Housing Services Discussion Questions

1. Does the proposed approach seem well-suited to measuring nominal housing services given the approaches used in the academic literature and by other government statistical agencies?

2. Does the calculation of the owner premium seem reasonable given the underlying assumptions? If not, how might the computation of the owner premium be improved?

3. Conceptually, what is the best way to think of housing services for vacant properties? BEA’s current method assumes they provide fifty percent of the service of comparable properties in some cases (e.g., a seasonal property may be occupied roughly half the year). Other cases, such as properties that have been sold but remain unoccupied, are treated as 100 percent occupied. These treatments are consistent with European guidelines.

4. Should mobile homes and farms be treated similarly to single-family and multi-family dwellings?

5. Are there other high priority aspects of the measurement of housing services that BEA should consider?