

## Taking Account...

### BEA gets high marks in 2010 OAS survey

Employees at the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) have given the agency high marks as a place to work, according to the most recent Organizational Assessment Survey (OAS) conducted by the Office of Personnel Management in 2010.

BEA's scores were high across the board, tying or exceeding the "benchmark" high scores for federal agencies of comparable size in most of the survey's categories or "dimensions."

The OAS is a research-based survey of employees designed to help evaluate an organization's culture and work climate. The survey measures various dimensions that are considered critical to high performance, such as teamwork, customer orientation, and ethics.

The survey is administered roughly every other year at BEA, where employees voluntarily participate online. Sixty-four percent of BEA employees took the survey in 2010, a generally high participation rate.

BEA's scores, as measured by the percentage of respondents with a "favorable" response in specific dimension, were strong: teamwork (82 percent), emotional support (82 percent), strategic management (81 percent), ethics (77 percent), communication (77 percent), resources (76 percent), training (73 percent), customer orientation (73 percent), supervision (73 percent), innovation (68

percent), flexibility (66 percent), and rewards (61 percent).

Highlights of the 2010 survey include the following:

- BEA tied or exceeded the Performance America benchmark high score in 10 of the 12 dimensions. Benchmark high scores refer to the highest score recorded by surveys administered between 2007 and 2010 to federal agencies with 200 to 10,000 employees.
- BEA increased its survey scores in 11 of 12 dimensions, compared with the 2008 BEA survey.
- BEA's scores were among the highest in the federal government.
- BEA's scores tied or exceeded average private sector scores in 12 of the 15 workplace dimensions.
- BEA's highest scores—in teamwork and in emotional support—reflected a culture in which managers encourage collaboration and communication between work units and employees cooperate and share knowledge within the organization. The high scores also reflect a high level of trust in supervisors, who generally support employees' health and employees' efforts to balance work with other issues.
- BEA's scores were lowest in "flexibility" and in "rewards." In both cases, BEA's scores were comfortably above the median scores.

BEA intends to build on the results of the 2010 survey in an effort to further enhance its workplace. It intends, for example, to ask for employee volunteers to serve on committees to address selected improvement initiatives.

### BEA updates book on ITAs concepts and methods

BEA has released an online publication that details the concepts and methodologies used to produce the international transactions accounts (ITAs).

The [free publication](#) is available on the BEA Web site, [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov). The ITAs—along with the related international investment position accounts—rank as one of the preeminent sources of statistics on the international economy, providing detailed information about exports, imports, and cross-border financial flows. The statistics are used by policymakers, academics, journalists, and others to study the economic interaction between the United States and the rest of the world.

This online book first presents the major concepts, definitions, and principles used in the construction of the ITAs and a brief description of the main structure of the accounts. The rest of the book presents an account-by-account description of the estimation methods used in the construction of each account for the components of the current account, the capital account, and the financial account.