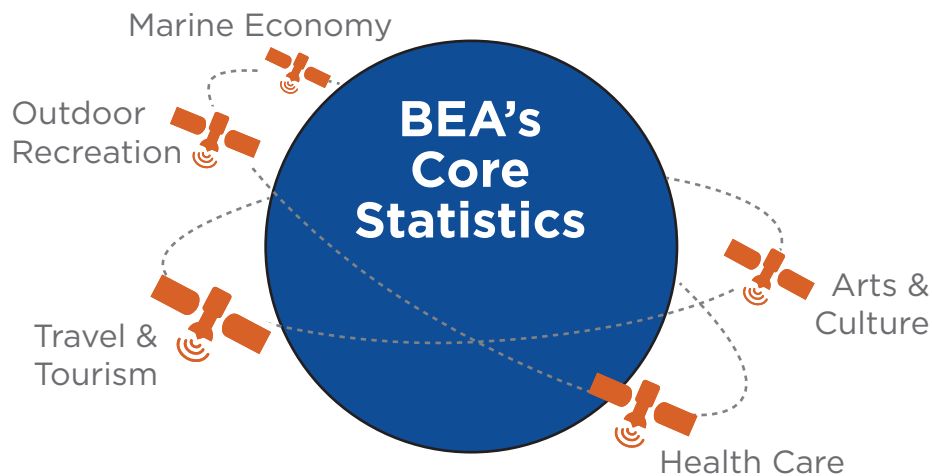


What's a Satellite Account?



The statistics in BEA's satellite accounts take a close look at a part of the economy, such as **outdoor recreation**, **health care**, or **marine-related activities**.

Like satellites orbiting Earth, satellite accounts orbit BEA's core statistics (such as gross domestic product and industry data) but are separate from the core accounts.



Why produce satellite accounts?

These supplementary statistics allow in-depth analysis of special topics that aren't easily seen within BEA's core statistics. They inform the decisions of policymakers, businesspeople, and the public and provide a deeper understanding of the U.S. economy. Many other statistical agencies around the world also produce satellite accounts, such as **travel and tourism** accounts.

Some of BEA's satellite accounts include state data. With the **arts and culture** account, for example, you can see how industries such as broadcasting, motion pictures, and publishing contribute to the economy and employment in each state and the District of Columbia.

Research for satellite accounts also can lead to new methodologies that improve BEA's core statistics. The treatment of **research and development** spending in our core national accounts began as a satellite account, which was eventually absorbed into the official statistics.

Developing a satellite account requires extensive research into the appropriate measures and data, but BEA makes preliminary estimates available as it researches potential new accounts. For example, we've recently published experimental estimates of the economic contributions of **small business**, the **digital economy**, and even the **space economy** (yes, satellites are more than a metaphor for that one).

For more information about our satellite accounts or about BEA in general:

bea.gov // CustomerService@bea.gov // (301) 278-9004

What's a Satellite Account?

How are satellite accounts developed?

The methods depend on the project.

Many satellite accounts are founded on BEA's supply-use tables, which show how goods and services move through the economy from one industry to another and to consumers. A key question is defining the parameters of a new account. (What counts as outdoor recreation?) Then we identify and quantify the relevant goods and services. (How many bicycles are bought for recreation versus commuting?)

Other satellite accounts require different approaches. Taking the measure of small business requires finding and accessing sources of data by business size.

For the Health Care Satellite Account, we measure spending by type of disease to better understand price growth and productivity in health care. This supplements the way BEA measures health care spending in our core statistics: by the products and services delivered, such as medicine and doctors' care.

The **household production** account expands the boundaries of BEA's core statistics. It estimates the size of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) if the value of cooking, cleaning, caring for children, and other unpaid chores at home were included.

Where are the statistics?

Satellite accounts and experimental data for potential satellite accounts are online at [bea.gov](https://www.bea.gov). You can find them listed in the Special Topics portion of our data menu, [bea.gov/data/special-topics](https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics):

- Arts and Culture
- Digital Economy
- Health Care
- Household Production
- Marine Economy
- Outdoor Recreation
- Small Business
- Space Economy
- Travel and Tourism

You can also learn about satellite account developments in BEA's journal, the *Survey of Current Business* (apps.bea.gov/scb).

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