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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.)	237.3	240.7	239.3	285.4 p	313.2 f	1.4	-0.6	19.3	9.7
Crops	113.7	115.9	120.0	143.9 p	174.6 f	1.9	3.5	19.9	21.3
Livestock	123.6	124.9	119.3	141.4 p	138.7 f	1.1	-4.5	18.5	-1.9
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	13.0	24.4	15.8	12.0 p	13.4 f	87.7	-35.2	-24.1	11.7
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	267.4	281.3	272.5	316.2 p	346.0 f	5.2	-3.1	16.0	9.4
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	82.2	85.8	67.9	87.6 p	96.6 f	4.4	-20.9	29.0	10.3
Net value added (\$ bil.)	127.8	121.4	104.4	137.6 p	144.1 f	-5.0	-14.0	31.8	4.7
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,401.9	1,576.1	1,771.8	2,002.7 p	2,286.2 f	12.4	12.4	13.0	14.2
Farm debt-asset ratio	11.5	10.9	10.5	9.9 p	9.1 f	-5.2	-3.7	-5.7	-8.1
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	81,596	81,599	77,654	84,159 p	89,434 f	0.0	-4.8	8.4	6.3
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	134.8	128.8	116.7	na	na	-4.5	-9.4	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) ¹	na	2.3	3.4	na	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.) ²	5.1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

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	70.0	76.5	9.5	10.9	9.4	9.3
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	62.4	62.5	68.7	81.9	101.0	0.2	9.9	19.2	23.3
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	213.3 f	2.4	2.4	3.9	5.1
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.7	9.8	9.9	na	na	1.0	1.0	na	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	51.5	51.4	51.1	na	na	-0.2	-0.6	na	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

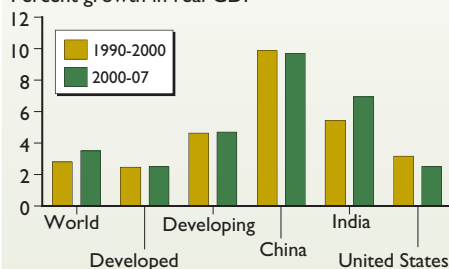
f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available. All dollar amounts are in current dollars.

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.

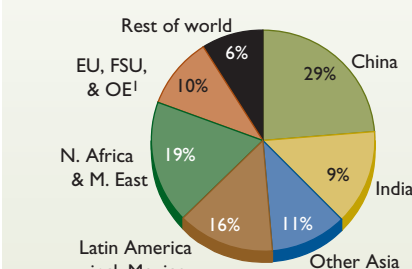
China's and India's strong economic growth...

Percent growth in real GDP



...translates into large imports of soybean oil

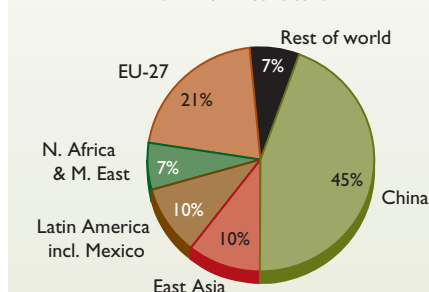
Global soybean oil imports in 2007/08 = 10.5 million metric tons



¹ EU-27, former Soviet Union, and other Europe.

China also a major importer of soybeans

Global soybean imports in 2007/08 = 76 million metric tons

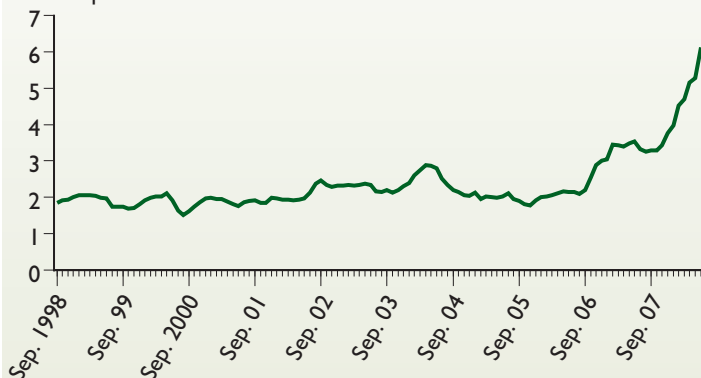


For more information, see www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves

Markets and Trade

Average farm price for corn has risen sharply in 2008

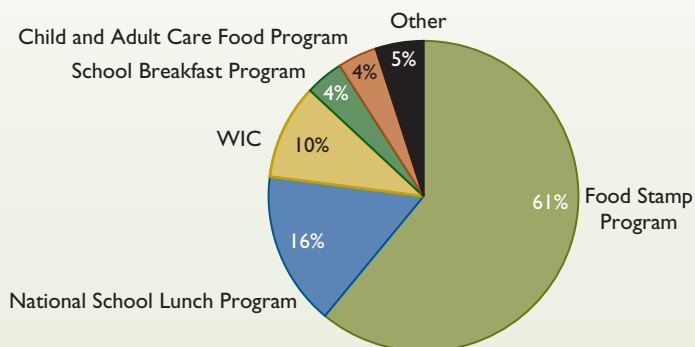
Dollars per bushel



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Feed Grains Database.

Diet and Health

The National School Lunch Program accounted for 16 percent of the \$54.5 billion USDA spent for food and nutrition assistance in fiscal 2007

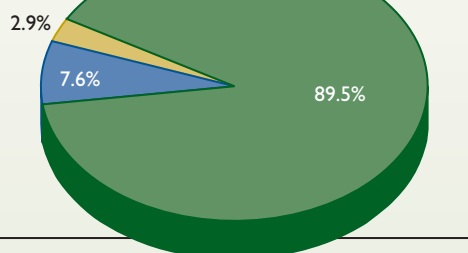


Source: Compiled by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Food and Nutrition Service.

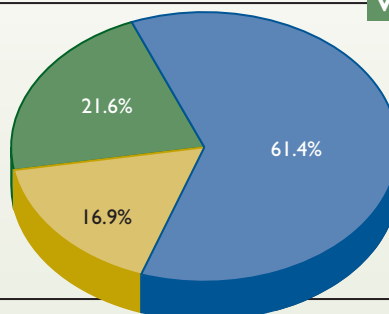
Farms, Firms, and Households

Only about 8 percent of farms—large-scale family farms—accounted for 61 percent of sales in 2006

Farms



Value of production



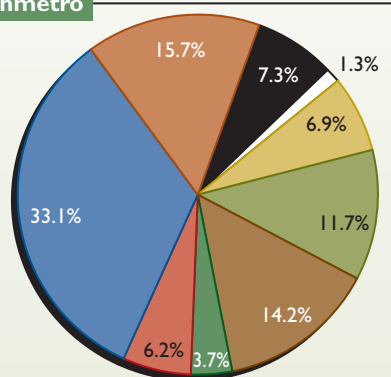
■ Small family farms (sales less than \$250,000) ■ Large-scale family farms (sales of \$250,000 or more) ■ Nonfamily farms

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

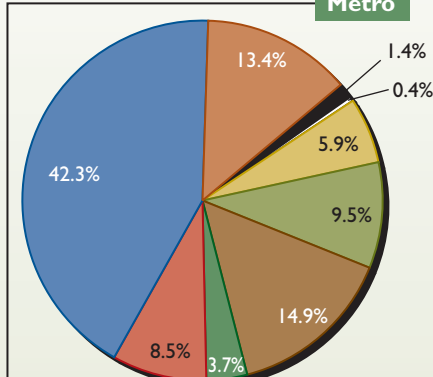
Rural America

Service industry jobs account for the largest share of employment in both nonmetro and metro areas, 2006

Nonmetro



Metro



■ Farming, forestry & fishing
 ■ Mining
 ■ Construction
 ■ Manufacturing
 ■ Wholesale & retail trade
 ■ Transportation & utilities
 ■ Finance, insurance & real estate
 ■ Services
 ■ Government

Source: Calculated by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

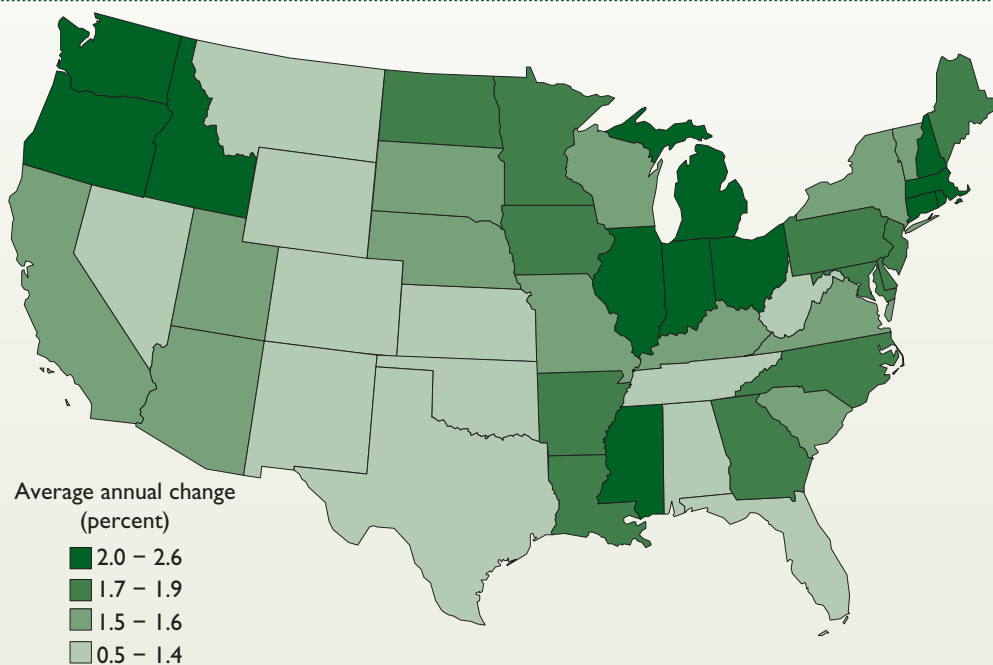
On the Map

Agricultural Productivity Grew in Every State

ERS provides estimates of annual growth in agricultural productivity for each of the 48 contiguous States. ERS calculates productivity as the difference between growth in agricultural output and growth in inputs used. Eastern Corn Belt States show the effects of continuing productivity gains in growing feed grains, while innovations in raising hogs and poultry drove high productivity growth in several Southern States. Northwestern States' relatively high productivity growth reflects shifts to high-value specialty crops and dairy production. Several New England States illustrate a striking development: output and inputs declined, but productivity increased, as higher value commodities and relatively productive land and labor remained in agriculture.

Eldon Ball,
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Average annual change in agricultural productivity by State, 1960-2004



Average annual growth for the U.S. was 1.85 percent in 1960-2004.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, data product, Agricultural Productivity in the United States.

In the Long Run

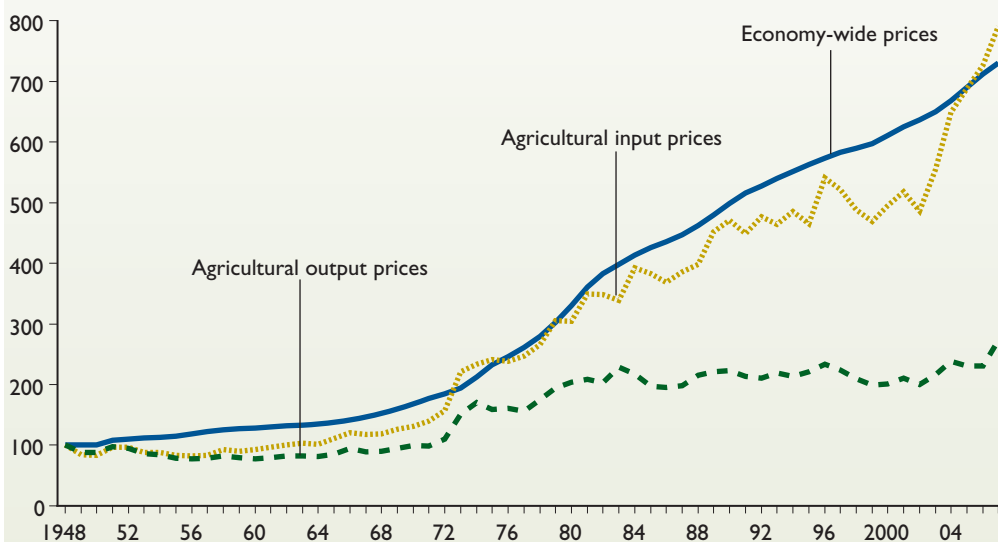
Growth in Agricultural Productivity Limits Price Increases

Prices across the U.S. economy rose an average of 3.4 percent per year between 1948 and 2007. Prices for agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals, equipment, and labor rose 3.6 percent annually over the same period. In contrast, prices of agricultural outputs such as crops and livestock rose 1.7 percent per year. The gap between agricultural input and output prices reflects productivity growth. Between 1948 and 2007, the agricultural output generated from a bundle of inputs increased significantly, largely offsetting input price increases. Faced with growing worldwide demand for agricultural products, the benefits of continued high productivity growth include the capability to expand output while reducing commodity price escalation and volatility.

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Trends in prices for agricultural inputs and outputs

Index: 1948=100



Source: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service for agricultural price indexes; *Economic Report of the President* for economy-wide price index (GDP implicit price deflator).