

## Director's Message

In October, we traditionally present updated statistics on services traded across borders and services delivered via affiliates of multinational companies. This year, we are pleased to present the statistics in a new, easy-to-read format. The presentation includes a one-page summary of recent improvements to these statistics, notably the incorporation of BEA's new benchmark insurance survey, new source data, and improved alignment with international standards.

The new format for the services article will be familiar to some, as we have previously rolled out this format for other articles, including our quarterly update on international transactions. In this issue, we present statistics for the second quarter of 2010.

We also take a look at alternative measures of personal saving. The long slide in the BEA personal saving rate from 1983 to 2005 and the subsequent rise had led to more interest in how personal saving is measured and its relation to broader concepts of national saving. To allow for a more nuanced view of saving, BEA publishes several alternative measures of saving roughly every other year.

Elsewhere in this issue, we detail state personal income for the second quarter of 2010; growth ranged from 2.0 percent in North Dakota to 0.3 percent in Nevada. Annual inventory and sales statistics are also presented.



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