



DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

November 2005

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.



Nonmetro Low-Skill Job Share Declines in 10-year Span

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/ERR10/

The share of rural jobs classified as low-skill fell by 2.2 percentage points between 1990 and 2000, twice the decline of the urban low-skill employment share, but much less than the decline of the 1980s. *Low-Skill Employment and the Changing Economy of Rural America* reports trends in rural low-skill employment in the 1990s and their impact on the rural workforce. Employment shifts from low-skill to skilled occupations within industries, rather than changes in industry mix, explain virtually all of the decline in the rural low-skill employment share.

2005 Farm Income Forecast

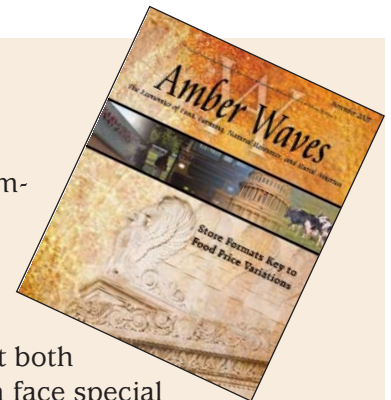
In 2005, net farm income is forecast to be \$71.5 billion, down \$11.1 billion from the record estimated for 2004, when both crop and livestock commodities experienced exceptionally favorable market and/or production conditions.

www.ers.usda.gov/Features/farmincome/2005/November/

Amber Waves November 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



Education as a Rural Development Strategy

Good schools and a well-educated labor force benefit both workers and their communities. But rural areas often face special challenges in their efforts to raise school quality and educational attainment.

U.S. Dairy at a New Crossroads in a Global Setting

This *Amber Waves* article addresses how global dairy markets have changed and asks whether dairy trade liberalization would create new market opportunities.

Where You Shop Matters: Store Formats Drive Variation in Retail Food Prices

Just 20 years ago, traditional grocery stores claimed nearly 90 percent of Americans' at-home food purchases. Today, their share has dropped to 69 percent. Led by retail giants Wal-Mart, Costco, and Target, nontraditional food stores have managed to grab market share by enticing consumers with a formula of one-stop shopping and lower prices.

Changing Federal Tax Policies Affect Farm Households Differently

Significant changes in Federal individual income tax and estate and gift tax policies have occurred over the last few years. Since the Federal individual income tax imposes the largest tax burden on the broadest group of farmers and the Federal estate tax can affect the ability to transfer the farm operation to the next generation, these changes are of considerable importance to the farm community.

Commodity Markets and Trade

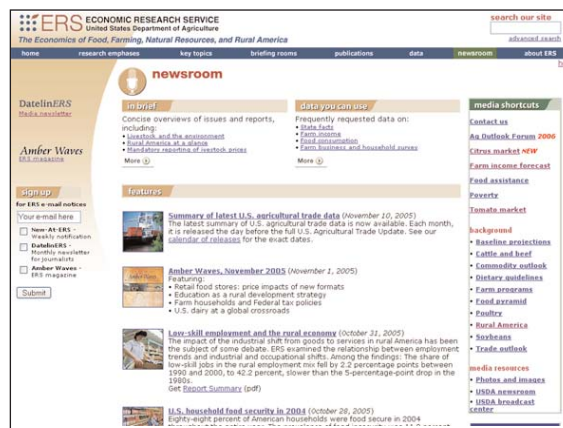
ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade, including special reports on hot topics. All reports, along with a calendar of future releases, are available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

Find it Faster and Easier in the Online Newsroom

www.ers.usda.gov/news/

Check out the Newsroom's media shortcuts section that links directly to timely topics:

- **Trade Policy: Resources Roundup** lists, describes, and links to ERS reports, briefing rooms, and data products that deal with the subject of trade policy.
- **Background Statistics: Citrus Market** provides data on production, use, and prices for fresh-market and processed citrus fruits, including data for the producing States. It also provides links to other ERS resources covering the citrus market.
- **Background Statistics: Fresh-Market Tomatoes** provides data on production, use, imports, and prices for fresh-market tomatoes, including data for the top producing States. It also provides links to other ERS resources covering the tomato market.



"The rural communities I know are holding on to their values, but they're also embracing the future."

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns

USDA's Secretary and other top officials, industry analysts, business leaders, farmers and ranchers, and other experts in agriculture will be among the speakers. Topics will include:

- Rural Development
- Economic Outlook for Commodities
- Conservation
- Globalization & U.S. Trade
- Animal Health
- Bio-tech Development
- Farm Policy

Prospering in Rural America



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- Registration includes: choice of 30 sessions, CD-ROM of all 130 speeches (mailed post-event), the *USDA Agricultural Baseline Projections to 2015*, two luncheons, and dinner event.
- Forum offers networking opportunities for producers, agri-business, and government leaders — nearly 1,500 people are expected to attend.

How to get more information ...

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