Bureau of Labor Statistics Data Users Advisory Committee
Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

Advisory Committee Charter

1. Committee's Official Designation. Bureau of Labor Statistics Data Users Advisory Committee ("the Committee").

2. Authority. This charter establishes the Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

3. Objectives and Scope of Activities. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) operates over two dozen surveys and programs that measure employment and unemployment, compensation, worker safety, productivity, and consumer and producer price movements. BLS provides a wealth of economic data and analyses to support public and private decision–making. In order to best serve the information needs of its diverse user communities, BLS requires ongoing feedback from its customer base. *The National Research Council* volume on *Principles and Practices for a Federal Statistical Agency* prescribes that agencies obtain outside review through various channels, including standing advisory committees, to ensure "quality and professional standards of practice."

The Committee provides advice to the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the points of view of data users from various sectors of the U.S. economy, including the labor, business, research, academic and government communities, on matters related to the analysis, dissemination, and use of the Bureau's statistics, on its published reports, and on gaps between or the need for new Bureau statistics.

4. Description of Duties. The Committee is responsible for providing the Commissioner of Labor Statistics: (1) the priorities of data users; (2) suggestions concerning the addition of new programs, changes in the emphasis of existing programs or cessation of obsolete programs; and (3) advice on potential innovations in data analysis, dissemination, and presentation. These duties are wholly advisory in character.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports. The Committee reports to the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years. The estimated annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee are approximately $150,000.00 including one half work year (FTE) of Federal employee support.

8. Designated Federal Officer. A full-time BLS employee, appointed in accordance with agency procedures, will serve as the DFO (or designee). The DFO will approve or call all of the

advisory committee's meetings, prepare approved meeting agendas, attend all committee meetings, and adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest. The DFO will be the Associate Commissioner, Office of Publications and Special Studies, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings. The Committee expects to meet two times during each year.

Members of the Committee serve without compensation. However, members traveling from beyond the Washington, DC, metro commuting area may be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses incurred in order to attend the Committee meetings in accordance with Federal Travel Regulations.

10. Duration. The Committee will be needed on a continuing basis.

11. Termination. The Committee will terminate two years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that, the charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of FACA.

12. Membership and Designation. The Committee will not exceed 25 members. Membership of the Committee will represent a balance of expertise across the broad range of BLS program areas, including employment and unemployment statistics, occupational safety and health statistics, compensation measures, price indexes, and productivity measures; or other areas related to the subject matter of BLS programs. All committee members will have extensive research or practical experience using BLS data. Committee members are nominated by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics and approved by the Secretary of Labor. Committee members will not have access to information covered by the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act. The term of the appointment to the Committee is for three years and members may be reappointed after Secretary approval. The Committee chairperson will be selected by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, will serve in that capacity for three years, and may be reappointed.

Members will serve as Regular Government Employees (RGE) or as Representatives.

Except as otherwise required by law, Committee membership will be consistent with the applicable FACA regulations, as follows: a) Membership on the Bureau of Labor Statistics Data Users Advisory Committee will be fairly balanced; b) Members will come from a cross-section of those directly affected, interested, and qualified as appropriate to the nature and functions of the Bureau of Labor Statistics Data Users Advisory Committee; c) the composition of the Committee will therefore depend upon several factors, including i) the Committee's mission; ii) the geographic, ethnic, social, economic, or scientific impact of the advisory committee's recommendations; iii) the types of specific perspectives required; iv) the need to obtain divergent points of view on the issues before the Committee, such as, for example, those of consumers, technical experts, the public at-large, academia, business, or other sectors, and v) the relevance of State, local or tribal governments to the development of the Committee's recommendations.

To the extent permitted by FACA and other laws, Committee membership should also be consistent with achieving the greatest impact, scope and credibility among diverse stakeholders. The diversity in such membership includes, but is not limited to, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity.

13. Subcommittees. The BLS will not form subcommittees.

14. Recordkeeping. The records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 and approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

15. Filing Date.

Date filed with Congress: NOV - 1 2012

Secretary of Labor: Hilda L. Solis