



**AgEcon** SEARCH

RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

*The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library*

**This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.**

**Help ensure our sustainability.**

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

[aesearch@umn.edu](mailto:aesearch@umn.edu)

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

*No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.*

Data may have been updated since publication. For the most current information, see [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/).

## 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.)	215.5	237.9	238.9	242.7	258.7 f	10.4	0.4	1.6	6.6
Crops	109.9	114.3	114.0	121.6	133.5 f	4.0	-0.3	6.6	9.8
Livestock	105.6	123.6	125.0	121.2	125.2 f	17.0	1.1	-3.1	3.3
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	16.5	13.0	24.3	16.3	12.4 f	-21.2	86.9	-32.8	-23.8
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	247.8	267.8	280.9	277.1	289.8 f	8.1	4.9	-1.4	4.6
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	70.0	81.5	81.2	66.7	67.2 f	16.4	-0.4	-17.9	0.8
Net value added (\$ bil.)	102.0	128.9	120.4	109.7	118.5 f	26.4	-6.6	-8.9	8.0
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,182.7	1,380.1	1,589.6	1,693.2	1,759.0 f	16.7	15.2	6.5	3.9
Farm debt-asset ratio	14.2	12.9	11.9	11.8	11.8 f	-9.2	-7.9	-1.0	0.1
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	68,597	81,596	81,420	79,851	81,588 f	18.9	-0.2	-1.9	2.2
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	116.1	134.8	128.5	na	na	16.1	-4.7	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) <sup>1</sup>	2.1	na	2.3	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	315	312	312 p	na	na	-1.0	0.0	na	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>	4.3	5.1	na	na	na	18.6	na	na	na

## Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

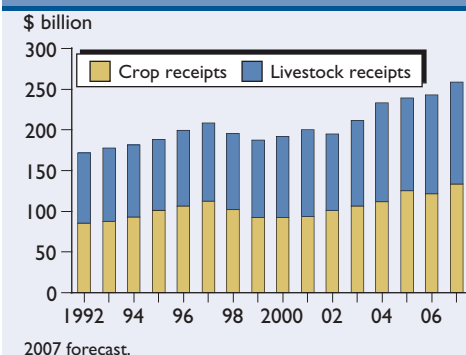
U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	10,961	11,713	12,456	na	na	6.9	6.3	na	na
Share of GDP in agriculture & related industries (%) <sup>1</sup>	4.8	4.7	4.5	na	na	-2.1	-4.3	na	na
Share of GDP in agriculture (%) <sup>1</sup>	0.8	1.0	0.8	na	na	19.2	-16.3	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>	45.7	52.7	57.7	64.0	70.0	15.3	9.5	10.9	9.4
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>	56.0	62.4	62.5	68.7	78.0	11.4	0.2	9.9	13.5
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) <sup>1</sup>	21.1	20.9	20.1 p	na	na	-0.9	-3.8	na	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	180.0	186.2	190.7	195.3	201.4 f	3.4	2.4	2.4	3.1
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.8	9.7	9.9	na	na	-1.0	2.1	na	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	52.0	51.5	51.5	na	na	-1.0	0.0	na	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.) <sup>2</sup>	41.8	46.2	50.9	53.0	na	10.5	10.2	4.1	na

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

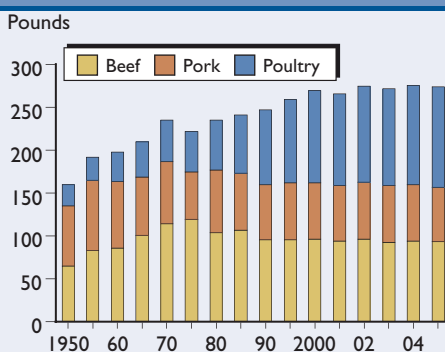
<sup>1</sup> The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics. Sources and computation methodology are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

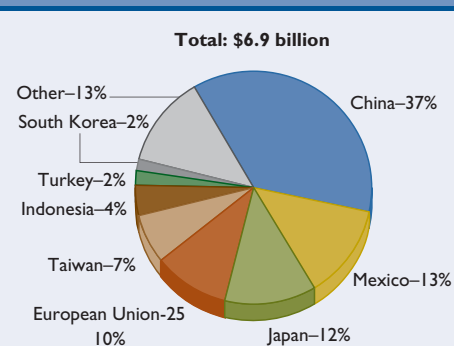
Revenue from farm commodities, 1992-2007



U.S. per capita meat consumption, 1950-2005



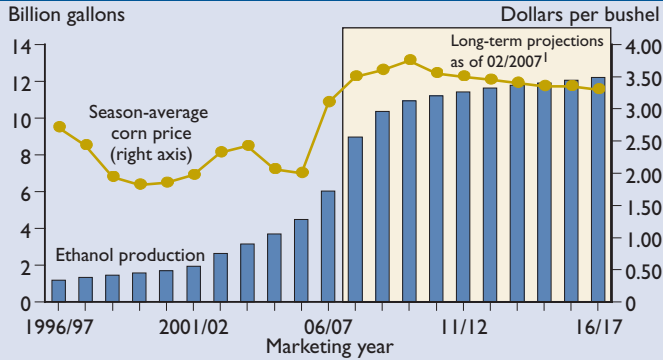
Top export markets for U.S. soybeans, 2006



For more information, see [www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/)

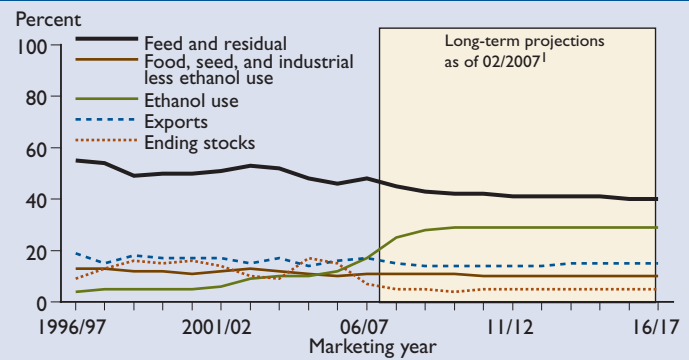
### Markets and Trade

**As ethanol production increases, corn prices rise and attract additional corn area . . .**



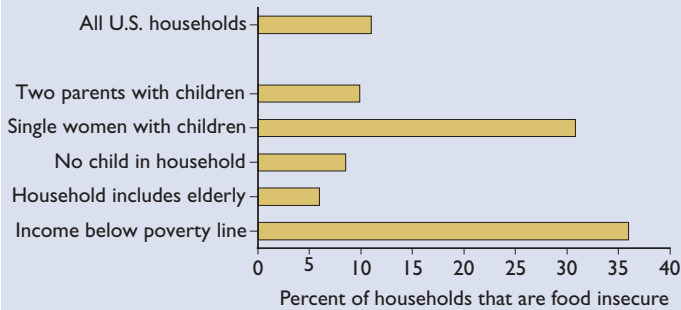
<sup>1</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Chief Economist, World Agricultural Outlook Board, *USDA Agricultural Projections to 2016, Long-Term Projections Report OCE-2007-1*, February 2007.

**. . . and ethanol's share of total corn disappearance rises at the expense of other uses**



### Diet and Health

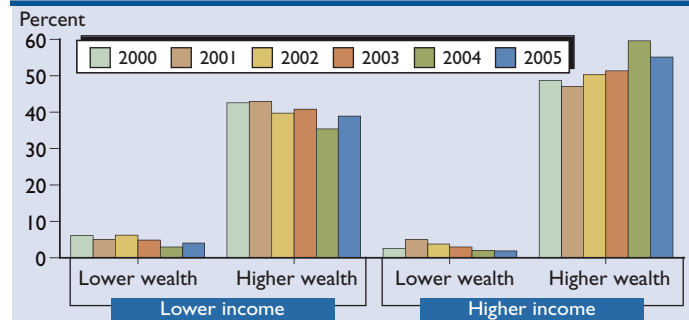
**Households headed by single women with children were more likely than others to have difficulty providing enough food for active healthy living in 2005**



Source: Calculated by USDA, ERS from Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement data, December 2005.

### Farms, Firms, and Households

**An increasing share of farm households have higher income and higher wealth**

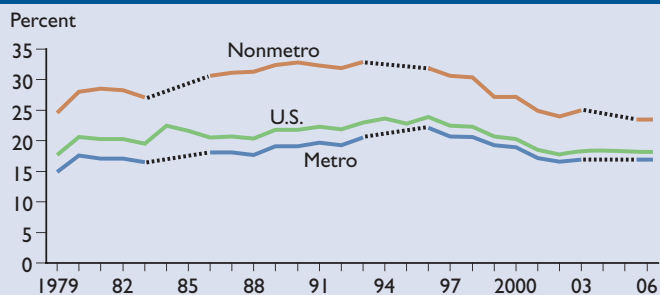


Note: "Lower" and "higher" income and wealth are defined relative to the U.S. household medians for income and wealth.  
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, *Agricultural Resource Management Surveys, 2000-05*.

### Rural America

**The share of workers earning low wages in nonmetro areas remains well above the national average**

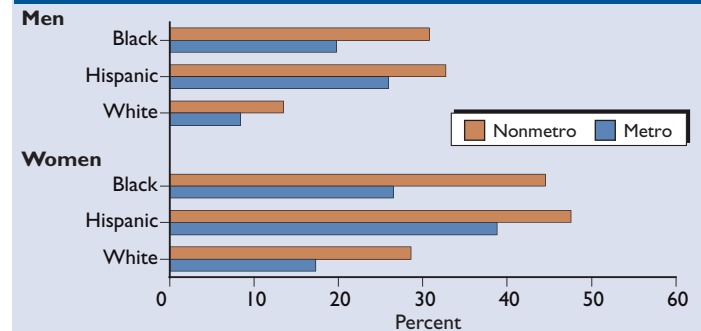
*Low-wage employment share by metro status, 1979-2006*



Note: Dotted lines indicate data are not available. Low-wage workers are defined as workers earning less on a full-time, full-year basis than the weighted four-person poverty threshold.  
Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from the 1979-2006 Current Population Survey earnings files.

**About half of employed nonmetro Black and Hispanic women earn low wages**

*Low-wage share by metro status, sex, and race/ethnicity, 2006*



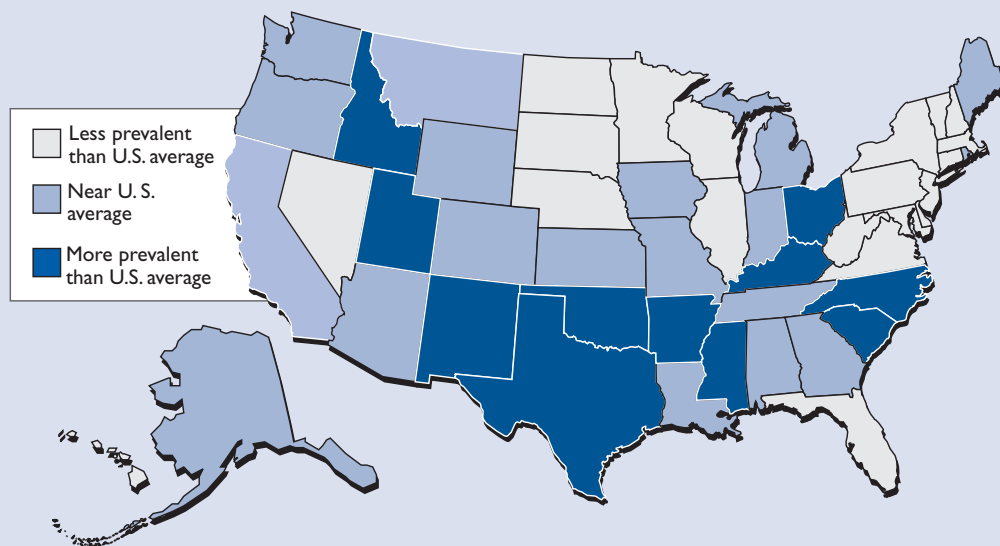
## On the Map

### Household Food Insecurity Varies by State

Most U.S. households can consistently afford enough food for active healthy living. But 11 to 12 percent of households struggled at times to put adequate food on the table in recent years. USDA classifies such households as food insecure. During 2003-05, the national prevalence of food insecurity averaged 11.4 percent and varied from less than 7 percent in North Dakota, New Hampshire, and Delaware to over 16 percent in New Mexico and Mississippi. Food insecurity was more prevalent than the national average in 11 States, less prevalent than the national average in 20 States, and not statistically different from the national average in 19 States and the District of Columbia.

**Mark Nord,**  
marknord@ers.usda.gov

### Prevalence of household food insecurity, average 2003-05



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

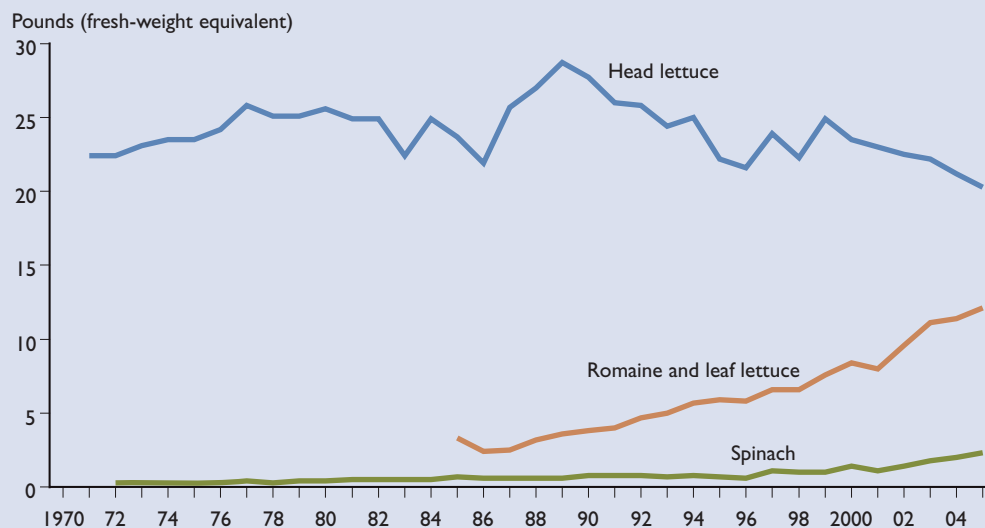
## In the Long Run

### Romaine, Leaf Lettuce, and Spinach Rise in Popularity

The growing popularity of ready-to-eat packaged salad greens, introduced in the late 1980s, has contributed to the dramatic growth in the amount of romaine, leaf lettuce, and spinach available for consumption in the United States. Spinach availability rose 240 percent between 1985 and 2005, from 0.7 to 2.3 pounds per person. Romaine and leaf lettuce availability rose 269 percent from 3.3 to 12.1 pounds per person. While head (iceberg) lettuce is still the dominant salad green, its availability decreased 14 percent to 20.3 pounds per person between 1985 and 2005.

**Jean C. Buzby,**  
jbuzby@ers.usda.gov  
**Hodan Farah Wells,**  
hfarah@ers.usda.gov

### Per capita head lettuce, romaine, leaf lettuce, and spinach availability, 1970-2005



Source: ERS Food Availability (Per Capita) Data, a proxy for food consumption, available at [www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/foodconsumption/).