

## Economist Positions at the FTC

Vita, Michael G. <MVITA@ftc.gov>

Tue 12/13/2022 11:47 AM

To: Garetto, Stefania <garettos@bu.edu>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580



Bureau of Economics

Michael Vita, Deputy Director

December 13, 2022

Dear Stefania Garetto,

The Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Economics has several job openings for junior and senior Ph.D. economists in 2023. We are looking for talented, well-trained economists specializing in any field of applied microeconomics or econometrics to join our staff of approximately 80 Ph.D. economists. We will conduct virtual interviews with candidates the week before the American Economic Association in January 2023. Please note, these positions can only be filled by US citizens.

The Bureau of Economics offers an outstanding environment for microeconomists to grow professionally. Staff economists at the FTC contribute to the agency's mission in a variety of ways. As part of the FTC's antitrust enforcement mission, FTC economists provide state-of-the-art theoretical and empirical analysis of the competitive consequences of proposed mergers and other forms of business conduct. As part of the FTC consumer protection mission, FTC economists assist the Commission by analyzing consumer decision-making, firms' incentives, and estimating consumer injury from firms violating consumer protection laws. While the primary role of an FTC economist is to support antitrust or consumer protection investigations, staff economists also regularly conduct research and publish in academic journals, support litigation by serving as expert witnesses, and take on policy roles by serving as economic advisors to FTC Commissioners.

To be successful in providing scientifically sound, data-driven economic analysis that informs antitrust and consumer protection policy, it is important that FTC economists maintain a current set of theoretical and empirical modeling skills. To that end, the Bureau of Economics encourages staff to produce high-quality research, as is evident by staff articles placed in general interest journals such as *Econometrica*, *Review of Economics & Statistics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and the *Economic Journal*, as well as top field journals such as the *RAND Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty* and the *Journal of Labor Economics*. The Bureau of Economics also hosts a [weekly seminar series](#), a working paper series, and the annual [FTC Microeconomics Conference](#). In the past ten years, the agency has spent more than \$500,000 on data procurement that has facilitated several research articles published in top journals. A testament to the strength of the research engagement at FTC is that a substantive share of our alumni left for academic positions. Many remain engaged with the work of the agency as academics. The importance and the variety of economic issues, as well as the opportunity for a substantial direct impact on public policy, make the FTC a unique and exciting place for an economist to work and learn. The Bureau of Economics is known for having a collegial atmosphere and valuing academic research. To

help new economists grow professionally, the Bureau offers a mentoring program that matches new staff with experienced economists based on the expressed interests of the new staff. Because of the interesting work and good work-life balance, the Bureau of Economics has a high retention rate of staff. Over the last 25 years, economists who have left the FTC have left for academia, consulting, or other government agencies at relatively similar rates.

The salary is competitive to many other federal jobs. Unlike in many other federal agencies, staff economists are able to move to the highest pay level of the [General Pay Schedule](#) (whereas in other agencies, GS15 is reserved for managerial positions only). More information about the Bureau and our recruiting efforts is available at <http://www.ftc.gov/about-ftc/bureaus-offices/bureau-economics/careers-bureau-economics>, where you can also find [Economist Bios](#) and the [Organization Chart](#) to learn more about individual FTC economists.

Thank you for taking the time to review this letter and for passing it along to any economist for whom the FTC might be a good match. For questions, please feel free to contact our recruiting coordinators, Beth Freeborn, at [bfreeborn@ftc.gov](mailto:bfreeborn@ftc.gov) and Eddie Watkins at [wwatkins@ftc.gov](mailto:wwatkins@ftc.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Vita

Deputy Director for Research & Management  
Bureau of Economics