

2021 Current Fiscal Year Report: Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency		2. Fiscal Year	
Department of Labor		2021	
3. Committee or Subcommittee		3b. GSA Committee No.	
Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory Committee		76520	
4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	10/11/2018	10/11/2020	
8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date	
No			
9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?	
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	
11. Establishment Authority	Agency Authority		
12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
Agency Authority	10/07/2010	Continuing	No
15. Description of Committee	Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board		
16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear		
17a. Open Meetings and Dates	17b. Closed	17c. Partially Closed	Other Activities
No Meetings	0	0	0
	17d. Total	0	

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00

19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)

0.00 0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics Technical Advisory Committee (BLSTAC) functions solely as an advisory body to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) on topics selected by the BLS. The committee presents advice and makes recommendations to the BLS on technical aspects of the collection of data and formulation of economic measures and makes recommendations on areas of research. The committee provides advice in response to formal presentations from BLS staff regarding current issues being addressed by the agency. BLSTAC provides this advice during committee meetings.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Membership balance is based on technical and subject matter expertise. Members are experts in economics, statistics, data science, and survey design. They are prominent experts in their fields and recognized for their professional achievements and objectivity. Members' experience is directly relevant to the functions and tasks performed by the BLS.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The committee will normally meet twice annually to discuss technical questions posed in presentations prepared by BLS staff. The BLS Commissioner and Associate Commissioners are involved substantially in the formulation of meeting agendas and the preparation of presentations addressing current issues faced by the agency. In FY 2020, the committee met on November 22, 2019. The agenda included sessions on the future of the National Longitudinal Surveys, the appropriate index formula to estimate producer price change, and the potential of standardizing the task data in ORS.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The committee presents advice to the BLS on technical aspects of data collection and formulation of economic measures and makes recommendations on areas of research. The Bureau often faces highly technical issues while developing and maintaining the accuracy and relevancy of its data on employment and unemployment, prices, productivity, and compensation and working conditions. These issues range from how to develop new measures to how to make sure that existing measures account for the ever changing economy. The BLS draws on the expertise of committee members representing specialized fields within the academic disciplines of economics, statistics and data science, and survey design.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Not Applicable

21. Remarks

None.

Designated Federal Officer

Lucy P. Eldridge Associate Commissioner, BLS Office of Productivity and Technology

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Cavallo, Alberto	04/12/2019	04/12/2021	Harvard Business School	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Corrado, Carol	04/12/2019	04/12/2021	The Conference Board	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Deming, David	04/12/2019	04/12/2022	Harvard Kennedy School	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Haltiwanger, John	04/27/2020	04/27/2023	University of Maryland	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Harel, Ofer	04/27/2020	04/27/2023	University of Connecticut	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Hobijn, Bart	04/27/2020	04/27/2023	Arizona State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Houseman, Susan	03/15/2012	04/12/2022	W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Juhn, Chinhui	04/27/2020	04/27/2023	University of Houston	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Meyer, Bruce	04/12/2019	04/12/2021	University of Chicago	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Olson, Kristen	04/12/2019	04/12/2022	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Phillips, Keith	04/12/2019	04/12/2021	Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Reinsdorf, Marshall	04/27/2020	04/27/2023	International Monetary Fund	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sahin, Aysegul	04/12/2019	04/12/2022	University of Texas Austin	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Silge, Julia	04/12/2019	04/12/2022	Stack Overflow	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sinclair, Tara	04/12/2019	04/12/2021	The George Washington University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
West, Brady	04/12/2016	04/12/2022	University of Michigan	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 16

Narrative Description

BLSTAC provides advice on the collection and analysis of BLS data, thereby assisting BLS in fulfilling its mission as the principal Federal agency responsible for measuring labor market activity, working conditions, and price changes in the economy. Advice offered by BLSTAC also helps BLS fulfill its strategic plan goals to produce objective data and analysis that are timely, accurate, and relevant and continue to improve these data

products.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- Improvements to health or safety
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

Identification of new data products fills gaps in BLS statistics and improves existing products.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

The benefits are difficult to quantify, because they accrue to BLS customers in the form of more accurate and more relevant data.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

18

Number of Recommendations Comments

The recommendations referenced in this comment section are for FY 2020: (17) During a session on determining the Appropriate Index Formula to Estimate Producer Price Change, it was recommended that PPI should move to a geometric mean formula for elementary index calculations, including for indexes that use margin pricing. (18) During a session on Evaluating the Potential of Standardizing the Task Data in ORS, it was recommended to conduct research to determine whether the O*NET taxonomy is appropriate to use for modeling ORS task data.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

17%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Recommendation 18 has been fully implemented. The BLS Productivity Program conducted research and outreach to find additional taxonomies and concluded that O*NET is the most complete and widely used taxonomy. It was also recommended that we consider unsupervised machine learning and that work is on-going.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

56%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The number of partially implemented recommendations is unchanged since FY19.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The agency updates the committee on the status of recommendations made during committee meetings. These updates are made at later meetings or via e-mail communication.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities

Reallocated resources

- Issued new regulation
- Proposed legislation
- Approved grants or other payments
- Other

Action Comments

Evaluate and, in some cases, incorporate committee advice regarding technical issues related to the collection and analysis of BLS data.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

Not Applicable

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- Contact DFO
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

Not Applicable