



DatelineERS

New ERS research and analysis at: www.ers.usda.gov

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 Data on the Web

U.S. Carrot Statistics

The latest U.S. and State data on acreage, yield, production, price, and value for fresh and processing carrots.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/data/sdp/view.asp?f=crops/carrots/>

Trends in Hard White Wheat Examined

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/whs/dec04/whs04K01/

Hard White Wheat At A Crossroads provides background on the forces that led to the expansion of hard white wheat (HWW) production, its milling and baking qualities that make it particularly suited for certain products, the adaptation of the marketing system to preserve its identity, and the prospects for HWW's production expansion.



Canada Exports Record Number of Hogs to U.S.

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ldp/NOV04/ldpm12501/

A range of factors, including significant structural changes in the U.S. hog industry (such as the growth of specialized hog operations), and policy changes in Canada, are behind the eightfold increase in the number of Canadian hogs imported to the United States for slaughter in the past 15 years. *Market Integration in the North American Hog Industries* shows that about 8 percent of the hogs slaughtered in the United States in 2004 originated in Canada—many more than 10 years ago.

Food Safety: A Case Study

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/vgs/nov04/VGS30501/>

The recent outbreaks of hepatitis A demonstrate one of the most important challenges in food safety. *The Economics of Food Safety: The Case of Green Onions and Hepatitis A Outbreaks* reviews the incentives to enhance food safety practices and analyzes the economic impact of an outbreak on green onion growers in Mexico.

Contracting Can Address Pork Quality Issues

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer835/

Contract arrangements between pork producers and packers, which account for nearly 70 percent of hogs sold in 2004, can facilitate industry efforts to address quality issues. *Pork Quality and the Role of Market Organization* addresses changes in the organization of the U.S. pork industry, most notably marketing contracts between packers and producers, by exploring their function in addressing pork quality concerns.

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



Closely Watched Forecast: Food CPI to Rise 3-4 Percent in 2005

[www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/
CPIFoodAndExpenditures/
consumerpriceindex.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/CPIFoodAndExpenditures/consumerpriceindex.htm)



ERS now provides monthly updates of its forecast for changes in the food Consumer Price Index (CPI). The all-food CPI is forecast to increase 3-4 percent in 2005, and the 2004 increase will likely be between 3.5 and 4 percent. The ERS forecasts include changes for individual food items as well as for the overall level of food price changes.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the most publicized and most widely used measure of the general level of prices in the U.S. economy.

Researchers at ERS not only produce forecasts of changes in the food CPI but also analyze the impact of economic factors, including changes in firm costs.

Visit the Food CPI Briefing Room monthly. Updates are posted around the 22nd of each month.

Most Americans Food Secure in 2003

[www.ers.usda.gov/
publications/fanrr42/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr42/)

Throughout the year in 2003, 88.8 percent of U.S. households were food secure, essentially unchanged from 2002. *Household Food Security in the United States* reports that the remaining 11.2 percent of households (12.6 million) were food insecure—which means at some time during the year they had difficulty providing enough food for all members due to lack of resources.

Science, Policy and Markets -- What's Ahead?

- Bringing together policymakers, producers, industry analysts, and business leaders
- Focusing on domestic and global trends shaping the outlook for food and agriculture



February 24-25, 2005
Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
Arlington, Virginia

For registration and other details: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>

How to get more information ...

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