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Selected Charts 2016 from
Ag and Food Statistics:
Charting the Essentials



A message from the Administrator

Inside this booklet is a sample of the 70 charts and maps provided in an online product we call *Ag and Food Statistics: Charting the Essentials*. Organized into nine topics and updated as new data become available, these essential charts and maps illustrate the scope of Economic Research Service work on food, agriculture, trade, natural resources, and rural America.

The idea behind this product is to provide key information on a number of topics, reflecting and anticipating questions people have about the food, farm, and rural sectors. How much, for example, do America's farms contribute to the general economy? Which countries are our leading customers for agricultural products? How does food price inflation compare with other consumer expenses? What areas are seeing growth in rural population?

Since its launch 3 years ago, we've received positive feedback on the *Essentials* from public officials, researchers, educators, journalists, and others. In fiscal 2016, we logged over 125,000 visits to the opening web page or one of the nine topic pages. *Essentials* users, by the way, can download high-resolution versions of each chart and map.

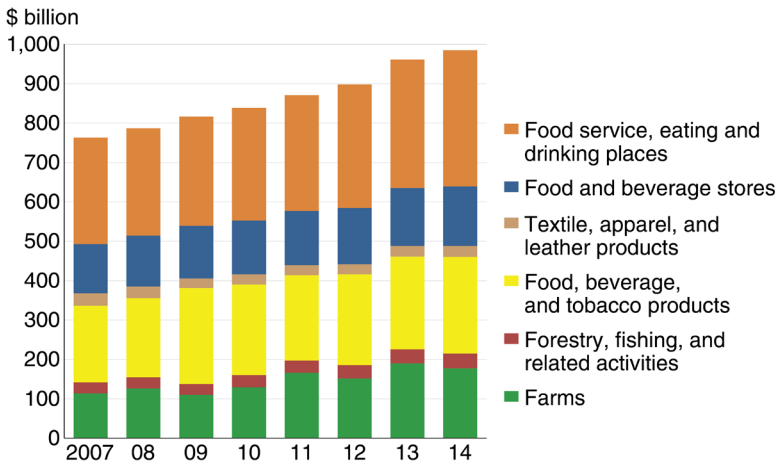
I invite you to visit and revisit the *Essentials* on the ERS website (www.ers.usda.gov/essentials), and to explore our reports, topic pages, data products, and other online resources.

Mary Bohman, Ph.D.
Administrator

Ag and Food Sectors and the Economy
Land and Natural Resources
Farming and Farm Income
Rural Economy
Agricultural Production and Prices
Agricultural Trade
Food Availability and Consumption
Food Prices and Spending
Food Security and Nutrition Assistance

In 2014, agriculture and related industries accounted for 5.7 percent of U.S. GDP.

Value added to GDP by agriculture and related industries, 2007-14



Note: GDP refers to gross domestic product.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Value Added by Industry series.

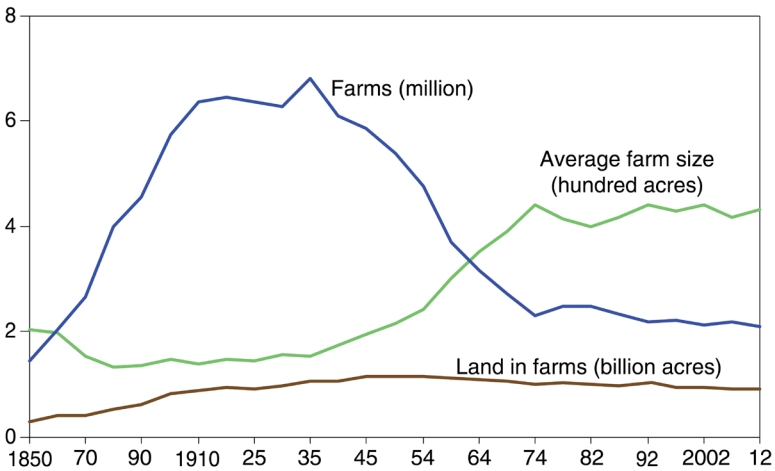
America's farms contributed \$177.2 billion to the U.S. economy in 2014.



Today's farms are fewer (about 2 million) and larger (about 400 acres per farm).

Farms, land in farms, and average acres per farm, 1850-2012

Million farms, billion acres, or hundred acres per farm

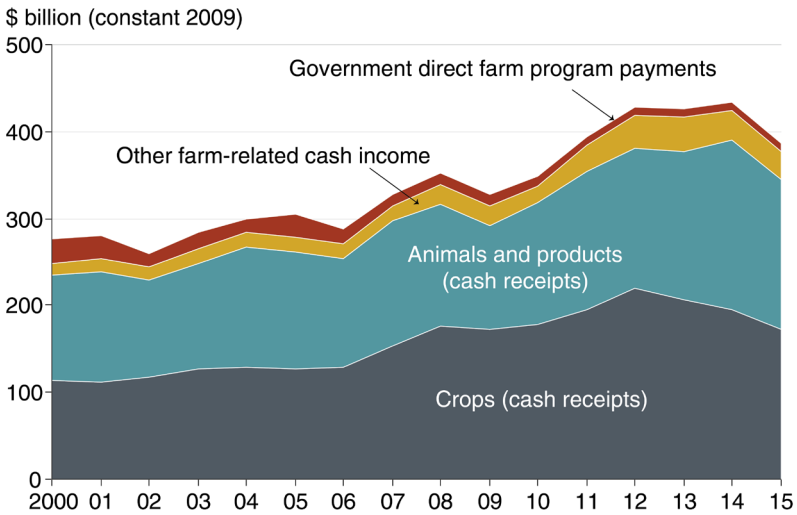


Source: USDA, Economic Research service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, various years.

The number of U.S. farms peaked at 7 million in 1935.

Rising cash receipts from crops and livestock since 2000 have supported the growth in real gross farm income.

Gross cash farm income components, inflation adjusted, 2000-15



Data as of August 30, 2016.

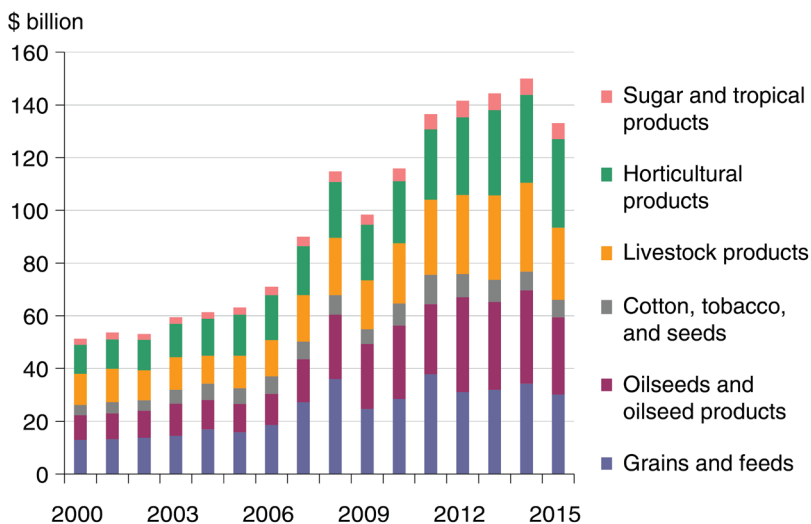
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Farm Income and Wealth Statistics.

Government payments are a small share of farm sector income.



After 5 years of growth, U.S. agricultural exports declined to \$133 billion in 2015.

U.S. agricultural exports, 2000-15

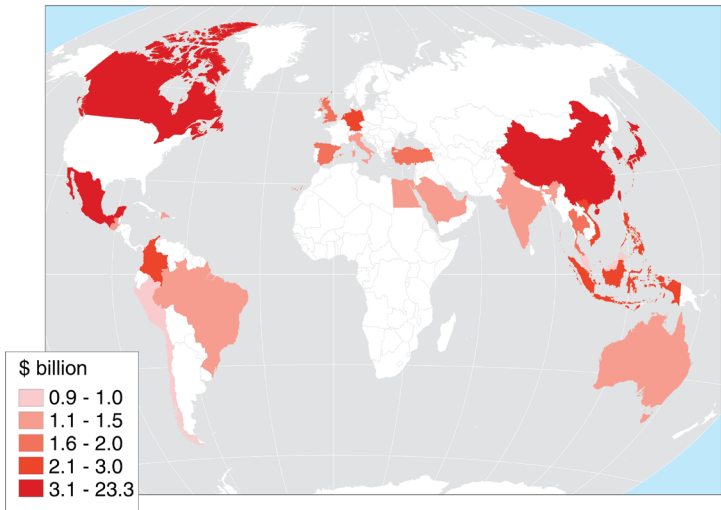


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Database.

Livestock products, grains/feeds, and oilseeds/products accounted for nearly all of the decrease in 2015.

East Asia and North America are top regions for U.S. agricultural exports.

Top 30 U.S. agricultural export destinations, 2013-15 average



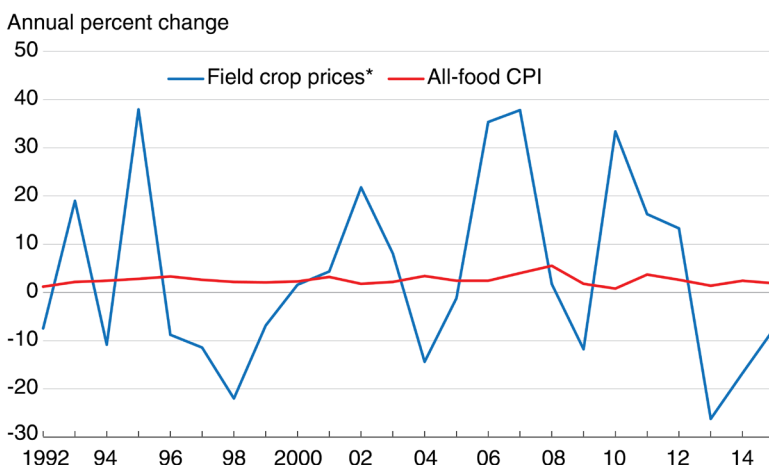
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations based on data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Database.

Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, and South Korea accounted for 57 percent of U.S. agricultural exports in 2013-15.



Even large swings in farm commodity prices result in modest changes in food prices...

Change in all-food CPI and field crop prices, 1992-2015



*Production-weighted average for corn, wheat, and soybeans.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Over the last decade, food prices have posted annual increases of between 0.8 and 5.5 percent.

...as much of Americans' retail food dollar covers processing, retailing, and food-service costs.

2014 Food dollar (nominal): Industry Group



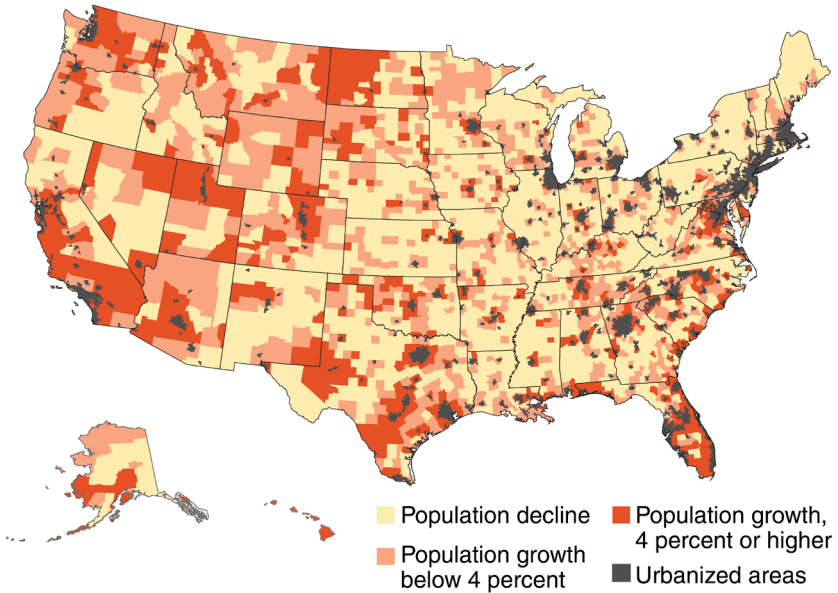
Note: "Other" includes two industry groups: Agribusiness plus Legal & Accounting.
 Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Dollar Series.

Farm production costs accounted for 10.4 cents of the food dollar in 2014.



Rural population growth and decline vary across the United States.

County population change 2010-15

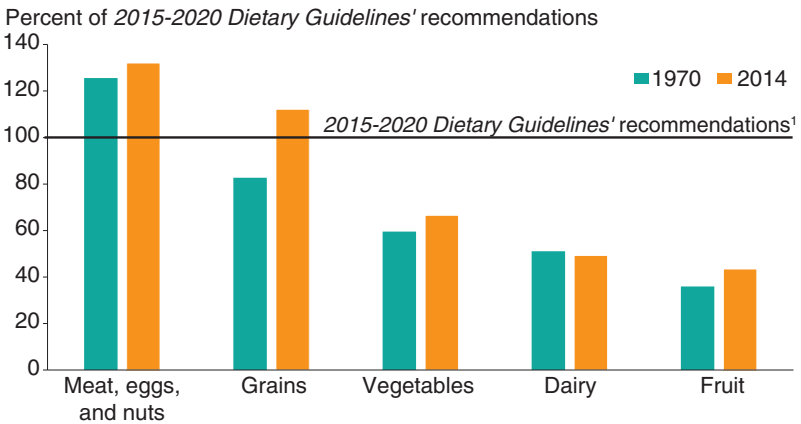


Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Census Bureau.

About 46 million people—14 percent of U.S. residents—live in rural (nonmetro) America.

U.S. diets are out of balance with Federal recommendations.

Estimated average U.S. consumption compared to recommendations, 1970 and 2014



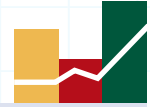
¹Based on a 2,000-calorie diet.

Loss-adjusted food availability data are proxies for consumption. Rice data were discontinued and thus are not included in the grains group.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Loss-Adjusted Food Availability Data and 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines.

Americans are consuming less than the recommended amounts of fruit, vegetables, and dairy products.

Like to see more?



View the complete *Essentials* on the ERS website.

This collection of charts and maps presents essential information on the farm sector, food spending and prices, food security, rural communities, and the interaction of agriculture and natural resources.

- Organized by topic – choose among nine categories
- Contains 70 charts and maps
- Includes descriptive text with each
- High-resolution versions easy to download
- Maps and charts periodically updated

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