

AGENCY OVERVIEW

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS (BEA)

SUMMARY OF KEY CRITICAL SUPPORT AREAS AND LEADERSHIP

Leadership

No changes; Vipin Arora continuing as director.

Budget

(see figure below, Table 2.2 in body of report, and our [online resource](#)):

- BEA's FY25 budget was kept at its FY24 level of \$117.3 million, which amounts to:
 - an estimated 2.4% loss of purchasing power from FY24.
 - a 7% loss of purchasing power from FY09.
- The FY26 President's Budget Request is for \$111 million, which represents an 8% cut in purchasing power.
 - The FY26 request also proposes to "reorganize the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Census Bureau at the Department of Commerce," with the details still to be shared.

Staffing

(see Table 2.1 in body of report):

- BEA has lost an estimated 20% in staffing since FY24 and 25% since FY19.
- The FY26 President's Budget Request is for a staffing level of 380, which would be a modest increase from the current estimated staffing level of 370.

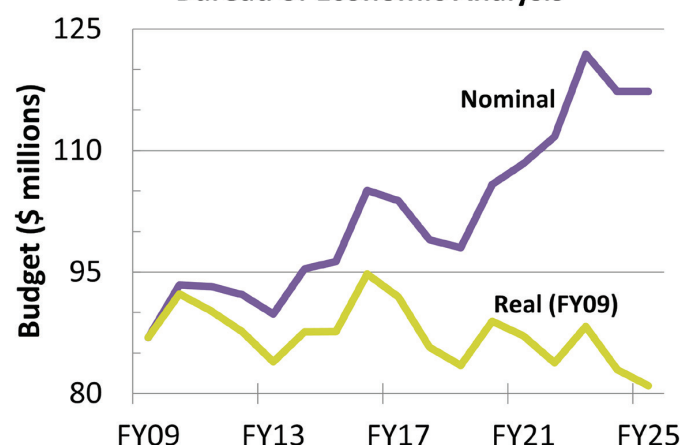
Parent Agency

Because statistical agencies are hesitant or not allowed to communicate with outside entities, and the parent agencies are communicating little information specific to statistical agencies, we have no agency-specific updates in this category beyond the proposed reorganization above. The fact that the staffing cuts and the proposed budget cut occurred indicates lack of support for the statistical agency, support that is required by the Evidence Act.

Statistical Integrity Safeguards

Because statistical agencies are hesitant or not allowed to communicate with outside entities and the parent agencies are communicating little information specific to statistical agencies, we have no agency-specific updates in this category. A degree of open communication with outside stakeholders is an important component of statistical integrity safeguards and government transparency.

Bureau of Economic Analysis



Appropriations for BEA in Nominal and Inflation-Adjusted ("Real") Dollars, Fiscal Years 2009–2025

NOTE: The GDP deflator is used to adjust nominal appropriations for inflation.

SOURCE: [ASA online resources](#)

IMPACTS

BEA publicized many of the largest cuts in a series of announcements, with 10 announcements made in 2024 and 2025—9 since our July 2024 report: the first 4 being in 2024 and 5 so far in 2025. Many of the announcements are for discontinued tables, including for selected statistics on activities of U.S. multinational enterprises ([July 2025](#) and [November 2025](#)); [U.S. direct investment abroad and foreign direct investment in the United States](#); [sales, net income, and balance sheets of new foreign direct investment](#); and various National Income and Product Account (NIPA) tables (once in [2024](#) and once in [2025](#)). The [2025 Annual Updates to the National, Industry, and State and Local Economic Accounts](#) also announced the BEA is not following its usual practice of “incorporat[ing] Internal Revenue Service Statistics of Income (SOI) tabulations of tax returns for corporations, for sole proprietorships, and for partnerships during annual updates” because BEA is “unable to purchase SOI data for this year’s update.” BEA also stopped its [Digital Economy Satellite Account](#) and [publishing the data for the Integrated Macroeconomic Accounts](#) (though the data will continue to be updated and available on the Federal Reserve’s website) and delayed release of [Health Care Satellite Account data](#). For completeness, we note here the cut also noted in our inaugural report, the [Near Real-Time Spending statistical product](#).

Finally, the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee and the Bureau of Economic Analysis Advisory Committee were terminated in early March.

INNOVATION

Despite these reductions, BEA continues to demonstrate its culture of innovation, as discussed in Section 4 of the report, and reported on its newly introduced [innovations page](#), to provide more timely, detailed, and relevant economic statistics. The agency is accelerating the release of key statistics, planning to publish monthly personal income and outlays simultaneously with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates starting in 2026 and consolidating quarterly state GDP and personal income with the third-estimate GDP release, beginning in spring 2026.

BEA has expanded geographic detail in international services trade statistics, introducing a new table in July 2025 covering 237 countries and areas—147 more than previously available. To aid analysis of complex supply chains, the agency developed new Trade in Value Added (TiVA) statistics with an accompanying table builder tool, measuring imported content in U.S. exports across 138 industries and 7 global areas. BEA also released its first experimental estimates of quarterly personal consumption expenditures by state in May 2025 and debuted an experimental national nowcast of personal income distribution by quintile in summer 2025. The BEARFACTS data tool now includes foreign direct investment information for all states and the District of Columbia.

Additionally, BEA is researching noise infusion techniques to replace traditional cell suppression, potentially allowing more detailed data publication while protecting confidential business information, and actively exploring artificial intelligence applications for nowcasting, imputation, and anomaly detection to improve timeliness, granularity, and accuracy.

SUMMARY

In summary, BEA has lost purchasing power and a significant amount of its staff, resulting in numerous product reductions and cuts. Its FY26 Budget Request proposes to roughly maintain its current staffing level. For comparison, see the box summarizing our [2024 BEA profile](#).

While we are not updating our ratings for parent agency support and statistical integrity safeguards—primarily for lack of information—we rate the BEA resources as WEAK owing to the sharp drop in staffing and the number of products cut or reduced over the past year. According to our 2024 report rubric, this rating means, “The agency’s efforts to meet its Evidence Act responsibilities are severely challenged.”

RECOMMENDATIONS

We first revisit the first BEA-specific recommendations from our inaugural report:

- Congressional appropriators should separate the budget of the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs (OUSEA) from that of BEA.

The Senate FY26 Commerce, Science, Justice (CJS) appropriations bill does follow our first recommendation, which it also did for the FY25 bill following a spring 2024 meeting by ASA staff with committee staff sharing preliminary report recommendations. The House has yet to adopt the practice. Greater flexibility for this arrangement could be achieved by specifying the maximum amount to be provided to the OUSEA. For example, using the Senate FY26 CJS wording could read, “The Committee’s recommendation provides \$122,000,000 for Economic and Statistical Analysis, including up to \$8,000,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.”

In addition to the all-agency recommendations in the body of the report, we reiterate the prior BEA-specific recommendations with the first one modified to account for the progress noted above:

1. House appropriators should follow the Senate practice in their FY25 and FY26 bills of specifying the maximum portion of the BEA budget line that should go to the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.
2. Congressional authorizers should provide BEA the same access to federal tax data as that of the U.S. Census Bureau.
3. The Department of Commerce and Congress should give BEA full decision authority to recruit/fill senior executive and senior technical positions.
4. The BEA and Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committees should be restored in order to provide BEA the outside expertise, feedback, perspective on its product, and another channel for communication with stakeholders and the public.

BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS: 2024 HEALTH ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

See <https://bit.ly/NationsDataAtRiskBEA> for full text.

The July 2024 assessment of the BEA reveals a federal statistical agency demonstrating remarkable productivity despite mounting resource constraints. As the nation's principal economic data provider, BEA continues to excel in innovation and stakeholder engagement while facing significant operational challenges.

KEY SUCCESSSES AND STRENGTHS

BEA has achieved exceptional productivity, launching 26 new products since 2011, including quarterly GDP by industry, county-level GDP, and specialized satellite accounts covering healthcare, space economy, and digital economy sectors. The agency demonstrates strong leadership in diversifying data sources, incorporating administrative and private datasets to enhance timeliness while reducing survey burden. With website views exceeding 22 million and 5.6 million downloads annually, BEA's influence spans from local governments to the White House. The agency maintains high employee satisfaction, ranking 32nd out of 432 federal subcomponents, and enjoys continuous effective leadership spanning over two decades.

CRITICAL CHALLENGES AND VULNERABILITIES

Budget constraints present BEA's most pressing challenge. Despite strong congressional and administration support, appropriations have not kept pace with inflation, resulting in a 13% staffing reduction concurrent with expanding workload. This trend forced BEA to suspend its Near Real-Time Spending reports in May 2024. The agency lacks statutory autonomy protections and enabling legislation, while sharing its appropriations line with the Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, creating potential professional autonomy concerns.

2024 REPORT SUPPORT RATINGS SUMMARY

The assessment assigned:

- Autonomy: **Challenging**, due to absence of statutory protections and limited authority over senior recruitment;
- Parent agency support: **Good**, reflecting strong Commerce Department backing and active use of BEA products; and
- Budget/staffing: **Mixed**, acknowledging political support but inadequate funding to maintain operations and innovation capacity.

Without addressing these resource constraints, BEA risks inability to sustain current product levels or continue its innovative trajectory.