

A. Major Duties

Incumbent individually plans and conducts relatively complex and difficult economic analysis and assists other economists by conducting segments of larger, more complex studies undertaken by the agency.

Plans and conducts economic research and/or analyses relating to economic issues important to agency programs.

Selects methods, techniques, and procedures including statistical data collection and processing, and organizes them into work plans for producing satisfactory information on the factors affecting the study.

Collects and evaluates a large quantity of data and determines significance of findings.

Prepares written reports or findings, analyses, and conclusions of economic studies.

Serves as a team member on research projects.

Performs other duties relative to the assignment.

B. Evaluation Factors

1. Knowledge Required by the Position

Professional knowledge of economic concepts, principles, theories, practices and skills sufficient to modify standard practices of research or analysis and to adapt economic principles or statistical techniques to analyze and evaluate a variety of involved questions or problems.

Thorough knowledge of economic theories, econometric techniques and statistical techniques to conduct research or analysis projects.

Knowledge of computer capabilities combined with skills to effectively utilize the computer where applicable.

Ability to apply the concepts and principles of other social science disciplines as they relate to economics and socio-economic conditions.

2. Supervisory Controls

Assignments are made by the supervisor or higher-grade economist who determines the overall objectives and resources available. The supervisor or higher-grade economist, in consultation with the incumbent, develops deadlines, priorities, and scope.

The incumbent independently plans and carries out the assignment, coordinating the work with other economists, where appropriate. Incumbent keeps the supervisor or higher-grade economist informed on progress, controversial issues, or far-reaching implications.

Work is reviewed for responsiveness and conformance with agency policy.

3. Guidelines

Guidelines exist in the form of Department and Agency policies, and professional journals and publications.

The incumbent is thoroughly familiar with the guidelines, but he/she must interpret and apply guidelines in precedent and non-routine situations.

4. Complexity

Assignments require the incumbent to conduct research and analyses of a difficult nature concerning various economic issues. The complexity of assignments is evidenced by the following technical requirements of the position: (1) proficiency and precision in the use of a variety of unrelated analytical techniques and methods, often considerably difficult and involving the correlation of numerous factors; (2) the perception necessary to recognize, understand, and explain significant, and possibly subtle, variations from expected findings; (3) initiative and knowledge sufficient to select, modify or develop procedures to meet unexpected or altered conditions; and (4) the imagination, when necessary, to suggest new investigations based on observations in related areas.

5. Scope and Effect

The purpose of the work is to plan and conduct relatively complex and difficult economic analysis or research involving agency projects, and to provide analytical reports on various economic issues.

The work serves to define economic issues and to identify alternative approaches.

6. Personal Contacts

Personal contacts are with economists or other specialists in the agency, professionals in other agencies, professionals in universities, and members of private industry, international organizations, foreign embassies and agricultural and trade organizations.

7. Purpose of Contacts

The purpose of contacts is to plan, coordinate or advise on work assignments, and to provide factual and analytical information on economic issues.

8. Physical Demands

The work is sedentary.

9. Work Environment

The work is performed in an office setting.

C. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Check if applicable)

- Supervisory Responsibilities (EEO Statement)
- Training Activities - Career Intern, Student Career Experience Program
- Motor Vehicle or Commercial Driver's License Required
- Pesticide Applicators License Required
- Safety/Radiological Safety Collateral Duties
- EEO Collateral Duties
- Drug Test Required
- Vaccine(s) Required
- Financial Disclosure Required
- Special Physical Requirements/Demands
- Other: