



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, February 15, 2010 to Friday, February 19, 2010

### **MEAT PRICE SPREADS**

This data set provides monthly average price values, and the differences among those values, at the farm, wholesale, and retail stages of the production and marketing chain for selected cuts of beef, pork, and broilers. In addition, retail prices are provided for beef and pork cuts, turkey, whole chickens, eggs, and dairy products.

Released by 10 a.m. ET.

Released Friday, February 19, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/MeatPriceSpreads/>

### **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FUNDING IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS**

Data for public and private funding of agricultural research and development cover the years 1970-2008 (public) and 1970-98 (private). Data are available as nominal figures and adjusted for inflation.

Released Friday, February 19, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/AgResearchFunding/>

### **CHANGING PARTICIPATION IN FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AMONG LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AFTER WELFARE REFORM**

In 1996, the safety net for poor households with children fundamentally changed when Federal legislation replaced Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This study investigates participation in, and benefits received from, AFDC/TANF and food assistance programs, before and after the legislation, for children in low-income households (income below 300 percent of the Federal poverty line). The results show that, between 1990 and 2004, the share of children receiving food stamp benefits declined, most notably among children in the poorest households (income below 50 percent of the Federal poverty line). The share of children receiving benefits from the school meals programs and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) rose, mainly among children in low-income households with income above the Federal poverty line. Overall, the share of children in households that received benefits from AFDC/TANF or food assistance programs grew from 35 percent to 52 percent. However, the net result of these changes is that average total inflation-adjusted household benefits from all programs examined declined. The decline was largest among children in the poorest households.

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See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR92/>

## **GUESS WHO'S TURNING 100? TRACKING A CENTURY OF AMERICAN EATING**

USDA's Economic Research Service maintains the only time-series data on U.S. food availability in the country; a series that now spans 100 years. The data play a key role in monitoring the potential for the food supply to meet the nutritional needs of Americans and in examining historical consumption trends. A look at 100 years of American eating reveals the technological, political, social, and economic forces affecting food availability.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/TrackingACentury.htm>

## **ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, NUTRITIOUS FOOD IS LIMITED IN "FOOD DESERTS"**

Some neighborhoods in the U.S., particularly low-income ones, have been dubbed "food deserts" because residents do not live near supermarkets or other food retailers that carry affordable and nutritious food. Low-income residents of these neighborhoods and those who lack transportation rely more on smaller neighborhood stores that may not carry healthy foods or offer them only at higher prices. A lack of healthy options could lead to poor diets and to diet-related conditions such as obesity or diabetes. If low-income households in food deserts can only purchase food at higher prices, they may be more prone to food insecurity—not having enough food for active, healthy living.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/FoodDeserts.htm>

## **AMBER WAVES, MARCH 2010, VOL. 8, NO. 1**

*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 Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usdagov/AmberWaves/>

## **CONSUMERS' RESPONSE TO THE 2006 FOODBORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAK LINKED TO SPINACH**

This report examines how consumers responded to FDA's warning regarding possible spinach contamination outbreak, and its recommendation to avoid eating spinach. While spinach sales fell dramatically, consumers switched to buying other leafy greens.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/OutbreakSpinach.htm>

## **ECONOMIC RECOVERY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM PREVIOUS RECESSIONS**

The rates of employment loss and unemployment in the recent recession are about the same in metro and nonmetro areas, but based on previous recessions, nonmetro employment may recover more slowly. As in past recessions, manufacturing-dependent nonmetro counties felt the effects

of the recessions sooner than other nonmetro areas. Unemployment rates continue to be lowest for the college-educated in both nonmetro and metro areas.

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See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/EconomicRecovery.htm>

### **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 Thursday, February 18, 2010

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 Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FeedGrains/>

### **ORGANIC DAIRY SECTOR EVOLVES TO MEET CHANGING DEMAND**

Declining demand for organic products in response to the economic downturn has slowed the rapid growth in organic milk production. Economic forces, primarily lower production costs, may be pushing organic dairies to be more like conventional dairies in terms of size, location, and the types of technologies used. More specific pasture requirements for organic certification proposed under USDA's National Organic Program may affect how the organic milk production sector evolves.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves/March10/Features/OrganicDairySector.htm>

### **RISING INFANT FORMULA COSTS TO THE WIC PROGRAM: RECENT TRENDS IN REBATES AND WHOLESALE PRICES**

WIC provides participating infants with free infant formula. This study estimated that between 57 and 68 percent of all infant formula sold in the United States was purchased through WIC, based on 2004-06 data, and that formula costs to the WIC program have increased. Typically, WIC State agencies receive substantial rebates from manufacturers for each can of formula provided through the program. Each WIC State agency, or group of agencies, awards a contract to the manufacturer offering the lowest net wholesale price, defined as the difference between the manufacturer's wholesale price and the State agency's rebate. After adjusting for inflation, net wholesale prices increased by an average 73 percent for 26 fluid ounces of reconstituted

formula between States' contracts in effect in December 2008 and the States' previous contracts. As a result of the increase in real net wholesale prices, WIC paid about \$127 million more for infant formula over the course of a year.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://wwwers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR93/>

### **SMALL FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES: PERSISTENCE UNDER PRESSURE**

Ninety-one percent of U.S. farms are classified as small—gross cash farm income (GCFI) of less than \$250,000. About 60 percent of these small farms are very small, generating GCFI of less than \$10,000. These very small noncommercial farms, in some respects, exist independently of the farm economy because their operators rely heavily on off-farm income. The remaining small farms—small commercial farms—account for most small-farm production. Overall farm production, however, continues to shift to larger operations, while the number of small commercial farms and their share of sales maintain a long-term decline. The shift to larger farms will continue to be gradual, because some small commercial farms are profitable and others are willing to accept losses.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://wwwers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB63/>

### **OUTLOOK FOR U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE**

Offers the latest forecast of value and volume of U.S. farm exports, by commodity and region, as well as the agricultural trade balance for the coming year. Keeps readers abreast of how U.S. agricultural trade stacks up in a global market.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1196>

### **FOOD AVAILABILITY (PER CAPITA) DATA SYSTEM**

The Food Availability (Per Capita) Data System compiled by USDA's Economic Research Service includes three distinct but related data series on food and nutrients available for consumption. The data serve as popular proxies for actual consumption in the United States. This historical series measures the national food supply of several hundred foods, and it is the only source of time series data on food availability in the country. The data system now provides 100 years of data (1909-2008) for many commodities.

Released Thursday, February 18, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/features/centennial/>

### **LIVESTOCK AND MEAT TRADE DATA**

The Livestock and Meat Trade Data Set contains monthly and annual data for imports and exports of live cattle, hogs, sheep, and goats, as well as beef and veal, pork, lamb and mutton, chicken meat, turkey meat, and eggs. The tables report physical quantities, not dollar values or unit prices. Data on beef and veal, pork, and lamb and mutton are on a carcass-weight-equivalent basis. Breakdowns by country are included.

Released Wednesday, February 17, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/MeatTrade/>

### **AQUACULTURE DATA**

Aquaculture is the production of aquatic animals and plants under controlled conditions for all or part of their lifecycle. This data product provides statistics on domestically grown catfish and trout and U.S. imports and exports of fish and shellfish that may be products of aquaculture, such as salmon, shrimp, and oysters.

Released Wednesday, February 17, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Aquaculture/>

### **AGRICULTURAL TRADE MULTIPLIERS**

Agricultural trade multipliers provide estimates of employment and/or output effects of trade in farm and food products on the U.S. economy. These effects, when expressed as multipliers, reflect the amount of economic activity and/or jobs generated by agricultural exports. This data product offers two options through which to display agricultural trade multipliers: as pre-defined ERS estimates for the most recent calendar year available or as estimates generated by an interactive calculator that enables users to select their own basket of exports and/or apply a new set of trade margins to the commodity or basket of goods.

Released Wednesday, February 17, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/TradeMultiplier/>

### **SUGAR AND SWEETENERS OUTLOOK**

Examines world and U.S. production, consumption, trade, stocks, and prices for beet and cane sugar, and high fructose corn syrup.

Released Tuesday, February 16, 2010

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

### **FEED OUTLOOK**

Examines supply, use, prices, and trade for feed grains, including supply and demand prospects in major importing and exporting countries. Focuses on corn; also contains information on sorghum, barley, oats, and hay.

Released Tuesday, February 16, 2010

See <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1273>

### **U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA UPDATE**

Provides a monthly update of year-to-date quantities and values of U.S. agricultural exports and imports. Also provides data on leading destination countries for exports and import source countries.

Released Tuesday, February 16, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FATUS/#monthly>

## **LATEST U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE DATA**

This data product announces USDA's monthly release of calendar year, fiscal year, year-to-date, and monthly value of U.S. agricultural exports, imports, and trade balance.

Released Tuesday, February 16, 2010

See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/FATUS/MonthlySummary.htm>

## **THE IMPACT OF FOOD AWAY FROM HOME ON ADULT DIET QUALITY**

Food away from home (FAFH) has been associated with poor diet quality in many studies. It is difficult, however, to measure the effect of FAFH on diet quality since many unobserved factors, such as food preferences and time constraints, influence not just our choice of where to eat but also the nutritional quality of what we eat. Using data from 1994-96 and 2003-04, this study applies fixed-effects estimation to control for such unobservable influences and finds that, for the average adult, FAFH increases daily caloric intake and reduces diet quality. The effects vary depending on which meals are consumed away from home. On average, breakfast away from home decreases the number of servings of whole grains and dairy consumed per 1,000 calories and increases the percent of calories from saturated and solid fat, alcohol, and added sugar (SoFAAS) in a day. Dinner away from home reduces the number of servings of vegetables consumed per 1,000 calories for the average adult. Breakfast and lunch away from home increase calories from saturated fat and SoFAAS on average more among dieters than among nondieters. Some of the overall negative dietary effects decreased between 1994-96 and 2003-04, including those on whole grain, sodium, and vegetable consumption.

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See <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR90/>

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