

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Rural America at a Glance: 2024 Edition

Type of Report  
(ERR, EIB, EB) EIB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: About 46 million people lived in nonmetropolitan (nonmetro) counties in 2023, comprising 14 percent of the U.S. population. Recent population growth was observed in almost all county types regardless of degree of rurality or economic base. The composition of the rural population has been changing as well. In 2023, the nonmetro population was concentrated among younger and older age groups, who tend to require more economic support and caregiving. Relative to the metropolitan (metro) population, nonmetro areas had a smaller share of those who were age 15 to 59 and a larger share age 60 and older. Further, over the last decade there has been an increase in the number of older-age counties, where 20 percent or more of the population is age 65 or older. That growth has disproportionately been among nonmetro counties. These changes are a result of many factors, including but not limited to the aging of the baby boom generation past age 65 beginning in 2011 and migration patterns.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers  
[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 8/14/2024 Completed: 9/23/2024

Number of Reviewers: [ ] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization

Opportunities for Public Comment? [ ] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

