

Economic Research Service Organizational Restructuring

As part of the USDA’s broader reorganization, the Economic Research Service is restructuring its organization to enhance the delivery of timely, policy-relevant economic research, analysis, and data that inform agricultural policy.

This effort (1) strengthens ERS’s technical expertise in data science and engineering, (2) improves coordination across operations and research programs, and (3) positions the agency for long-term sustainability.

ERS will be positioned to adapt to evolving priorities, technologies, and data environments.

Key Structural Changes

Washington DC Leadership and Liaison Positions. Washington, DC remains a critical ERS location, supporting executive oversight, departmental coordination, statistical policy leadership, and activities associated with the World Agricultural Outlook Board.

Kansas City Established as the Premier Location for Economic Expertise. The Kansas City, MO location will expand as the central hub for ERS’s core cadre of agricultural economists and mission-enabling staff.

Alignment of Research Functions. ERS will organize its research activities into three offices and eight branches to strengthen program coordination and improve the agency’s ability to respond to emerging issues.



What Remains Constant

- ERS will continue to produce timely, high-quality, objective research, data, and analysis, including ERS research reports, Situation and Outlook reports, data products, and policy briefings.
- ERS remains a cornerstone of the Federal statistical system and will continue to ensure the quality, objectivity, and transparency of its statistical information.
- The agency will continue to deliver research that addresses foundational and emerging issues in the agricultural sector.

What this Means

For the Agency: A modernized approach to economic analysis supported by updated technology.

For Employees: Clearer roles and expanded opportunities to develop modern technical competencies.

For Stakeholders: Continued confidence through enhanced transparency, usability, and accessibility of ERS research and data.

Key Actions

Modernization. ERS is advancing modernization efforts to strengthen tools, technologies, and processes that enhance economic research.

Key elements:

- Strengthen cloud-based infrastructure and platforms
- Expand the use of geospatial, administrative, and other data sources
- Integrate AI capabilities into analysis and data processes

Outcome: Faster and more efficient research that supports high-quality economic analysis.

Restructure. ERS is simplifying its organizational design to better support core economic research functions by reducing complexity and eliminating silos.

Key elements:

- Align similar research functions to support priorities and quickly respond to emerging issues
- Consolidate related functions and responsibilities to streamline operations

Outcome: A more efficient organization focused on mission delivery.

Reorganization. ERS is aligning leadership and workforce structures to support the new organization.

Key elements:

- Align staff and leadership in Kansas City, MO
- Strengthen accountability among teams and colleagues
- Strategically organize teams to foster collaboration

Outcome: A more agile, accountable, and adaptable workforce.

Employee Support and Communication

ERS remains committed to clear and ongoing communication throughout the transition. Employees will receive updates through leadership briefings, written guidance, and other transition materials. The agency will continue to provide opportunities for feedback, clarification, and engagement as implementation moves forward.