

Data may have been updated since publication. For the most current information, see www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/.

Farm, Rural, and Natural Resource Indicators

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Annual percent change			
						2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Cash receipts (\$ bil.)	237.3	240.7	239.3	285.4 p	313.2 f	1.4	-0.6	19.3	9.7
Crops	113.7	115.9	120.0	143.9 p	174.6 f	1.9	3.5	19.9	21.3
Livestock	123.6	124.9	119.3	141.4 p	138.7 f	1.1	-4.5	18.5	-1.9
Direct government payments (\$ bil.)	13.0	24.4	15.8	12.0 p	13.4 f	87.7	-35.2	-24.1	11.7
Gross cash income (\$ bil.)	267.4	281.3	272.5	316.2 p	346.0 f	5.2	-3.1	16.0	9.4
Net cash income (\$ bil.)	82.2	85.8	67.9	87.6 p	96.6 f	4.4	-20.9	29.0	10.3
Net value added (\$ bil.)	127.8	121.4	104.4	137.6 p	144.1 f	-5.0	-14.0	31.8	4.7
Farm equity (\$ bil.)	1,401.9	1,576.1	1,771.8	2,002.7 p	2,286.2 f	12.4	12.4	13.0	14.2
Farm debt-asset ratio	11.5	10.9	10.5	9.9 p	9.1 f	-5.2	-3.7	-5.7	-8.1
Farm household income (\$/farm household)	81,596	81,599	77,654	84,159 p	89,434 f	0.0	-4.8	8.4	6.3
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	134.8	128.8	116.7	na	na	-4.5	-9.4	na	na
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rate (% points) ¹	na	2.3	3.4	na	na	na	na	na	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	312	314	304 p	na	na	0.6	-3.2	na	na
USDA conservation program expenditures (\$ bil.) ²	5.1	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product (\$ bil.)	11,713	12,456	13,247	na	na	6.3	6.4	na	na
Share of agriculture & related industries in GDP (%) ¹	4.8	4.5	4.3	na	na	-6.3	-4.4	na	na
Share of agriculture in GDP (%) ¹	1.0	0.8	0.7	na	na	-16.3	-12.5	na	na
Total agricultural imports (\$ bil.) ²	52.7	57.7	64.0	70.0	76.5	9.5	10.9	9.4	9.3
Total agricultural exports (\$ bil.) ²	62.4	62.5	68.7	81.9	101.0	0.2	9.9	19.2	23.3
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%) ¹	21.3	21.7	22.3	23.0 f	na	1.9	2.8	3.1	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	186.2	190.7	195.3	202.9	212.1	2.4	2.4	3.9	4.5
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	9.7	9.8	9.9	na	na	1.0	1.0	na	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	51.5	51.4	51.1	na	na	-0.2	-0.6	na	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	232.1	239.2	246.2	248.3	na	3.1	2.9	0.9	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending (\$ bil.) ²	46.2	50.9	53.1	54.3	na	10.2	4.3	2.3	na

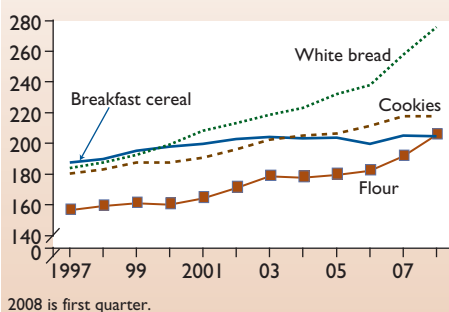
f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. na = Not available. All dollar amounts are in current dollars.

¹ The methodology for computing these measures has changed. These statistics are not comparable to previously published statistics. Sources and computation methodology are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/indicatorsnotes.htm

² Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

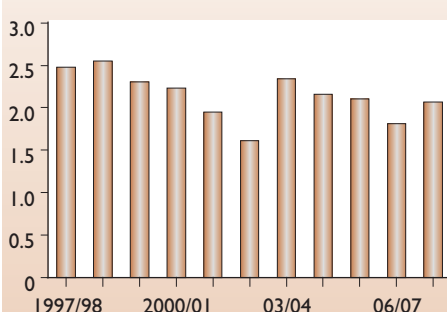
Higher wheat costs boost prices for flour and bread

Consumer Price Index, 1982-84=100



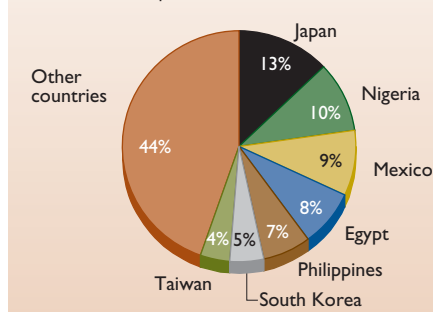
2007/08 U.S. wheat production just below 10-year average

Billion bushels



Japan top destination for U.S. wheat exports, 2006/07

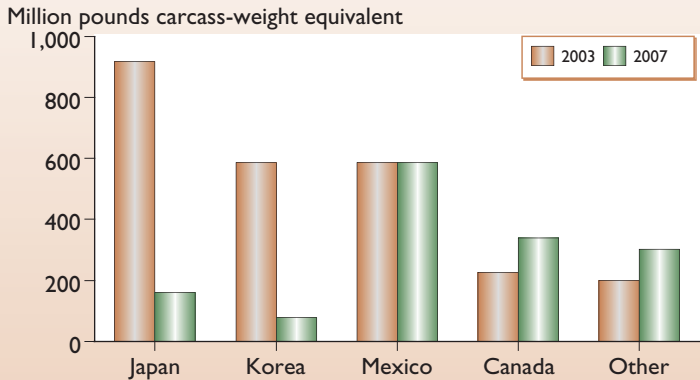
Total U.S. wheat exports = 24.8 million metric tons



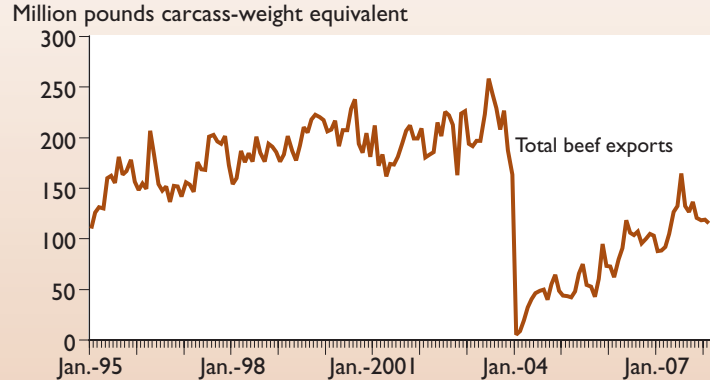
For more information, see www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves

Markets and Trade

Customers for U.S. beef have shifted since the first confirmed BSE case in 2003...



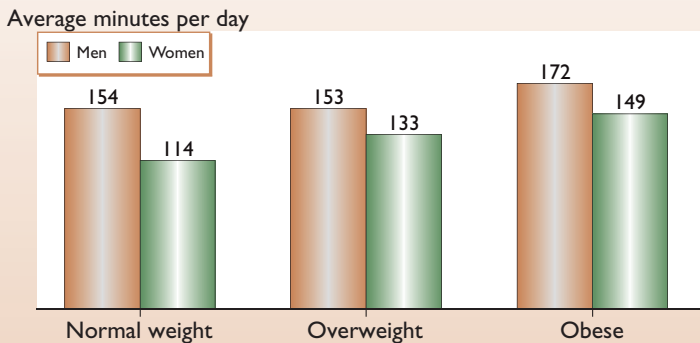
...and beef exports remain below pre-2004 levels



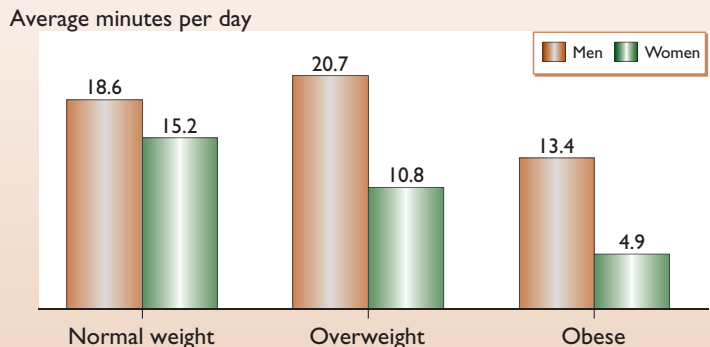
Source: Calculations by USDA, Economic Research Service using U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census data.

Diet and Health

In 2006, obese Americans spent more time watching television...



...and less time participating in sports and exercise than nonobese Americans

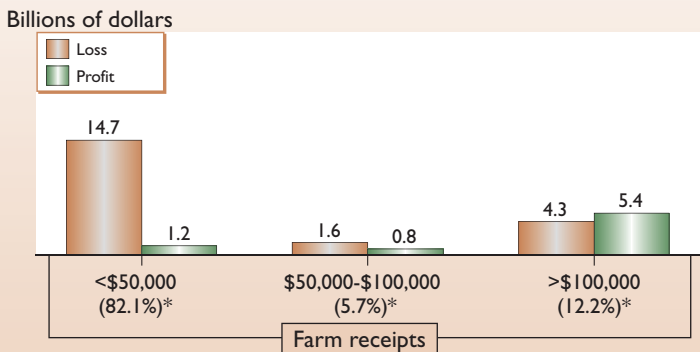


Note: Data include civilian population age 25-65. Normal weight: 18.5<BMI<25; overweight: 25<BMI<30; and obese: 30<BMI.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2006 American Time Use Survey (ATUS); and ERS 2006, Eating & Health Module of the ATUS.

Farms, Firms, and Households

Farms with receipts over \$100,000 accounted for nearly three-quarters of all farm profits in 2004

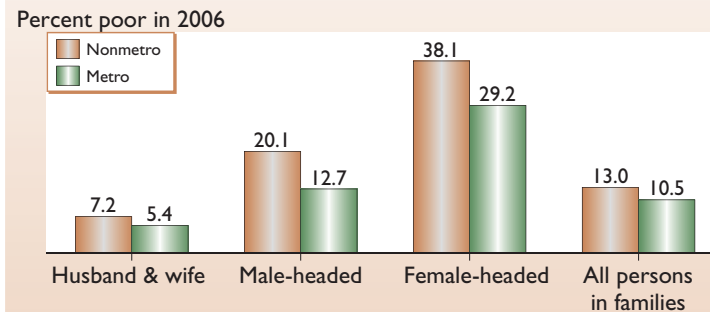


* Share of all farm sole proprietors.

Source: Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income, 2004.

Rural America

More than one-third of persons in female-headed nonmetro families are poor



Note: Poverty thresholds vary by size of family and number of related children under 18 years. For example, in 2006, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children under 18 was \$20,444.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, 2007.

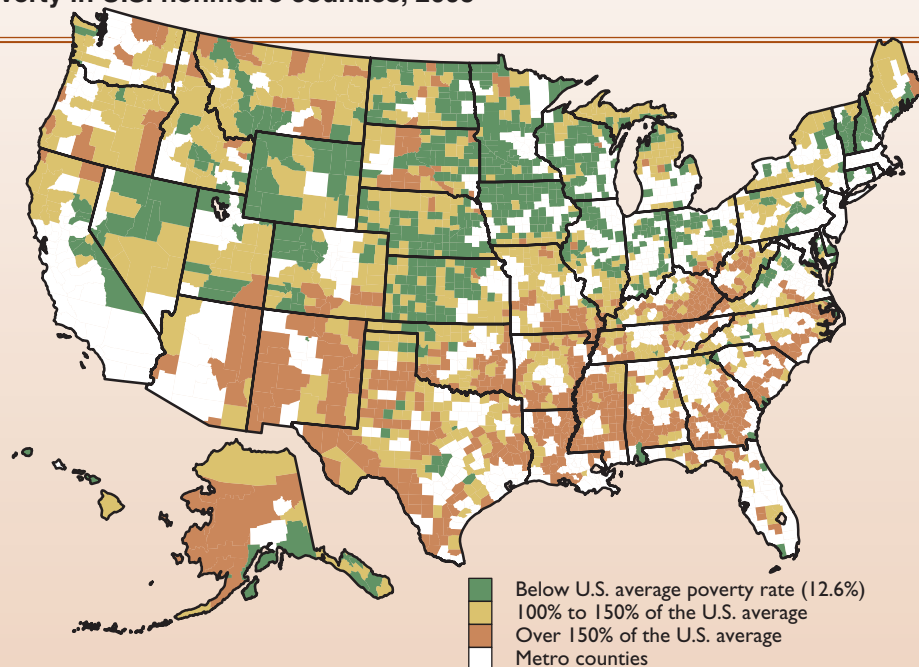
On the Map

Nonmetro poverty is more concentrated in the South and Southwest

Nonmetro counties with high poverty rates are clustered in Appalachia, the Mississippi Delta, the Southeastern Cotton Belt, the Southwest region along the Mexican border, and Indian reservations located in the northern and western regions. These high-poverty counties usually are sparsely settled and more remote from metropolitan areas and are more likely to have lower education levels and larger minority populations than counties with lower poverty levels. Poverty tends to be longstanding and stems from complex economic and social conditions. Many high-poverty counties are characterized by a preponderance of low-skill and low-wage jobs.

Timothy Parker,
tparker@ers.usda.gov

Poverty in U.S. nonmetro counties, 2005



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE).

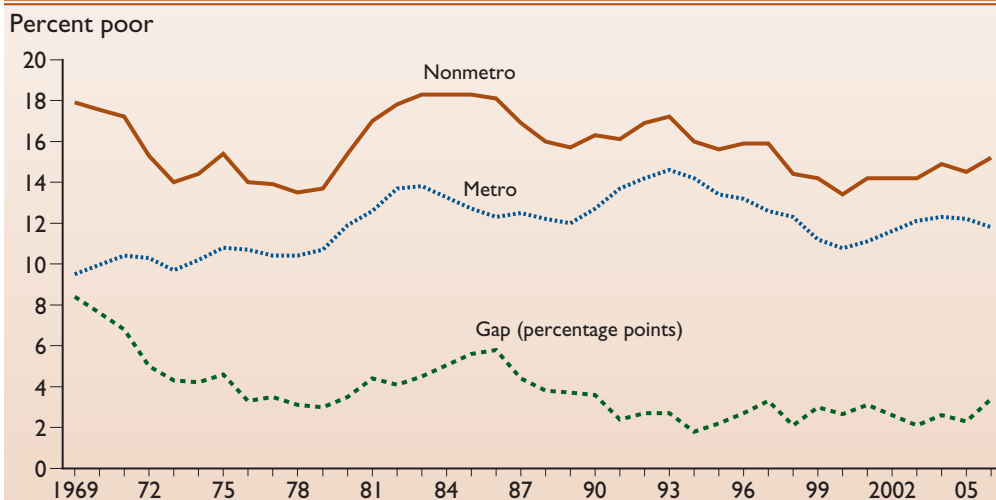
In the Long Run

Nonmetro poverty rates higher than metro

The nonmetro poverty rate has exceeded the metro rate every year since poverty was first officially measured in the 1960s. Generally, metro and nonmetro poverty follow the same trends over time. The nonmetro poverty rate fell through the 1970s, and then both metro and nonmetro poverty rates began to increase with the 1980-82 recession. In the early 1990s, poverty rates began to fall, but since 2000 they have begun to edge up. Poverty estimates from 2006, the most recent year available, show the metro-nonmetro gap increasing, with nonmetro poverty at 15.2 percent and metro at 11.8 percent.

Timothy Parker,
tparker@ers.usda.gov

Poverty rates by residence, 1969-2006



Note: Metro status of some counties changed in 1984, 1994, and 2004. Metro and nonmetro rates are imputed for 1970, 1984, 1994, and 2004.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service, using data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, March Supplements.