

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
FEDERAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CHARTER

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee
- 2. Authority.** The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) determined that it is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed by law on the U.S. Department of Commerce (Department) and established within the Department the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee (FESAC or Committee) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Committee will advise the Directors of the Department's statistical agencies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as the Commissioner of the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the design, collection, tabulation, and analysis of federal economic statistics.
- 4. Description of Duties.** The Committee will function solely as an advisory committee to the senior officials of BEA, the Census Bureau, and BLS (the agencies). Important aspects of the committee's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Recommending research to address important technical problems arising in federal economic statistics;
 - b. Identifying areas in which better coordination of the agencies' activities would be beneficial;
 - c. Exploring ways to enhance the agencies' economic indicators to make them timelier, more accurate, and more specific to meeting changing demands and future data needs;
 - d. Improving the means, methods, and techniques to obtain economic information needed to produce current and future economic indicators; and
 - e. Coordinating, in its identification of agenda items, with other existing academic advisory committees chartered to provide agency-specific advice, for the purpose of avoiding duplication of effort.
- 5. Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Committee will report to the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs.
- 6. Support.** The Committee will be administratively housed at the Department. BEA will provide necessary funding support for the committee for the two-year term of this Charter.

7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The estimated annual cost of operating the committee is approximately \$120,000, which includes .5 person years of staff support. Members of the committee will not be compensated for their services, but will be reimbursed for travel expenses upon request as authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5703.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs will appoint a full-time employee to serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call all of the advisory committee's and subcommittees' meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Under Secretary of Economic Affairs. Technology, such as videoconferencing and teleconferencing may be used for committee meetings.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Committee will meet approximately twice per year budget permitting. Special meetings may be called when appropriate.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** This charter will terminate two years from the date of its filing with the appropriate U.S. Senate and House of Representatives oversight committees, unless earlier terminated or renewed by proper authority.
12. **Membership and Designation.** FESAC will comprise approximately 16 members who serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. Members shall be nominated by the Department and appointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the agencies and under the coordination of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs. Committee members shall be professionals in appropriate disciplines, including economists, statisticians, survey methodologists, and behavioral scientists who are prominent experts in their fields, recognized for their scientific, professional, and operational achievements and objectivity. Membership will represent data users with expertise from the public sector, academia, and the private sector. Members will be chosen to achieve a balanced membership that will meet the needs of the Secretary.
 - a. Members shall serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) and shall be subject to ethics rules applicable to SGEs.
 - b. Members will serve for a three-year term. Members may serve multiple terms at the discretion of the Secretary, in consultation with the agencies.
 - c. Membership renewal will be reevaluated by the Secretary, in consultation with the agencies, at the conclusion of each member's current term. Factors considered for renewal include: current needs of the Secretary, meeting attendance, and active participation.
 - d. Should a committee member be unable to complete a three-year term, at the Secretary's discretion and in consultation with the agencies, a new member may

be selected to complete that term for the duration of the time remaining or begin a new term of three years.

- e. The agencies, by consensus agreement, shall appoint the chairperson annually from the committee membership. Chairpersons shall be permitted to succeed themselves.

Members shall not reference or otherwise utilize their membership on the committee in connection with public statements made in their personal capacities without a disclaimer that the views expressed are their own and do not represent the views of the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee, the Census Bureau, BEA, BLS, or the Departments of Commerce or Labor.

- 13. **Subcommittees.** The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs may establish such subcommittees from among the committee members as may be necessary. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee and must not provide advice or work products directly to the agencies.
- 14. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 United States Code 552.

THOMAS
GILMAN

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THOMAS GILMAN
Date: 2020.09.28
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Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary
for Administration

Filing Date