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Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Annual percent change			
						2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	215.6	237.3	240.7	239.3	282.2 f	10.1	1.4	-0.6	17.9
Crops	109.9	113.7	115.9	120.0	142.6 f	3.5	1.9	3.5	18.8
Livestock	105.6	123.6	124.9	119.3	139.6 f	17.0	1.1	-4.5	17.0
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	16.5	13.0	24.4	15.8	12.1 f	-21.2	87.7	-35.2	-23.4
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	247.8	267.4	281.3	272.5	312.1 f	7.9	5.2	-3.1	14.5
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	70.2	82.2	85.8	67.9	85.7 f	17.1	4.4	-20.9	26.2
Net value added (\$ bil.)	100.0	127.8	121.4	104.4	136.2 f	27.8	-5.0	-14.0	30.5
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,203.6	1,401.9	1,576.1	1,771.8	2,007.5 f	16.5	12.4	12.4	13.3
Farm debt-asset ratio	12.7	11.5	10.9	10.5	9.7 f	-9.4	-5.2	-3.7	-7.6
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	68,597	81,596	81,599	77,654	83,622 f	18.9	0.0	-4.8	7.7
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	116.1	134.9	128.8	116.7	na	16.2	-4.5	-9.4	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) ¹	2.1	na	2.3	3.4	na	na	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	316	312	314	304 p	na	-1.3	0.6	-3.2	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) ²	4.3	5.1	na	na	na	18.6	na	na	na

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

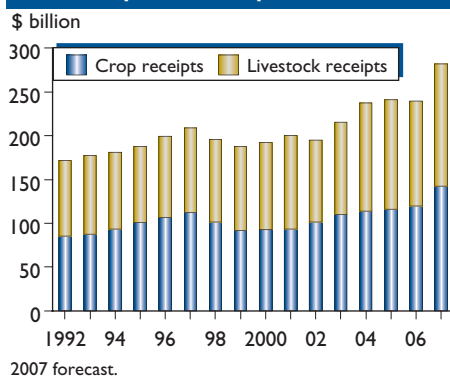
U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	10,961	11,686	12,434	13,195	na	6.6	6.4	6.1	na
Share of GDP in agriculture & related industries (%) ¹	4.8	4.7	4.5	na	na	-2.1	-4.3	na	na
Share of GDP in agriculture (%) ¹	0.8	1.0	0.8	na	na	19.2	-16.3	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ²	45.7	52.7	57.7	64.0	70.0	15.3	9.5	10.9	9.4
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	56.0	62.4	62.5	68.7	81.9	11.4	0.2	9.9	19.2
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) ¹	21.8	21.3	21.7	22.3	23.0 f	-2.3	1.9	2.8	3.1
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	180.0	186.2	190.7	195.3	202.9 p	3.4	2.4	2.4	3.9
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.8	9.7	9.8	9.9	na	-1.0	1.0	1.0	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	51.8	51.5	51.4	51.1	na	-0.6	-0.2	-0.6	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	225.6	232.1	239.2	246.0	na	2.9	3.1	2.8	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) ²	41.8	46.2	50.9	53.1	54.3	10.5	10.2	4.3	2.3

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

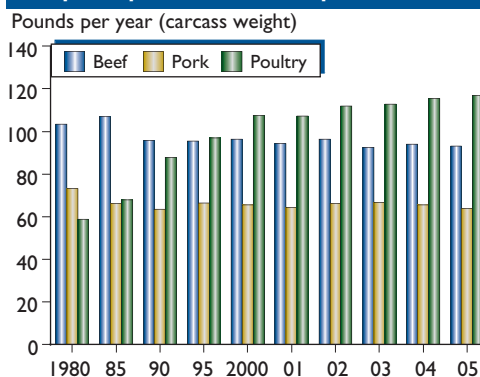
¹ The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics. Sources and computation methodology are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm

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

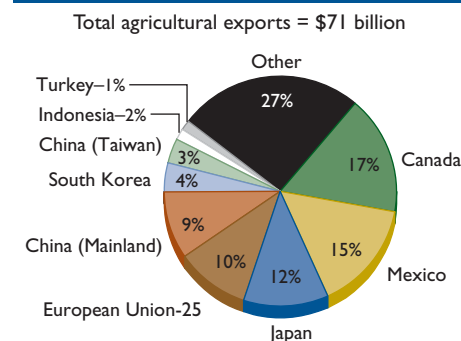
Cash receipts from crops and livestock



U.S. per capita meat consumption



Top destinations for U.S. agricultural exports, 2006



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

Market and Trade

Canadian dollar has appreciated against the U.S. dollar since 2002

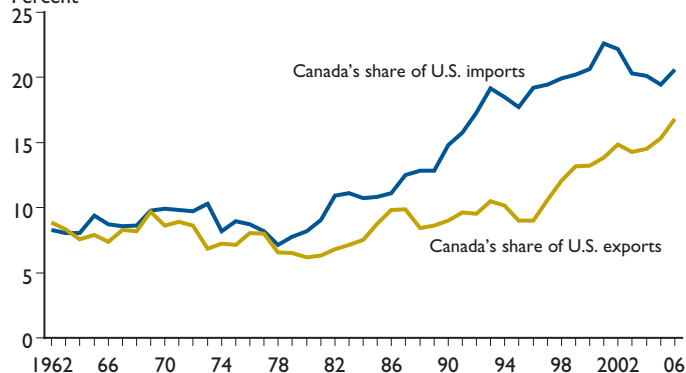
Ratio of Canadian \$ to U.S. \$



Source: ERS Agricultural Exchange Rate Data Set, 2007.

Canada's share of U.S. agricultural trade has increased since 1978

Percent

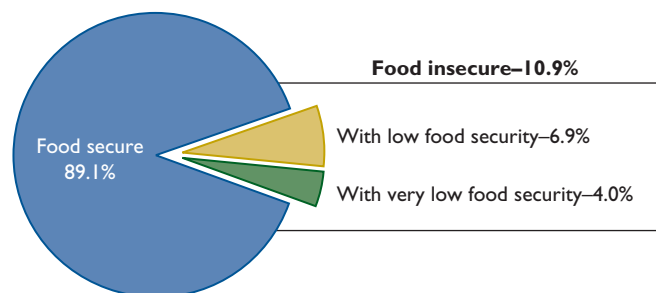


Source: United Nations Comtrade Database, 2007.

Diet and Health

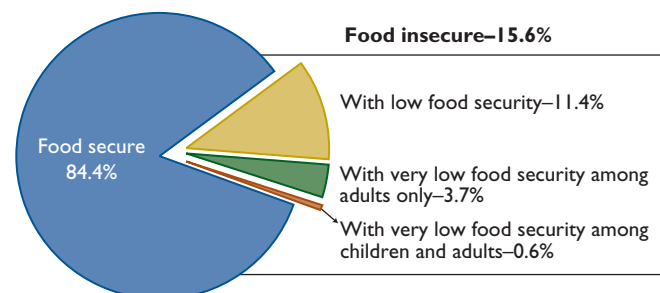
In 4 percent of U.S. households—those with very low food security—food intake was reduced and eating patterns disrupted at times during the year because there was not enough money for food

All U.S. households, 2006 (116 million households)



Children in most food-insecure households were protected from these severe manifestations of food insecurity

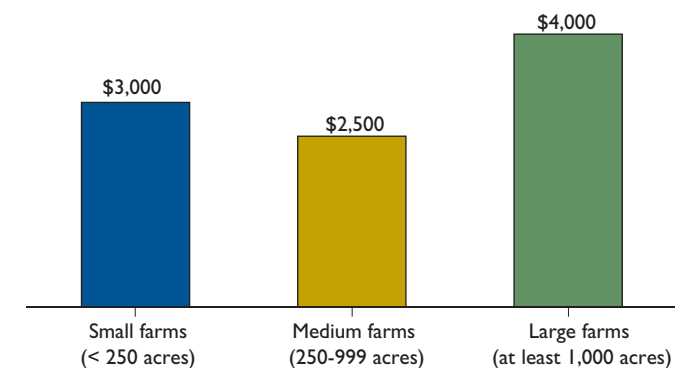
U.S. households with children, 2006 (39.4 million households)



Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the December 2006 Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement.

Farms, Firms, and Households

Medium-sized farms report the lowest average (median) per farm recreational income, 2004¹



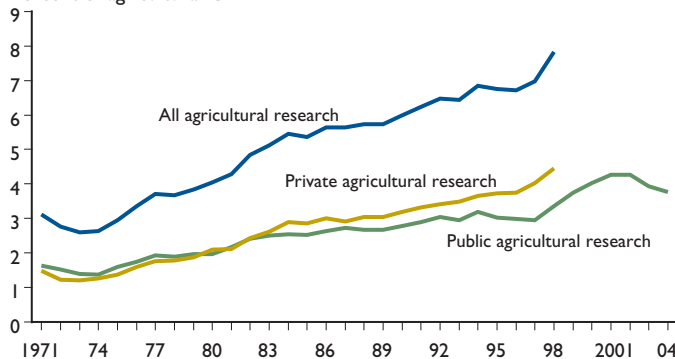
¹Excludes farms reporting no recreation income.

Source: USDA, ERS, 2004 Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

Resources and Environment

In recent decades, spending on food and agricultural research has increased relative to agricultural GDP

Percent of agricultural GDP



Source: USDA, ERS (public and private agricultural research expenditures) and Economic Report of the President (agricultural GDP-calculated as a 3-year moving average).

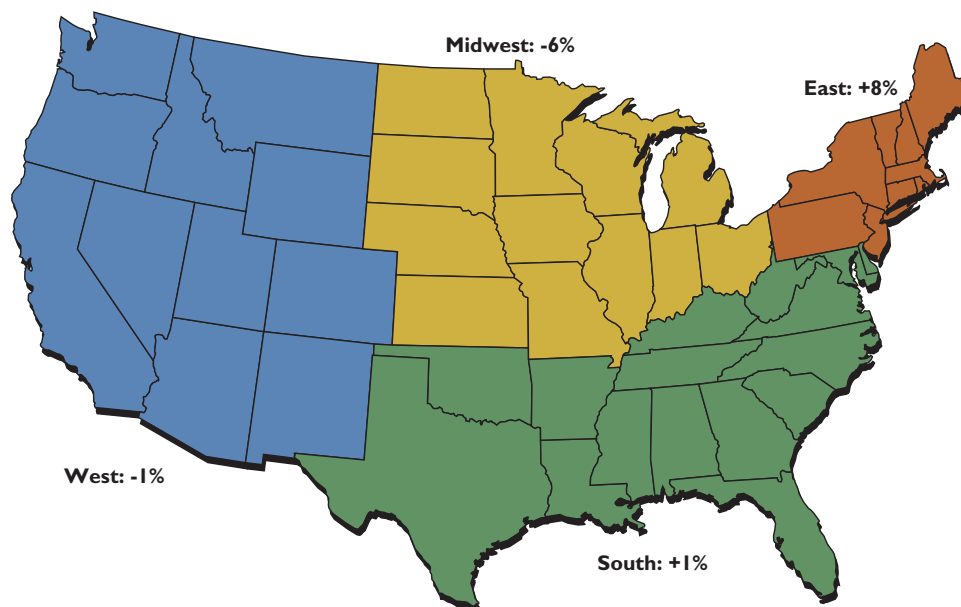
On the Map

Retail Food Prices Vary Significantly Across U.S. Regions

ERS estimates of retail food price variation show that average prices for 11 grocery store items were 8 percent higher than the national average in the Northeast and 6 percent lower in the Midwest for the years 2004-07. Variations in regional food prices stem from differences in production and transportation costs and the level of retail competition in each region. The differences are noteworthy given that national food price inflation over the period averaged 2.9 percent, implying that differences across locations at a given point in time are larger than the change in prices over time.

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Variation in food prices from national average, 2004-07



Source: Calculations by USDA, Economic Research Service using Bureau of Labor Statistics' average retail price data.

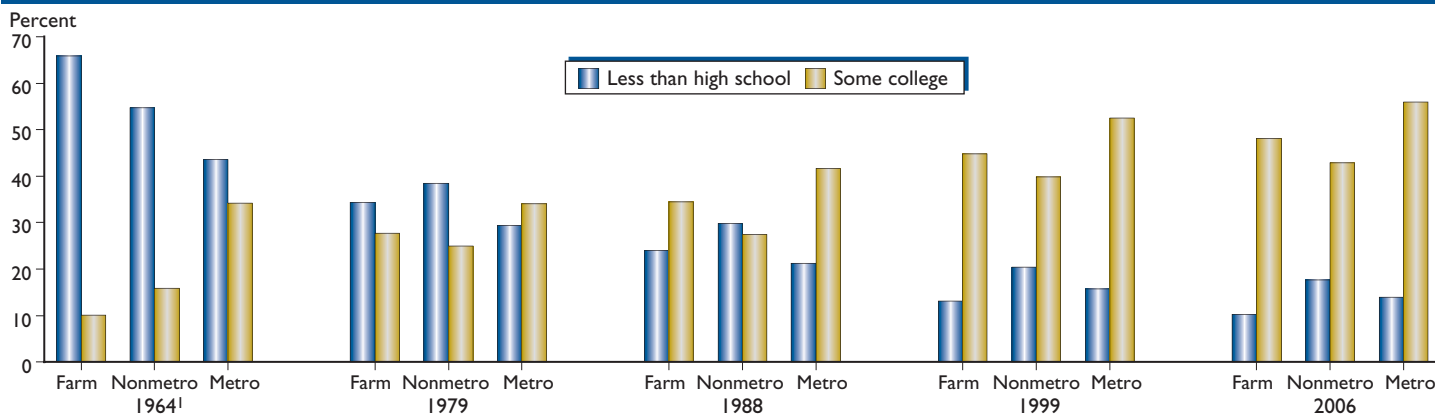
In the Long Run

Farm Operators No Longer Have Lower Levels of Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an indicator of human capital; it provides an individual with knowledge and skills that can lead to future earnings and the ability to adapt to changing environments. Historically, farm operators had lower levels of educational attainment than other persons, including metro and nonmetro residents. However, the gap has closed over the past half century, despite farmers being generally older than the other groups and age having a negative association with educational attainment. Farmers are now less likely to not complete high school than either metro and nonmetro residents. And, they are more likely than nonmetro residents to have some college education.

Mary Clare Ahearn, mahearn@ers.usda.gov

Farmers are more likely than nonmetro and metro persons (25 years and older) to have completed high school



¹Data for nonmetro and metro persons are for 1968.

Sources: Current Population Survey, Census of Agriculture, and Agricultural Resource Management Survey.