fund shares	Financial instrument category that includes both equity excluding investment fund shares and investment fund shares.
Equity excluding investment fund shares	Financial instruments that represent claims to the residual values of issuing institutional units. Equity securities include common stocks, preferred stocks, restricted stocks, and depository receipts.
Equity investment other than reinvestment of earnings	Subcomponent of equity investment in direct investment financial transactions that is measured as the difference between equity increases and decreases. Equity increases result from (1) parents' establishments of new affiliates, (2) payments by parents to unaffiliated parties for the purchase of capital stock or other equity interests when they acquire an existing business, (3) payments to acquire additional ownership interests in their affiliates, and (4) capital contributions to their affiliates. Equity decreases are the funds parents receive when they reduce their equity interests in their affiliates.
Exchange-rate change	Change in the value of a foreign-currency-denominated asset or a liability in the International Investment Position Accounts from the beginning to the end of a period due to changes in the value of foreign currencies relative to the value of the U.S. dollar.
Fellow enterprises	Enterprises that have no direct investment relationship with one another but that have a common direct investor.
Financial account	Major account of the International Transactions Accounts that records resident-nonresident transactions in financial instruments classified by the functional categories of direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, reserve assets, and financial derivatives. All financial-account transactions are recorded as net acquisition of U.S. assets, net incurrence of U.S. liabilities, or net transactions in financial derivatives other than reserves.
Financial assets	Economic assets that are financial instruments. Financial assets include financial claims and, by convention, monetary gold held as gold bullion.
Financial derivatives other than reserves	Financial instruments that represent securities providing payoffs that are based on the values of other assets such as commodity prices, securities prices, or market index values. Examples are futures, forwards, options and swaps. It is also a functional category of investment.

Term	Definition
Financial institutions	Business enterprises that are principally engaged in providing financial services, including insurance and pension fund services. Includes depository and nondepository financial enterprises.
Financial instruments	Consists of the full range of financial contracts between institutional units that may give rise to financial claims. A claim is a financial instrument that gives rise to an economic asset with a counterpart liability. Financial instruments are classified as equity and investment fund shares, debt instruments, and other financial assets and liabilities.
Flows	Economic activities and events that occur within an accounting period. Cross-border flows are recorded in the International Economic Accounts as transactions and as other changes in financial assets and liabilities (other flows).
Foreign direct investment in the United States	An investment characterized by ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by one foreign resident (the foreign parent) of at least 10 percent of a U.S. business enterprise (the U.S. affiliate). Also known as inward direct investment.
Foreign official agencies	Primarily consists of treasuries, including ministries of finance or corresponding departments of national governments, central banks, stabilization funds, exchange control offices, and other governmental exchange authorities. Also included are other entities that are authorized as fiscal agents of national governments.
Foreign parent group	The foreign parent group of a U.S. affiliate consists of (1) the foreign parent, (2) any foreign person (including a company), proceeding up the foreign parent's ownership chain, that owns more than 50 percent of the entity below it, up to and including the ultimate beneficial owner (UBO), and (3) any foreign entity, proceeding down the ownership chain(s) of each of these members, that is owned more than 50 percent by the foreign entity above it. The foreign parent group excludes any foreign entity proceeding down these ownership chains that is not owned more than 50 percent by another member of the foreign parent group. Also known as affiliated foreign group.
Foreign trade zones	Foreign Trade Zones are specially licensed commercial and industrial areas in or near ports of entry under the control of U.S. Customs and Border Protection with facilities for handling, storing, manipulating, manufacturing, and exhibiting goods. Foreign Trade Zones are considered outside of the U.S. Customs Territory (the 50 States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico). The merchandise may be exported, destroyed, or sent into U.S. Customs territory from the zone, in the original package or otherwise. It is subject to Customs duties if sent into U.S. Customs territory, but not if reshipped to foreign points.
Free alongside ship (F.A.S.)	Valuation method used in the U.S. International Economic Accounts for U.S. exports of goods. Includes domestic trade and transport margins.
Free on board (F.O.B.)	Valuation method recommended in <i>BPM6</i> for consistent valuation of goods at the customs frontier of the economy from which the goods are exported. Includes domestic trade and transport margins plus the cost of loading merchandise on a transport carrier.
Functional category	In the U.S. International Economic Accounts, functional categories are the primary classification system used for financial transactions, positions, and income. The five functional categories of investment are direct investment, portfolio investment, financial derivatives other than reserves, other investment, and reserve assets.
General government	Legal entities established by political processes that have legislative, judicial, or executive authority over other institutional units within a given area. In the United States, many separate government units exist at different levels, including federal, state, and local government.

Term	Definition
Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP)	The common set of accounting principles, standards, and procedures that companies use to compile their financial statements, particularly in the United States. In most cases, U.S. GAAP is used by respondents to the Bureau of Economic Analysis direct investment surveys.
Goods	Major component of the current account of the International Transactions Accounts that covers physical, produced items for which ownership rights can be established and transferred. Goods are classified as general merchandise, net exports of goods under merchandising, and nonmonetary gold.
Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System)	Classification system established by the World Customs Organization to secure a high degree of harmony and uniformity across countries in customs data systems. This system is used to classify U.S. trade in goods.
Historical cost (book value)	Valuation of assets based on the value recorded in the financial accounts of the enterprise at the time the asset was acquired. Historical cost, also called “book value,” is the basis on which companies can most easily report data for Bureau of Economic Analysis direct investment surveys.
Households	Consists of individuals or groups of individuals who share the same living accommodation, pool some of their income, and consume certain goods and services collectively. Households include individuals living in institutional arrangements.
Institutional unit	Entities that engage in transactions and other economic activities in an economic territory and that form the foundation for economic statistics compiled in National Economic Accounts and International Economic Accounts.
Insurance technical reserves	Reserves for unearned nonlife insurance premiums due to prepayment of premiums and reserves against outstanding nonlife insurance claims.
Interest	Income that is receivable by the owners of certain kinds of financial assets, namely deposits, debt securities, loans, and other accounts receivable, for placing the financial assets at the disposal of another institutional unit.
International Investment Position (IIP) Accounts	Statistical statement of the value and composition of the stock of an economy’s claims on the rest of the world and the value and composition of the stock of an economy’s liabilities to the rest of the world.
International services	The name of a set of annual statistics that covers both U.S. international trade in services and services supplied through majority-owned affiliates of multinational enterprises. The trade in services portion of the statistics covers in greater detail the same transactions covered by the services component of the current account of the International Transactions Accounts, as well as trade in information and communications technology (ICT) services and digitally deliverable services. The services supplied through affiliates portion of the statistics covers services provided to foreign customers by foreign affiliates of U.S. parents and services provided to U.S. customers by U.S. affiliates of foreign parents. The international services statistics also include information on services trade by enterprise characteristics (STEC). The STEC statistics provide information on various characteristics, such as the primary industry of firm activity, firm ownership type, and firm employment size class, for U.S. firms that trade in a subset of “selected” international services trade categories collected on BEA surveys. U.S. trade in services and STEC statistics are released each July and services supplied through affiliates statistics each October.
International Transactions Accounts (ITAs)	Official title for the U.S. balance of payments accounts, which consist of the current account, the capital account, and the financial account.

Term	Definition
Investment fund shares	Type of collective investment that includes money market funds (MMFs) and non-MMF investment funds. Includes shares in money market, equity, and bond mutual funds, real estate investment trusts, index-linked equity unit investment trusts, and limited partnership interests.
Investment income	Component of primary income that includes income on equity and on debt. Equity income consists of profits (distributed or reinvested) on direct investment, dividends on portfolio stocks, and withdrawals from income on other equity. Debt income consists of interest from direct, portfolio, and other investment.
Inward direct investment	Also known as foreign direct investment in the United States. In the International Transactions Accounts and International Investment Position Accounts, inward direct investment includes equity and net debt investments by the foreign parent, and net debt investment by any other members of the foreign parent group.
Knowledge-capturing products	Outputs of information, advice, and entertainment that can be repeatedly accessed by the consumer. Knowledge-capturing products are (usually) not physical, but ownership rights for these products can be established and transferred. By virtue of not being physical, they are not fully goods. By virtue of the capability to have ownership rights attached, they are not fully services. In the current account of the International Transactions Accounts, however, knowledge-capturing products are mostly classified as services.
Loans	Financial instruments that are established when a creditor lends funds directly to a debtor and that are evidenced by nonnegotiable documents. This category includes installment loans, hire-purchase loans, and trade credit finance. Loans also include securities repurchase agreements and financial leases.
Majority-owned affiliate	An affiliate (direct investment enterprise) that is controlled by a nonresident direct investor through the ownership either directly or indirectly of more than 50 percent of the voting equity of a legally incorporated business or an equivalent interest in an unincorporated business. Known in <i>BPM6</i> as a subsidiary.
Market value	Amount that willing buyers pay to acquire something from willing sellers. The exchanges are made between two independent parties and on the basis of commercial considerations only.
Maturity	Period after which a security can be redeemed for its maturity value. Short-term is defined as payable on demand or at one year or less. Long-term is defined as payable after more than one year or with no maturity.
Maturity value	The amount the issuer will pay the holder of a security at the date of redemption of the security. It is often referred to as par, face, principal, and redemption value.
Modes of supply	Categories of services transactions developed by the World Trade Organization for compiling statistics related to administration of the General Agreement on Trade in Services.
Monetary authority	Generally the central bank and other institutional units that conduct operations on behalf of the central bank. Such operations include the issuance of currency, maintenance and management of reserve assets, and the operation of exchange stabilization funds. In the United States, authority over reserve assets is shared by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve System.
Monetary gold	Reserve asset item that refers to gold owned by the monetary authorities and held as a reserve asset. Transactions in monetary gold occur only between monetary authorities and their counterparts in other economies or between monetary authorities and international monetary organizations.

Term	Definition
Money market securities	All highly marketable debt securities with an initial term to maturity of a year or less that generally give the holder the unconditional right to receive a stated, fixed sum of money on a specific date.
Multinational enterprises (MNEs)	Enterprise groups with a direct investor resident in one country that have direct investment enterprises located in one or more other countries. In the U.S. International Economic Accounts, MNEs consist of parent companies and their affiliates.
National Income and Product Accounts (NIPAs)	Part of the U.S. system of National Economic Accounts. The NIPAs display the value and composition of U.S. production, the distribution of incomes generated in production and the sources of saving, which provides for investment in future production.
Net international investment position	Component of the International Investment Position Accounts that represents the stock of external financial assets minus the stock of external liabilities. The net position shows what the economy owns in relation to what it owes to nonresidents.
Net lending or borrowing	Measure in the International Transactions Accounts of the balance of funds supplied to the rest of the world. Positive values of this measure indicate net lending and negative values indicate net borrowing. It can be measured as the sum of balances on the current account and capital account or as net acquisition of financial assets less net incurrence of liabilities in the financial account. The two measures differ by the statistical discrepancy.
Net U.S. acquisition of financial assets	Major component of the financial account that covers the acquisition by U.S. residents of financial assets issued by nonresidents. Categories of assets include direct investment, portfolio investment, other investment, and reserve assets.
Net U.S. incurrence of liabilities	Major component of the financial account that covers the incurrence by U.S. residents of liabilities to nonresidents. Categories of liabilities include direct investment, portfolio investment, and other investment.
New foreign direct investment in the United States	Acquisitions, establishments, and expansions of U.S. business enterprises by foreign direct investors or by U.S. enterprises owned by foreign direct investors.
Nonfinancial institutions	Institutions whose principal activity is the production of market goods or nonfinancial services. These include business enterprises (including legally constituted corporations, branches of nonresident enterprises, cooperatives, limited liability partnerships, notional resident units owning land, etc.) and resident nonprofit institutions that are market producers of goods or nonfinancial services.
Nonmonetary gold	Refers to all gold not held as reserve assets.
Nonproduced nonfinancial assets	Component in the capital account that covers transactions in tangible assets that are used in production but that are not actually produced, such as natural resources, and nonproduced intangible assets, such as copyrights, trademarks, and franchises.
Nonprofit institutions serving households (NPISH)	Entities engaged in providing goods and services to households or the community at large free of charge or at prices that are not economically significant, except for those entities that are controlled and financed by government units.
Nonresident	An institutional unit that is not treated as a resident of the U.S. economy. The International Transactions Accounts and the International Investment Position Accounts record transactions and positions between U.S. residents and nonresidents.
Notional resident unit	A type of enterprise identified for statistical purposes to hold land and natural resources owned by nonresidents.

Term	Definition
Offsetting entry	In double-entry accounting, a debit entry corresponding to a credit entry for a given transaction or a credit entry corresponding to a debit entry. An offsetting entry is equal in value to the entry it offsets.
Other changes in position	Changes in the volume, value, or classification of an asset or liability in the International Investment Position Accounts from the beginning to the end of a period not due to resident-nonresident transactions. Consist of price changes, exchange-rate changes, and other changes in the volume, value, or classification of assets and liabilities.
Other changes in volume and valuation	Adjustments to the historical-cost direct investment position that reflect differences between transactions values, which are used to record direct investment financial flows, and the book values on foreign affiliates' books, which are used to record the position, changes in coverage, and the reclassification of investment positions between direct investment and other investment.
Other equity	Equity not in the form of securities.
Other investment	Functional category for primary income and the financial account of the International Transactions Accounts and for the International Investment Position Accounts that is not direct investment, portfolio investment, reserves, or financial derivatives other than reserves. Other investment includes other equity, currency and deposits, loans, insurance technical reserves, trade credit and advances, and special drawing rights allocations.
Other reserve assets	Reserve assets other than monetary gold, special drawing rights (SDRs), and reserve position in the IMF. Can include currency and deposits, securities, financial derivatives, and other claims that meet the definition for reserve assets.
Outward direct investment	Also known as U.S. direct investment abroad. In the International Transactions Accounts and the International Investment Position Accounts, outward direct investment includes equity and net debt investments by the U.S. parent in its foreign affiliate(s).
Parent	A U.S. parent is a U.S. entity that has a direct investment interest in a foreign business enterprise. A foreign parent is the first entity outside the United States in a U.S. affiliate's ownership chain that has a direct investment interest in the affiliate.
Partner country	Country of residence of the counterparty to an international transaction or financial position. Provides the basis for compiling bilateral statistics.
Portfolio investment	Functional category for primary income and the financial account of the International Transactions Accounts and for the International Investment Position Accounts for transactions and positions involving debt or equity securities, other than those included in direct investment or reserve assets. Securities are debt and equity financial instruments that have the characteristic feature of negotiability.
Positions	Fundamental concept for the International Investment Position Accounts that refers to the value of assets or liabilities at a point in time.
Price change	Change in the value of an asset or a liability in the International Investment Position Accounts from the beginning to the end of a period due to changes in the market price of a financial instrument.
Primary income	Major component of the current account that represents the return to institutional units for their contribution to the production process or for the provision of financial assets. Consists of investment income and compensation of employees.

Term	Definition
Profits	Earnings of enterprises measured after payment of corporate income taxes during the recording period. Profits are referred to as income on equity in direct investment income in the International Transactions Accounts.
Pure interest	Interest without a service charge component.
Reference period	The period for which data are collected and/or for which statistics are published. Because data are not typically collected in real time and because statistics are not published in real time, statistics for a given reference period are first published sometime after the end of the reference period.
Reinvested earnings/ reinvestment of earnings	Reinvested earnings of affiliates equal total earnings less dividends and withdrawals and are included in the current account within the direct investment component of primary income. Earnings are the parents' shares in the net income of their affiliates after provision for host country income taxes. Reinvestment of earnings is an offsetting entry to reinvested earnings in the International Transactions Accounts. It represents an addition to owner's capital and is included in the direct investment component of the financial account.
Repurchase agreements	Transactions involving a sale of securities and a simultaneous agreement to repurchase the same securities or similar securities at a specified date and price. Repurchase agreement liabilities are classified as deposits if they represent liabilities of U.S. deposit-taking institutions to foreign residents; otherwise they are classified as loan liabilities.
Reserve assets	Functional category for primary income and the financial account of the International Transactions Accounts and for the International Investment Position Accounts that consists of claims on nonresidents that are readily available to and controlled by monetary authorities. They can be used to affect the currency exchange rate and for other purposes.
Reserve position in the International Monetary Fund	Reserve asset item that refers to the sum of the reserve tranche purchases that a member of the Fund may draw upon and any indebtedness of the International Monetary Fund that is readily repayable to the member.
Resident	An institutional unit is regarded as resident when it has a center of economic interest in the economic territory of a country. The International Transactions Accounts and the International Investment Position Accounts record transactions and positions between U.S. residents and nonresidents.
Reverse investment	Investment by an affiliate (direct investment enterprise) in its direct investor(s) without meeting the direct investment threshold (10-percent voting interest). Although this investment does not establish a separate direct investment relationship, it is classified in direct investment by virtue of the existing direct investment relationship. This investment usually consists of debt rather than equity.
Revision	The difference between the values of two vintages of a published statistics. Also, prior to 2017 the event during which statistics are revised. (Starting in 2017, this event has been known as an update). The overhaul of the International Transactions Accounts and the International Investment Position Accounts in 2014 is known as the comprehensive revision.
Secondary income	Major component of the current account that presents current transfers between residents and nonresidents. Unlike an exchange, a transfer is a transaction that provides a good, service, or asset without a corresponding return of economic value (quid pro quo).

Term	Definition
Sectors	Groupings of institutional units that have similar economic objectives and behavior for the purpose of providing analytically useful aggregates of economic statistics. For the U.S. International Economic Accounts, sectors include central bank, deposit-taking institutions except central bank, other financial institutions, nonfinancial institutions except general government (including households and nonprofit institutions serving households), and general government.
Securities	Financial instruments that are marketable such as publicly traded stocks, bonds, money market securities, and other financial instruments.
Securitization	Pooling of nonmarketable (illiquid) assets into standardized securities backed by those assets for the purpose of trading on organized exchanges.
Services	(1) Products that arise from productive activities that change the condition of the consumer or that facilitate the exchange of products and financial assets. Services are not products for which ownership rights can be established and transferred. (2) Major component of the current account of the International Transactions Accounts that covers services as defined in (1) and most knowledge-capturing products. Services are classified into twelve broad categories in the current account based on <i>BPM6</i> .
Services supplied	A measure of the provision of services by multinational enterprises (MNEs). For most industries, services supplied equals sales of services, but adjustments are made for certain industries to more closely align services supplied with the services actually produced by the industry. Services supplied to foreign customers by majority-owned foreign affiliates and to U.S. customers by majority-owned U.S. affiliates are included in the Bureau of Economic Analysis' international services statistics. Measures of services supplied in statistics on the activities of multinational enterprises include, in addition, services supplied to U.S. customers by foreign affiliates, to foreign customers by U.S. affiliates, and to all customers by U.S. parents.
Services Trade by Enterprise Characteristics (STEC)	Services trade by enterprise characteristics is the name of a set of annual tables released as part of BEA's international services statistics that highlight various characteristics of U.S. firms that trade services. STEC statistics provide insight on the primary industry of firm activity, firm ownership type, and firm employment size class. They are limited to a subset of "selected" international services trade categories collected on BEA surveys that cover most trade between businesses, and are prepared by linking BEA's trade in services data to BEA's extensive data on the finances and operations of MNEs. "Selected" service types include construction; insurance services; financial services; charges for the use of intellectual property, n.i.e; telecommunications, computer, and information services; other business services; and personal, cultural, and recreational services.
Special drawing rights (SDRs)	Reserve asset item created by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to supplement other reserve assets that are periodically allocated to IMF members in proportion to their respective quotas. The value of SDRs is determined by a weighted basket of currencies. Transactions in SDRs are recorded in the financial account and positions are recorded in the International Investment Position Accounts.
Special purpose entities (SPEs)	Formally registered and/or incorporated legal entities that are controlled by and predominantly transact with nonresidents and that have little or no employment or physical presence. SPEs can be used to obtain certain advantages, such as access to capital markets or favorable tax or regulatory regimes.
Statistical discrepancy	The difference between total debits and total credits recorded in the current, capital, and financial accounts of the International Transactions Accounts. In principle it equals zero, but in practice this rarely happens due to errors and omissions in the source data used to compile the accounts. Also equal to the difference between net lending or borrowing measured by the financial account and net lending or borrowing measured by the current and capital accounts.

Term	Definition
Suppression	The approach used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in its published statistics to prevent disclosure of confidential survey data. Suppression replaces the value of a data item in a table with “(D).” Suppression is also the term used to indicate a cell that is suppressed. A primary suppression is a cell suppressed to prevent disclosure of one or more of its own contributions. A complementary suppression is a cell suppressed to prevent calculation, using the relationship with other table cells, of a primary suppression.
Surplus	A positive balance of credits less debits for some category of transactions.
System of National Accounts (SNA)	An international set of guidelines for a system of economic accounts, published by the Commission for the European Communities, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations, and the World Bank. The most recent edition of the <i>SNA</i> was published in 2008 and was coordinated with the publication of <i>BPM6</i> .
Term to maturity	Fixed period of time corresponding to the lifetime of a security. The term to maturity corresponds to the period of time between the date at which the security is issued (original term to maturity) or is outstanding (remaining term to maturity) and the date at which the security is redeemable (maturity date).
Trade credit and advances	Credit extended directly by suppliers of goods and services to their customers and advances for work in progress and prepayment by customers for goods and services not yet provided.
Trade in digitally deliverable services	A subset of trade in services. Digitally deliverable services are services that can predominantly be delivered remotely over information and communications technology (ICT) networks. Trade in digitally deliverable services was previously called trade in potentially ICT-enabled services. ICT services are a part of digitally deliverable services.
Transaction	An exchange or transfer of value between two institutional units that occurs by mutual agreement or by law. Transactions are classified according to the nature of the economic value provided—namely, goods or services, primary income, secondary income, capital transfers, nonproduced nonfinancial assets, financial assets, or liabilities.
Transactor principle	Type of geographic attribution in the International Economic Accounts whereby financial assets and liabilities of the compiling economy are attributed to the country of residence of the nonresident counterparty to the transaction. An alternative approach is the debtor-creditor principle.
Transfer pricing	Valuation of transactions between affiliated parties. Transfer prices often differ from market prices.
Translation adjustments	A type of valuation adjustment to investment positions that results from changes in exchange rates used to translate foreign-currency-denominated assets and liabilities into U.S. dollars.
Treasury International Capital (TIC) reporting system	System of monthly, annual, and benchmark surveys conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Treasury to collect cross-border transactions and positions for financial assets and liabilities. Major data source for both the International Transactions Accounts and the International Investment Position Accounts.
Ultimate beneficial owner (UBO)	Entity that ultimately owns or controls and thus ultimately derives the benefits and assumes the risks from owning or controlling an affiliate. The UBO is often but not always the same as the foreign or U.S. parent.

Term	Definition
Unaffiliated trade	Resident-nonresident trade between two entities that do not have a direct investment relationship with one another.
Universe estimation	A process used by the Bureau of Economic Analysis in constructing statistics from surveys it conducts in which a complete microdata set is constructed for the known survey universe. In universe estimation, imputations or other estimates are generated for all survey nonresponses and nonsurveyed units. Universe estimation allows statistics to be compiled by simple addition of observations in the constructed data set.
Update	To revise a published statistic with the intent of providing a more accurate estimate, or a statistic or set of statistics that has been revised. Also refers to the event during which statistics are revised—especially the annual update. Statistics are updated to incorporate newly available or revised source data (including benchmark surveys), new data sources, improved estimation methodologies, and new definitions. Presentational and classificational improvements to the accounts are typically introduced in an annual update. Prior to 2017, annual updates were known as annual revisions.
U.S. direct investment abroad	An investment relationship characterized by ownership or control, directly or indirectly, by one U.S. resident (the U.S. parent) of at least 10 percent voting ownership of a foreign business enterprise (the foreign affiliate). Also known as outward direct investment.
Valuation	The determination of asset, liability, and transaction values. Different methods of valuation (transaction value, market price, issue price, book value, maturity value, etc.) often reflect applicable accounting principles, legal restrictions, and other factors.
Value added	A measure of the value of production. Value added represents the contribution of labor and capital to the production process. In the U.S. statistics on activities of multinational enterprises, value added is derived as the sum of the costs incurred (except for intermediate inputs) and the profits earned in production. It can also be derived as gross output (revenue) less intermediate inputs (purchased goods and services used in production).

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