

Data may have been updated since publication. For the most current information, see www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/.

Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Annual percent change			
						2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	237.2	240.9	240.8	284.8 p	323.4 f	1.6	0.0	18.3	13.6
Crops	113.6	116.0	122.6	147.0	179.9 f	2.1	5.7	19.9	22.4
Livestock	123.6	124.9	118.2	137.9	143.5 f	1.1	-5.4	16.7	4.1
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	13.0	24.4	15.8	11.9	12.5 f	87.7	-35.2	-24.7	5.0
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	267.3	281.5	274.1	313.4	353.5 f	5.3	-2.6	14.3	12.8
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	82.3	86.6	68.0	87.4	90.7 f	5.2	-21.5	28.5	3.8
Net value added (\$ bil.)	127.6	123.6	103.1	135.2	134.9 f	-3.1	-16.6	28.5	1.8
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,434.6	1,642.2	1,851.0	1,998.4	2,134.5 f	14.5	12.7	8.0	6.8
Farm debt-asset ratio	11.3	10.5	9.6	9.6	9.2 f	-7.1	-8.6	0.0	-4.2
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	80,843	81,086	81,251	86,223	87,138 f	0.3	0.2	6.1	1.1
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	133.7	128.0	122.1	127.5	na	na	na	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) ¹	na	2.3	3.4	5.5	na	na	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	312	314	304 p	na	na	0.6	-3.2	na	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) ^{1,2}	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.4 p	5.0 f	4.9	0.0	2.3	13.6

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

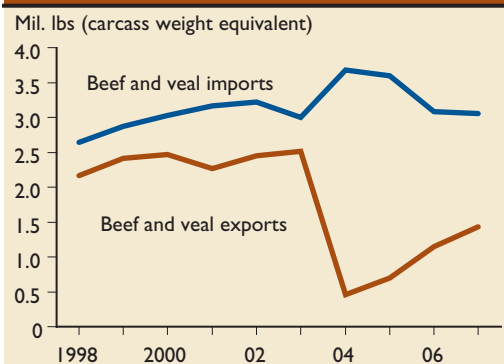
U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	11,686	12,434	13,195	13,844	na	6.4	6.1	4.9	na
Share of agriculture & related industries in GDP (%) ¹	4.8	4.5	4.3	na	na	-6.3	-4.4	na	na
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) ¹	1.0	0.8	0.7	na	na	-16.3	-12.5	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ²	52.7	57.7	64.0	70.1	79.3	9.5	10.9	9.5	13.1
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	62.4	62.5	68.6	82.2	115.5	0.2	9.8	19.8	40.5
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) ¹	22.8	21.5	23.0	23.8 p	na	-5.7	7.0	3.5	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	186.2	190.7	195.3	202.9	214.1	2.4	2.4	3.9	5.5
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.7	9.8	9.8	9.8	na	1.0	0.0	0.0	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	51.4	51.4	51.1	51.2	na	0.0	-0.6	0.2	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	232.1	239.2	246.2	248.3	na	3.1	2.9	0.9	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) ²	46.2	50.9	53.1	54.3	na	10.2	4.3	2.3	na

f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available. All dollar amounts are in current dollars.

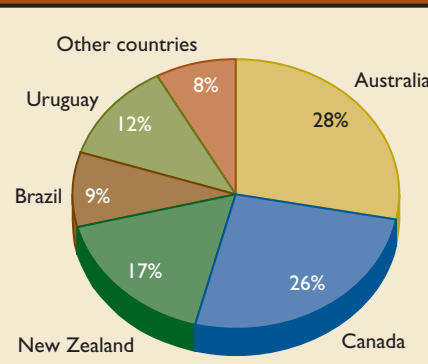
¹ The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics. Sources and computation methodology are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm

² Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

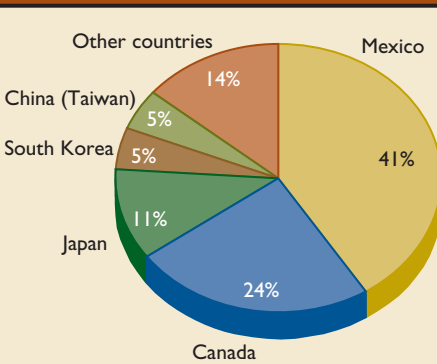
U.S. imports of beef and veal declining since 2004, while exports regain lost markets



Australia was the largest source of imported beef in 2007



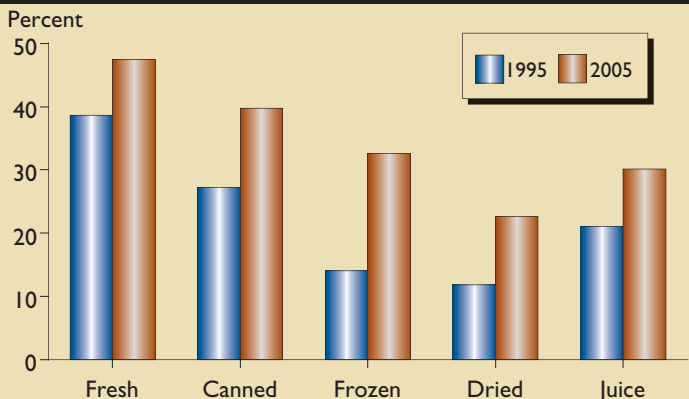
Most U.S. beef exports went to North American countries in 2007



For more information, see www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves

Markets and Trade

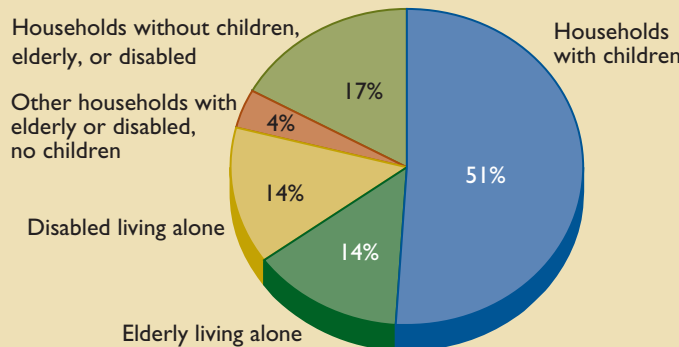
U.S. fruit imports gaining in share of domestic consumption



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.

Diet and Health

Over 83 percent of the 11.6 million U.S. households receiving SNAP benefits in FY 2007 had at least one child, elderly person, or disabled person

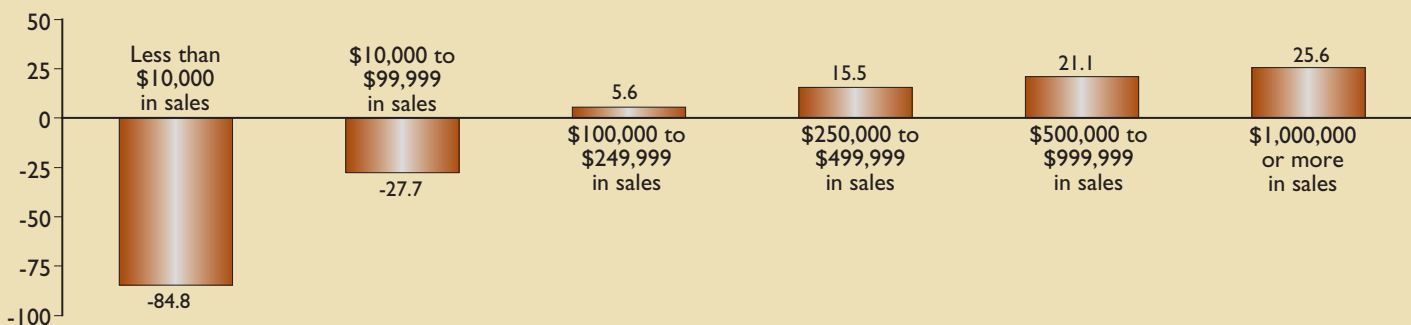


Source: Prepared by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.

Farms, Firms, and Households

Operating profit margins for farms increase with sales

Operating profit margin, 2007 (percent)

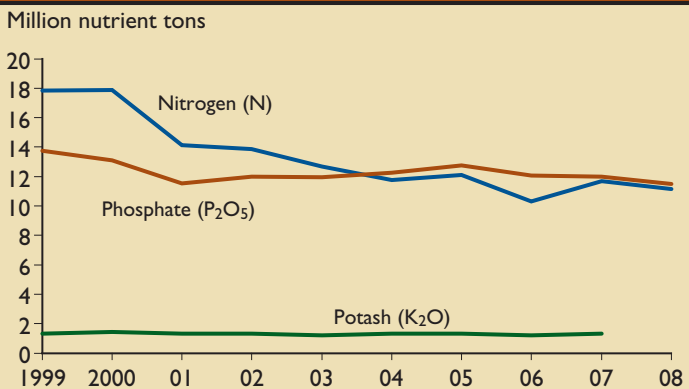


Note: Operating profit margins indicate the percentage of revenue retained as profit and are more fully defined in *Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms: Family Farm Report, 2007 Edition*, www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib24/.

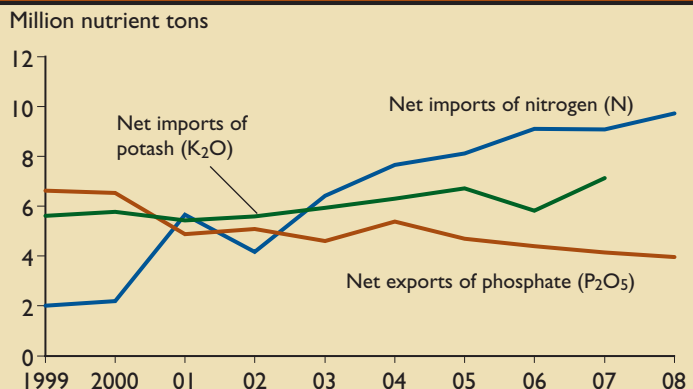
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2007 Agricultural Resource Management Survey, Phase III.

Resources and Environment

U.S. nitrogen production has declined...



...while nitrogen imports have been rising



Note: Nitrogen and phosphate data are in fertilizer years (July to June), while potash data are in calendar years.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using nitrogen and phosphate data from U.S. Department of Commerce and potash data from U.S. Geological Survey.

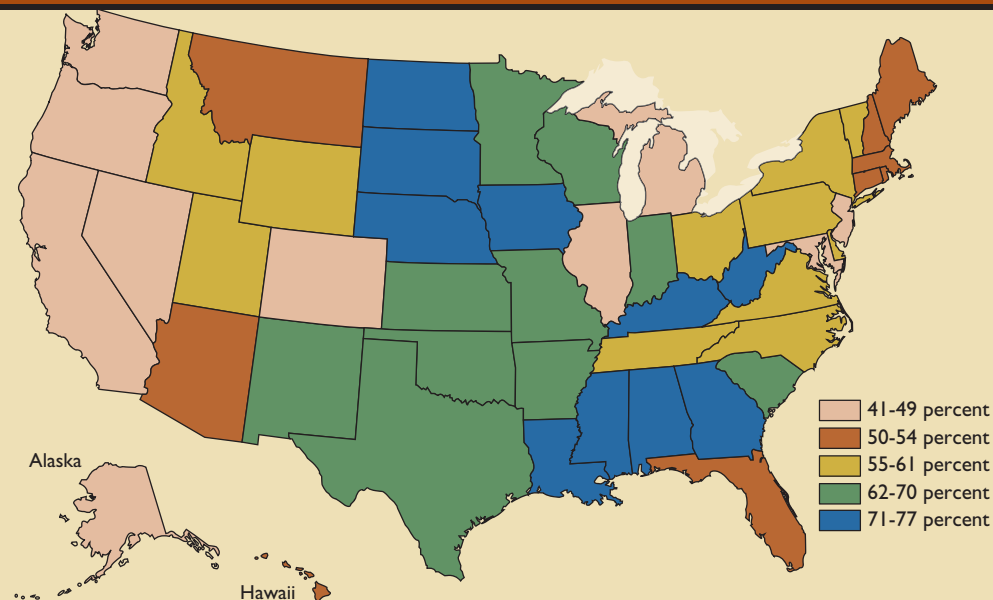
On the Map

National School Lunch Program Feeds 30 Million Children

In the 2006-07 school year, over 30 million school children, 57 percent of the U.S. population age 5-17, participated in USDA's National School Lunch Program. Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota had the highest participation rates—above 75 percent. Income-eligible students can receive lunches for free or at a reduced price. Nationally, 54 percent of students participating in the program received a free or reduced-price lunch in 2006-07. Colorado, Maryland, and New Jersey had some of the lowest overall participation rates and were among the 21 States where less than half of the participants received free and reduced-priced lunches.

Melissa Musiker,
mmusiker@ers.usda.gov

Percent of children age 5-17 participating in the National School Lunch Program, fiscal year 2007



Source: Prepared by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Census Bureau, and the Food Research and Action Coalition.

In the Long Run

National School Lunch Program Participation Up 57 Percent Since 1969

Since 1969, the sixfold increase in the number of students receiving free and reduced-price lunches has been the driving force behind the growth in USDA's National School Lunch Program. In the 1970s, laws relaxed eligibility criteria and prohibited overt identification of children receiving free and reduced-price meals, and the number of free and reduced-price participants grew by 154 percent. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Acts of 1980 and 1981 temporarily halted this upward trend by establishing stricter income guidelines and requiring income verification. Since 1990, the number of children receiving free and reduced-price lunches has grown from 11.5 to 17.9 million.

Melissa Musiker,
mmusiker@ers.usda.gov

National School Lunch Program participation by price paid for meals



Source: Prepared by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA's Food and Nutrition Service.