

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Factors Affecting the Demand for Convenience Foods

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: Demand for convenient restaurants and ready-to-eat foods have been growing in the United States particularly in the last decade. As these types of foods have often been associated with inferior dietary quality, the recent trend may have crucial implications for the health of Americans. The demand for convenience varies significantly from person to person, but the factors that influence these individual choices are currently not clear. This study considers three large groups of factors: financial resources to purchase more expensive convenient foods (income, food assistance, etc.), time-constraints that make these purchases worthwhile (employment, children, travel costs, etc.), and relative prices of convenient foods. The research finds that income increases demand for restaurant foods, while food assistance programs increase demand for supermarket foods. Consumers facing tight time-constraints from employment tend to purchase more foods from full-service restaurants and less supermarket foods. On the other hand, consumers facing tight time-constraints from childcare tend to purchase more fast food. The location of restaurants and stores have little effect on demand for convenience.

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Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 08/24/17 Completed: 01/29/2018 Withdrawn: XX/XX/18

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