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**Changing World Markets  
Challenge the Food System**



# UpFront

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**Economics Editor:**

Stephen L. Ott  
(202) 219-0313

**Managing Editor:**

Mary E. Maher  
(202) 219-0499

**Art Director:**

Robert Gresh

**Editorial Staff:**

Martha R. Evans  
Cliola Peterson  
Karen Sayre

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Need information on today's, or even yesterday's, food trade and foreign agriculture? The Economic Research Service has economists, statisticians, and other specialists who can help. Just use the list below. All telephone numbers can be reached by dialing area code 202.

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# FoodReview

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### Changes in World Markets Challenge the Food System

- 2 Strengthening Import Regulations  
Segments World Markets**  
Expanding global trade often means strengthening import regulations to prevent the introduction of diseases and pests. Yet stricter controls can rearrange trade flows. The European Community's efforts at unifying animal-health regulations as part of regional trade liberalization are a prime example.
- 7 U.S. Farm Trade Complements World Trade**  
The United States has maintained its competitive edge as a net exporter in world agricultural markets, particularly for bulk food commodities, such as oilseeds and coarse grains. The strongest competition comes from the European Community, Argentina, and Brazil. But the trade picture with most nations is more complementary than competitive.
- 12 Food and Agriculture in the EC's Single Market**  
When the European Community eliminates all internal trade borders by the end of this year, it will become the world's largest single market. This will have far-reaching implications for the processed food industry and agriculture in the EC and abroad. U.S. firms will face the largest challenges and opportunities.
- 18 World Beef Trade...At a Glance**
- 19 Per Capita Food Expenditures Declining  
Around the World**  
An economy's prosperity and productivity of its food processing and delivery system affect the share of income spent on food at home. Over the past two decades, the share for all but 4 of 44 nations declined by an average of 12 percent.

### Food Consumption

- 23 Growth in World Food Consumption  
Slowed in the Late 1980's**  
Global per capita food consumption continued rising in the late 1980's, but at a slower pace than in the 1960's or 1970's. Diets in most regions have improved, too. But not all: Africa has become the poorest fed region—with the diet virtually unchanged in the last 27 years.
- 28 World Food Consumption...At a Glance**
- 29 Animal Products: Their Contribution to  
a Balanced Diet**  
When consumed in recommended amounts, animal products provide important amounts of several essential nutrients—without excess fat and cholesterol. According to Federal Dietary Guidelines, moderation and variety are the keys.
- 35 Fruit and Vegetables: Their Importance in  
the American Diet**  
Despite the importance of fruit and vegetables in a well-balanced diet, many Americans are still not consuming the recommended number of servings. Several recent educational efforts are promoting consumption.
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