

Summary of Major Sources for Food-Related Data

	Store Sales		Consumer Purchases				Consumption			Availability
	SCANTRACK Services	InfoScan	Consumer Report on Eating Share Trends	Consumer Expenditure Survey	HOMESCAN Consumer Panel	Consumer Network Panel	NHANES	Flexible Consumer Behavior Survey	National Eating Trends	Food Availability Data
Source	Nielsen	IRI, Inc.	NPD Group	BLS	National Panel Nielsen	National Panel IRI, Inc.	USDA/HHS	NCHS for USDA's Economic Research Service	NPD Group	USDA
Description	Point of sale data from food stores, drugstores, mass merchandisers (including supercenters), dollar stores, club stores, military, and convenience stores.	Point of sale data from food stores, drugstores, mass merchandisers (including supercenters), dollar stores, club stores, military, and convenience stores.	Individual adult and teen purchases at commercial restaurants, including fast food outlets. Includes spending and identifies establishment.	Household spending.	Household panel members scan purchases of all packaged goods from all retail outlets. Includes prices, quantities, promotion information, and demographics of households. Includes \$ sales for 25 aggregates of random-weight products.	Household purchasing data; panel members scan their food purchases from all outlets. Includes prices, quantities, promotion information, and demographics.	Food intake by individuals based on 24-hour recall for 2 days; includes personal, economic, health, and demographic characteristics of sampled person only; where food was purchased and eaten.	Supplement to NHANES. Questions about diet and health, knowledge, and attitudes. Links diet, health, knowledge, and attitudes with food intake.	Food intake by individuals based on 2-week diary includes personal, economic, and demographic characteristics of all household members; where food was purchased and eaten.	Annual per capita estimates of food and nutrients available for U.S. consumption based on domestic production adjusted for inventory changes, exports, imports, and non-food uses.
Time Period	Weekly data with 2-week lag between collection and release.	Weekly data with 2-week lag between collection and release.	Quarterly data with one-month lag between collection and release.	One-year lag between collection and release.	Monthly or quarterly data with approximately 3-4 week lag between report period and release.	Monthly data with 11-day lag between collection and release.	Data collected annually but a two-year lag between collection and release.	Collection period: 2005-2014.	Three-month lag between collection and release.	Two-year lag between collection and release.
Sample	Nationally representative. Samples of retailer sales from 59,450 stores.	Nationally representative. Sample of retail sales from over 77,000 outlets.	Nationally representative panel of 600,000. Sample of 60,000 individuals a month.	Nationally representative. Surveys 7,500 households annually.	Nationally representative sample of households. Longitudinal panel of about 100,000 households.	Nationally representative sample of households. Longitudinal panel of about 100,000 households.	Nationally representative. Samples 5,000 individuals yearly.	Nationally representative. NHANES sample, one adult per household.	Nationally representative sample of 2,000 households continuously tracked for 30 years.	Estimates not based on sampling.
Major Uses and Content	Analyses of dollar sales, unit sales, item prices and promotional activity at national and lower geographical levels for specific retail channels.	Analyses of dollar sales, unit sales, item prices and promotional activity at national and lower geographical levels for specific retail channels.	Analyses of household food-away-from-home purchases. Menu information allows for evaluation of nutritional qualities of food as well as price and quantity studies.	Analyses of yearly consumer food spending.	Purchases, including prices and quantities, by households. National reporting as well as selected major markets. Household demographics, attitude and health information enable behavioral research.	Purchases, including prices and quantities, by households. National reporting as well as selected major markets. Household demographics, attitude and health information enable behavioral research.	Who eats what in America. Compares intake with dietary guidelines. Analyzes effects of individual characteristics on food consumption. Links food intake with health outcomes.	Assesses roles of labels, nutrition education and information programs in food choices, dietary behaviors, and nutrition and weight outcomes.	Who eats what in the United States. Compares intake with dietary guidelines. Analyzes effects of household characteristics on food consumption. Links food intake with socio-demographic factors.	Analyzes trends and shifts in food consumption. Core series dates back to 1909 and is the foundation for calculating nutrient content of food supply and loss-adjusted availability (which can be compared with Federal dietary recommendations).
Others	Costco not currently a Nielsen cooperator.	Costco is not a participating retailer.	Uses diary method.	No information on quantities or prices. Limited break-down of spending for food at home.	Currently, random-weight sales are reported for 25 aggregates (i.e. fruits, vegetables, cheese, bagels, candy, etc.) – expanded to 150 categories in 2011.	Currently, random-weight sales are reported for 25 aggregates (i.e. fruits, vegetables, cheese, bagels, candy, etc.) – expanded to 150 categories in 2013.	Food intake recall method undercounts calories; no food prices; cross-section only.	Some questions change in response to research concerns. Data may arrive sometime after concerns are stated or relevant.	Small sample and self-reported diary reduces reliability. Based on frequency of use rather than amount consumed.	National averages only. Requires knowledge of loss, waste and spoilage to approximate actual consumption.
Link	http://nz.nielsen.com/products/crs_scantrack.shtml	http://www.iriworldwide.com/SolutionsandServices/Detail.aspx?ProductID=181	http://tools.nccor.org/css/system/100/	http://www.bls.gov/cex/	http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/nielsen-solutions/nielsen-measurement/nielsen-retail-measurement.html	http://www.iriworldwide.com/SolutionsandServices/Detail.aspx?ProductID=180	http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm	http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-choices-health/food-consumption-demand/food-consumption-flexible-consumer-behavior-survey.aspx#.Ugj3c23vj-B	http://tools.nccor.org/css/system/69/	http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-availability-(per-capita)-data-system.aspx

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Food Related

	Survey of Income and Program Participation	Current Population Survey	American Time Use Survey	National Health Interview Survey	Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System	State and Local Area Integrated Telephone	Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program	Early Childhood Longitudinal Surveys- Kindergarten and Birth Cohorts	Store Tracking and Redemption System	National Household Food Acquisition and Purchase Survey (FoodAPS)
Source	Census Bureau	Census Bureau and supported by BLS; Dec. Food Security Supplement supported by USDA/ERS	Census Bureau for Bureau of Labor Statistics	Census Bureau for NCHS	State health departments for CDC	NCHS (using National Immunization Survey) for State and local governments	NIFA; USDA	National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES), Institute of Education Sciences, US Dept of Education	Food and Nutrition Service; USDA	Economic Research Service; USDA
Description	Information on income and program participation.	Primarily a survey of labor force participation and employment.	Analyzes how Americans spend their time.	Information on presence of disease, health care utilization, infant birth weight, health status, child behavior problems, and other health-related behaviors.	Designed primarily for health habits of adult population.	SLAITS modules collect info on health, child well-being and welfare.	EFNEP is designed to provide low-income households advice and counseling (educational material) to improve nutrition, food resource management, and food safety behavior.	Longitudinal studies primarily examining child development from an educational perspective. Both cohort surveys also include questions on food assistance program participation; household food security, dietary behaviors and measured height and weight.	STARS deals with the food benefit redemption process and supports retailer authorization, monitoring and investigation, ongoing participation and withdrawal and disqualification of stores.	Nationally representative survey of household food purchases and acquisitions. Includes foods acquired for consumption at home and away from home.
Time Period	Monthly event history for 4-month recall (reference) periods. The reengineered SIPP (2014) will have an annual reference period.	Fielded monthly; reference period varies among data elements.	Monthly and annual starting January 2003; ERS's Eating & Health Module was fielded 2006-08.	Annual.	Conducted monthly starting in 1984.	Annual.	Annual.	The 1998-99 cohort followed children from kindergarten through eighth grade; the 2001 cohort followed children from birth through kindergarten entry.	Monthly.	Data collected from April 2012 – January 2013.
Sample	Longitudinal; 40,000 households in the 1996 Panel; 36,700 in the 2001 Panel; 42,000 in the 2008 Panel.	55,000 households monthly. 45,000 for food security supplement.	13,000 individuals annually.	100,000 individuals.	4,000 persons (18 and older) per State.	NIS sample size is 1 million families every year; SLAITS modules target different populations.	100,000 program participants; non-random.	The kindergarten cohort included a nationally representative sample of 21,260 children. The birth cohort was a nationally representative sample of 14,000 children.	Tracks the universe of stores authorized to accept SNAP and WIC benefits; approximately 162,000 retailers.	Sample of 4,826 households, includes sub-groups based on household income and SNAP participation.
Major Uses and Content	Covers demographic characteristics, labor force participation, cash and non-cash income, and assets. Topical modules collect medical care costs, shelter costs, dependent care costs, child support, taxes, businesses, school enrollment, employment history, food insufficiency and child and adult well-being.	Analyzes income, employment, and job seeking. ERS's Food Security Supplement: every Dec; began in 1995; collects food expenditures, food assistance participation, food insecurity, and ways of coping. One half of households in the supplement can be matched to previous year for longitudinal analysis.	Time diary starts at 4:00am the day before the survey interview. Primary activities are collected, and simultaneous childcare is collected. Also collected are household roster, demographic updates, and labor force information from the final month of the CPS. The 2006-08 Eating & Health Module included eating and drinking beverages; general health, height, weight; food stamp and school meals participation; income; and grocery shopping and meal	A survey of the health characteristics of the U.S. population. Collects data on the incidence of acute and chronic conditions, injury, physician visits, hospitalizations, and related topics using a stable core and changing modules on current health topics. Since 2011, includes USDA's adult food security module.	Examines health habits of the population and emerging issues. Core questions also include alcohol consumption, physical activity, and self-reported height and weight. 2004 & 2005 questions collected food consumption, nutrition, and health information.	Obtains information on vaccination coverage of children. SLAITS: health, child well-being, and welfare. NCHS works with sponsors to include new modules (that would target specific populations such as low-income households) using NIS sample or samples of SLAITS modules already developed.	Assesses dietary intake data for adults heading low-income households with children. These data have been used for evaluations of program effects by CSREES and by researchers evaluating program at State level.	Obtained information on children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development across multiple settings (e.g., home, child care, school).	Assesses the use of food benefits by store type, geographic area, month and season. Details the quantity of benefits redeemed by each authorized store on a monthly basis. These data include store characteristics, location, ownership, types of merchandise, and amount of benefits redeemed by month. Can be aggregated by geography and time period.	Data includes quantities, expenditures and nutrient information for all acquired foods and beverages, household characteristics and available resources (including food and nutrition assistance program benefits, if any), and measures of household access to food outlets.
Others	No data on food expenditures, consumption, or prices.	No data on food prices.	No data on food expenditures or prices. Time spent in food consumption is collected.	No data on food expenditures, consumption, or prices.	No data on food expenditures or prices.	No data on food expenditures, consumption, or prices.	No data on food expenditures, consumption or prices.	No data on food expenditures or prices.	Data confidentiality requires special tabulations. No data on expenditures, consumption, or prices.	Public-use and restricted use data are available.
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