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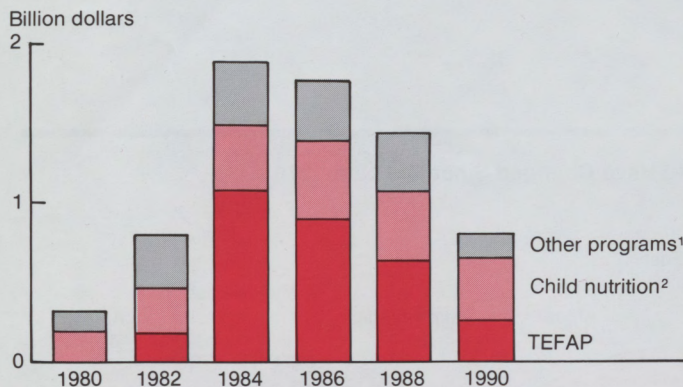
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Food Assistance. . . At a Glance

Expenditures for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) rose 200 percent during the 1980's. WIC provides food assistance to low-income women, infants, and children who are nutritionally or medically at risk. Although all food assistance programs promote improved nutrition as an objective, only WIC requires determination of the recipients' nutritional needs by a health official or a nutritionist. Through supplemental nutrition, nutrition education, and access to health services, WIC improves the well-being of pregnant, nursing, and postpartum women and infants and children up to age 5 whose families' income are below 185 percent of the poverty level.

The program now serves 4.5 million people—23 percent are women, 31 percent infants, and 46 percent children. Monthly benefits (vouchers averaging \$30.33) are used to acquire specified foods, such as infant formula, eggs, fruit juice, milk, cheese, and cereal.

Most Food Distribution Outlays in the 1980's Went for Emergency Relief



¹Commodity supplemental, needy family, and elderly feeding programs and charitable institutions.

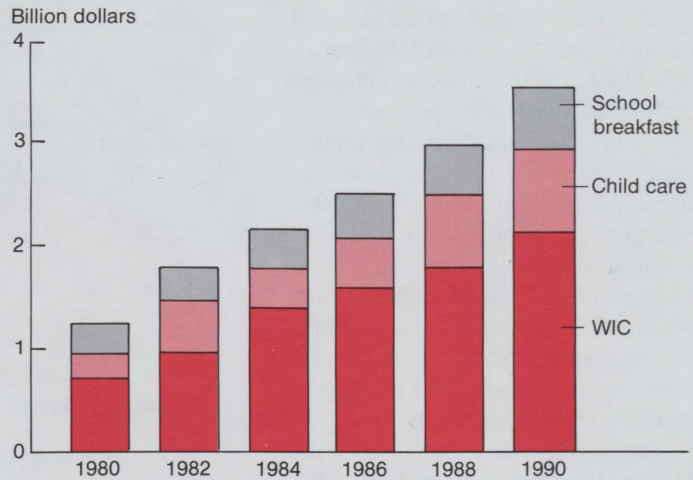
²Includes bonus commodities only.

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According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United States will provide about 60 percent of total world shipments of cereal aid in 1990/91 (July-June), followed by the European Community with approximately 18 percent, Canada with 9 percent, and Japan and Australia with less than 5 percent each.

Other principal donors include Argentina, Austria, the Scandinavian countries, Switzerland, and the World Food Program. FAO estimates that world shipments of cereal aid will fall to slightly less than 10 million in 1990/91 from the 11.5 million tons shipped in 1989/90 as the European Economic Community reduced their food aid shipments by 1.5 million tons.

Funding for Children's Programs Grew Rapidly in the 1980's



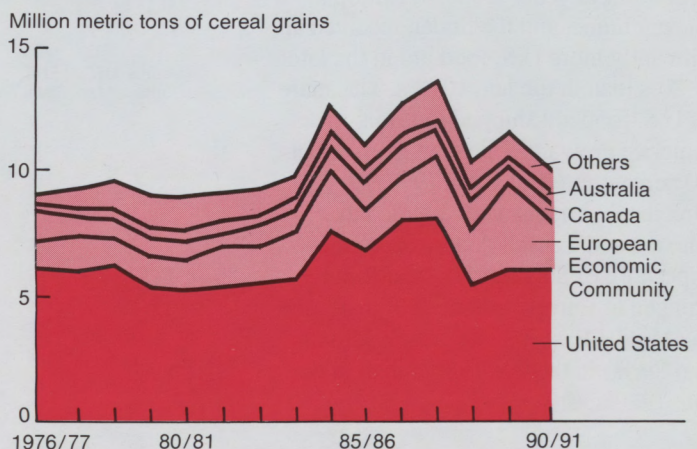
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Food distribution was dominated during the 1980's by the growth of Government stocks of surplus commodities, particularly Federal purchases of dairy products. The Temporary Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was started in 1982 to help distribute Government holdings of surplus butter, cheese, nonfat dry milk, honey, rice, cornmeal, and flour. Federal costs for TEFAP increased markedly after 1980, but have dropped significantly since 1987 as Government surpluses were depleted.

USDA commodities are also distributed through schools, the Nutrition Program for the Elderly, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Food Distribution to Indian Reservations, and charitable institutions.

Food distribution programs have historically been associated with farm price support or surplus removal programs by channeling the resultant surpluses to needy persons. As these Government stocks are depleted, however, food distribution must be either phased-out or financed through appropriated funds. The 1990 farm bill made TEFAP a permanent program, based on authorization rather than required purchases of surplus commodities.

The United States Is a Leader Among Nations That Provide Food Aid



Note: Data are reported July-June.

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