

ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Rural America at a Glance: 2025 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: Rural America at a Glance is an annual report that highlights recent social and economic conditions in nonmetro areas of the United States. This edition offers aggregate and county level statistical analyses of population change and indicators of economic well-being for nonmetro areas, including employment, income, and poverty. The nonmetro population increased from 2023 to 2024 resulting from positive net migration, continuing the trend that began in 2021. Nonmetro counties, particularly those with recreation-dependent economies, experienced growth from net migration. The economic indicators suggest that overall, nonmetro areas have rebounded from the Coronavirus pandemic economy (2020-2023) with poverty and employment rates reaching pre-pandemic levels in 2023 and 2024, respectively. There has also been recent growth in real median household income, albeit to a lesser degree than the growth experienced during the economic expansion that preceded the pandemic. Further, the share of nonmetro counties with low levels of debt-to-income (DTI) continued to exceed the share with high levels of DTI in 2024, continuing a trend that began after the Great Recession.

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: 7/31/2025 Completed: 9/26/2025

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

[X] No

When:

[X] No

[X] No