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## Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

|   | 2002    | 2003    | 2004    | 2005    | 2006      | Annual percent change |         |         |         |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|   |         |         |         |         |           | 2002-03               | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| Cash receipts (\$ bil.)   | 195.0   | 215.5   | 237.9   | 238.9   | 242.0 f   | 10.5                  | 10.4    | 0.4     | 1.3     |
| Crops   | 101.0   | 109.9   | 114.3   | 114.0   | 121.2 f   | 8.8                   | 4.0     | -0.3    | 6.3     |
| Livestock   | 94.0    | 105.6   | 123.6   | 125.0   | 120.7 f   | 12.3                  | 17.0    | 1.1     | -3.4    |
| Direct government payments (\$ bil.)                                | 12.4    | 16.5    | 13.0    | 24.3    | 16.5 f    | 33.1                  | -21.2   | 86.9    | -32.1   |
| Gross cash income (\$ bil.)   | 222.2   | 247.8   | 267.8   | 280.9   | 277.1 f   | 11.5                  | 8.1     | 4.9     | -1.4    |
| Net cash income (\$ bil.)   | 50.7    | 70.0    | 81.5    | 81.2    | 66.6 f    | 38.1                  | 16.4    | -0.4    | -18.0   |
| Net value added (\$ bil.)   | 82.2    | 102.0   | 128.9   | 120.4   | 107.6 f   | 24.1                  | 26.4    | -6.6    | -10.6   |
| Farm equity (\$ bil.)   | 1,110.7 | 1,180.8 | 1,383.1 | 1,589.8 | 1,701.5 f | 6.3                   | 17.1    | 14.9    | 7.0     |
| Farm debt-asset ratio   | 14.8    | 14.4    | 12.7    | 11.9    | 11.4 f    | -2.7                  | -11.8   | -6.3    | -4.2    |
| Farm household income (\$/farm household)                           | 65,761  | 68,597  | 81,596  | 81,420  | 80,703 f  | 4.3                   | 18.9    | -0.2    | -0.9    |
| Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%) | 113.7   | 116.1   | 134.8   | 128.5   | na        | 2.1                   | 16.1    | -4.7    | na      |
| Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) <sup>1</sup>   | 2.6     | 2.1     | na      | 2.3     | na        | -19.2                 | na      | na      | na      |
| Cropland harvested (million acres)                                  | 307     | 315     | 312     | 312p    | na        | 2.6                   | -1.0    | 0.0     | na      |
| USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>       | 4.2     | 4.3     | 5.1     | na      | na        | 2.4                   | 18.6    | na      | na      |

## Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

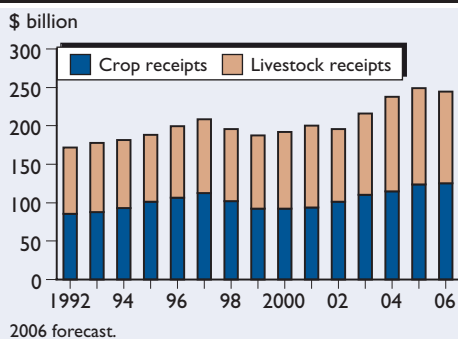
|   |        |        |        |        |       |      |      |      |      |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)                                       | 10,470 | 10,971 | 11,734 | 12,487 | na    | 4.8  | 7.0  | 6.4  | na   |
| Share of GDP in agriculture & related industries (%) <sup>1</sup>           | 4.8    | 4.8    | 4.8    | na     | na    | 0.0  | 0.0  | na   | na   |
| Share of GDP in agriculture (%) <sup>1</sup>                                | 0.7    | 0.8    | 1.0    | na     | na    | 11.1 | 19.2 | na   | na   |
| Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>                           | 41.0   | 45.7   | 52.7   | 57.7   | 64.0  | 11.5 | 15.3 | 9.5  | 10.9 |
| Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>                           | 53.3   | 56.0   | 62.4   | 62.5   | 68.7  | 5.1  | 11.4 | 0.2  | 9.9  |
| Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) <sup>1</sup> | 20.8   | 21.1   | 20.9   | 20.1 p | na    | 1.4  | -0.9 | -3.8 | na   |
| CPI for food (1982-84=100)  | 176.2  | 180.0  | 186.2  | 190.7  | 195.3 | 2.2  | 3.4  | 2.4  | 2.4  |
| Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)                           | 9.8    | 9.8    | 9.7    | 9.9    | na    | 0.0  | -1.0 | 2.1  | na   |
| Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)                | 52.2   | 52.0   | 51.5   | 51.5   | na    | -0.4 | -1.0 | 0.0  | na   |
| Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)                                   | 221.2  | 225.6  | 232.1  | 239.2  | na    | 2.0  | 2.9  | 3.1  | na   |
| Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) <sup>2</sup>    | 38.0   | 41.8   | 46.2   | 50.9   | na    | 10.0 | 10.5 | 10.2 | na   |

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

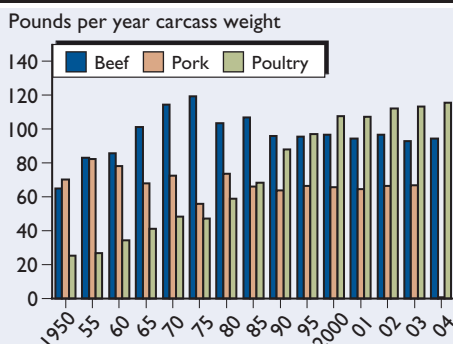
<sup>1</sup> The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics. sources and computation methodology are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm)

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

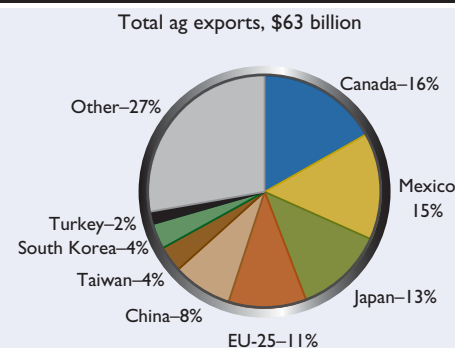
Revenue from farm commodities, 1992-2006



U.S. per capita meat consumption, 1950-2004



Top destinations for U.S. agricultural exports, 2005

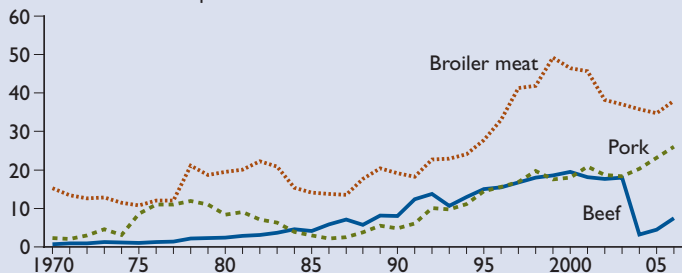


For more information, see [www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves](http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves)

**Markets and Trade**

**U.S. export share continues to rise for pork, recovering for poultry and beef**

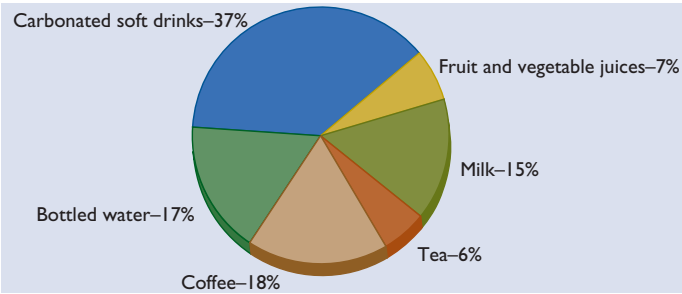
U.S. share in world exports



Source: Production, Supply, and Distribution data; USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service.

**Diet and Health**

**American's favorite beverage: Soft drinks followed by coffee and bottled water**



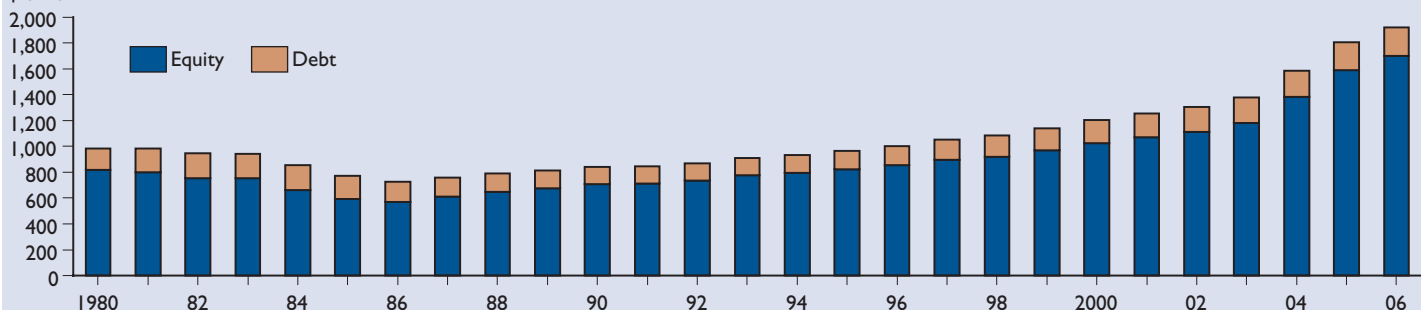
Note: In 2004, 138.3 gallons of selected non-alcoholic beverages per capita were available for consumption.

Source: Industry data and USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Availability (Per Capita) data (a proxy for consumption).

**Farms, Firms, and Households**

**Farm sector assets continue 20-year rise**

\$ billion



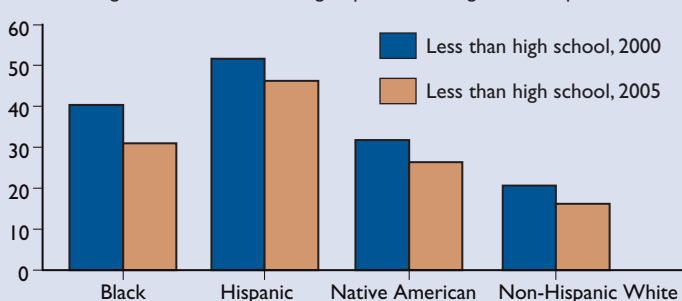
Note: Farm sector assets, debts, and equity, 1980-2005, and 2006 forecast in current dollars.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service.

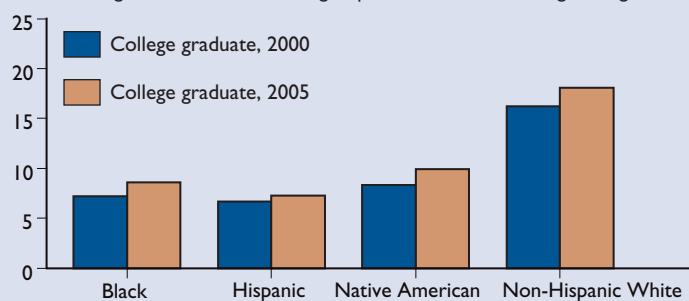
**Rural America**

**Nonmetro educational attainment improved across all racial groups between 2000 and 2005**

% of adults ages 25 and older in each group without a high school diploma



% of adults ages 25 and older in each group with a bachelor's or higher degree



Note: Hispanics can identify themselves as part of any race.

Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey.

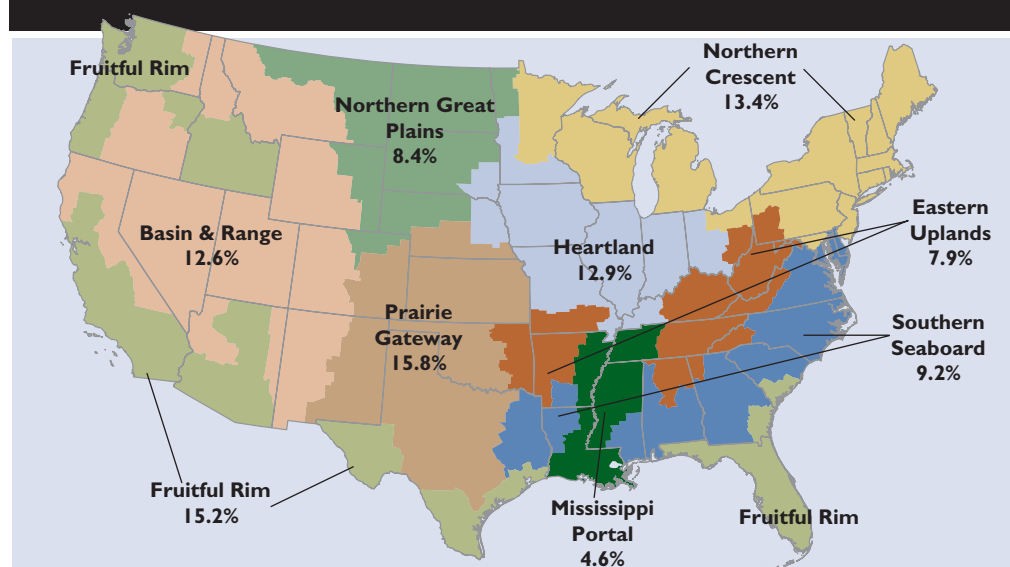
**On the Map**

**EQIP funds vary by ERS Region**

About \$2.5 billion has been obligated under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) from its inception in fiscal 1997 through the end of fiscal 2004. EQIP is the Nation's largest program that pays farmers for conservation efforts on working lands, in terms of obligated funds. Payments are distributed among ERS Farm Resource Regions based on Federal, State and local priorities for protecting environmental resources, including water quality, water conservation and soil conservation. ERS Farm Resource Regions express geographic variation in terms of the natural resource base, products produced, and financial performance of farms.

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**Regional distribution of EQIP funds, 1997-2004**



Source: USDA, Farm Service Agency, EQIP program data.

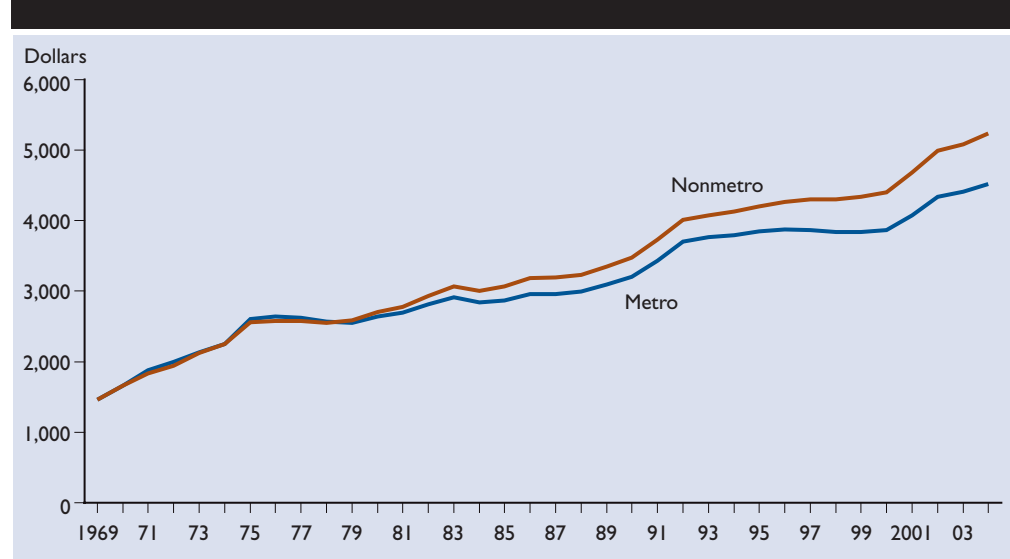
**In the Long Run**

**Per capita government transfer payments to individuals are rising faster in nonmetro areas than in metro areas**

Government transfer payments to individuals increased steadily in both metro and nonmetro areas between 1969 and 2004. In 2004, payments in nonmetro areas averaged \$5,238 while payments in metro areas averaged \$4,515 per person. Medical benefits (Medicare and Medicaid) represent the largest component of the increases, rising from 21.2 percent of total transfer payments in 1969 to 45.1 percent in 2004 for metro areas and from 16.4 percent to 43.3 percent for nonmetro areas. The faster increase in government transfer payments in nonmetro areas is mainly due to a higher share of elderly and disabled persons among nonmetro residents.

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**Per capita government transfer payments to individuals, 1969-2004**



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