# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
# CHARTER OF THE
# FEDERAL ECONOMIC STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. **Committee's Official Designation.** Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee

2. **Authority.** The Secretary of Commerce (the Secretary), having 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 (the Department), and with the concurrence of the General Services Administration, established within the Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA) the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory 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 ESA's two statistical agencies, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and the U.S Census Bureau (Census), and the Commissioner of the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on statistical methodology and other technical matters related to the 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, Census, and BLS (the agencies) in consultation with the committee chairperson. 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. Establishing relationships with professional associations with an interest in federal economic statistics
   d. 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
   e. Improving the means, methods, and techniques to obtain economic information needed to produce current and future Economic Indicators
   f. 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, who, as head of ESA, will coordinate and collaborate with the agencies.

6. **Support.** The committee will be administratively housed at the Department in the Economics and Statistics Administration (ESA). The Census Bureau 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.

8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The Under Secretary for Economic Affairs will appoint a full-time or permanent part-time career employee to serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call all of the committee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee 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 be in effect for a two-year period..

12. **Membership and Designation.** The committee will consist of 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. Membership 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 only 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.

13. **Subcommittees.** ESA may establish such Subcommittees from among the committee members as may be necessary. All Subcommittees shall be subject to the provisions of FACA, the FACA implementing regulations, and applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Subcommittees must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice or work products directly to the agency.

14. **Recordkeeping.** Records of the committee, formally and informally established Subcommittees, working groups or other subgroups, 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 U.S.C. 552.

Ellen Herbst

Chief Financial Officer and
Assistant Secretary for Administration

9/30/16

Filing Date