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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 (\$ billion)	195.0	215.5	237.9	238.9	235.3 f	10.5	10.4	0.4	-1.5
Crops	101.0	109.9	114.3	114.0	116.3 f	8.8	4.0	-0.3	2.0
Livestock	94.0	105.6	123.6	125.0	119.0 f	12.3	17.0	1.1	-4.8
Direct government payments (\$ billion)	12.4	16.5	13.0	24.3	18.2 f	33.1	-21.2	86.9	-25.1
Gross cash income (\$ billion)	222.2	247.8	267.8	280.9	272.3 f	11.5	8.1	4.9	-3.1
Net cash income (\$ billion)	50.7	70.0	81.5	81.2	63.2 f	38.1	16.4	-0.4	-22.2
Net value added (\$ billion)	82.2	102.0	128.9	120.4	103.0	24.1	26.4	-6.6	-14.5
Farm equity (\$ billion)	1,110.7	1,180.8	1,383.1	1,591.2	1,702.1 f	6.3	17.1	15.0	7.0
Farm debt-asset ratio	14.8	14.4	12.7	11.9	11.3 f	-2.7	-11.8	-6.3	-5.0
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	65,761	68,597	81,596	79,961	75,848 f	4.3	18.9	-2.0	-5.1
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	113.7	116.1	134.8	126.2	na	2.1	16.1	-6.4	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points)	2.6	2.1	na	na	na	-19.2	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	307	315	312	312 p	na	2.6	-1.0	0.0	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) ¹	4.2	4.3	5.1	na	na	2.4	18.6	na	na

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product (\$ billion) ²	10,470	10,971	11,734	12,487	na	4.8	7.0	6.4	na
Food and fiber share (%)	4.8	4.8	4.8	na	na	0.0	0.0	na	na
Farm sector share (%)	0.7	0.8	1.0	na	na	11.1	19.2	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ billion) ¹	41.0	45.7	52.7	57.7	64.5	11.5	15.3	9.5	11.8
Total agricultural exports (\$ billion) ¹	53.3	56.2	62.4	62.5	68.0	5.4	11.0	0.2	8.8
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) ²	22.8	23.3	22.9	22.1 p	na	2.2	-1.7	-3.5	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	176.2	180.0	186.2	190.7	na	2.2	3.4	2.4	na
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	238.3	na	2.0	2.9	2.7	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ billion) ¹	38.0	41.8	46.2	50.9	na	10.0	10.5	10.2	na

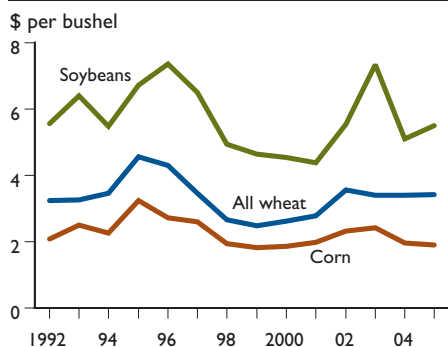
f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available.

¹ Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

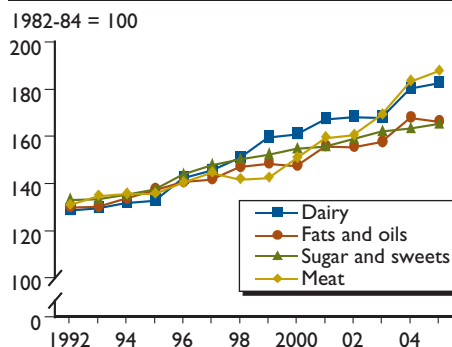
² The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics.

Sources and computation methodology are available at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm>

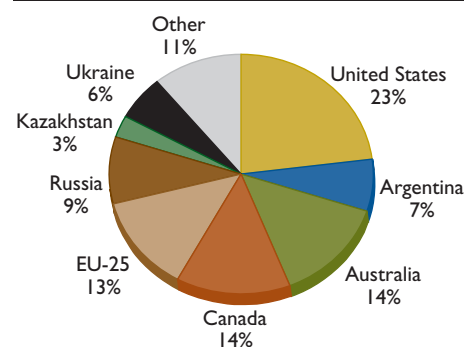
U.S. average prices received by farmers for wheat, corn, and soybeans



Consumer price indexes for selected foods consumed at home



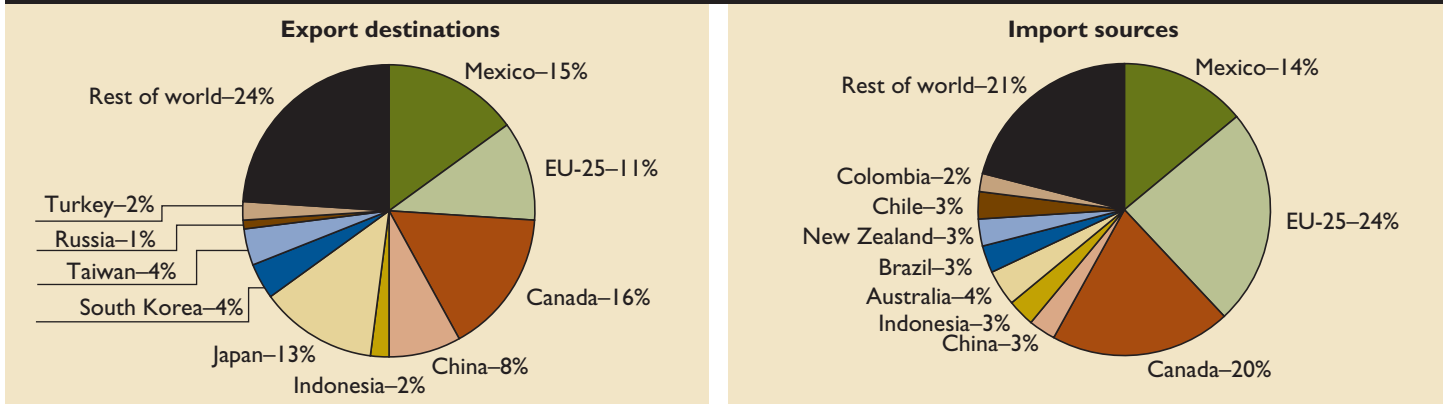
The world's major wheat exporters, 2005/06



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

Markets and Trade

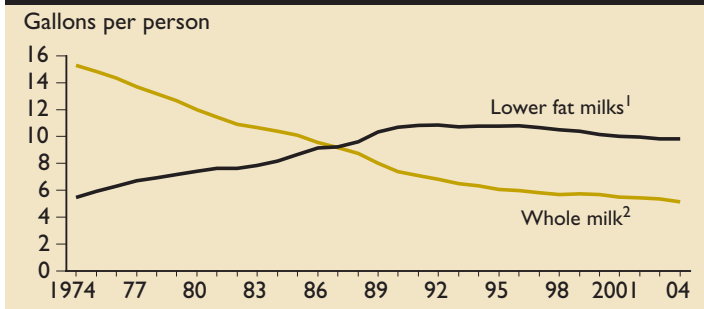
Three trading partners accounted for 44 percent of U.S. agricultural exports and 58 percent of imports in fiscal year 2005



Source: Compiled by USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce.

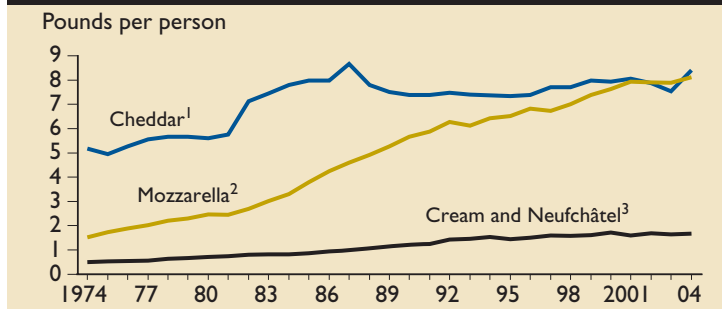
Diet and Health

While Americans are switching to lower fat milks ...



¹ Lower fat milks include plain and flavored reduced-fat milk (2 percent fat), buttermilk (1.5 percent fat), low-fat milk (1 percent fat), and fat-free milk. ² Milkfat content of 3.25 percent.

...they are increasing their use of cheese

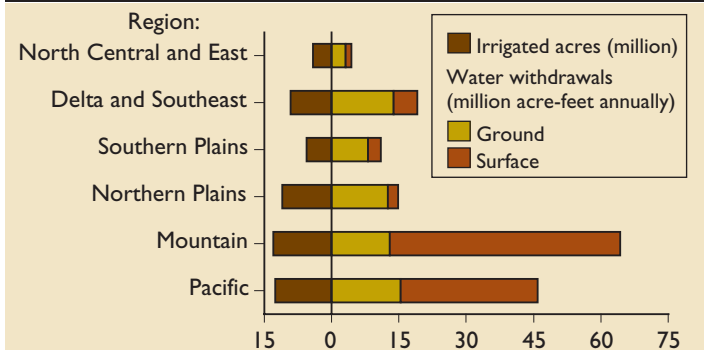


¹ Milkfat content of 50 percent or more. ² Milkfat content of 30 to 45 percent. ³ Neufchâtel has a milkfat content between 20 and 33 percent. Cream cheese has a milkfat content of 33 percent or more.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, Food Availability (Per Capita) data, adjusted for spoilage, plate waste, and other losses. The data are a proxy for consumption.

Resources and Environment

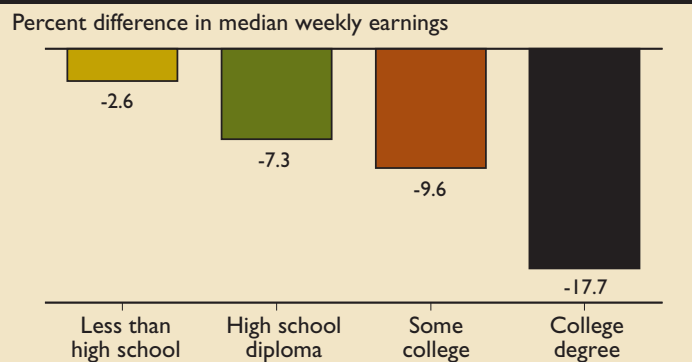
Irrigated acres and water sources in the U.S., by region



Note: North-Central and East includes the Corn Belt, Northeast, Appalachian, and Lake States regions. Sources: Irrigated acres from the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Water withdrawals from the 2000 U.S. Geological Survey. These data are published in "Chapter 2.1: Irrigation Resources and Water Costs," AREI 2006, EIB-16.

Rural America

Nonmetro median weekly earnings were less than metro across all education levels in 2003



Source: Analysis by USDA, Economic Research Service of 2003 Current Population Survey earnings file. Estimates based on metro-nonmetro definition as of June 1993.

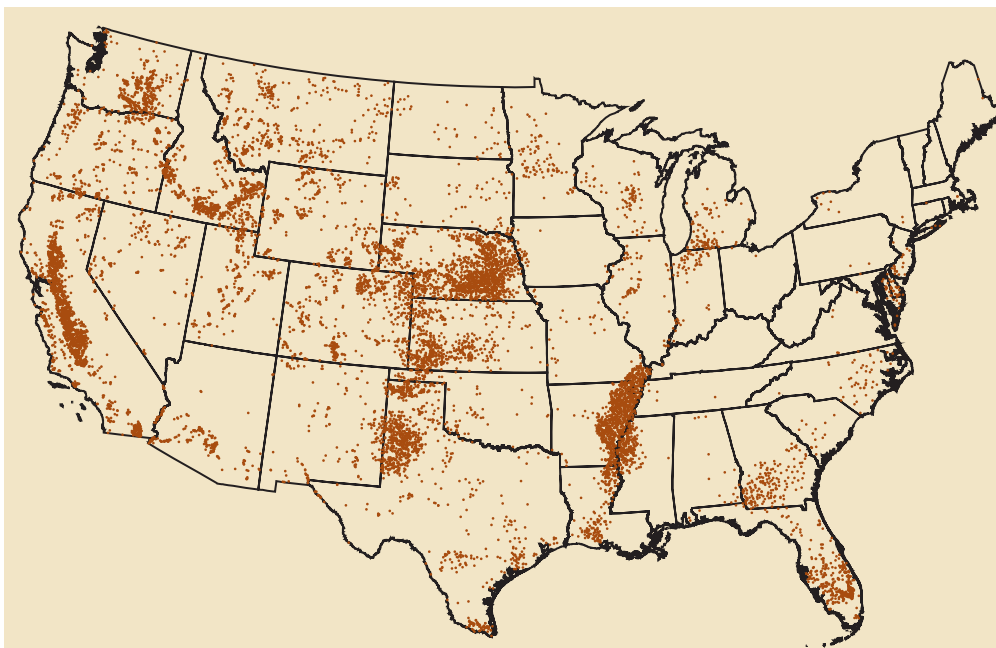
On the Map

Irrigation is a growing production technology

Irrigated agriculture is distributed across the Nation. While the West still has the greatest number of irrigated acres, regions in the East—particularly the Mississippi Delta and areas of the Southeast—now rival the density of historically irrigated areas in the West. Increased irrigation in relatively humid Eastern regions has heightened water supply concerns, especially during dry years and in locations experiencing fast growth in water use. Water supply limitations are no longer viewed as a “Western” issue in areas where irrigated agriculture is a major water user.

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Irrigated land on farms, 2002



One dot = 5,000 irrigated acres.

Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, 2002.

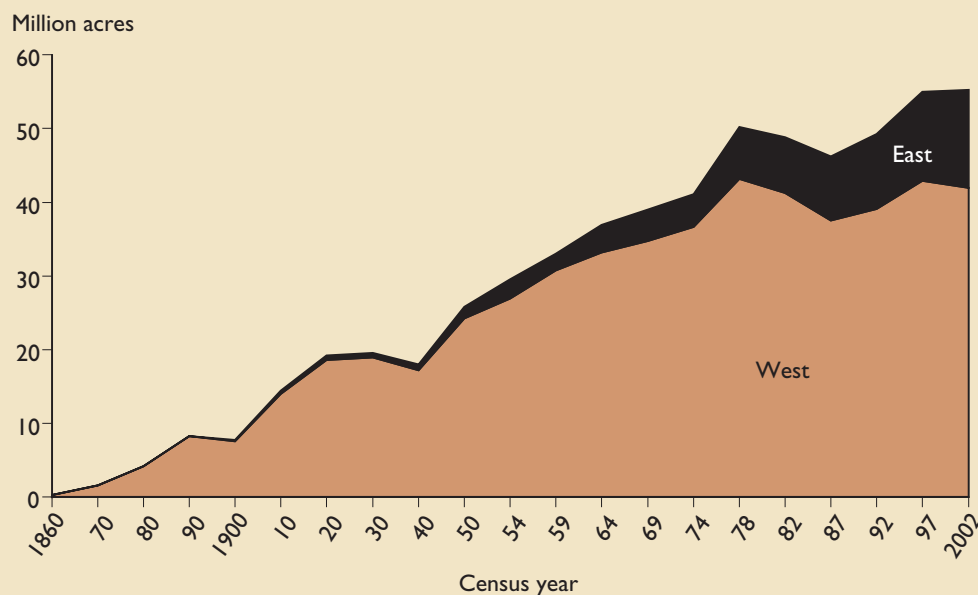
In the Long Run

Irrigated acreage has expanded across the Nation over the decades

Over the past 140 years, the number of acres irrigated has increased steadily, with only three interruptions. The last decline, in the later 1980s, was due to drought and policy-imposed land-idling requirements. Growth in recent years has slowed, relative to the longrun trend. Double-digit rates of growth in Eastern irrigation—first recorded in 1900 as “rice lands”—since the mid-1980s have more than offset recent declines in the West.

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Irrigated land from 1860 to 2002, by region



Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Census of Agriculture, various years.