

Frequently Asked Questions

BE-180

- 1) When is the BE-180 survey due?

The survey is due October 1, 2010.

- 2) How do I obtain another copy of the BE-180 survey, or additional overflow sheets?

- a. Go to http://www.bea.gov/surveys/pdf/be180_web.pdf to download a copy of the survey.
- b. Call (202) 606-5588 to request the survey.
- c. Send an email to be-180@bea.gov for an MS Excel (.xls format) version of the BE-180.

- 3) Do I need to submit a hard copy of the BE-180 form if I am submitting the form by fax or eFile?

No. A single submission, whether by mail, fax, or eFile, is sufficient.

- 4) How can I obtain an MS Excel (.xls format) version of the BE-180 survey form?

You can obtain an MS Excel version of the BE-180 by sending an email to be-180@bea.gov. This is an automated system, and it will automatically send you an .xls version.

- 5) How do I request a filing extension for the BE-180?

A written request for an extension will be considered if it is received before the filing deadline. BEA will provide a written response to such a request. Requests for extensions should be sent via email to BE-180extension@bea.gov.

- 6) Can I submit the BE-180 electronically?

Yes, you may file electronically using BEA's eFile system at <https://www.bea.gov/efile>. This system allows you to download the BE-180 as a fillable PDF form and then securely submit your completed form electronically, in an encrypted file, to BEA. For technical assistance with eFile **only**, please call (202) 606-9914, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- 7) What is the transactions value threshold for the mandatory filing of data on the BE-180 survey?

Completion of the BE-180 survey is required of any U.S. financial services provider that had either total financial services receipts from foreign persons of the types of services covered in Table 1 on page 3 exceeding \$3 million during their 2009 fiscal year, or total financial services payments to foreign persons of the types of services covered in Table 2 on page 4 exceeding \$3 million during their 2009 fiscal year.

- 8) Can I email my completed BE-180 survey?

We discourage reporters from emailing completed surveys because of concerns about confidentiality. Your email is not necessarily secure against interception by a third party. However, you can submit data securely using our efile system at www.bea.gov/efile.

- 9) Can I fax the completed BE-180 survey?

Yes, our fax number is (202) 606-5318. It is not necessary to address it to anyone's attention.

- 10) What is the difference between this survey, the BE-180, and the BE-185?

Both surveys cover trade in financial services. However, whereas the BE-185 is conducted quarterly, the BE-180 is a benchmark survey that is conducted once every five years. The BE-180 also has a lower required reporting threshold than the BE-185. In addition, the BE-180 requires you to distribute your financial management receipts among several categories. Another difference is that the BE-180 is conducted on a fiscal year basis while the BE-185 is conducted on a calendar year basis.

- 11) Do I need to file a BE-180 for 2009 if I filed the BE-185 for 2009?

Yes. Both surveys are authorized by the International Investment and Trade in Services Survey Act and the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988. U.S. entities that receive the BE-180 and the BE-185 surveys from BEA, or that have transactions with foreign persons covered by the surveys, are required to complete and return the surveys to BEA.

- 12) I have never filed this type of survey, why do I have to fill this out now?

BE-180 survey forms are sent to firms that potentially could have bought or sold financial services internationally. Although some of these firms turn out not to have had such transactions, for the efficient administration of the survey and to eliminate unnecessary follow-up contact, firms that receive the forms are required to return them even if they have no reportable transactions.

- 13) How often am I going to receive the BE-180 survey?

This is a benchmark survey. It is conducted once every five years. It will next be conducted for fiscal year 2014.

- 14) If I fill out this survey, do I have to fill out the BE-185 for 2010?

Yes, if you meet the reporting requirements for the BE-185.

- 15) Can we use estimates when filing the BE-180 survey?

Estimates are allowed if actual data are not available and estimates are labeled as such.

- 16) My company purchased brokerage services related to equity transactions totaling \$1.75 million from three countries: \$500 thousand from Norway, \$500 thousand from the United Kingdom, and \$750 thousand from Venezuela. These were the only financial services purchases my company made from foreign residents. How should I report these data on the BE-180?

Because your total purchases of financial services were less than the \$3 million reporting threshold for the BE-180, you have a few options. You could report these data on Schedule B under service code 1, brokerage services related to equity transactions, and list the country detail. You have a second option of reporting these data on Schedule B under service code 1, brokerage services related to equity transactions, without the country detail and reporting the total from all countries on line 30. Finally, you could report the transactions on question 14 on page 5.

- 17) When reporting data by country on the BE-180, can regions be used instead?

No. Transactions must be reported by individual country. If you have questions about countries, please give us a call. Do not list transactions with U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- 18) I have transactions with countries that are not listed on the BE-180 Schedule A or Schedule B. Should I include those countries on the survey?

Yes, include services transactions that you have with all countries, even those that are not listed on the form. Write in the names of the countries under "Other-Specify country." If you run out of space, use the overflow sheets.

- 19) How do I indicate what type of services I am selling/purchasing on the BE-180?

On pages 3 and 4 of the survey, each type of service covered by the survey has a corresponding number (for example, brokerage services related to equity transactions should be reported under service code 1). If you sold brokerage services related to equity transactions, in the space provided below "Service Code" on Schedule A, you would enter service code 1 for brokerage services related to equity transactions. If you check the "yes" box in Table 1 on page 3, then enter the service code associated with that service on Schedule A, U.S. Reporter's Sales of Financial Services to Foreign Persons. If you check the "yes" box in Table 2 on page 4, then enter the service code associated with that service on page 7 Schedule B, U.S. Reporter's Purchases of Financial Services from Foreign Persons. If you have more than two types of services, simply report them on the overflow sheets provided, using additional copied sheets as necessary.

- 20) Do I report transactions with international organizations on the BE-180?

International organizations (such as the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund) are, according to balance of payments conventions, considered foreign entities, even if they are headquartered in the United States. Transactions with these organizations should be reported on the BE-180. Report the country as an International Organization under "Other-Specify country".

- 21) Should I report on an accrual basis or cash basis on the BE-180?

All transactions should be reported on an accrual basis.

- 22) We sell financial services to a U.S. affiliate of a German company. Is this transaction applicable to the BE-180?

No. Transactions with U.S. affiliates of foreign parent companies are considered domestic transactions and are not applicable to the BE-180.

- 23) We purchased financial services from a German company, but we sent the payments to a Swiss bank. How should we report this transaction on the BE-180?

Since your transaction was with a German entity, you should report this as a transaction with Germany. Where the money goes is irrelevant, even if, as a matter of convenience, you were to send your payments to a bank in the United States where the German company has an account.

- 24) I believe I am exempt from filing data on Schedule A and/or B of the BE-180 survey. What should I do?

Complete pages 1-5 of the survey. If you do not check a box "yes" in either Table 1 or in Table 2 on pages 3 and 4 and you do not wish to report on a voluntary basis on Schedule A or Schedule B, then mail, fax, or file via eFile, the form completed through page 5 as instructed on the first page of the form.

- 25) How should I account for mergers and acquisitions on the BE-180?

If your company was acquired by a U.S. company, please complete the survey through question number 6, and include the name and address of the company that purchased your company.

- 26) Should I net payments against receipts on the BE-180?

No. Please report on a gross value basis. Report receipts on Schedule A and payments on Schedule B of the BE-180 survey.

- 27) We receive interest payments from a foreign corporation. Do we report the interest received under credit-related services on the BE-180?

No. Interest is not a transaction covered by the survey. Please see Section V, Types of Transactions Excluded From Coverage, of the General Instructions on page 13 of the survey.

- 28) Should I report all financial services not otherwise listed on the BE-180?

No. Only report those financial services listed on the survey. Please see Section IV, Services Covered, of the General Instructions on page 10 of the survey.

- 29) We provide financial services to our foreign parent. Is this reportable on the BE-180?

Yes. Transactions with your foreign parent are considered foreign transactions and should be reported on the BE-180 under the column marked Foreign Parent(s) & Foreign Affiliates of Foreign Parent(s).

- 30) We provide financial services to a foreign affiliate of a foreign parent. Is this reportable on the BE-180?

Yes. Transactions with a foreign affiliate of your foreign parent are considered foreign transactions and should be reported on the BE-180 under the column marked Foreign Parent(s) & Foreign Affiliates of Foreign Parents.

- 31) We provide financial services to one of our foreign affiliates. Is this reportable on the BE-180?

Yes. Transactions with your foreign affiliates are considered foreign transactions and should be reported on the BE-180 under the column marked Foreign Affiliates.

- 32) The address and the contact person listed are no longer current. How do I update this information for the BE-180?

If you file using BEA's eFile electronic filing system, enter the new information in the "Name and address of the U.S. Reporter" on page 1 of the survey. If you are filing the copy mailed to you, then cross out the incorrect information at the top of the front page of the survey and write in the new address and contact name or you can call (202) 606-5588 and we will update this information for you.

- 33) I am completing this form for a pension/benefit fund. Why did we receive this form and what should we report?

You received the BE-180 Benchmark Survey because the Pension or Benefit Fund is a financial service provider. You should report any payments you made to foreign entities to manage or advise the fund during the FY 2009.

- 34) My question was not addressed above, what can I do to resolve my issues?

You may call 202-606-5588, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. eastern time. If you reach voicemail, please leave the survey title, your name, the number at which you can be reached, and the company's control ID number (located above the company name and ending in a letter), and someone will return your call.