FOOD AROUND THE WORLD

Current Food Situation 1/

World Per Capita Output Declined

Total world production of food products in 1965 was about 1 percent higher than in 1964, a smaller gain than in each of the previous 2 years and less than the 2-percent rise in world population. Per capita world production has remained generally steady in recent years; it has not topped the postwar high point in 1958 (figure 6). In 1965, per capita output was well above the level at the end of World War II, but only slightly exceeded the 1935-39 average.

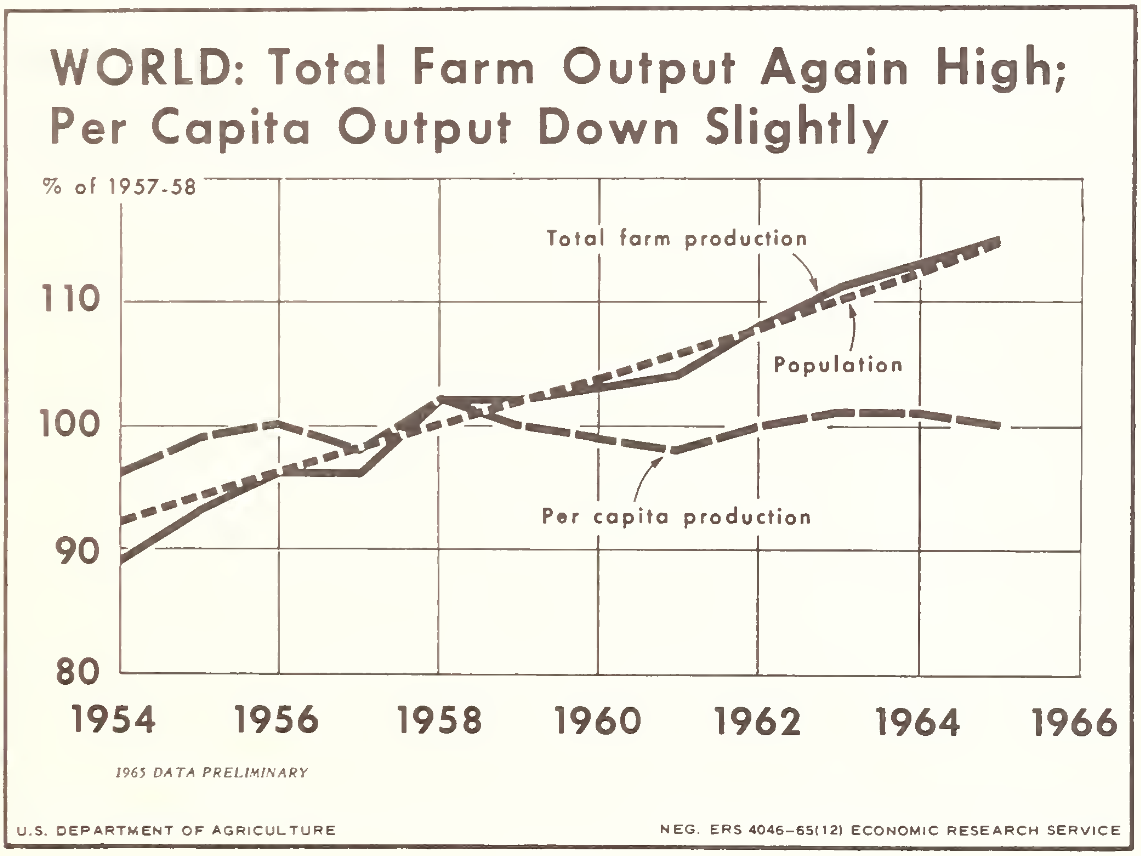

Figure 6

1/ Prepared by Foreign Regional Analysis Division, ERS.

Reprinted from the National Food Situation, NFS-115, February 1966 by the Economic and Statistical Analysis Division, Economic Research Service.

ERS-284 FEBRUARY 1966

Although production in the Western Hemisphere and Western Europe rose faster than population, the reverse was true in most of the rest of the world. Total production fell in Eastern Europe and in the USSR, dropping output per capita significantly. In Asia, including China, total food output was larger than in 1964, but output per person declined. Grain production in India was down sharply.

World wheat production in 1965/66 2/ is expected to be about 3 percent below the record harvest of the previous year (table 10). Rice production (including Mainland China) is expected to be at about the same level as last year. World output of feed grains will likely be up for 1965/66 because of record crops of corn and sorghum and an upturn in the production of oats. The output of barley declined about 4 percent.

World production of potatoes declined 7 percent in 1964/65. Production in the United States increased 24 percent from a year earlier, but production in Western Europe was down 5 percent and in the USSR and Eastern Europe was down 11 percent.

Production of vegetable oil crops set new records in 1965. Soybeans increased 16 percent, flaxseed 10 percent, and rapeseed 26 percent. Production of peanuts and sunflower seed declined 3 percent. Cottonseed approximated the previous year's high level.

The lag of world sugar output behind consumption in recent years was reversed in 1964/65, and in 1965/66 production may exceed consumption by about 5 million short tons. Because of ample supplies, prices of sugar on world markets in 1965 were at their lowest postwar levels. The output of coffee during 1965/66 is expected to total 51 percent above a year earlier and be the largest since 1959/60. However, prices have declined only moderately, due largely to the stabilizing effects of the International Coffee Agreement.

Output of livestock products increased slightly in 1965. Meat production totaled about the same as in 1964. Beef output remained unchanged, pork and poultry meat increased, and lamb and mutton declined. Both milk and lard production were 2 percent above the 1964 levels of output.

Western Hemisphere Output Up

Total farm production in Canada was at a record high level in 1965, following the drought-induced decline of 7 percent last year. The 1965 wheat crop was well above the 1964 crop but below the record 1963 harvest. Gains also were registered for all other major crops, except potatoes and sugarbeets. Increased output of beef, veal, and poultry meat more than offset a small decline in pork.

2/ See note to table 10 for explanation of split years used in this article.

Table 10.--Estimated world production of selected agricultural commodities, average 1955/56-1959/60, and annual 1962/63 to 1965/66

Commodity	Unit	Average 1955/56-1959/60	1962/63	1963/64	1964/65	1965/66 1/	Percent change 2/ 1964/65 to 1965/66	Percent change 2/ 5-year av. to 1965/66
Wheat	Mil. m.t.	217	238	227	253	245	-3	13
Rye	Mil. m.t.	37	32	30	32	33	3	10
Rice, rough 3/4/	Mil. m.t.	218	237	246	253	253	0	16
Corn 4/	Mil. m.t.	166	191	206	195	208	6	25
Barley	Mil. m.t.	71	85	89	93	89	-4	25
Oats	Mil. m.t.	59	49	46	42	45	5	-25
Sorghum & millet 5/	Mil. m.t.	28	34	35	34	37	7	30
Sugar, centrifugal	Mil. m.t.	45.0	49.8	54.3	65.3	63.5	-3	41
Sugar, non-cent 6/	Mil. m.t.	6.6	6.4	8.0	8.4	8.5	1	28
Fruits, citrus	Mil. m.t.	7/ 14.5	15.2	16.6	18.2	18.8	3	30
Apples & pears 8/	Mil. m.t.	13.0	16.7	17.4	18.0	16.4	-9	26
Potatoes 9/	Mil. m.t.	232	217	239	246	229	-7	-1
Dry beans 10/	1,000 m.t.	4,014	4,513	5,035	4,990	4,808	-4	20
Dry peas 11/	1,000 m.t.	603	585	581	567	499	-12	-17
Hops 12/	1,000 m.t.	71	80	92	93	96	3	36
Soybeans	Mil. m.t.	24.3	28.3	28.3	28.1	32.5	16	34
Peanuts	Mil. m.t.	13.4	14.7	15.2	16.3	15.8	-3	18
Cottonseed	Mil. m.t.	19.3	20.8	21.8	22.8	23.0	1	19
Flaxseed	1,000 m.t.	3,356	3,558	3,469	3,345	3,683	10	10
Sesame seed	1,000 m.t.	1,463	1,513	1,505	1,500	1,515	1	4
Castor beans	1,000 m.t.	498	611	683	835	706	-15	42
Sunflower seed	1,000 m.t.	5,129	6,778	6,107	7,643	7,442	-3	45
Rapeseed	1,000 m.t.	3,481	3,728	3,451	3,591	4,533	26	30
Olive oil	1,000 m.t.	13/ 990	939	1,691	974	1,134	16	15
Palm oil	1,000 m.t.	1,265	1,238	1,261	1,270	1,275	0	1
Palm kernel oil	1,000 m.t.	406	367	372	376	372	-1	-8
Coconut oil	1,000 m.t.	2,074	2,109	2,195	2,209	2,200	0	6
Butter 14/	1,000 m.t.	7/ 4,581	4,899	4,944	5,035	5,080	1	11
Milk 15/	Mil. m.t.	7/ 263.4	283.8	282.2	286.6	293.7	2	12
Meats 16/	Mil. m.t.	7/ 44.5	49.9	51.5	50.9	51.0	0	15
Eggs 17/	Mil. m.t.	7/ 10.8	12.2	12.3	12.6	12.8	1	19
Lard	1,000 m.t.	7/ 3,080	3,252	3,234	3,035	3,084	2	0
Tallow & greases 4/	1,000 m.t.	7/ 2,930	3,307	3,665	3,856	3,833	-1	31
Tobacco	1,000 m.t.	3,864	3,937	4,357	4,652	4,481	-4	16
Coffee	Mil.bags 18/	58.3	67.4	70.7	51.7	78.2	51	34
Tea	1,000 m.t.	866	1,026	1,039	1,086	1,096	1	27
Cocoa beans	1,000 m.t.	887	1,157	1,243	1,514	1,420	-6	60
Cotton	Mil.bales 19/	43.9	47.8	50.2	52.0	52.5	1	20
Wool	1,000 m.t.	7/ 2,443	2,586	2,640	2,629	2,526	-4	3
Jute	1,000 m.t.	7/ 2,087	2,388	2,421	2,322	2,436	5	17
Sisal	1,000 m.t.	532	635	665	698	726	4	31
Henequen	1,000 m.t.	135	171	151	158	158	0	17
Abaca	1,000 m.t.	117	101	118	112	109	-2	-3

Note: Except for rice, corn, and sorghum & millet, the data are as published by FAS. Statistics for sorghum & millet are official estimates for 9 countries compiled by ERS. Statistics refer either to calendar years corresponding to the first year shown in the column heading or to crop years beginning (except for sugar) in the first year shown. For livestock products, rice, corn, sorghum & millet, potatoes, hops, oilseeds (except cottonseed), oils (except olive oil) and tobacco, tea, jute, and hard fibers the data refer to calendar years. For coffee and cocoa beans the data refer to crop years beginning July to October of the first year shown. For cotton and cottonseed the data refer to crop years beginning August 1 of the first year shown. For sugar the data refer to production in national sugar campaigns beginning between May 1 of the first year and April 30 of the second year shown in the column heading. For other commodities, harvests in the Northern Hemisphere beginning in the first year shown are combined with Southern Hemisphere harvests which immediately follow.

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Computed from unrounded data. 3/ Includes Communist Asia and USSR. 4/ FAS estimates adjusted to calendar years. 5/ 9 countries; calendar years. 6/ Selected countries only. 7/ 1956-60 average. 8/ Dessert and cooking; 20 countries. 9/ 32 countries. 10/ 30 countries. 11/ 19 countries. 12/ 21 countries. 13/ 1954/55-1957/58 average. 14/ Product weight; includes ghee. 15/ 36 countries. 16/ 44 countries; excludes poultry and variety meats. 17/ 38 countries. 18/ 60 kg. bags of 132 pounds each. 19/ Bales of 480 pounds net.

Food output in Latin America in 1965 likely set a new record and increased more rapidly than population, reversing the situation of a year earlier. Improvement resulted mainly from better weather in South America, particularly in Brazil. Total production in Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean showed gains, but per capita output was probably down except for the Caribbean. In South America, declines in food output in Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay were more than offset by large gains in Brazil and smaller increases in Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay. However, per capita output was down in Peru.

Western Europe Output Up

Agricultural production in Western Europe in 1965 increased to a record level, about 2 percent above the previous year. The record output was achieved despite adverse weather, particularly in Spain and Portugal which were affected by a second successive year of drought conditions. Wheat production, which reached a new peak in 1965, increased in France, Italy, and the United Kingdom but declined in Germany and most other Western European countries. Most North European countries harvested wet grain of poor quality. Pork output reached a record high in 1965, about 7 percent over the previous year. Western Europe continued to have shortages of beef and veal in 1965 because of continued increasing demand and a tight world supply situation. Argentina, which traditionally has supplied most of the beef imported into Europe, has not been able to do so since mid-1964 due to herd rebuilding. Beef prices in Western Europe continued at about the peak 1964 level until late 1965 when a seasonal downturn occurred.

USSR and Eastern Europe Output Down

Agricultural output in the Soviet Union in 1965 was down sharply from the peak 1964 level, but remained considerably above the disastrous 1963 level. Per capita output was less than in 1957-59. Serious drought conditions plagued the eastern spring grain regions; yields were reduced to low levels, particularly for wheat. As a result, the USSR has purchased 9.8 million metric tons of wheat for delivery during 1965/66. Output of most other crops was down sharply in 1965 but generally above the level of earlier years. The serious decline in food crop production was partly mitigated by livestock output, which recovered well from the sharp drop in 1964.

Food production was up sharply in Rumania, remained unchanged in Bulgaria and Hungary, and dropped sharply in Yugoslavia. Near-drought conditions in these Danubian countries reduced the output of corn except in Hungary where a cool, wet summer delayed maturity of the crop. Wheat production declined in Yugoslavia but increased in the other Danubian countries.

Food production in Poland increased in 1965, largely because of a substantial increase in hog slaughter. In Czechoslovakia, output was down 12 percent; East German agricultural output rose slightly. Production of potatoes (an important food and feed crop in these 3 countries) declined.

African Output
About Steady

In 1965, agricultural production in Northern Africa registered a gain for the fourth consecutive year. However, per capita production has not risen in the past 7 years and Northern Africa remains a net food-deficit area. Largest deficits are reported for the United Arab Republic, whose needs account for about two-thirds of the bread-grain deficit.

Weather conditions varied widely in Africa south of the Sahara. Production was adversely affected by drought in the Republic of South Africa and by the partial failure of the "long rains" in East Africa. Most of the rest of the huge area south of the Sahara had normal rains and supplies of subsistence crops--corn, sorghum, cassava, yams, plantains, and others--to feed the population.

West Asia Up,
South Asia Down,
Far East Steady

West Asia's total agricultural output in 1965 exceeded the high production level of 1964 by about 2 percent. Per capita farm production rose 1 percent above the previous year but was only 4 percent above the 1957-59 average. In Turkey, output of all grains except corn rose in 1965, most fruit and vegetable crops were good, but yields were lower for sugarbeets and olives. In Iran, total farm production increased by nearly 10 percent. Although Iraq's date production fell, field crops and livestock returns were satisfactory and farm output rose 3 percent. Increased returns of wheat and most fruits and vegetables in Lebanon and Israel contributed to a rise in farm production during 1965.

There was a sharp downturn in cereal production in India, which reportedly is experiencing the worst drought of this century. Indian Government officials have stated that India will need to import at least 50 percent more grain than the 7 million metric tons imported in 1965 to meet food requirements during the coming year. Pakistan's foodgrain output registered a slight gain, but its requirements for imported wheat for 1966 are not expected to differ greatly from the 1.8 million metric tons imported in 1965.

In Southeast Asia (Burma, Gambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Vietnam, and Thailand), production in 1965 was generally very good. Several countries had record harvests. Though this region is historically noted for its export surplus of food, principally rice, 5 countries in the region--the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Singapore--had to import rice in 1965.

In the countries of Northeast Asia--Japan, South Korea, and the Republic of China--weather for crop production was generally favorable and harvests were somewhat above the level of the previous year. The livestock industry in Japan

continued to expand rapidly and to import large amounts of feed grains--principally corn from the United States. All 3 countries are substantial importers of agricultural commodities.

Gross agricultural production in Mainland China in 1965 is estimated to have equaled or slightly exceeded that in 1964. Food production was about the same as in 1964; smaller grain crops offset higher production of other food crops and livestock. This was the fourth straight year in which crops exceeded the 1959-61 average. However, production of most agricultural commodities, including livestock, was less than in 1957, officially claimed to be mainland China's best agricultural year. Availability of per capita food supplies during 1965/66--including 6.5 million metric tons of imported grain--is expected to be slightly less than in the previous year, and will furnish only slightly more than 80 percent of the minimum requirements of 2,350 calories per person per day, based on a United Nations' estimate. The balance and the quality of the diet, however, has improved somewhat since 1959-61.

Oceania Output Down

Widespread drought in Australia will curtail harvests in 1965/66. Wheat plantings have increased in recent years but the 1965/66 harvest is expected to be down sharply from a year earlier and the smallest crop since 1961/62. Significant declines are expected in meat output in 1965/66 due to sheep and cattle losses resulting from poor pasture conditions. In New Zealand, where the economy is largely centered around livestock, total volume of meat production is estimated at 9 percent above the 1964/65 level.

Food Consumption Per Capita 3/

There is a widely different pattern of food consumption in the various regions of the world (table 11). The diets of Western Hemisphere and all of Europe have relatively similar average caloric content. Africa, West Asia, and the Far East use about 20 percent fewer calories per person. But, Oceania consumes more calories per person than any other region.

Sources of Calories

The source of calories within regions varies widely. In the Western Hemisphere and Northwestern Europe, animal products supply about 25 percent of the calories in the diet, in Southwestern and Eastern Europe about 15 percent, in West Asia and Northern Africa 10 percent, and in Southern Africa and the Far East, only 6 percent. Cereal products supply nearly 30 percent of calories in the Western Hemisphere and Northwestern Europe, around 50 percent in Southwestern and Eastern Europe, and over 60 percent in Northern Africa, West Asia, and the Far East. In Southern Africa, about 41 percent of calories are supplied by cereals and 35 percent by starchy crops, primarily bananas and plantains.

3/ Prepared by Helen M. Eklund, Food Consumption Section, ERS.

Table 11.--Source of food energy: Calories, protein, and fat consumption per person per day in U. S. and estimates for various areas of the world; 1959-61 average 1/

Item	Western Hemisphere		Europe			Africa		West Asia	Far East
			Western						
	U. S.	All	Northern	Southern	Eastern	Northern	Southern		
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Calories - total	3,190	2,870	3,060	2,720	2,990	2,230	2,470	2,405	2,120
Cereal products	663	848	856	1,261	1,582	1,446	1,019	1,435	1,350
Starchy crops	100	227	212	164	252	28	864	40	110
Sugar	502	437	416	205	43	147	89	232	150
Pulses	104	131	52	119	297	127	147	97	210
Other fruits and vegetables	197	136	137	202	68	119	32	177	70
Fats and oils	654	414	543	426	284	140	184	188	100
Meat, fish, eggs	539	398	502	187	278	92	92	100	50
Dairy products, excluding butter	431	276	346	158	190	128	46	135	80
	Gram	Gram	Gram	Gram	Gram	Gram	Gram	Gram	Gram
Protein - total	95.3	80.4	88.4	78.6	82.5	69.1	58.7	71.9	54.7
Animal	63.8	43.1	52.0	26.5	28.7	17.3	11.0	16.1	9.0
Pulse	4.8	7.2	2.1	5.5	5.0	7.6	8.6	5.5	11.2
Other	26.7	30.2	34.3	46.6	48.8	44.3	39.1	50.3	34.5
Fat	146.3	102.1	128.8	80.5	72.0	39.9	45.2	46.3	31.5

1/ Regional data based on a total of 90 countries.

Compiled from Food Balances for 24 Countries of the Western Hemisphere, 1959-61, ERS-Foreign 86; ... for 16 Countries of Western Europe, ERS-Foreign 87; ... for 8 East European Countries, ERS-Foreign 124; ... for 30 Countries in Africa and West Asia, ERS-Foreign 119; and ... for 12 Countries in the Far East and Oceania, ERS-Foreign 88.

The National Food Situation is published in February, May, August, and November.

The next issue is scheduled for release in May 1966.

Canadian consumption is very similar to that of the United States, with almost precisely the same amounts of the meat, poultry, fish, and eggs group, sugar, and cereal products used per person. Canadians eat more dairy products and starchy crops, but less fruits and vegetables.

The average amount of food energy used by U. S. civilians in 1959-61 was exceeded in only 7 other countries of the 90 studied (table 12). Those countries, listed in order, are: Ireland, New Zealand, Denmark, United Kingdom, Argentina, Australia, and Switzerland. Each of these countries used more cereal products than did the United States--Argentina almost twice as much and about a third more for the 6 other countries (simple average). The 4 Western European countries and Argentina used more starchy crops (potatoes and sweetpotatoes) than the United States--twice as much in Denmark and United Kingdom and 3 times as much in Ireland. Sugar consumption was close to the 108-pound U. S. average except in Switzerland, Australia, and Argentina where it ranged from 14 to 24 pounds lower. Switzerland was the only country that used slightly more pulses and fruit and vegetables than did the United States. New Zealand and Australia used about 28 percent more meat, fish, poultry, and eggs; they derived a fourth of their calories from this food group, compared with a sixth in the United States. Dairy products are slightly more important in the diets of New Zealand and Switzerland than in the United States. Of the 8 countries, Argentina uses the least dairy products.

Latin American countries as a group use about 20 percent less calories than North American countries. They use half again as much cereal products, about twice as much of pulses and starchy crops (including bananas and plantains), but only half as much other fruits and vegetables and fats and oils and about a third as much dairy products.

Differences in diet between northern and southern Western Europe are as striking as are those for North and South America, although the difference in total calories used is not quite so great--Southwestern Europe used 11 percent fewer calories per person than did Northern Europe. On the average, Southwestern Europe used more than twice as many pulses and half again as much fruit and vegetables and cereal products, but only about half as much sugar, dairy products and meat, fish, poultry, and eggs as does Northwestern Europe.

The 8 countries of Eastern Europe that were studied are strikingly similar in total calorie use per person--generally ranging between 2,900 and 3,100 per person per day. The northern countries (Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, and Poland) use fewer cereal products, potatoes, and pulses than does the Soviet Union; however, they use almost half again as much fruits and vegetables and, on the average, more fats and oils, and meat, fish, poultry, and eggs. The southern countries (Bulgaria, Rumania, and Yugoslavia) use more cereals, pulses, and fruits and vegetables than does the Soviet Union, but much less sugar, potatoes, and meat, fish, poultry, and eggs.

Table 12.--Per capita food consumption and nutrients available, selected countries, 1959-61 1/

Country	Food consumption, per year								Nutrients per day		
	Cereal products	Starchy crops 2/	Sugar	Pulses 3/	Other fruit and vegetables 4/	Fats and oils	Meat, fish, and eggs	Dairy products excluding butter 5/	Food energy	Protein	Fat
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Calories	Grams	Grams
North America											
Canada	152	159	108	11	291	49	225	450	3,110	95.6	140.4
United States	148	108	108	20	395	6/68	223	377	3,190	95.3	146.3
South America											
Argentina	273	190	84	9	284	37	238	196	3,220	101.3	114.9
Brazil	207	222	88	64	222	18	82	123	2,710	65.0	52.1
Dominican Republic	123	209	57	26	585	20	53	99	2,020	41.1	47.8
Ecuador	165	128	46	24	746	11	68	148	2,100	53.3	38.6
Honduras	306	21	46	22	432	9	51	60	2,330	61.1	40.4
Jamaica	176	123	86	44	555	22	97	44	2,270	57.9	53.9
Mexico	315	23	75	49	187	20	62	159	2,580	67.8	60.2
Panama	251	137	46	13	528	11	75	53	2,370	55.2	41.6
Peru	196	288	68	20	260	13	71	62	2,060	51.0	38.2
Trinidad and Tobago	247	86	73	31	244	31	79	75	2,470	62.7	61.5
Western Europe											
Austria	237	191	79	10	358	39	159	402	2,960	86.7	110.1
Belgium-Luxembourg	203	282	74	9	282	52	181	262	2,960	86.8	123.4
Denmark	172	256	106	14	269	62	198	400	3,380	92.5	160.2
Finland	245	228	88	4	119	45	113	706	3,110	93.9	112.0
France	219	237	69	14	361	39	237	260	2,980	103.0	117.4
Greece	358	89	35	38	496	40	98	143	2,960	95.8	85.9
Ireland	245	315	104	6	201	44	184	557	3,470	90.8	130.6
Italy	298	119	48	26	497	36	99	158	2,710	79.0	78.8
Netherlands	181	215	101	10	286	59	149	402	3,000	80.0	129.3
Norway	176	227	91	9	211	53	187	454	2,950	82.0	128.4
Portugal	267	219	40	23	401	35	116	63	2,490	72.4	70.3
Spain	251	266	37	35	470	43	109	138	2,740	74.7	84.5
Sweden	159	192	95	8	218	50	182	435	2,940	82.1	132.9
Switzerland	219	157	94	21	412	44	158	426	3,210	90.7	128.7
United Kingdom	181	215	116	13	254	50	207	362	3,280	88.1	142.7
Eastern Europe											
Bulgaria	446	50	42	14	399	24	64	89	2,910	81.2	58.2
Czechoslovakia	7/280	228	80	7/8	7/210	7/44	7/145	7/205	3,090	70.4	111.8
East Germany	214	371	66	4	245	58	7/171	7/139	3,040	65.6	126.3
Hungary	7/301	216	59	7/6	7/205	7/28	7/143	7/205	2,900	71.4	90.0
Poland	7/312	419	7/58	4	207	28	7/130	7/292	3,100	78.0	93.1
Rumania	428	159	33	13	246	15	79	159	2,840	81.1	50.7
Soviet Union	378	304	66	10	170	23	123	225	3,000	85.9	64.5
Yugoslavia	410	155	34	24	7/207	22	7/69	7/190	2,900	81.8	63.1
Africa											
Ghana	160	677	18	20	605	17	43	9	2,480	51.2	41.2
South Africa	346	35	82	10	161	13	125	243	2,720	84.4	67.7
Tunisia	262	20	41	17	177	11	33	70	1,900	51.8	44.8
Asia											
Ceylon	281	62	47	13	116	9	8/8	24	2,120	47.3	46.8
China (Taiwan)	345	185	27	33	170	9	96	2	2,440	58.8	44.7
India	297	37	63	64	108	8	17	109	2,060	55.6	30.3
Israel	255	69	84	19	572	40	146	194	2,840	90.7	94.8
Japan	337	168	33	30	397	11	134	36	2,360	69.8	31.7
Oceania											
Australia	199	92	88	6	243	46	286	327	3,210	99.8	142.5
New Zealand	181	124	108	7	243	57	284	486	3,460	107.8	159.2

1/ Derived from data in 5 publications of the Foreign Regional Analysis Division, ERS, USDA: Food Balances for 24 Countries of the Western Hemisphere, 1959-61, ERS-Foreign 86; ... for 16 Countries of Western Europe, ERS-Foreign 87; ... for 8 East European Countries, ERS-Foreign 124; ... for 30 Countries in Africa and West Asia, ERS-Foreign 119; and ... for 12 Countries in the Far East and Oceania, ERS-Foreign 88. 2/ Potatoes, sweetpotatoes, yams, and cassava. 3/ Includes peanuts, treenuts, and cacao. 4/ Includes bananas and plantains. 5/ Product weight. Quantities less comparable than other commodity groups because of varying proportions of fluid items. 6/ Includes fat cuts of pork (bacon and saltside). 7/ USDA estimate. 8/ Quantity excludes fish. Nutrient data for Ceylon, however, include an estimate for fish.

The 15 countries studied in Southern Africa averaged 2,470 calories per person per day in 1959-61, the 7 Northern Africa countries averaged 2,230, and the 8 West Asian countries averaged 2,405. Total calories used in the entire region ranged from a high of 2,840 in Israel to a low of 1,900 in Tunisia. Although Southern Africa had the highest total calorie average in this region, it had the lowest amount of animal protein per person, and this in an area of the world which consumes relatively low amounts of animal protein.

Protein Use

Protein supplies per person per day averaged 95 grams in the United States, not much greater than the nearly 90 grams in Northwestern Europe. The Western Hemisphere, as a whole, was about on a par with Southwestern and Eastern Europe with around 80 grams. However, protein supplies were much lower in other parts of the world. West Asia and Northern Africa averaged around 70 grams per person per day and Southern Africa and the Far East averaged only about 55 grams. Of the total protein consumed, Northwestern Europe received about 60 percent in the form of animal protein. This compares with 67 percent in the United States, and 54 percent for the entire Western Hemisphere. But, only about a third of the total protein in Southwestern and Eastern Europe was animal protein, a fourth in Northern Africa and West Asia, and less than a fifth in Southern Africa and the Far East.

Use of Fat

The nutrient fat consumed in the United States averaged close to 150 grams per person per day, much above any other major area. Northwestern Europe's 129 grams compared with 102 grams for the Western Hemisphere as a whole. Southwestern Europe used 80 grams and Eastern Europe 72, but Africa, West Asia, and the Far East ranged from 32 to 46 grams of fat per person per day, less than a third of the amount used in the United States.

Expenditures for Food 4/

Average expenditures for food take a smaller share of total private consumption expenditures in the United States than in any other country of the world for which data are available (table 13). 5/ Canada was a close second to the United States in 1963, followed closely by Australia and Denmark. Other countries that spent an average of less than 30 percent for food in 1963 include Belgium, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, South Africa, and Puerto Rico. These countries tend to have relatively high per capita incomes and relatively high levels of food consumption.

4/ Prepared by Stephen J. Hiemstra, Food Consumption Section, ERS.

5/ Food expenditures here are compared with total private consumption expenditures rather than with disposable personal income, the more usual comparison of U. S. data. Disposable income is the total of consumption expenditures and saving, so the percentages in table 13 are slightly higher than computed on the basis of disposable income, as in table 3, p. 7. U. S. food expenditures as a proportion of disposable income was 18.9 percent in 1963 compared with 20.5 percent when taken as a percentage of consumption expenditures (as defined prior to the 1965 revision of National income accounts). Of course, discrepancies and difficulties in obtaining comparable data from different countries probably overshadow the importance of these distinctions.

Table 13.--Expenditures for food as a proportion of private consumption expenditures, by countries, 1955-63 1/

Country	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
North America									
Canada	23.1	23.1	23.4	23.3	22.9	23.0	22.5	22.1	21.7
United States 2/	23.2	23.2	23.0	23.2	21.9	21.4	21.3	20.9	20.5
Latin America									
Dominican Republic	49.7	52.1	51.9	52.5	51.0	---	---	---	---
Ecuador	48.3	49.0	45.6	44.8	44.3	43.9	44.1	44.0	44.2
Honduras	49.9	45.0	44.0	43.2	43.6	43.7	43.8	42.6	---
Jamaica	40.6	39.2	37.8	37.9	36.7	34.7	33.7	---	---
Panama	42.1	39.7	39.3	38.3	38.6	35.5	39.5	36.6	---
Peru	39.0	38.9	38.9	39.7	39.7	---	---	---	---
Puerto Rico	33.0	31.6	31.1	30.3	29.5	28.8	27.4	27.5	27.2
Trinidad and Tobago	37.5	38.0	37.1	37.3	36.8	35.4	36.4	36.6	---
Western Europe									
Austria	38.4	38.0	36.6	36.6	35.2	34.1	33.0	32.9	31.5
Belgium	29.0	29.4	28.3	28.6	28.2	27.1	27.1	27.0	25.8
Denmark	27.6	27.5	26.0	25.8	24.7	23.4	22.4	21.9	22.8
Finland	37.7	38.7	40.2	41.0	39.3	38.7	37.0	36.3	37.0
France 3/	34.0	33.3	31.6	31.8	32.3	31.6	31.0	30.8	30.5
Greece	48.9	46.6	45.7	45.9	45.9	45.1	42.9	43.8	---
Ireland 2/	38.6	37.9	38.0	38.1	38.1	36.8	35.9	35.1	33.7
Italy	46.8	46.7	45.8	45.6	45.2	44.6	44.1	43.1	42.6
Luxembourg	34.7	35.3	35.0	35.1	35.2	34.8	34.2	---	---
Netherlands	33.7	33.3	32.7	32.7	32.4	31.0	31.0	30.7	30.3
Norway	31.6	32.2	31.0	31.5	30.8	30.0	28.9	29.6	28.3
Spain	34.3	35.8	34.9	33.7	35.4	37.5	36.9	36.6	---
Sweden	30.0	30.3	28.8	28.5	27.6	27.6	26.8	27.3	27.0
United Kingdom 2/	31.5	31.5	31.1	30.1	29.6	28.6	28.2	27.9	27.2
Eastern Europe									
Yugoslavia	53.2	53.0	48.3	48.3	46.5	44.8	43.2	45.8	45.7
U.S.S.R.	4/50.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Africa									
Ghana	48.8	51.1	50.0	52.1	50.2	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.6
South Africa	30.4	30.8	30.5	29.8	29.8	29.5	29.5	28.5	27.4
Asia									
Ceylon 3/	53.9	53.7	55.2	53.9	49.6	48.6	49.1	49.7	50.9
China (Taiwan) 4/	57.8	56.1	55.0	54.3	53.4	53.3	52.4	51.9	52.1
Israel	34.4	34.4	33.7	33.8	33.2	32.8	31.9	31.1	30.3
Japan 5/	53.5	52.6	51.5	50.8	48.8	46.9	45.3	43.5	43.0
Korea, Republic of	51.8	58.0	56.0	53.2	47.6	47.2	47.1	44.7	51.3
Oceania									
Australia 2/	25.5	25.4	24.7	24.6	23.7	24.0	23.8	23.2	22.8

1/ Total expenditures, defined as those of households and private nonprofit institutions, include expenditures of residents abroad. Food expenditures, excluding beverages unless otherwise indicated, include amounts purchased by nonresidents. As a proportion of disposable personal income, U. S. food expenditures in 1963 equalled 18.9 percent.

2/ Food includes nonalcoholic beverages.

3/ Revised beginning 1959 to improve conceptual basis and achieve better coverage of economic activity; not comparable with earlier years.

4/ Food includes all beverages.

5/ Food data include beverages and tobacco.

United Nations, Yearbook of National Accounts Statistics, 1964, except datum for U.S.S.R. from A. Bergson and S. Kuznets, Economic Trends in the Soviet Union, Harvard University Press, 1963, p. 361.

However, differences in caloric consumption among countries are much less than differences in income. Countries with over about $500 per capita income tend to average roughly the same calorie supply per capita. Increased incomes, and hence total expenditures, beyond this level normally lead to increased food expenditures as shifts are made to more meat and other higher-priced foods such as those that include a larger amount of processing and marketing services. But, increases in food expenditures normally are not as great as increases in income.

Demand for food tends to be more urgent than for most other goods and services but additional increments of income above a subsistence level are more likely to go for nonfood items. This is shown by the gradual decline in food expenditures as a percentage of total expenditures over time for most countries. Also, it is shown by the relatively narrow range in percentages among countries compared with the relatively large differences in per capita incomes. These relationships are based on country-wide averages so they obscure the large variations among individual families within a given country.

Italy was the only Western European country studied that spent over 40 percent of total expenditures for food in 1963. However, several countries in Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia were in this class. A few even spent over half of total expenditures for food. But, comparisons among some of these countries lose significance because nonmoney income is large relative to money incomes--for example, when home-grown food itself constitutes a large share of total income, measurement and valuation problems increase. Further complications arise in comparisons with countries like the USSR that do not have a free exchange economy and with countries that have official exchange rates that differ sharply from the world market value of its currency; income and expenditure comparisons among countries then become less meaningful.