

FY 2016 Annual Performance Plan / FY 2014 Annual Performance Report

Economics and Statistics Administration / Bureau of Economic Analysis

Part 1: Agency and Mission Information

Section 1.1: Overview

Headed by the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, the Economics and Statistics Administration's (ESA) three principal analytical components are the Office of the Chief Economist, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). ESA develops policy options, analyzes economic developments, manages economic data distribution systems, and produces a major share of U.S. economic and demographic statistics, including the national economic indicators. Representative economic indicators produced by ESA are gross domestic product (GDP), retail sales, and international trade. Additional economic and demographic statistics available from ESA include regional information on population (benchmarked by the decennial census), poverty, income, race and ethnicity, businesses, and a variety of other information useful to government, business, and the American public.

The expert economists and analysts in ESA's Office of the Chief Economist analyze domestic and international economic developments and produce in-depth reports, fact sheets, and briefings on policy issues, current economic events, and economic and demographic trends. DOC and White House policymakers rely on these tools, as do American businesses, state and local governments, and news organizations around the world. *In overseeing* the Census Bureau and BEA, ESA works closely with the leadership of those two statistical agencies on high priority management, budget, employment, and risk management issues, integrating the work of these agencies with the priorities and requirements of the Department of Commerce and other government entities.

The BEA produces some of the Nation's most important economic statistics, including GDP and the balance of payments. BEA promotes a better understanding of the U.S. economy by providing timely, relevant, and accurate economic accounts data in an objective and cost-effective manner. Although a relatively small agency, BEA's economic statistics are among the Nation's most closely watched. BEA's statistics influence critical decisions made by policymakers, business leaders, households, and individuals affecting interest rates, tax and budget projections, business investment plans, and the allocation of over \$300 billion in federal funds.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts the constitutionally mandated census of population and housing every 10 years, a census of all business establishments and of all governmental units every five years, and several ongoing business and household surveys. U.S. Census Bureau information shapes policy and operational decisions that help improve the nation's social and economic conditions. The FY 2016 Annual Performance Plan for the U.S. Census Bureau is presented separately in their budget submission.

Section 1.2: Mission Statement

ESA's Mission Statement

"To provide high-quality economic analysis and foster the missions of the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Economic Analysis."

BEA's Mission Statement

“Improve understanding of the U.S. economy by providing the most timely, relevant, and accurate economic accounts data in an objective and cost-effective manner.”

Section 1.3: Vision and Values (Optional)

BEA's Vision Statement

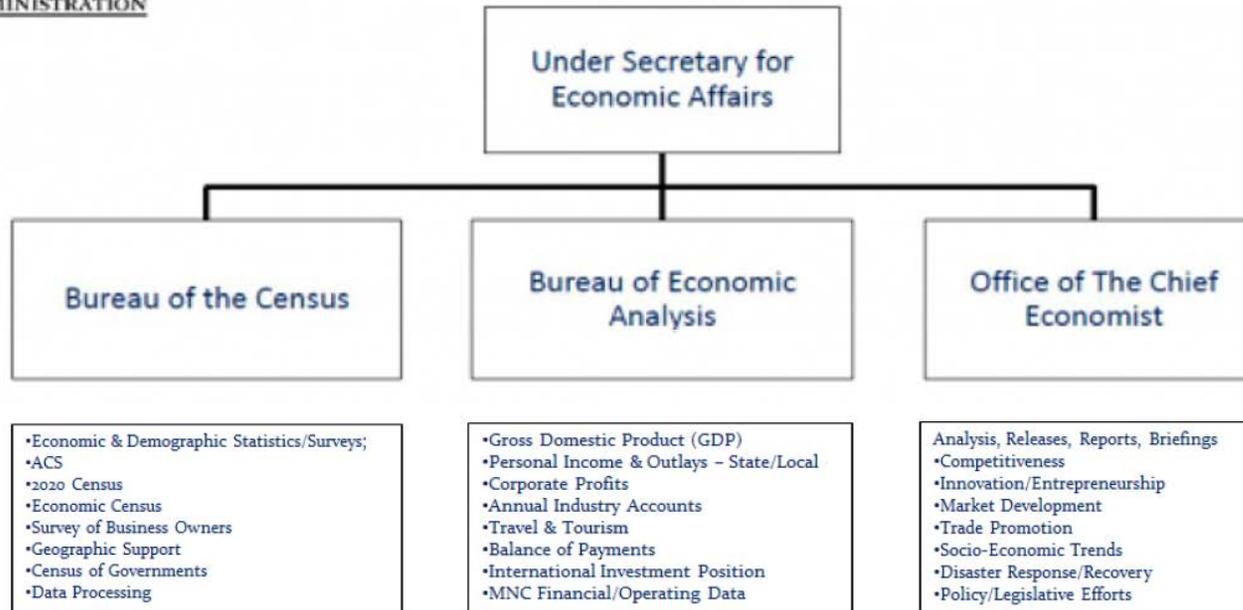
To be the world's most respected producer of economic accounts.

Section 1.4: Organizational Structure

The Economics and Statistics Administration includes Policy Support and Management Oversight, BEA, and the Bureau of the Census.



Economics and Statistics Administration



We collect...

compile...

and analyze...

socio-economic data to assess U.S. competitiveness and the economic well-being of businesses & individuals

Part 2: Cross-Agency Priority Goals

Section 2.1: Overview

ESA is not a leader of or a participant in any Cross-Agency Priority Goals.

Part 3: Strategic Goals and Objectives

Section 3.1: Corresponding DoC Strategic Goals, and Objectives

Goal	Objective Number	Objective Name	Leader:
Innovation	2.4	Accelerate the development of industry-led skills strategies that result in a productive workforce for employers and high-quality jobs for workers.	Dr. Mark Doms, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
Data	4.1	Transform the Department's data capacity to enhance the value, accessibility and usability of Commerce data for government, business, and the public.	Dr. Mark Doms, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
Data	4.2	Improve data-based service, decision making, and data sharing within the Department and with other parts for the federal government.	Dr. Mark Doms, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
Data	4.3	Collaborate with the business community to provide more timely, accurate, and relevant data products and services for customers.	Dr. Mark Doms, Under Secretary for Economic Affairs
Operational Excellence	5.1	Deliver better services, solutions, and outcomes that benefit the American people.	Departmental Management Council

Section 3.2: Strategies for Objectives

BEA's objectives fall under the Department's Data goal, and are designed to ensure that BEA's economic statistics programs are timely, relevant, and accurate as demanded by our customers. BEA tracks progress on these objectives as follows:

- The timeliness measure is defined as the number of scheduled releases released on time. It is also evaluated as the number of successfully-completed milestones related to the target.
- The accuracy measure is a composite index to track BEA's success in estimating GDP. The six components of the index include: (1) whether the economy is expanding or contracting; (2) whether the economy is growing faster or slower, (3) deviation from trend growth, (4) change in the statistical discrepancy, (5) magnitude of revision to real GDP; and (6) magnitude of revision to nominal GDP.
- The relevance objective is designed to make BEA's economic accounts and services more responsive to the needs of its customers and partners. It is measured by the number of above-average responses on BEA's web site customer satisfaction survey.
- Improvements to the economic account statistics are measured by the percent of progress toward annual milestones completed.

Given the importance of BEA's statistics, BEA must fulfill its mission regardless of the challenges it may confront. Some of these challenges are constant over time, and others arise as the economy changes. The strategic planning process identifies and mitigates these challenges. The challenges now confronting BEA include:

- A constantly changing economy: BEA must be diligent in updating its statistics to capture the structural changes that occur in the U.S. and global economies.
- Integration of federal economic accounts: Federal statistical agencies are working together to harmonize definitions, methodologies, and analytical techniques to meet data users' need for greater consistency of economic accounts provided by the decentralized U.S. statistical system.
- Relevance of economic accounts: Maintaining the relevance of economic accounts to address the public policy issues of today calls for new and expanded statistics that extend the GDP and related accounts beyond their long-established boundaries.
- Efficiently exploiting information technology: To meet the urgency associated with rapidly changing economic and customer needs, BEA looks to exploit highly flexible, adaptive, and cost-effective IT systems that can respond quickly to changing statistical and dissemination needs.
- Maintaining and expanding the expertise and satisfaction of its workforce: BEA must intensify its recruitment, hiring, retention, and training programs to keep its staff at the leading edge of economic change and innovative measurement solutions.

Section 3.3: Progress Update for Strategic Objectives

Benefits

BEA's national, industry, regional, and international economic accounts present valuable information on key issues such as U.S. economic growth, regional economic development, inter-industry relationships, and the Nation's position in the world economy. Some of the widely used statistical measures produced by BEA include gross domestic product (GDP), personal income and outlays, corporate profits, GDP by state and by metropolitan area, balance of payments, and GDP by industry. These statistics are used by Federal, state, and local governments for budget development and projections, by the Federal Reserve for monetary policy, by the business sector for planning and investment, and by the American public to follow and understand the performance of the Nation's economy.

Accomplishments

Recent accomplishments include:

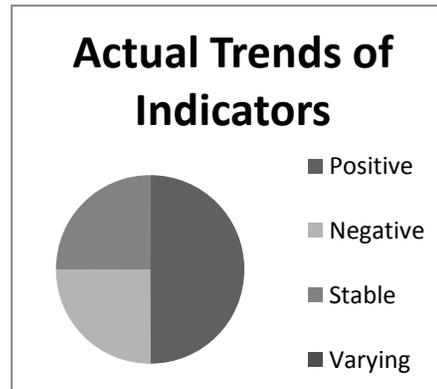
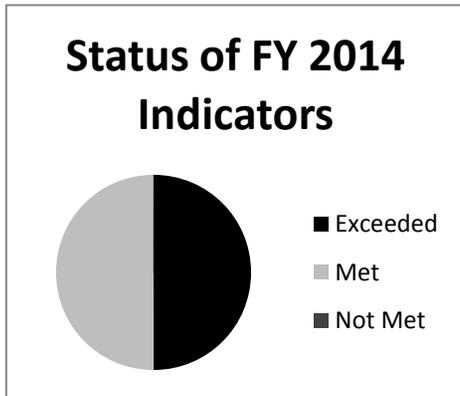
- Released several new statistical products to better measure the dynamic U.S. economy giving businesses, policymakers and ordinary Americans additional tools to make informed decisions:
 - To provide further insight into the relative purchasing power of consumers in different states and metro areas, BEA released new measures of inflation adjusted Personal Income for State and Metropolitan Areas.
 - New prototype statistics on Personal Consumption Expenditures by State provide a better gauge of how consumers are faring across different states offering a richer picture of economic activity across the U.S.
 - Finally, BEA is now providing more frequent data on how much economic activity is generated by different industries and across states with its new Quarterly GDP by Industry and Quarterly GDP by State statistics (previously only available annually).
- BEA was rated in the "2014 Best Place to Work" 56th out of 314 agency subcomponents.

Section 3.4: Next Steps

The BEA Five-Year Strategic Plan is a comprehensive plan of action that tracks BEA's progress toward accomplishing its mission. BEA's progress is tied to its contributions to the Department's initiatives of making key investments in each of the core areas of: trade and investment, innovation, data and the environment. The Plan has nearly 200 detailed milestones, which ensure that BEA statistics are as timely, relevant, and accurate as possible. These milestones allow managers and senior staff to plan resources and staff allocations and encourage personal accountability by connecting the achievement of milestones to individuals' annual performance plans. This direct progression from DOC themes to the BEA mission and, finally, to the objectives, goals, and milestones of the BEA Five-Year Strategic Plan reinforces the link between the DOC mission and the employees at BEA.

Part 4 Performance Goals / Indicators

Section 4.1: Summary of Performance



Status is based on the following standard:

Exceeded	More than 100 percent of target
Met	90 - 100 percent of target
Not Met	Below 90% of target

An indicator with a positive trend is one in which performance is improving over time while a negative trend is an indicator that has declining performance. A stable trend is one in which the goal is to maintain a standard, and that that is occurring. A varying trend in one in which the data fluctuates too much to indicate a trend. At a minimum these indicators must have three years of data.

Section 4.2: Summary of Indicator Performance

Objective 4.3: Collaborate with the business community to provide more timely, accurate, and relevant data products and services for customers

Indicator	Target	Actual	Status	Trend
Timeliness- Reliability of delivery of economic data statistics (the number of scheduled releases issued on schedule)	62	65	Exceeded	Positive
Relevance- Customer satisfaction (on a 5 point scale)	4.0	4.0	Met	Slightly negative

Accuracy- Percent of GDP estimates correct	>83%	86%	Exceeded	Positive
Strategic Milestones Completed	Completed	Completed	Met	Stable

Section 4.3 Detailed Indicator Plans and Performance

Objective 4.3: Collaborate with the business community to provide more timely, accurate, and relevant data products and services for customers

Indicator	Timeliness- Reliability of delivery of economic data statistics (scheduled releases issued on time)							
Description	The importance of data as an ingredient for sound economic decision-making requires BEA to deliver data to decision-makers and other data users not only quickly but also reliably—that is, on schedule. Each fall, BEA publishes a schedule for the release of its economic data the following year; this measure is evaluated as the number of scheduled releases issued on time. BEA has an outstanding record of releasing its economic data on schedule and on time. In FY 2014, BEA met the target of planned releases and has no indication that this target will not be met in 2015.							
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Target	57	55	62	62	62	62	69	69
Actual	56 of 57	61 of 55	62 of 62	62 of 62	62 of 62	65 of 62		
Status	Met	Exceeded	Met	Met	Met	Exceeded		
Trend	The trend for this indicator is positive.							
Actions to be taken / Future Plans	BEA has no plans to change this indicator.							
Adjustments to targets	Adjustments to targets have not been made.							
Information Gaps	There are no information gaps for this indicator.							
Validation and Verification								
Data Source	A schedule of release dates for the calendar year is published each fall in the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> and is posted on the BEA website. BEA maintains a record of subsequent actual release dates.							
Frequency	Quarterly							
Data Storage	BEA maintains the schedule of future release dates and the record of actual release dates. Both sets of information are available on the BEA website.							
Internal Control Procedures	Scheduled and actual release dates are a matter of public record and can be verified via the Internet at www.bea.gov .							
Data Limitations	Not all releases may be included in the published annual schedule because their release dates cannot be established that far in advance.							
Actions to be Taken	FY 2015 target will be added when the schedule is made available to OMB and published in the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> in the fall of the preceding year.							

Indicator	Relevance- Customer satisfaction (on a 5 point scale)							
Description	Customer satisfaction is a critical measure of BEA's ability to provide the types of data that are relevant, accurate, and needed by users. BEA measures the level of customer satisfaction through an on-going online survey of users. FY 2014 scores will be available in FY 2015, however, BEA has received indication that users continue to be satisfied with the overall quality of BEA's products.							
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Target	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Actual	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.3	4.1	4.0		
Status	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded	Met		
Trend	The trend for this indicator is slightly negative. Eroding web site usability was a main contributor to the slightly negative trend in customer satisfaction. However, continued research and development of new and improved web technologies should reverse this trend.							
Actions to be taken / Future Plans	BEA has no plans to change this indicator.							
Adjustments to targets	Adjustments to targets have not been made.							
Information Gaps	There are no information gaps for this indicator.							
Validation and Verification								
Data Source	BEA customer satisfaction survey conducted online at BEA's website, www.bea.gov .							
Frequency	Continually							
Data Storage	BEA conducts the survey, compiles results, and retains records of raw data and computations that lead to final results. A report is written and available to the public on the BEA website.							
Internal Control Procedures	BEA provides a copy of the survey results to OMB, the DOC Budget Office, and the Economics and Statistics Administration. The report is made available on the BEA website.							
Data Limitations	The customer satisfaction survey is an ongoing, voluntary survey conducted via the website. As a voluntary survey, responses are representative of those who choose to respond.							
Actions to be Taken	Survey is continually conducted with results monitored quarterly and reported after the end of the fiscal year.							

Indicator	Accuracy- Percent of GDP estimates correct							
Description	This performance measure tracks BEA's ability to accurately estimate its most important statistic, the gross domestic product (GDP). This measure is a composite index of six indicators of accuracy, applied using three-year rolling averages to develop a single measure of the correctness of the GDP statistics. FY 2014 results will become finalized in FY 2015, but BEA expects to exceed this target.							
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Target	85%	85%	85%	85%	83%	83%	83%	83%
Actual	94%	88%	87%	87%	84%	86%		
Status	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded	Exceeded		
Trend	The trend for this indicator is stable.							
Actions to be taken / Future Plans	BEA has no plans to change this indicator.							
Adjustments to targets	Adjustments to targets have not been made.							
Information Gaps	There are no information gaps for this indicator.							
Validation and Verification								
Data Source	Data used for this measure are produced by BEA and made available in press releases, in our monthly publication, the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> (SCB), and on the Website: www.bea.gov . Background research studies are published in the SCB.							
Frequency	Annually							
Data Storage	The <i>Survey of Current Business</i> is published monthly online.							
Internal Control Procedures	DOC has evaluated this measure and BEA has submitted a <i>Validation and Verification</i> report. The <i>Survey of Current Business</i> is a matter of public record and can be verified via the Internet.							
Data Limitations	The measure is the best single point estimation of the accuracy of GDP. Economic conditions, rather than statistical practices, could dramatically change the measure.							
Actions to be Taken								

Indicator	Complete all major strategic milestones related to improving economic accounts							
Description	BEA must continually update its economic accounts to keep pace with the ever-changing U.S. and global economies. The BEA Five-Year Strategic Plan tracks BEA's progress toward achieving the milestones related to this measure. In FY 2014, BEA completed all of its major milestones related to improving GDP and the economic accounts and expects to meet this target in current and future years.							
	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Target	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone	Complete Milestone
Actual	Completed Successfully	Completed Successfully	Completed Successfully	Completed Successfully	Completed Successfully	Completed Successfully		
Status	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met		
Trend	The trend for this indicator is stable.							
Actions to be taken / Future Plans	BEA has no plans to change this indicator.							
Adjustments to targets	Adjustments to targets have not been made.							
Information Gaps	There are no information gaps for this indicator.							
Validation and Verification								
Data Source	The BEA five-year Strategic Plan provides annual milestones for this measure. At the end of each fiscal year, BEA evaluates and reports its progress in achieving scheduled milestones.							
Frequency	Annually							
Data Storage	BEA compiles and maintains data annually available on BEA website.							
Internal Control Procedures	Internal review and analysis by BEA.							
Data Limitations	BEA's annual review and update of its Strategic Plan could result in changes to the milestones.							
Actions to be Taken	Milestones will be adjusted as necessary to match the BEA five-year Strategic Plan.							

Non-Recurring Indicators

None.

Part 5: Other Indicators

None.

Part 6: Agency Priority Goals

None.

Part 7: Resource Requirements Table

	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Actual	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Base	Increase / Decrease	FY 2016 Request
Bureau of Economic Analysis										
Total Obligations	90.0	96.7	96.3	94.7	93.2	95.4	99.8	101.8	11.4	113.2
Direct	87.4	94.1	93.7	92.5	89.4	93.6	96.3	98.5	11.4	109.9
Reimbursable	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.2	3.8	1.8	3.5	3.3	0.0	3.3
Total FTE	496	503	497	497	461	446	470	468	29	497
ESA										
Total Obligations	7.4	8.5	9.0	8.3	7.9	7.7	8.2	8.8	0.0	8.8
Direct	3.7	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.6	3.7	3.9	0.0	3.9
Reimbursable	3.7	4.5	5.2	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.9	0.0	4.9
Total FTE	35	34	37	36	33	31	36	36	0	36
Total Obligations										
Total Obligations	97.4	105.2	105.3	103.0	101.1	103.1	107.5	110.6	11.4	122.0
Direct	91.1	98.1	97.5	96.4	92.8	97.2	100.0	102.4	11.4	113.8
Reimbursable	6.3	7.1	7.8	6.6	8.3	5.9	8.0	8.2	0.0	8.2
Total FTE	531	537	534	533	494	477	506	504	29	533

Part 8: Other Information

Section 8.1: Major Management Priorities, Challenges, and Risks

This FY 2016 budget request enables BEA to maintain “core” statistical programs in three categories: statistics that feed into the estimation of GDP and related products, statistics that are required by law, and statistics that are required for the administration of federal programs.

BEA faces long-term challenges to its mission:

- 1. Stay relevant:** Given our constantly changing economy, keeping our accounts relevant has always been one of our top challenges. To tell the “right story,” BEA must be quick to recognize and understand the changes occurring in the economy. The most pressing public policy issues today call for new and expanded statistics that extend the GDP and related accounts beyond their long-established boundaries to address national priorities such as health care, innovation and energy. At the same time, data users have long demanded greater consistency among the federal economic accounts provided by the decentralized U.S. statistical system, and that demand has only grown stronger as the economy has become more complex. As a leading statistical agency, BEA must contribute to the effort to integrate the federal economic accounts.
- 2. Manage for flexibility:** The rapidity of the recent changes in the economy poses considerable methodological and computational challenges. In response, BEA must be flexible enough to quickly adapt its measures to changing economic conditions. As technological capabilities increase, customers expect easier access, quicker turnaround, and accessible interface mechanisms. In addition, BEA must make information readily available to all types of data uses. Information should be available to everyone, from the least to the most experienced data user, which requires cost-effective strategies for the continued delivery of useful information to a very diverse customer base.
- 3. Build future leaders:** As much of BEA’s senior staff nears retirement, BEA is experiencing firsthand the importance of institutional knowledge and experience. BEA is devoting itself to the preparation of a new generation of cutting-edge experts and leaders.

These challenges threaten BEA’s ability to fulfill its highest priority, its mission to promote a better understanding of the U.S. economy by providing the timeliest, most relevant, and accurate economic accounts data possible. BEA’s FY 2016 budget submission is designed to address these challenges and enable BEA to not only maintain but also improve its high-priority statistics.

Section 8.2: Cross-Agency Collaborations

BEA works with several statistical agency partners to provide even further comprehensive information on the U.S. economy. The Integrated Macroeconomic Accounts of the U.S. produced jointly with the Federal Reserve Board link production and income flows to changes in net worth for the U.S. economy. In FY 2014, the Integrated Macroeconomic accounts were updated to reflect an improved treatment of defined contribution pension plans (i.e., 401K plans).

In addition, BEA jointly produces the Integrated GDP and Productivity Account with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which allows users to better understand sources of economic and productivity growth within an integrated framework. In FY 2014, this account was updated to recognize expenditures for intellectual property products as capital investment since these types of expenditures have characteristics that are more aligned with other types of fixed assets such as IT equipment. As a result, these updated accounts now give users new information on the contribution of intellectual property products as a capital input and its impact on U.S. economic growth and productivity by industry.

Section 8.3: Evidence Building

ESA and BEA participate in the risk management efforts led by the Department's Office of Program Evaluation and Risk Management (OPERM). Risk information is reported as part of the Department's DASHER report available at <://csc.eas.commerce.gov/dasher/home/Top>. In FY 2014, there are no mission critical areas specific to ESA or BEA. Financial internal control review efforts as outlined in Appendix A of OMB Circular A-123 are conducted annually and are led by the Department's Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Audits and reports from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) and the Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG) provide valuable information on programmatic and managerial challenges. ESA and BEA had no findings or unimplemented GAO or OIG recommendations as of May 2014. Cumulative GAO and OIG reports are available at <://csc.eas.commerce.gov/dasher/home/gaorecommendations/cumulative> and ://csc.eas.commerce.gov/dasher/home/unresolved_oig, respectively.

BEA uses evidence-based strategies to measure and drive performance at various levels of operations:

- **Assessing accuracy of GDP estimates:** BEA conducts studies that assess the accuracy of GDP estimates. The studies examine whether the early estimates to the latest estimates present a consistent and general picture of the economy.
- **Measuring electronic filing rate of international surveys:** Measuring the electronic filing rate helps BEA monitor its ability to collect accurate international transactions data in an efficient and cost-effective manner.
- **Improving economic accounts:** BEA conducts research and develops satellite or prototype statistics, and graduates selected statistics into regular production within the core accounts.
- **Assessing the workplace:** BEA uses results of the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey to evaluate employees' overall work experience and job satisfaction and to identify areas for improvement.
- **Evaluating internal customer satisfaction:** the Administrative Services Division uses results of an internal customer satisfaction survey to identify trends in functional areas (e.g., Human Capital), and enhance the customer experience.
- **Evaluating external customer satisfaction:** BEA's statistics are only as useful as its customers' ability to access, use, and understand them. BEA's two-way communication with its customers is facilitated by new instructional videos posted on BEA's public website, Frequently Asked Questions format, and semi-annual Advisory Committee meetings, which provide BEA with invaluable outside expertise as well as insight into the needs of our expert users. To assess customers' opinions about its statistical products, customer service, and Web site, BEA has conducted annual surveys since 2000. These surveys allow BEA to establish a reliable, continuous metric for measuring the satisfaction of site visitors; diagnose and prioritize areas for improvement by identifying the impact of change on satisfaction and site visitors' future behaviors; and proactively identify Web site areas for improvement.

Section 8.4: Hyperlinks

BEA's budget and performance information is available at <://www.bea.gov/about/index>. ESA's mission statement is available at <://www.esa.doc.gov/esa-mission->

Section 8.5: Data Validation and Verification

The FY 2014 Summary of Performance and Finance Information includes, in the Secretary's Statement, an assessment of the reliability and completeness of the Department's performance data.

Indicators	Timeliness	Relevance	Accuracy	Strategic Milestones Completed	Number of data dissemination tools and improvements fueled by Commerce Department data on the U.S. workforce	Percent of milestones met for business assistance analysis.	Percent of milestones met for stakeholder outreach.
Validation and Verification							
Data Source	A schedule of release dates for the calendar year is published each fall in the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> and is posted on the BEA website. BEA maintains a record of subsequent actual release dates.	BEA customer satisfaction survey conducted online at BEA's website, www.bea.gov	Data used for this measure are produced by BEA and made available in press releases, in our monthly publication, the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> (SCB), and on the Website: www.bea.gov . Background research studies are published in the SCB.	The BEA five-year Strategic Plan provides annual milestones for this measure. At the end of each fiscal year, BEA evaluates and reports its progress in achieving scheduled milestones.			
Frequency	Quarterly	Continually	Annually	Annually			
Data Storage	BEA maintains the schedule of future release dates and the record of actual release dates. Both sets of information are available on the BEA website.	BEA conducts the survey, compiles results, and retains records of raw data and computations that lead to final results. A report is written and available to the public on the BEA website.	The <i>Survey of Current Business</i> is published monthly and available online.	BEA compiles and maintains data annually, available on BEA website.			
Internal Control Procedures	Scheduled and actual release dates are a matter of public record and can be verified via the Internet at www.bea.gov .	BEA provides a copy of the survey results to OMB, the DOC Budget Office, and the Economics and Statistics Administration. The report is made available on the BEA website.	DOC has evaluated this measure and BEA has submitted a <i>Validation and Verification</i> report. The <i>Survey of Current Business</i> is a matter of public record and can be verified via the Internet or hardcopy.	Internal review and analysis by BEA.			
Data Limitations	Not all releases may be included in the published annual schedule because their release dates	The customer satisfaction survey is an ongoing, voluntary survey conducted via the	The measure is the best single point estimation of the accuracy of GDP. Economic	BEA's annual review and update of its Strategic Plan could result in changes to the milestones.			

	cannot be established that far in advance.	website. As a voluntary survey, responses are representative of those who choose to respond.	conditions, rather than statistical practices, could dramatically change the measure.				
Actions to be Taken	FY 2014 target will be added when the schedule is made available to OMB and published in the <i>Survey of Current Business</i> in the fall of the preceding year.	Survey is continually conducted with results monitored quarterly and reported after the end of the fiscal year.	Research to calculate the new measure will be conducted, following the completion of the annual revisions, in August 2014.	Milestones will be adjusted as necessary to match the BEA five-year Strategic Plan.			

Section 8.6: Lower-Priority Program Activities

The President's Budget identifies the lower-priority program activities, where applicable, as required under the GPRA Modernization Act, 31 U.S.C. 1115(b)(10). The public can access the volume at: [://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/) .