

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Recent Trends in Infant Formula Rebates

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR  
 Influential Scientific Information

Agency: Economic Research Service  Highly Influential Scientific Assessment  
USDA

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Subject of Review: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides iron-fortified infant formula, among other benefits, to low-income and nutritionally at-risk infants to ensure that they receive adequate nutrition, consistent with recommendations to “feed infants iron-fortified infant formula during the first year of life when human milk is unavailable,” set forth in the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. In fiscal year 2020, about half of all infant formula in the United States was consumed by WIC infants. This report focuses on costs of infant formula to WIC determined by contracts with infant formula manufacturers, specifically changes between current and prior contracts. The report also examines trends over time in net wholesale prices and its components—wholesale prices and rebates—and considers how factors such as declines in the number of infants participating in WIC contribute to these trends. Monitoring trends in infant formula rebate contracts is important because the contracts influence what WIC—and ultimately U.S. taxpayers—pay for the infant formula. WIC receives a fixed amount in appropriations each year so cost savings on the foods the program provides maximizes the caseload that can be served.

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  Individual Reviewers  
 Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 3/7/2024 Completed: 10/7/2024

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

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by:  Agency  Designated Outside Organization

