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Updates of *Agricultural Outlook's* statistical tables are just a click away at www.ers.usda.gov/publications/AgOutlook

Farm, Rural, and Natural Resources Indicators

	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	Annual percent change 1990-2000	2001-02	2002-03
Cash receipts ($ billion)	169.5	188.0	192.0	199.8	192.9	209.9 f	1.3	-3.5	8.8
Crops	80.3	100.8	92.4	93.4	99.5	105.6 f	1.4	6.5	6.1
Livestock	89.2	87.2	99.5	106.4	93.5	104.3 f	1.1	-12.1	11.6
Direct government payments ($ billion)	9.3	7.3	22.9	20.7	11.0	19.7 f	9.4	-46.9	79.1
Gross cash income ($ billion)	186.9	205.9	228.6	235.3	219.4	246.0 f	2.0	-6.8	12.1
Net cash income ($ billion)	52.7	52.5	56.5	59.2	49.1	65.1 f	0.7	-17.1	32.6
Net value added ($ billion)	80.8	74.8	92.0	94.2	76.9	100.1 f	1.3	-18.4	30.2
Farm equity ($ billion)	702.6	815.0	1,025.6	1,070.1	1,110.7 f	1,147.2 f	3.9	3.8	3.3
Farm debt-asset ratio	16.4	15.6	14.8	14.8	14.8 f	14.8 f	-1.0	0.0	0.0
Farm household income ($/farm household)	38,237	44,392	61,947	64,117 p	65,757 p	68,884 f	4.9	2.6	4.8
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	103.1	98.8	108.6	110.2	na	na	0.5	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (%)	3.6	2.2	2.6	3.1	2.6	na	-3.2	-16.1	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	310	302	314	311	307 p	na	0.1	-1.3	na
USDA Conservation Program expenditures ($ bil.)[1]	3.0	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.5 q	na	1.3	-5.4	na

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product ($ billion current)[2]	5,803	7,401	9,825	10,082	10,446	10,863 f	5.4	3.6	4.0
Food and fiber share (%)	15.1	14.2	12.6	12.3	na	na	-1.8	na	na
Farm sector share (%)	1.4	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	na	-5.4	0.0	na
Total agricultural imports ($ billion)[1]	22.7	29.8	38.9	39.0	41.0	45.7	5.5	5.1	11.5
Total agricultural exports ($ billion)[1]	40.3	54.6	50.7	52.7	53.3	56.2	2.3	1.1	5.4
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%)	22.5	25.8	22.4	22.5	21.9 p	na	-0.0	-2.7	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	132.4	148.4	167.9	173.1	176.2	180.0	2.4	1.8	2.2
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	11.2	10.6	10.2	10.2	10.1	na	-0.9	-1.0	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	55.4	53.9	53.3	53.8	53.9 p	na	-0.4	0.2	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	144.5	174.5	210.3	215.4	221.2	na	3.8	2.7	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending ($ billion)[1]	24.9	37.9	32.6	34.2	38.0	41.6	2.7	11.1	9.5

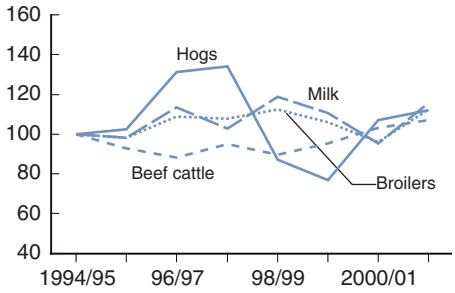
f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. q = 2002 Administration request. na = Not available.

[1] Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

[2] Forecast for 2003 based on the Office of Management and Budget's Midsession Budget Review, July 2003.

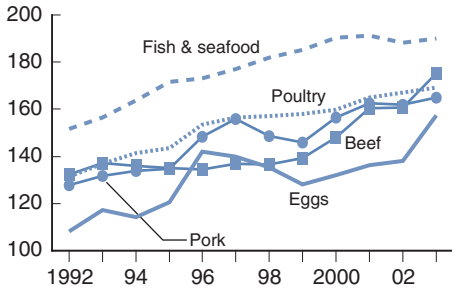
Indices of annual prices received by farmers: Livestock and milk

1994-95=100

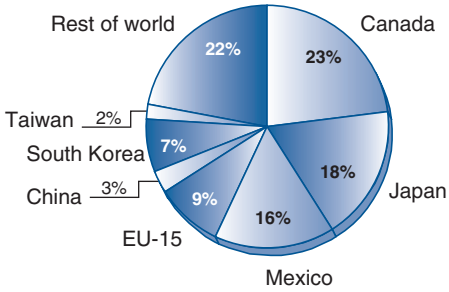


Consumer price indices for high-protein foods consumed at home

1982-84=100



Value of U.S. processed HVP* ag exports by top destinations, 2003



*High-value products.

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

Behind the Data

Developing a County-level Measure of Urban Influence

An area's geographic context has a significant effect on its development. Economic opportunities accrue to a place by virtue of both its size and its access to larger economies. Population size, urbanization, and access to larger communities are often crucial elements in county-level research. To advance such research, ERS developed a set of county-level urban influence categories that captures some differences in economic opportunities.

The 2003 Urban Influence Codes divide the 3,141 counties, county equivalents, and independent cities in the United States into 12 groups. Counties are first divided into metropolitan (metro) and nonmetropolitan (nonmetro) categories according to the official classification announced by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in June 2003, based on population and commuting data from the 2000 Census of Population. Metro counties are then divided into two groups by the size of the metro area they are in—large and small (see box, "County Definitions"). Nonmetro counties are divided into 10 groups, first by micropolitan (micro) versus noncore status, then by proximity to metro- or micro-areas.

Nonmetro micro counties are divided into three groups by their adjacency to metro areas—adjacent to a large metro area, adjacent to a small metro area, and not adjacent to a metro area. Nonmetro noncore counties are divided into seven groups by their adjacency to metro or micro areas and whether or not they have their "own town" of at least 2,500 residents.

Nonmetro counties are defined as adjacent if they abut a metro area (noncore counties may also abut a micro area) and have at least 2 percent of employed persons commuting to work in the core of the metro area (or in the micro area). When a nonmetro county was adjacent to more than one metro (or micro) area, it was designated as adjacent to the area to which the largest percentage of its workers commuted.

In concept, the 2003 Urban Influence Codes are comparable with those of earlier decades. However, as a result of changes in metro area delineation procedures and in rural and urban area measurement, our new codes are not fully comparable with those of earlier years. Those changes are explained on the ERS website at: *www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/rurality/newdefinitions/*

County Definitions

Large metro: In areas with at least 1 million residents

Small metro: In areas with less than 1 million residents

Micropolitan: Areas containing an urban core of at least 10,000 residents

Noncore: Counties without an urban core of at least 10,000 residents

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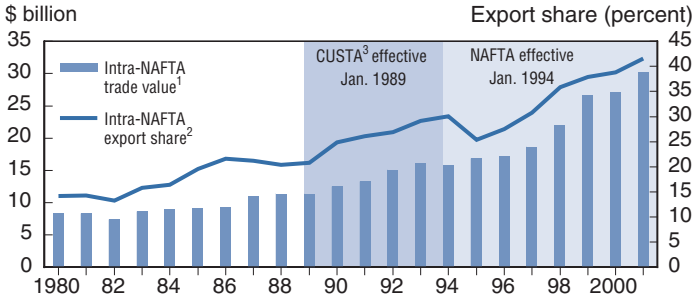
2003 Urban Influence Codes

County type	Number of counties	2000 population	Population per sq. mile
Metropolitan counties:			
In large area of at least 1 million residents	413	149,224,067	558
In small area of less than 1 million residents	676	83,355,873	132
Nonmetropolitan counties:			
Micropolitan counties—			
Adjacent to large metro	92	5,147,233	55
Adjacent to small metro	301	14,668,144	51
Not adjacent[1]	282	9,139,821	27
Noncore counties—			
Adjacent to large metro	123	2,364,159	27
Adjacent to small metro with own town	358	7,855,590	24
Adjacent to small metro with no own town	185	1,879,264	6
Adjacent to micro with own town[2]	201	3,227,833	17
Adjacent to micro with no own town[2]	198	1,313,175	7
Not adjacent to metro or micro with own town[1]	138	2,247,189	5
Not adjacent to metro or micro with no own town	174	999,558	4
Total	3,141	281,421,906	80

[1]Micro counties that are not adjacent are often local trade centers. Nonadjacent-noncore counties with towns may be service centers for surrounding smaller counties, especially in less-populated areas of the Great Plains.
[2]The micro area that a noncore county is adjacent to may itself be adjacent to a small or large metro area. This hierarchical commuting relationship is not reflected in the coding system.

Markets and Trade

Intra-NAFTA trade has accelerated since signing of free trade agreements

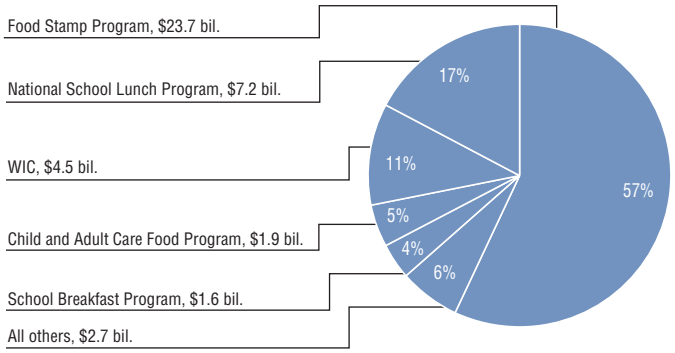


[1]Total value of U.S., Canadian, and Mexican agricultural exports to (imports from) each other.
[2]Exports by NAFTA partners to each other as a share of exports to countries worldwide.
[3]Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

Source: ERS International Bilateral Agricultural Trade data derived from UN Comtrade deflated by FAOSTAT trade indices. Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Diet and Health

Food stamps accounted for over half of the $41.6 billion USDA spent for food and nutrition assistance in fiscal year 2003

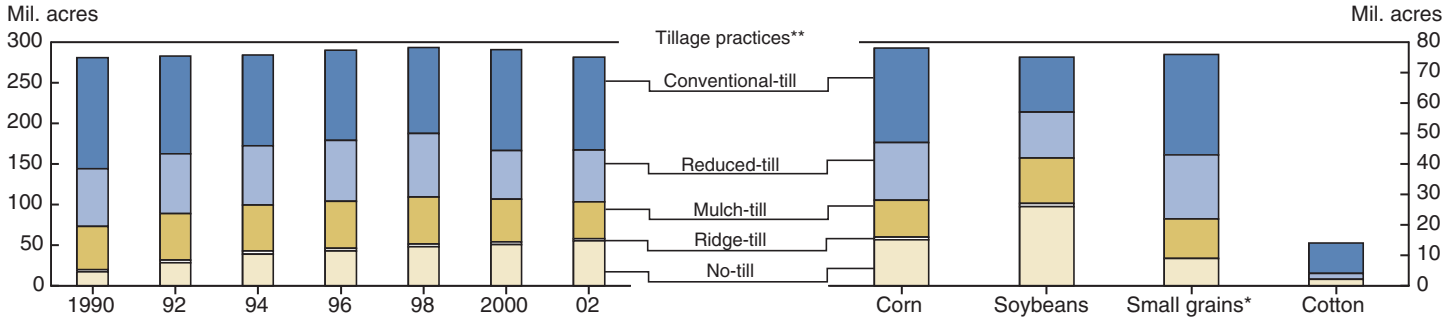


Source: USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, *Program Information Report (Keydata) for September 2003*, November 2003.

Natural Resources and Environment

No-till use on cropland has increased steadily since 1990

In 2002, conventional tillage dominated cotton production

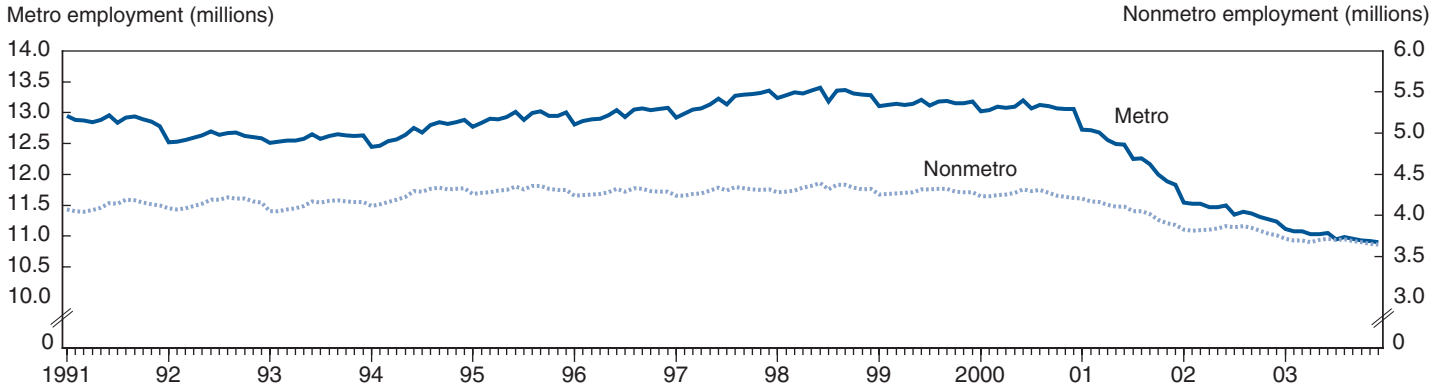


* Wheat, barley, oats, rye, and rice.
** No-till, ridge-till, and mulch-till are conservation tillage practices where, after planting, more than 30 percent of the soil surface remains covered by residue from the previous crop, protecting the soil from erosion and improving soil quality. In reduced-till, 15-30 percent of the soil surface remains covered, while in conventional-till, less than 15 percent remains covered.

Source: ERS analysis of Conservation Technology Information Center data.

Rural America

Manufacturing employment has declined dramatically in both metro and nonmetro areas



Source: Prepared by ERS from Current Employment Statistics data, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

On the Map

Nonmetro population change. The nonmetro population grew by 9.1 percent during the 1990s, below the 14.0-percent growth rate of metro areas. The West and South together accounted for over three-fourths of nonmetro population growth during the decade.

For more information, see: www.ers.usda.gov/data/population

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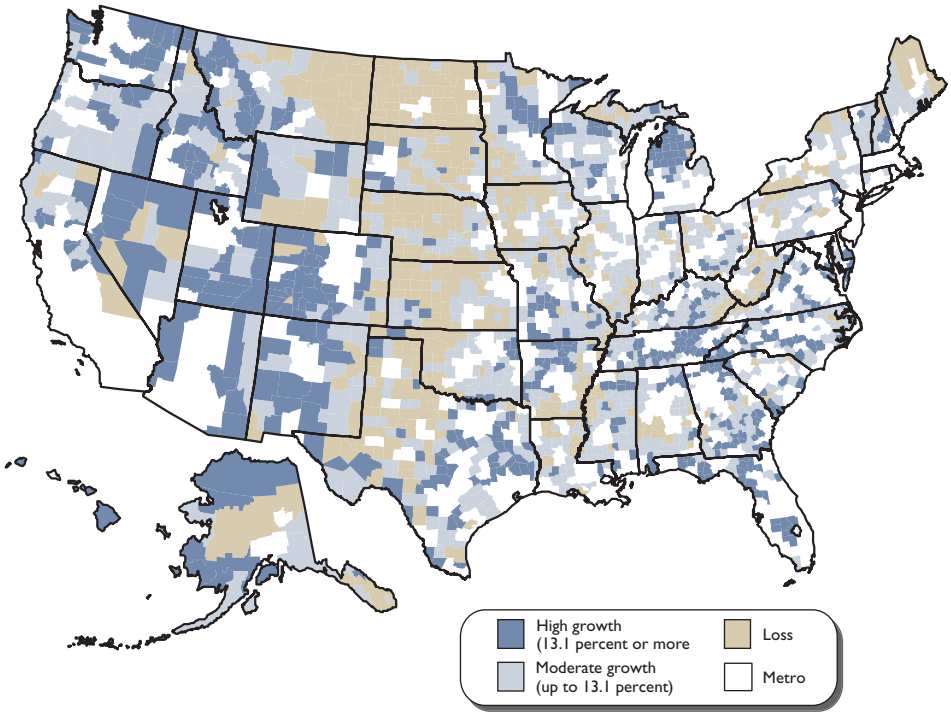
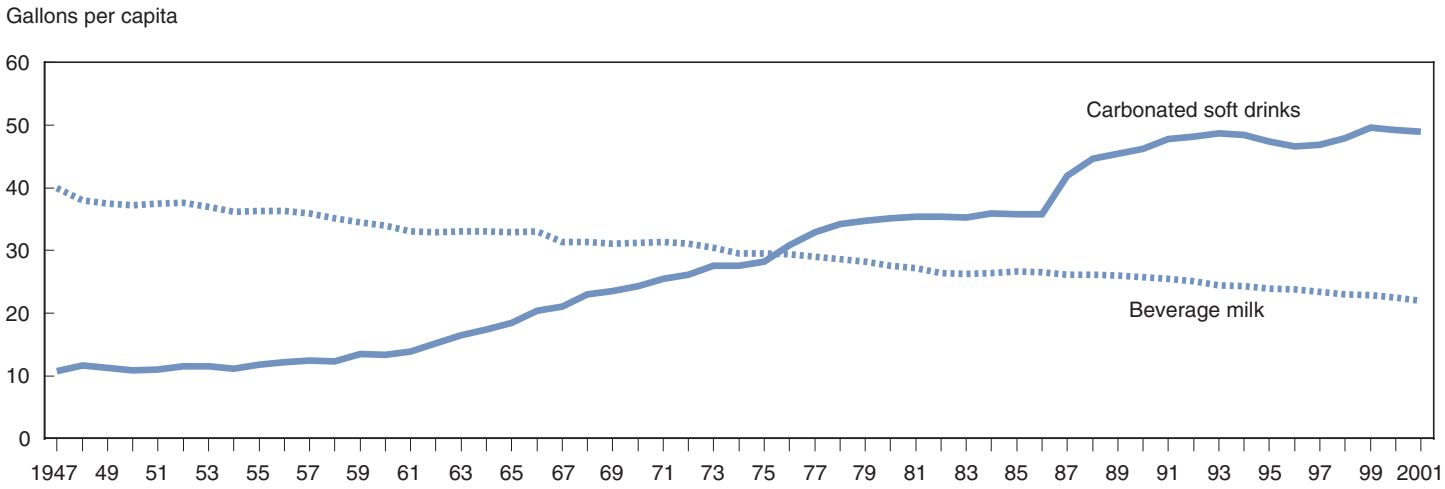
Nonmetro population change, 1990-2000



Note: Metro/nonmetro status based on 2003 definition. The U.S. population growth rate for this period was 13.1 percent.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, map prepared by Economic Research Service.

In the Long Run

Between 1947 and 2001, per capita consumption of carbonated soft drinks more than tripled while beverage milk consumption declined by almost one-half. In 1947, Americans consumed on average 11 gallons of carbonated soft drinks and 40 gallons of beverage milk. In 2001, per capita milk consumption had dropped to 22 gallons, while soft drink consumption soared to 49 gallons.

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