

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Independent Grocery Stores in the U.S. Food Retail Industry

Type of Report
(ERR, EIB, EB,
TB, SOR,) ERR

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

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Subject of Review: Independent grocery stores are a large part of the U.S. food retail industry. They play an important role in ensuring food access, but it is unclear how they have been affected by changes in the food retail industry these last few decades. This study uses Nielsen TDLinX data to examine independent retailers in 2015 and how they have changed from 2005 to 2015. We find that in 2015, at least half of the food retailers were independent in 44% of the counties, but their share of sales was low. From 2005 to 2015, the total number of grocery stores increased but the number of independent retailers stagnated beginning at the onset of the Great Recession, causing the share of independent retailers to decline. The greatest growth during this period were from small chain stores.

Purpose of Review:

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

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 03/31/17 End: 7/24/17 Completed: 7/24/17

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
Organization's Name:

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

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

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No