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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	335.8 f	1.6	0.0	18.3	17.9
Crops	113.6	116.0	122.6	147.0	189.7 f	2.1	5.7	19.9	29.0
Livestock	123.6	124.9	118.2	137.9	146.1 f	1.1	-5.4	16.7	5.9
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	13.0	24.4	15.8	11.9	13.2 f	87.7	-35.2	-24.7	10.9
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	267.3	281.5	274.1	313.4	366.4 f	5.3	-2.6	14.3	16.9
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	82.3	86.6	68.0	87.4	101.3 f	5.2	-21.5	28.5	15.9
Net value added (\$ bil.)	127.6	123.6	103.1	132.5	144.2 f	-3.1	-16.6	28.5	8.8
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,434.6	1,642.2	1,851.0	1,998.4	2,147.3 f	14.5	12.7	8.0	7.5
Farm debt-asset ratio	11.3	10.5	9.6	9.6	9.0 f	-7.1	-8.6	-0.0	-6.3
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	81,596	81,599	77,654	87,031 p	90,009 f	0.0	-4.8	12.1	3.4
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	134.8	128.8	116.7	128.7	na	-4.5	-9.4	10.3	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.)	11,713	12,456	13,247	na	na	6.3	6.4	na	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	79.0	9.5	10.9	9.5	12.7
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	62.4	62.5	68.7	82.2	114.0	0.2	9.9	19.7	38.7
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 f	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/about/indicatorsnotes.htm

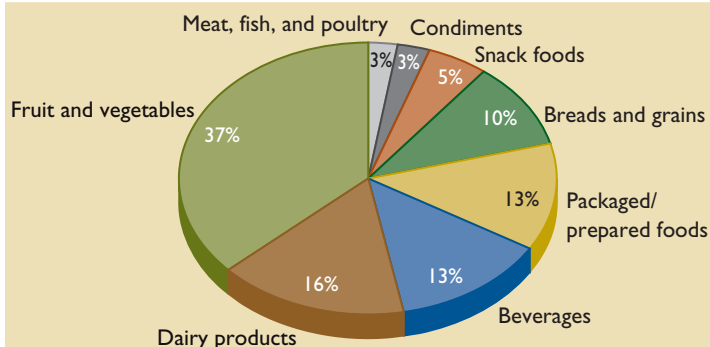
² Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.



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

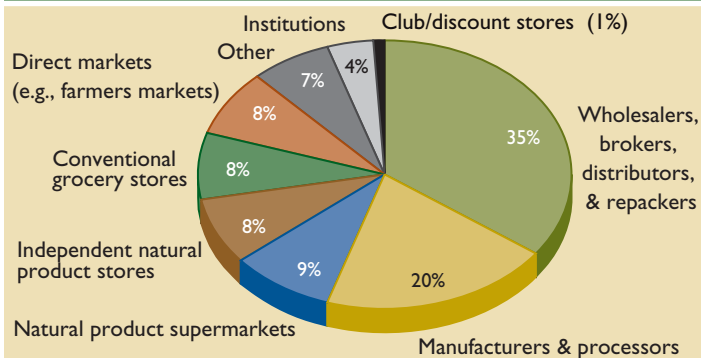
Markets and Trade

Fruit and vegetables accounted for over a third of organic retail sales in 2007



Note: Total organic retail sales were \$18.9 billion in 2007.
Source: *Nutrition Business Journal*, 2008.

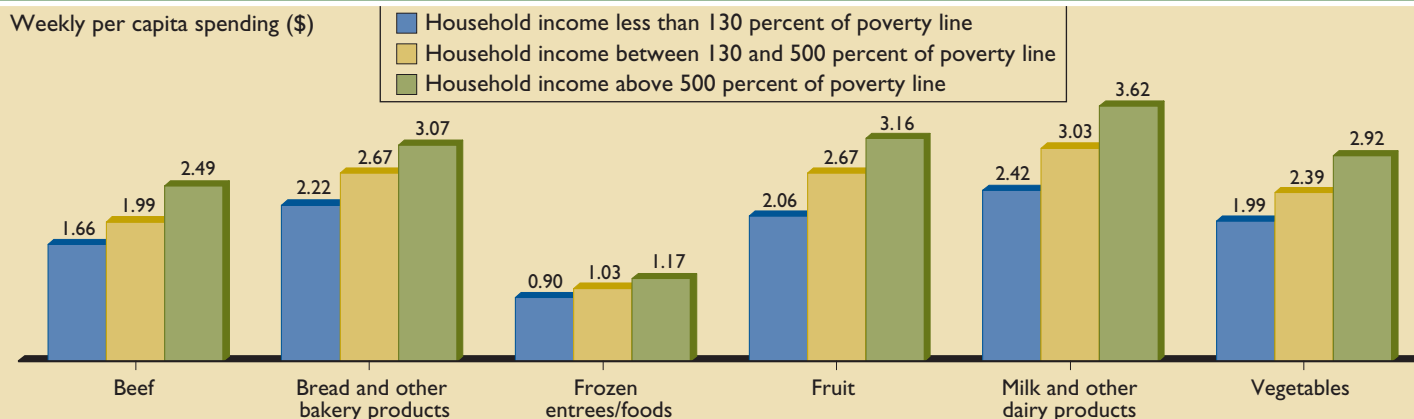
About 35 percent of organic handlers' sales went to wholesalers in 2004



Note: Outlets for handlers, 2004.
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.

Diet and Health

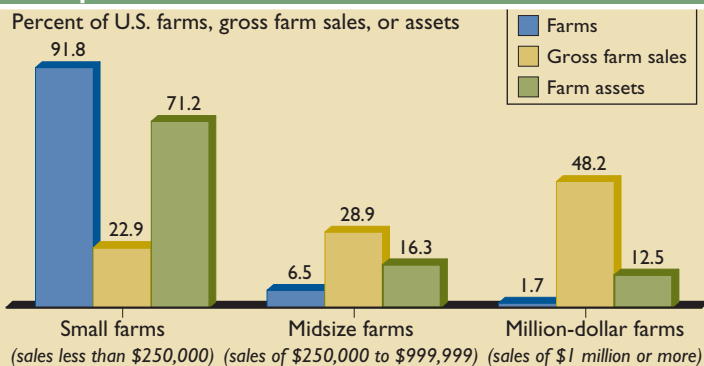
High and middle-income households outspend low-income households on many at-home foods



Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' 2003 Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Farms, Firms, and Households

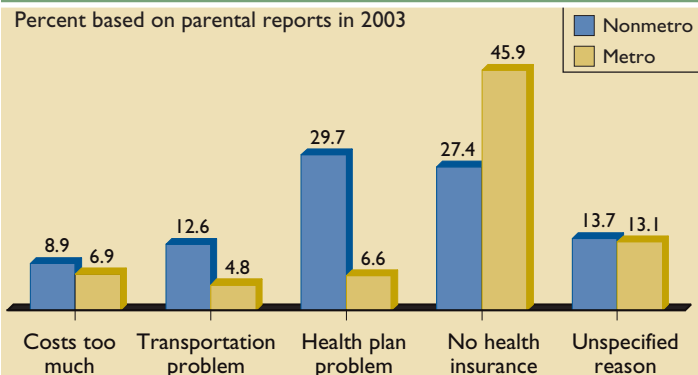
Million-dollar farms accounted for 2 percent of farms, 13 percent of farm assets, and 48 percent of sales of farm products in 2006



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, 2006 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

Rural America

Top five reasons why some nonmetro poor children did not receive needed medical care in 2003



Source: USDA Economic Research Service estimates based on 2003 National Survey of Children's Health, National Center for Disease Control.

On the Map

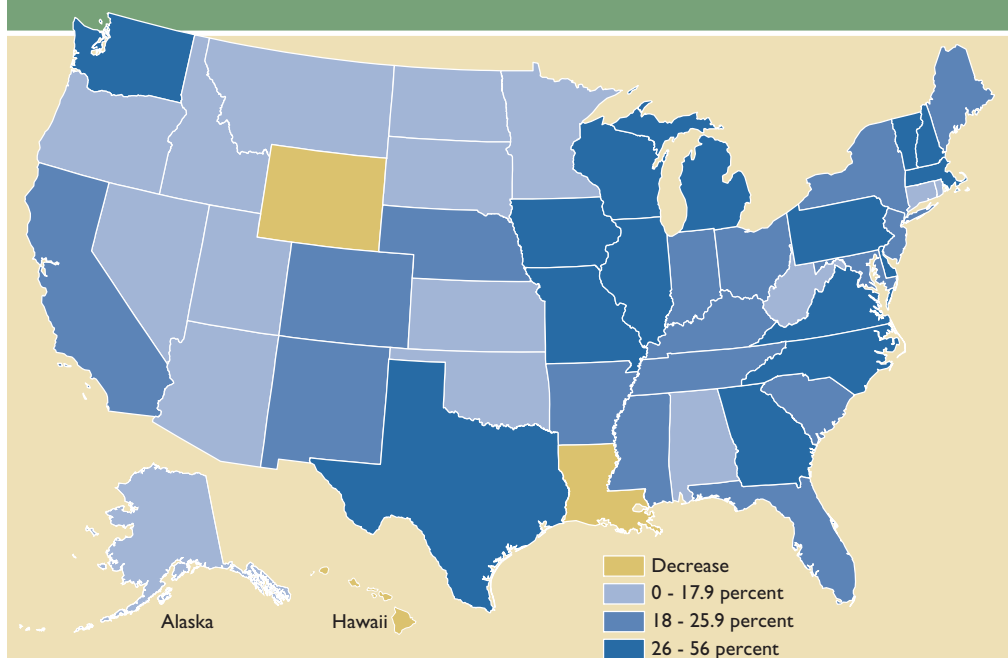
Food Stamp Participation up in All but Three States

Participation in the Food Stamp Program (renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the 2008 Farm Act) grew nationally by 24.5 percent between fiscal years 2003 and 2007. Participation declined in three States during this period: Wyoming and Hawaii, down nearly 11 percent each; and Louisiana, down 1 percent. Massachusetts and Iowa saw the largest increases in participation, 56 percent and 55 percent, respectively. Factors that affect State-level participation include economic conditions, such as unemployment and housing costs, demographic composition of State residents, and State policies that aid or hinder participation.

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Percentage change in Food Stamp Program participation, FY 2003-07



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

In the Long Run

How Much Does Participation in the Food Stamp Program Reflect Economic Trends?

Participation in the Food Stamp Program (renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the 2008 Farm Act) follows trends in poverty and unemployment, but cycles for the three are not completely in sync. In the 1980s, the number of food stamp participants peaked before the number of people in poverty and the number of people unemployed. But since 1989, the pattern has reversed, with food stamp participation peaking 2-3 years after the unemployment peak and 1 year after the poverty peak. Between 2003 and 2007, participation in the Food Stamp Program grew by 24.5 percent, and the number of people in poverty rose by 3.9 percent, while the number of people unemployed declined by 19 percent.

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Food stamp participants, people in poverty, and unemployed people, 1980-2007



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (food stamp participants); U.S. Census Bureau (poverty); and Bureau of Labor Statistics (unemployment).