

DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

ERS is the main source of research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.

New on the Web U.S. Agricultural Trade Data

A new summary of U.S. agricultural trade data is now available. Each month, the summary is released the day before the full U.S. Agricultural Trade Update.

[www.ers.usda.gov/
data/FATUS/
monthlysummary.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/FATUS/monthlysummary.htm)

Go to [www.ers.usda.gov/
calendar](http://www.ers.usda.gov/calendar) for the exact dates each month.

Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: [www.ers.usda.gov/
publications/outlook](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook)

World Cotton Consumption Expected to Increase

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/cws/apr05/cws05c01

World cotton consumption has accelerated along with economic growth since 1999, especially in developing Asia, where an emerging consumer society is driving increases in household consumption of clothing and other cotton products. *The Forces Shaping World Cotton Consumption After the Multifiber Arrangement* examines the phaseout of the Multifiber Arrangement (MFA) and other forces reshaping world textile and cotton markets.

Amber Waves April 2005

Amber Waves magazine covers the full range of ERS research and analysis, including articles on food, farming, natural resources, and rural America.

www.ers.usda.gov/AmberWaves

North American Greenhouse Tomatoes Emerge as a Major Market Force

The rapidly growing greenhouse tomato industry has become an important part of the North American fresh tomato industry. Greenhouse tomatoes now represent an estimated 17 percent of U.S. fresh tomato supply.

Policy Options for a Changing Rural America

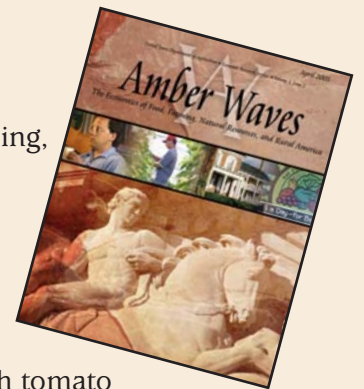
Rural communities have changed dramatically since 1990 due to increased population from urban areas, shifts in age and ethnic composition, and economic and industrial restructuring. Increasing competition from abroad and sectoral shifts in employment present new challenges and opportunities in the worldwide economy and raise the question—how can rural communities successfully build on their economic base and other assets to retain and attract population and employment.

How Do U.S. Farmers Plan for Retirement?

Retirement and succession planning are of considerable importance to farm households and there are good reasons to believe that they are affected by savings and retirement policies in ways that are different from the rest of the Nation's households. This article examines how farmers save for retirement as well as their dependency on social security.

Understanding Economic and Behavioral Influences on Fruit and Vegetable Choices

Encouraging Americans to eat more fruits and vegetables has been a central theme of Federal dietary guidance for more than a decade. Despite conditions that would appear to favor higher U.S. consumption of fruits and vegetables, Americans are eating far fewer servings than recommended.





Beverage Choices Affect Household Calories, Calcium Availability

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR1

Household beverage choice can have an important effect on the nutritional quality of the household food supply, including household calories, an important consideration given America's current obesity problem. *Contributions of Nonalcoholic Beverages to the U.S. Diet* analyzes consumer demand and nutritional issues associated with nonalcoholic beverages purchased for at-home use by looking at household size, household income, education level, and region. The beverages include milk, carbonated soft drinks, bottled water, fruit juices, fruit drinks, coffee, tea, and isotonic (sports drinks).

Greenhouse Tomatoes Thriving in North America

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR2

The North American greenhouse tomato industry has grown rapidly since the early 1990s and now plays a major role in the fresh tomato industry. However, relatively little is known about this new industry, in part because of the lack of reliable production, trade, and price data. *Greenhouse Tomatoes Change the Dynamics of the North American Fresh Tomato Industry* looks at consumption and price trends, competition from Mexico and Canada, and the rising industry's effect on the entire fresh field tomato sector.



Technology Plays Dominant Role in the Food Processing Industries

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR3

Consolidation and structural changes in the food industry have had profound impacts on firms, employees, and communities in many parts of the United States. Over 1972-92, eight important food industries underwent a structural transformation in which the number of plants declined by about one-third and the number of employees needed to staff the remaining plants dropped by more than 100,000 (20 percent); the number of plants in one other industry also dropped, but that industry added jobs. Economists generally attribute structural changes such as these to rising or falling demand and shifts in technology. *Structural Change in the Meat, Poultry, Dairy, and Grain Processing Industries* examines consolidation and structural change in meatpacking, meat processing, poultry slaughter and processing, cheese products, fluid milk, flour milling, corn milling, feed, and soybean processing.

Diversity Depicts Today's Child



Population in Rural Areas

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB1

Child poverty in 21st century America is higher (18 percent in 2003) than the rate for the general population (12.5 percent), as well as above the rates in most other industrialized countries. Child poverty is a significant social problem that negatively affects children's development. Although rural child poverty rates declined in the 1990s, they remain higher than the rates for urban children (21 percent vs. 18 percent). *Rural Children at a Glance* provides the latest information on the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of rural children in families.

How to get more information ...

More information about the items featured in **Dateline ERS** can be found at our Website: www.ers.usda.gov by typing in the listed URL address. This newsletter is also available online at www.ers.usda.gov/news