

FY 2021 Ratings Distribution Justification

During FY 2021, Senior Executives at the Department of Commerce warranted higher level performance ratings due to leading the Department's efforts, all while continuing to meet and exceed a high number of the goals in the Department's FY18-22 Strategic Plan and other performance goals/indicators. As noted, the Department and its Bureaus lead the conceptualization, development and the execution of additional high priority initiatives that serve the public interest. These selected accomplishments highlights provide additional context for the justification for a Model Rating 5. In FY 2021, the Department and Bureau missions, goals, and objectives ensured national security interests did not fail. The public health and safety initiatives, programs, and services continued to protect property, and more importantly save lives.

Key Department of Commerce accomplishments during 2021 include but are not limited to:

- The Secretary negotiated and helped secure \$65 billion in funding for universal broadband through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with \$48 billion directed to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- Promoting the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act secured permanent authorization for the Minority Businesses Development Agency (MBDA), the only Federal agency dedicated to promoting the growth, development, and resilience of minority-owned businesses.
- Launched six Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant programs that allocate \$3 billion to enhance long-term economic growth opportunities for communities and workers that are too often overlooked.
- Successfully protected national security while removing a major diplomatic irritant with the European Union (EU) and prevented retaliatory tariffs by negotiating modifications to Section 232 steel and aluminum measures that support the viability of U.S. industry and protect thousands of American jobs.
- Helped secure bipartisan Senate passage of the United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021, which includes funding for America's domestic semiconductor manufacturing industry.
- In support of the Department's work to rebuild America's semiconductor supply chain, the Department issued a voluntary Request for Information to bring transparency around inventory, orders, and bottlenecks in the supply chain and launched an early alert system to help address real-time semiconductor supply chain disruptions linked to COVID-19-related public health developments. Additionally, the Department and the National Economic Council convened semiconductor industry participants throughout the year and made progress in improved communication and trust across the supply chain and improvements in the supply chain practices of chip consumers. Ford and GlobalFoundries have credited the Department convenings for their partnership to produce more chips for Ford vehicles in the United States.
- Successfully fulfilled the Department's constitutional mandate by providing the 2020 Census apportionment results to the President and Congress.
- Initiated discussions on an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, together with the Office of the United States Trade Representative, that will define shared objectives around key areas, such as the digital economy and technology, supply chain resilience, and infrastructure.

- Launched the US/EU Trade and Technology Council, which serves as a forum to expand digital collaboration and promote alignment on technology rules based on shared values of democracy, individual rights, and market-oriented growth.
- In response to public input, the Department issued a new rule imposing export controls on certain cybersecurity items to further prevent use of U.S. technology for malicious cyber activities while facilitating legitimate cybersecurity work.
- Contributed essential data, services, and solutions to address the climate crisis through an upgraded climate.gov website, highlighted the U.S. commitment to address climate change as part of the U.S. delegation to the COP26 climate conference, and initiated a series of listening sessions with private sector industries to further dialogue on how these sectors can better use NOAA's weather and climate data.
- Bolstered the New Blue Economy by coordinating the siting and permitting process for offshore wind projects to support the Administration's clean energy goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030, including by developing a comprehensive interagency approach to mitigate impacts of offshore energy development on fisheries scientific surveys.
- Posted a series of eight Climate and Equity roundtables to listen and learn from vulnerable communities about how the agency can better meet their needs to address climate risks.
- Securing final passage of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, which includes \$52 billion for domestic semiconductor production.
- Implementing the President's infrastructure agenda, including making progress toward meeting the President's goal of universal, affordable broadband by the year 2030.
- Investing in the middle class, especially women, through sustainable investments in infrastructure, childcare, and job training to increase the labor force and reduce costs for families.
- Completing distribution of EDA funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economy Security (CARES) Act and American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, which helps strengthen regional economic growth, support local businesses, and ensures workers are prepared for the jobs of today and tomorrow.
- Increasing clean tech exports to advance the domestic competitiveness of green industries and create jobs.
- Coordinating with allies to define shared goals and objective as it relates to technology and supply chains. This includes releasing a joint statement with U.S. partners highlighting a shared vision for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and continued definition of shared goals and objectives through the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council.
- Confronting the People's Republic of China (PRC)'s Military-Civil Fusion (MCF) Strategy, human rights abuses, and unfair and market-distorting industrial policies, while leveling the playing field for American companies in the PRC and protecting U.S. technology from unauthorized uses and users. To this end, the Department will continue to work with stakeholders to strengthen compliance with export controls as appropriate, monitor the use of key technologies by the Chinese Government and commercial entities, and vigorously investigate and impose criminal and/or administrative penalties in response to violations.