



United States Department of Agriculture

## **Economic Research Service**

The Economics of Food, Farming, Natural Resources, and Rural America

New or updated information is available from [USDA ERS](#).

This update covers Monday, August 17, 2009 to Friday, August 21, 2009

### **WHEAT DATA**

This data product contains statistics on wheat - including the five classes of wheat: hard red winter, hard red spring, soft red winter, white, and durum - and rye. Includes data published in the monthly Wheat Outlook and previously annual Wheat Yearbook. Data are monthly, quarterly, and/or annual depending upon the data series.

Released Friday, August 21, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usdagov/Data/Wheat/>

### **FEED GRAINS DATABASE**

Interactive database that contains statistics on four feed grains (corn, grain sorghum, barley, and oats), foreign coarse grains (feed grains plus rye, millet, and mixed grains), hay, and related items. Tables previously published annually in the Feed Yearbook are available and updated continuously as data are added to the database. Custom queries also allow users to retrieve historical data.

Released Friday, August 21, 2009

See <http://www.ersusda.gov/Data/FeedGrains/>

### **WHAT THE 2008/2009 WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS MEANS FOR GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE**

The global economic crisis that started in late 2008 has led to a sharp curtailment of international trade, including a short-term decline in the value of global agricultural trade of around 20 percent. After slowing, global agricultural trade will continue to grow in the future. The crisis is leading to a realignment of exchange rates, and the ultimate resolution of the crisis will depend on adjustments in the exchange value of the U.S. dollar. The U.S. agricultural sector would benefit from a depreciating dollar, which results in high export earnings, high agricultural commodity prices, increased production, and increased farm income.

Released Thursday, August 20, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS0905/>

### **LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY OUTLOOK**

Timely livestock, dairy, and poultry information, focusing on current and forecast production, price, and trade statistics for each of the sectors.

Released Wednesday, August 19, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/LDP/>

## **YOUNGER CONSUMERS EXHIBIT LESS DEMAND FOR FRESH VEGETABLES**

Growth over time in the demand for fresh vegetables for at-home consumption may slow because of differences in the behavior of younger and older birth cohorts. A birth cohort includes people born in the same year and is similar in concept to a generation. People born around the same point in history may share common behaviors that they carry throughout their lives independent of age. People born more recently are found to spend less money for fresh vegetables than older Americans do. Changes in how people purchase and consume food may help to explain these effects.

Released Wednesday, August 19, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/VGS/2009/08Aug/VGS33301/>

## **FOLLOW ERS ON TWITTER**

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Released Wednesday, August 19, 2009

See [http://www.twitter.com/USDA\\_ERS](http://www.twitter.com/USDA_ERS)

## **EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND PROGRAM POLICY ON STATE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM CASELOADS, 2000 TO 2006**

This study uses a unique combination of State panel data and qualitative interviews to examine the economic and policy factors associated with the sharp increase in the number of Food Stamp Program (FSP) participants between 2000 and 2006. This period is particularly interesting because the rise in participation between 2003 and 2006 occurred while the national economy was improving. Higher numbers of participants were associated with higher State unemployment rates and lower State labor force participation rates and minimum wages. The introduction of FSP policies designed to expand eligibility and ease reporting also increased the number of participants. In addition, program outreach efforts were associated with higher caseloads in times of low unemployment. Interviews with State FSP administrators and staff at community-based organizations reinforce the quantitative findings and point to declining local economic conditions and high-quality program outreach as the main sources of caseload growth. The Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in October 2008.

*Disclaimer: This study was conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., under contract number 59-5000-7-0111. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of ERS or USDA.*

Released Tuesday, August 18, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/CCR56/>

## **BROADBAND INTERNET'S VALUE FOR RURAL AMERICA**

As broadband—or high-speed—Internet use has spread, Internet applications requiring high transmission speeds have become an integral part of the “Information Economy,” raising concerns about those who lack broadband access. This report analyzes (1) rural broadband use by consumers, the community-at-large, and businesses; (2) rural broadband availability; and (3)

broadband's social and economic effects on rural areas. It also summarizes results from an ERS-sponsored workshop on rural broadband use, and other ERS-commissioned studies. In general, rural communities have less broadband Internet use than metro communities, with differing degrees of broadband availability across rural communities. Rural communities that had greater broadband Internet access had greater economic growth, which conforms to supplemental research on the benefits that rural businesses, consumers, and communities ascribe to broadband Internet use.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR78/>

### **BROADBAND INTERNET SERVICE HELPING CREATE A RURAL DIGITAL ECONOMY**

Broadband—high speed Internet—is less commonly used in rural than urban settings due to higher provision costs and more limited availability in rural areas. Rural counties with broadband Internet service in 2000 had greater subsequent employment and income growth than similar rural counties without service. Rural citizens, businesses, and communities credit broadband Internet use with providing social and economic benefits.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September09/Features/Broadband.htm>

### **FULL THROTTLE U.S. ETHANOL EXPANSION FACES CHALLENGES**

Constraints to future growth of the ethanol industry will present challenges to meeting the ambitious mandates for expanded biofuel use set forth in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Challenges exist on both the supply and demand sides of the market.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September09/Features/EthanolExpansion.htm>

### **TAKING THE PULSE OF RURAL HEALTH CARE**

Rural households have higher rates of mortality, disability, and chronic disease than urban households, after taking into account the different age distributions of the two populations. Rural households have less access than urban households to affordable, nearby, high-quality health care. Adoption of new health information technologies, promoted by a \$19 billion allocation in the 2009 economic stimulus package, holds promise for improving coordination among geographically dispersed health care providers.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September09/Features/RuralHealth.htm>

### **BABY BOOM MIGRATION TILTS TOWARD RURAL AMERICA**

The size and direction of migration patterns vary considerably by age, and baby boomers are migrating to rural destinations. If baby boomers follow migration patterns similar to their predecessors, the rural population age 55-75 will increase by 30 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Local economic development strategies aimed at attracting more jobs will likely have little effect on the migration decisions of baby boomers searching for a better quality of life.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September09/Features/BabyBoom.htm>

### **AMBER WAVES**

Amber Waves presents the broad scope of ERS's research and analysis. The magazine covers the economics of agriculture, food and nutrition, the food industry, trade, rural America, and farm-related environmental topics. Available on the internet and in print, Amber Waves is issued in print four times a year (March, June, September, and December). The internet edition, or "eZine," includes links to web- only resources, such as podcasts and additional articles.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/September09/>

### **HEALTH STATUS AND HEALTH CARE ACCESS OF FARM AND RURAL POPULATIONS**

Rural residents have higher rates of age-adjusted mortality, disability, and chronic disease than their urban counterparts, though mortality and disability rates vary more by region than by metro status. Contributing negatively to the health status of rural residents are their lower socioeconomic status, higher incidence of both smoking and obesity, and lower levels of physical activity. Contributing negatively to the health status of farmers are the high risks from workplace hazards, which also affect other members of farm families who live on the premises and often share in the work; contributing positively are farmers' higher socioeconomic status, lower incidence of smoking, and more active lifestyle. Both farm and rural populations experience lower access to health care along the dimensions of affordability, proximity, and quality, compared with their nonfarm and urban counterparts.

Released Monday, August 17, 2009

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB57/>

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